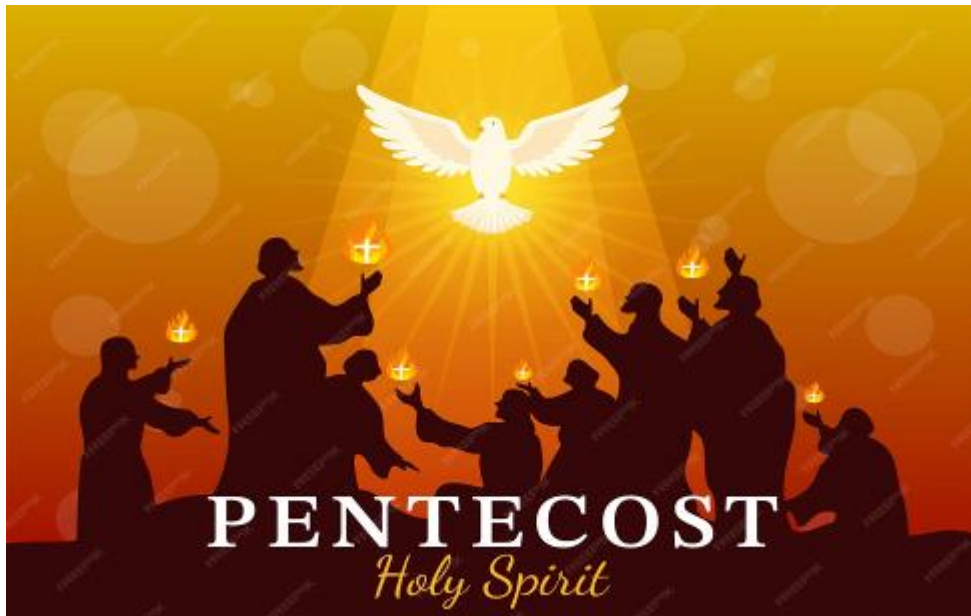


# St George the Martyr Shirley



## Christ in the Community

WHITSUN/PENTECOST



**May 2026**

**50p**

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### Exploring your faith

The Book Reading Group offers a monthly opportunity to look at faith-based writing and swap your thoughts with others. See Book Reading Group section of church website and page 10.

### Little Dragons Toddler Group St George's: Monday mornings in term time 9.30-11.30

All under 5's with their parents/ carers welcome  
Mary Brown 07704311523  
marybrown250@gmail.com

### Climate Crisis

What can I do?

- Learn the facts YES
- Speak up for change YES
- Work with others YES
- Reduce my own carbon footprint YES
- Resign myself to the worst NO

**In the Church Garden:** Help us keep our records up to date by reporting plants, birds, animals, insects, etc that you see. You might spot what others have failed to spot. Don't keep it to yourself. Please May to October no seed or nuts, but fat and mealworms welcome.

Need a helping hand or is the garden getting too much? **Farthing Garden Services** is a friendly, local gardening service offering reliable maintenance, lawn care, hedge cutting and seasonal tidy-ups. For regular visits or one-off help, contact James - 07561559399 / [james@farthing-gardens.com](mailto:james@farthing-gardens.com)

# Services at St. George's Church

**Sundays 10 a.m. Sung Eucharist. Most Wednesdays 11 30 a.m. Said Eucharist.** The Sunday Eucharist will also be available via live-streaming. See website or newsletter for access to the on-line option. There are shared worship opportunities throughout the week. Please see centre pages. for details. We aim to avoid any changes, but illness, etc, may change things..

**Priest in Charge: The Reverend Jennifer Walpole** 2 The Grove,  
West Wickham BR4 9JS 07947 585 326  
020 8654 8747 rev.jennywalpole@gmail.com (Her main day off is Friday.)

**Hon. Curate: The Reverend Hilary Fife** 19 Greenview Avenue, Shirley, Croydon  
CR0 7QW 07931 761320

**Reader: Mr Ray Wheeler** 88 Palace View, Shirley, Croydon CR0 8QN  
020 8777 5271

**Reader: Mrs Liz Bebington** 79 Shirley Way, Shirley, Croydon CR0 8PL  
020 8777 4840

**Website: [www.stgeorgeschurch.co.uk](http://www.stgeorgeschurch.co.uk)**

**Parish Office: [parish.office@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:parish.office@hotmail.co.uk)**

**Pentecost/Whitsun**



## A View from the Green... Hilary Fife

May is a month full of growth and beauty in the natural world. The poet Gerard Manley Hopkins in his poem 'May Magnificat' spoke of the time when "drop-of-blood-and-foam-dapple bloom lights the orchard-apple" and of seeing "thicket and thorp ... merry with silver-surfed cherry". He was enraptured by "this ecstasy all through mothering earth". All too often though the busyness of our lives, the many daily demands, mean we rush by without seeing, our senses subdued by the work in hand. So when my neighbour shared with me a piece written by her young grand-daughter for one of the activities in the Rainbows it really made me think. Ophelia and her parents have allowed me to share her writing with you – here it is, an account of a sensory safari – mindfulness in action.



### My Sensory Safari

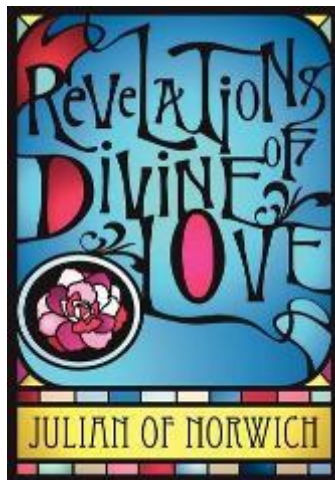
I went to Croham Hurst Woods. I walked through the trees and over the squelchy mud that I could feel through my welly boots. I could hear the birds singing. I could smell the damp air from the leaves. I saw squirrels running up the trees. At the top of the hill I saw the view of houses and sat on a bench to eat a snack. I could taste the juicy orange and feel the sticky juice on my hand. Then I went down the hill and made a den with my brother. I touched the rough bark on the trees and lifted the heavy logs. Afterwards I felt tired and happy.

*Written by Ophelia*



Wisdom isn't confined to those who are full of years! In engaging our senses, listening to the song of the birds, touching rough bark, feeling the ground beneath our feet, the warmth of the sun or the chill of the breeze, we can become still, focussed, present. In that stillness we can become so much more aware of God within us, God within the world he has created, God speaking to our hearts. So why not take a leaf out of Ophelia's book – find time for your own sensory walk, spend some quality time with God in His creation.

### Julian of Norwich: about 1343—1417: celebrated on May 8th



**Mother Julian**, was an English anchoress (living alone) of the Middle Ages. Her writings, now known as *Revelations of Divine Love*, are the earliest surviving English-language works attributed to a woman. They are also the only surviving English-language works by an anchoress (solitary monastic) Julian lived in Norwich, an important centre for commerce that also had a vibrant religious life. During her lifetime, the city suffered the devastating effects of the Black Death of 1348–1350, the Peasants' Revolt (which affected large parts of England in 1381), and the suppression of the Lollards. In 1373, aged 30 and so seriously ill she thought she was on her deathbed, Julian re-

ceived a series of visions of the Passion of Christ. She recovered from her illness and wrote two versions of her experiences, the earlier one being completed soon after her recovery—a much longer version, today known as the *Long Text*, was written many years later.

She was used as a source of advice by many—not keeping her visions to herself as a personal treasure; but sharing the insights she had received. At the Heart of her message was the (Mother) Love of God.

*“From the time these things were first revealed I had often wanted to know what was our Lord's meaning. It was more than fifteen years after that I was answered in my spirit's understanding. “You would know our Lord's meaning in this thing? Know it well. Love was His meaning. Who showed it to you? Love. What did He show you? Love. Why did He show it? For love. Hold on to this and you will know and understand love more and more. But you will not know or learn anything else – ever.”*

She is famous for saying *“All shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well”*. But she was keenly aware of suffering—having experienced it; and she rejected the simplistic idea that suffering is good for you. You can learn from it - not least in the love it brings from others.

### Lighting the path: Andy Bebington

Have you ever looked at the glow to the north, telling you that London is there? You can't be in Croydon and also in central London. Just as you are on earth and can't be in heaven at the same time. Have you ever walked in the countryside at night and seen that glow on the horizon, telling you that the town is there, though you can't see it? Now you know what general direction to follow, even if you can't see the path, or the boulders or the tree roots waiting to trip you.

I think life is a bit like that – we're in open country, heading for that heaven we can't see but we know is there because of the glow over the horizon. We are likely to trip or at least stumble, on an unlit path through life :being bullied at school, living with parents who are anxious about balancing the family budget, about job security, about growing children; and then facing some of those things as an adult yourself. Life throws things in our way, including teenage angst, worries about ever getting a job, temptations to break the rules, worries about the cost of housing, travel, groceries, holidays ... How do we, as Christians, navigate these issues, these “boulders and tree roots”? How do we find the right path?

That light over the horizon shows us the *broad* direction ... but I think we can have direct light shining on our path. The only – only! – source of light is from over the horizon, from our Trinitarian God; our objective. I like to think of the paths through life – the wrong ones as well as the right ones – having posts scattered through the countryside/life with reflective globes on top. These globes, being on tall posts, are in direct line-of-sight of the heavenly city over the horizon and can reflect the city's light down to us.

Those globes might be my Mum or Dad, or St Francis/Mother Theresa/Simon of Cyrene, or a book of Gospels, or charities doing God's work on earth, or indeed anything which reflects in some way God-over-the-horizon. The taller the post, the higher the globe, the better the reflection. So (for example) St Paul might be higher up than St Alphonsus Liguori (also a real person), and thus reflects more light onto our path. The more attention we pay to the path we're on, using these reflected lights to guide us, the better we will be able to stick to the “right path” and resist the temptations that cross our paths. The “lights” faced the same temptations and came through ... by following their example, so can we. If we pay no attention to them, we'll not see the roots across the path – or maybe not even see the path itself – and that way leads to disaster.

### Doing Welcome



The back page of the magazine states our claim to be a welcoming church: Welcoming All. Few churches would declare themselves to be Unwelcoming, or even Selectively Welcoming! But what does Welcoming mean? The definition is quite demanding: it says being pleased, greeting and supporting and encouraging - the opposite to the hostile and unwelcoming "What do you want ?" It reflects the human to human

tradition in many cultures and faiths of making the stranger feel at home... and to continue feeling at home once the stranger has become more familiar.

Welcome is not unconditional - "please leave your sword (or beer bottle) at the door" is OK! Nor should it be too effusive: not everyone wants to be hugged by a complete stranger, or presented with an annual subscription form. Where churches are concerned, the new arrival might have come following bereavement or some other form of loss, and so a welcoming smile is always good; a welcoming joke might be OK but might be insensitive. In St George's experience, one of the worst welcoming failures is to let someone choose their own seat, and then say "You can't sit there". Second worst is to usher the stranger to the front, where they have no one to copy when the possibly unfamiliar service starts. (A seat near a helpful regular often works well.)

Welcome means, to some extent, acceptance. So if the newcomer can see what others are doing, but chooses not to copy them, that is fine. The newcomer might be following their own tradition, or simply not want to sign up to a faith and way of doing things which they are just exploring. (Or they might have bad legs!) Welcoming can properly be seen as an opportunity to teach. But it must also be seen as an opportunity to learn...which means at least as much readiness to listen as to talk. (Imagine whispering to the stranger that Amen is Latin for Yes Please, and getting the response "It's Hebrew for Belief!") Questions are OK. Intrusion isn't So "How did you find it?" is much better than "Where is your partner"! "Have you got time for coffee?" has the edge on "You must join us for coffee!"

### Churches Together in Shirley

St John's with All Saints

St George's

West Wickham and Shirley Baptist Church



Our Lady's

Church of God Apostolic

Shrublands Christian Fellowship

Shirley Methodist

### Churches Together

### in Shirley

We are aiming to meet monthly for half an hour of prayer together: 7 30 to 8 00 p.m., with a Zoom option where possible. A CTIS prayer leaflet will be circulated monthly for use, individually or collectively. Contact Brian McGinnis if you need details: [dunaigh2@btinternet.com](mailto:dunaigh2@btinternet.com) Probably no Zoom option in May.

Wednesday May 6th Shirley Methodist

Thursday June 4th West Wickham and Shirley Baptist

For further CTIS information, see the Churches Together in Shirley website

If you can visit just one new place this Summer, try Penshurst Place in Kent. Not too far away, and a lot to explore. Parking available. Refreshments available.



## Mission Update



I suppose we all have an urge to share our enthusiasms. “Try chess: it is gripping!” “Hear Lady Ga Ga, and you will want to listen for ever!” “Just watch Palace play, and you will be a life-time fan!” Equally, we have probably all encountered, “I don’t know what you see in that stuff!” I had the privilege of taking a young brother and sister on a Scottish holiday, and tuned the radio to Scottish folk music as we drove towards Spean Bridge. They were too polite to complain; but the expressions made it clear that neither music nor scenery were *cutting it*.

In a culture and time when church-going is a minority interest, raising funds to support encouraging foreigners to go to church in their country is not going to come top of most people’s priority list. Remember that the first Christian missionaries were trying to persuade Jews to get themselves kicked out of their local synagogue and non-Jews to challenge the Roman Empire that governed their daily lives and ensured their survival. For many, it seemed like an invitation to commit suicide.

Seen in terms of, “You’ve got about 80 years to prepare for the next 80 billion years”, you can understand the conversion part of mission. However, the focus of the Spring edition of “Revive” (our USPG missionary society magazine) is more on the common ground aspects of mission:-

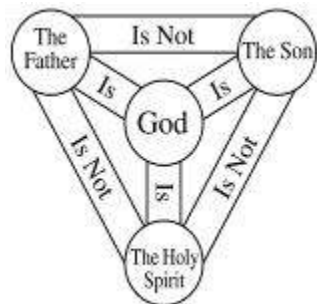
- General education for the roughly 4 million children in Myanmar denied any education
- Tackling the sanitary products poverty in Malawi that stops teenage girls going to school
- Stopping gross digital violence against girls and women in Zambia
- Tackling the modern slavery and human trafficking that affects nearly 50 million people worldwide
- Repairing communities after disasters: the October 2025 hurricane Melissa damaged 120,000 buildings and displaced 90,000 families.
- Confronting extremism that hates with fellowship that loves.

## Some notes for you to note

- ♥ **Deadline for the June magazine, Sunday May 24th.**
- ♥ **The Bible Reading Group: Monday evenings 7 30 p.m. to 8 10 p.m. On Zoom.** See notes on the parish website. We are reading the parables (picture/action stories) of the Old and New Testaments”. Regular and occasional new members both welcome. Parables are intended to make a point in a way that simply telling it as it is sometimes fails to do. Our next journeys will be with Acts and Romans: free commentaries available NOW. (I over-ordered!)
- **Book Reading Group:** The current reading list is: Divine Windows by David Gregory, Reflected in Nature by Claire Gregory, Donkey Roads and Camel Treks by Gemma Simmonds, Attentive to God by Tony Horsfall, and Dreaming of a Green Christmas by Olivia Warburton. Why not join us in exploring this rich variety of books?
- **Whitsun and Pentecost:** It might be worth offering a brief word of explanation of these two odd words to describe the same thing, Whitsun is the easier of the two, but it is not without argument. The holiday aspect of Whitsun has been lost in recent years by the introduction of the Spring Bank Holiday to replace Whit Monday. White Sunday was marked by white colours—e.g. new white dresses for girls. So White was changed to Whit. But another version is that Wit/Wisdom (the understanding given by the Holy Spirit) was changed to White! Pentecost is from the Greek for 50: originally 50 days after Passover (when the disciples experienced the Holy Spirit); now 50 days after Easter. *The truth is rarely simple..and often disputed!*

The Message version of Acts Chapter 2 says of the Pentecost experience: “[the disciples] started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them... How come we’re hearing them talk in our own mother tongues?” This version clearly implies different disciples talking different languages, rather than them all talking Greek (which most people would probably have understood), or them all talking a mystery language which could be understood by all. Few of the disciples were likely to have been language students! The Gospel is now communicated in thousands of languages; but that is the result of hard work, not of miracle. The Pentecost experience as described in Acts has never been repeated.

### God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit



The month in which we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit is a good opportunity to pause to think about the (challenging) Christian teaching of God as One, but God also as Three. Our Church's 39 Articles of Faith say: **I. Of Faith in the Holy Trinity** There is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body, parts, or passions; of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness; the Maker, and Preserver of all things both visible and invisible. And in unity of

this Godhead there are three Persons, of one substance, power, and eternity; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

It can be said of human beings that they are each one person, but three parts: body, mind and spirit; and that has been offered as a way of thinking about God as Trinity. That doesn't really work. Nobody imagines that God is body, mind and spirit: Jesus body, God mind, Spirit spirit? The Old Testament talks about God as Father and God as Spirit, and sometimes portrays or prophesies God in bodily terms. The Old Testament emphasises God as One, and certainly doesn't talk about God as Trinity. In the New Testament, the divinity of Christ is asserted often; as is God in action through His Holy Spirit. In the Gospels, the addition at the end of St Matthew's Gospel refers to baptism in the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is the only explicit reference to what later became the doctrine of the Trinity.

It seems rather presumptuous to try to "define" God: Creator and sustainers of a universe of unimaginable age and size. And, to be honest, no preacher looks forward to trying to put the official Trinity teaching into simple English. Perhaps the best way of looking at what must always remain mystery is to say that God is experienced as Father/Mother, Son (God Incarnate) and Holy Spirit. Despite some wonderful paintings by faithful artists, it is doubtful that when we "See God face to face" we will see three separate figures..... Though Abraham did experience God in three human figures, that story slips into one God messenger talking to Abraham. The Reality of God as threefold is not easy, but it is in line with experience, and maybe more helpful than the traditional paintings.

### The little things matter.....



Terry made a note to fix the bolt

Not the first time I have shared this, but it merits repeating. On one parish away day, we were discussing church-related skills. One person could recite all the books of the Bible in their right order. Someone else was pretty good at pinpointing relevant Bible quotes, while others of us could not get beyond "I think Paul says..." (Someone is going to remark that just occasionally Paul quotes an Old Testament passage with the introduction "It says somewhere....". And it

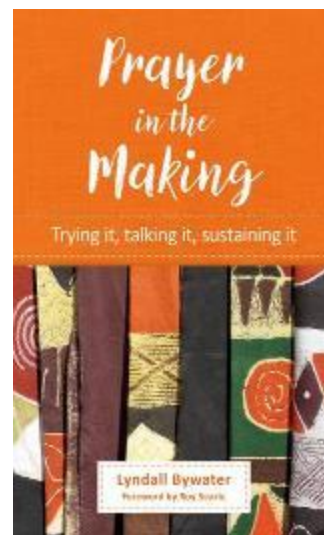
hasn't always been possible to track down the quotation!.) Others were good at having the right names for church vestments etc, and knowing what colours went with what church season.

Margaret Ziolek said quietly, "It is really useful to know where the toilet rolls are kept". In other words, a church depends a great deal on people, perhaps people with no job title, having very basic knowledge (maybe how the printer works, or how to open the top windows), and doing very basic things (maybe fixing bolts or clearing rubbish from the church garden). Mark Hare was one of those folk very good at see it, say it, fix it - while others of us didn't get beyond the first part of the triad. We have benefited from many practical people over the years: Bob Wright, Livy and Selvyn, Evan, Steve and Hal Bitner are other examples of unfussy practicality.

I had a colleague in the civil service who had a pen like the rest of us in those primitive days; but who also had a screw driver in his pocket. I know little about what ladies normally keep in their handbags; but I have known one or two ladies who are able to produce in an emergency almost anything small that is urgently needed. Time was when the vicar's vestry or the churchwardens' cupboard could be relied upon to stock almost anything that might be needed in a hurry. I was going to say that fisherman Peter managed to produce a sword in an emergency; but perhaps that isn't a very good example of being ready for all eventualities—since it seems he was not very good at using it.

**Poetry Page: : Pentecost by Malcolm Guite**

*Today we feel the wind beneath our wings  
 Today the hidden fountain flows and plays  
 Today the church draws breath at last and sings  
 As every flame becomes a Tongue of praise.  
 This is the feast of fire, air, and water  
 Poured out and breathed and kindled into earth.  
 The earth herself awakens to her maker  
 And is translated out of death to birth.  
 The right words come today in their right order  
 And every word spells freedom and release  
 Today the gospel crosses every border  
 All tongues are loosened by the Prince of Peace  
 Today the lost are found in His translation.  
 Whose mother tongue is Love in every nation.*

**That odd business of Praying: 176 : Prayer in the Making  
 by Lyndall Bywater: BRF Free copy available on request**

So how do you find your (prayer) voice? How do you discover that intimate relationship with God that only you can have? Other people's advice will come in handy, but no one else's prayer life will ever be right for you. The heroes of past centuries may inspire you, the dedication of previous generations may challenge you and the pastor's stories may make you reach higher, but none of them know anything about the prayer life God has in store for you. It's yours to discover and yours to enjoy.

If we're each unique, made by God himself for a never-to-be repeated communion with him, then it stands to reason that our prayer lives will differ radically. For some of us, the methods of prayer that enliven us most will be the contemplative ones; for others, it will be the activist ones; for some, it will be structures and strategies, whereas for others it will be firing up the intellect. If your prayer 'diet' has been limited, then it's even more likely that you think you're no good at it, because chances are you've never tried the sort of prayer practices that suit your personality – you've not yet learnt to pray the way God made you to pray.

Of course, there are disciplines to prayer – we don't always get to do what we enjoy most – but when we begin to access the endless variety and creativity of a one-to-one relationship with the God of the universe, we discover that there is more to prayer than we ever dreamed.

I hope and pray that you will be able to build for yourself a rhythm of prayer that is unique and life-giving. I pray that prayer will never again feel like something you fail at, and that you will never again live under the tyranny of needing to be more like someone else. I pray that you will know the astonishing joy of being one who walks and talks with God, and whose conversations with him change the world.

*Lyndall was Prayer Lead for the Salvation Army for 10 years. She is blind.*



**I hope there might be other creatures up there we can be friends with.....**

This is what I think I heard a five year old Cornish boy say about the latest space exploration. It reminded me immediately of a slightly younger English girl saying as she stroked a bumblebee, "Pretty thing". Now I hasten to add that the girl's mother recognised that the bumblebee might mis-

understand the little girl's proffered friendship, and rescued J before she was stung,. But the two children (50 years apart) spoke for an attitude which is a thousand times wiser than the Artemis Project talk of exploitation, conquest, dominance - exploiting into space all the destructive messing up we have inflicted on the earth over many generations.

It is interesting to focus for a moment on the name Artemis. That name was chosen because Artemis was/is the Greek goddess of the Moon....and twin sister of Apollo. (Children of Zeus, the boss god, and Leto.) As goddess of the hunt, Artemis is often pictured with a bow and arrows. However, and perhaps a little oddly, she was seen as guardian of wildlife (especially young creatures) and connected with forests, mountains and marshes: the natural un-spoilt landscapes/habitats adjacent to human settlements.

She is also portrayed (again a little oddly) as both virgin goddess and champion of purity - speaking for women as important in themselves and not just as mothers; and patroness of childbirth and midwifery, as well as women's health in general. I pick up the concept of RESPECT.

Nothing wrong with wanting to go boldly where nobody has gone before. And huge admiration for the men and women willing to spend days and maybe months in what seems to me to be an airless coffin vast distances away from normal living. However. I do hope that RESPECT can be lodged in all our thinking about exploring space.....rather than taking over space as another **we want** resource.

**CHURCH DIARY FOR MAY 2026**

► **Morning Prayer:**  
**Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri 9.00am Zoom only**

**Dates f**  
 4.00pm  
 6<sup>th</sup> May: 7

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|--|--|--------------|----------------------------------|
|  |  |              |                                  |
| Sun 3 May<br>EASTER 5  | ► Mon 4 May<br>BANK HOLIDAY  | ► Tue 5 May  | ► W                              |
| 10.00 Sung Eucharist   | 7.30pm Bible Reading Group   |              | 10.00am C<br>11.30am E<br>Chapel |
| Sun 10 May<br>EASTER 6   | ► Mon 11 May   | ► Tue 12 May | ► W                              |
| 10.00 All-Age Sung<br>Eucharist with Church<br>Parade                        | 10.30am-12.00 Pop-In<br>9.30-11.30am Little<br>Dragons<br>7.30pm Bible Reading Group |              | 10.00am C<br>11.30am E<br>Chapel |
| Sun 17 May<br>EASTER 7   | ► Mon 18 May   | ► Tue 19 May | ► W                              |
| 10.00 Sung Eucharist<br>12.00 APCM<br><br>Annual Parochial<br>Church Meeting | 10.30am-12.00 Pop-In<br>9.30-11.30am Little<br>Dragons<br>7.30pm Bible Reading Group |              | 10.00am C<br>11.30am E<br>Chapel |
| Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> May<br>PENTECOST  | ► Mon 25 May<br>BANK HOLIDAY   | ► Tue 26 May | ► W                              |
| 10.00 Sung Eucharist   |  |              | 10.00am C<br>11.30am E<br>Chapel |
| Sun 31 <sup>st</sup> May<br>TRINITY SUNDAY                                   |  |              |                                  |
| 10.00 Sung Eucharist   |  |              |                                  |

**For you Diary:** Summer July 18<sup>th</sup> - Summer Church and Community Hog Roast Event from

7.30pm - CTIS Prayers: Shirley Methodist Church

|  |  |                            |            |
|--|--|----------------------------|------------|
|  |  | ▼ Fri 1 May                | Sat 2 May  |
|  |  | 10.30am Jean Wells Funeral |            |
| Wed 6 May                                  | ▼ Thurs 7 May  | ▼ Fri 8 May                | Sat 9 May  |
| Church Cleaning Eucharist - Lady See above | Local Election in Church Hall                                |                            |            |
| Wed 13 May                                 | ▼ Thurs 14 May ASCENSION DAY                                 | ▼ Fri 15 May               | Sat 16 May |
| Church Cleaning Eucharist - Lady           | 7.30pm Deanery Ascension Day Service - St. Mary's, Addington |                            |            |
| Wed 20 May                                 | ▼ Thurs 21 May   | ▼ Fri 22 May               | Sat 23 May |
| Church Cleaning Eucharist - Lady           |  |                            |            |
| Wed 27 May                                 | ▼ Thurs 28 May   | ▼ Fri 29 May               | Sat 30 May |
| Church Cleaning Eucharist - Lady           |  |                            |            |
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Solon 196

**Across**

- 1 Ennobling is reportedly a softener (7)
- 5 Food at last? (7)
- 9 I leave ill-usage but get the bird (7)
- 10 Ranges that come before tangoes (7)
- 11 Old princess leaves unpolished (9)
- 12 Ned revealed by opener bagging a couple of fifties (5)
- 13 Guide in Tesco utterly (5)
- 15 Previously dancing with reels (9)
- 17 Arrive with broken lance I'll admit (4,5)
- 19 Tasty substitute has head removed and replaced with youth leader (5)
- 22 Lofty home that may sound strange (5)

23 One in a rush to find riches? (4,5)

**Down**

- 25 Underground access for chap over a pickle (7)
- 26 Penned by number after legal document (7)
- 27 Overshadowed agent following deputy head's conflict (7)
- 28 Lives by upstart leaving remnants (7)
- 1 Quantities of drugs and herb smuggled into parties (7)
- 2 Courageous supporter against fuss (7)
- 3 Harden cover without old Bob (5)
- 4 Hear score and refuse wildfowl (9)
- 5 Good man in island obtains expenses (5)

- 6 Have elevenses whilst on holiday to form a splinter group perhaps (9)
- 7 Legendary old rock singer from Germany? (7)
- 8 Alter design of remainder that almost call out (7)
- 14 Finished and rebuked? (6,3)
- 16 Mad wren fouls flora (9)
- 17 Beat the best with little Edward (7)
- 18 Deranged naval officer lost a pound but gained a penny for Tempest woman (7)
- 20 Recorded as a clock face may be? (7)
- 21 Upset Tyson Fury oddly maybe pants (1-6)
- 23 Checked without a sin (5)
- 24 Water and gas courses (5)

Thanks to Solon for puzzles  
For questions or help, contact Solon at  
Solon1across@gmail.com

**Answers to April puzzles:-  
Crossword:**

**Across:** 9 Hedge fund,  
10 Imago, 11 Atrophy,  
12 Outflow, 13 Test paper,  
15 Facet, 17 Epigram,  
19 Muffler, 20 Doggy, 21 Spray guns,  
24 Archive, 26 Pharaoh,  
28 Elide, 29 Life peers.

**Down:** 1 Thwart,  
2 Addressing, 3 Neap,  
4 Buoy up, 5 Ideogram,  
6 Fifty-fifty, 7 Rail, 8 Low water,  
14 Party lines,  
16 Calculated,  
17 Endgames, 18 Masterly,  
22 Rip-off, 23 Schism,  
25 Coin, 27 Amps.

**Sudoku:** 298154637/  
513697428/ 647283591/  
976842153/ 382571964/  
154369782/ 765438219/  
829715346/ 431926875

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
|   |   |   | 9 |   |   | 5 |  | 3 |
| 3 |   |   |   | 6 |   |   |  | 4 |
|   | 1 |   |   | 4 | 7 | 2 |  |   |
|   | 3 |   |   | 2 |   | 6 |  |   |
| 9 |   |   |   |   |   |   |  | 4 |
|   |   | 6 |   | 1 |   |   |  | 7 |
|   |   | 3 | 2 | 7 |   |   |  | 8 |
|   | 6 |   |   | 9 |   |   |  | 1 |
| 2 |   | 4 |   |   | 8 |   |  |   |

**Truth**

The trouble with promising to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, is that very often we don't know the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

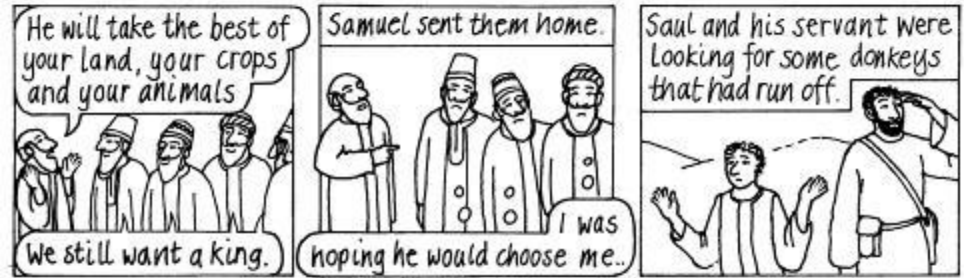
If you don't know, simply say so.

Combining truth with respect and sensitivity presents challenges; and are you sure about the truth?

**Bible Bite** A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Samuel 8:1 - 10:1, 17-24

Samuel had been a good leader of Israel but he was now old. The leaders of the twelve tribes came to talk to him...



## God is Boss... But.....

The cartoon on the opposite page features one of the more challenging Bible stories. Divine Right of Kings [Queens?] supporters take the Bible as supporting their belief that God favours hereditary monarchy, and inspires the monarch so that the system works well in theory and in practice. In this First Book of Samuel story, we have the rather good religious leader High Priest Samuel (who succeeded Eli once the latter lost the plot) emphasising that God did **not** want the Jews to copy the Kingship model of their enemies and neighbours. God becomes a very reluctant monarchist...and chooses the big guy Saul—who, had his moments but, over time, seems to have become mentally ill, Saul was in due course succeeded by the much lauded, but highly fallible, David. (Guilty of adultery and murder.) Then came Solomon, who was big in terms of wealth and women and words ... But not, as the Sunday School child said, all that wise!

Some believers have always hoped that local and national affairs could be managed by “God and me” - with no politics, monarchic or democratic. Sadly, a complex modern society needs leaders and managers. History (whether Iran or the UK or China or India or Russia or America) suggests that no combination of faith group and state, or no-faith group and state, guarantees good results. Maybe there is enough evidence to suggest that a state where leadership is accountable to everybody, and faith groups and believing individuals are free to challenge, has certain advantages?

Whatever your faith and politics, you would probably agree that those kings, queens, or presidents, who have emphasised divine responsibility over divine right have had much to commend them. I believe that a significant part of the attraction of these “rulers” has been prayer on the lines of “Please show me the truth” rather than “Please confirm my prejudices”. However limited our own personal leadership responsibilities” we can learn from that.

We have a Local Election coming up on May 7th. It is not the business of your local church to tell you how to vote; but the Christian sense of moral/mutual responsibility does point towards reading the election propaganda, maybe asking questions, thinking/praying about it, and voting. Nothing threatens democracy more than most people not using their votes...and then grumbling about those they could not be bothered to elect.

**April 3 different churches:** What the 3 churches have in common with St George's Shirley is **St George**. They are St George's Waddon, St George's Beckenham, and St George's Southwark

**Try the same “What have they in common?” test on the churches below:**





"Whilst I appreciate the thought, would whoever it is please stop tweeting, 'So far, so good...?'"

### .Taking part in the sermon.....

I have attended a mental hospital service where the preacher didn't realise that not all the patients were going to listen in silence unless he very deliberately invited them to contribute. As I recall it, he said something like "We would all agree.....". Whereupon one of the patients responded on the lines of "No, we b..... wouldn't!" Other patients then sided with the hostile patient, and all did not go well. Of course, sometimes the preacher does invite responses from the audience, though usually not to the extent of turning the sermon into a debate.. And often with the preacher having the advantage of being

the only one with a microphone.

The ground rules for listening to a sermon are that (provided it is actually audible): 1) You stand a good chance of learning something, even if the text is familiar and the sermon not winning the oratory of the year award; 2) Look out for action points: this is not entertainment but discipleship reinforcement; 3) You are entitled to disagree with the preacher, though first make sure what (s)he is actually saying, but we learn a lot from listening to what we don't much enjoy hearing; 4) If you want to follow up what you think you heard, there is usually an opportunity after the service. That is why the preacher tends to be the one who stands at the door as the congregation leave. Most preachers prefer a debate to the absolute silence which suggests nobody was listening to the sermon. Be fertile ground!

It is intriguing what sticks in the mind from a sermon—sometimes sticks for ever (even from the evening sermon days when the lights were turned off as the sermon began!). I remember, 60 years later, the sermon opening "*There are four Greek words for love*". Partly I remember this opening, because actually there are six Greek words for love: EROS - physical love, AGAPE - unconditional love, MANIA - obsessive love. PHILIA - affectionate love, STORGE - familial love, PRAGMA - practical love. In English, you "love" God, your partner, and crisps! But when you say "*I love you*", the person you love might prefer Greek.

### Maybe a Smile

#### Notices found in church newsletters – that didn't quite come out right!

Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of the vicar's sermons. The Rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing: 'Break Forth Into Joy.'

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married last weekend in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their schooldays.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

Ladies are requested not to have children in the church kitchen.

The organist invites any members of the congregation who enjoy sinning to volunteer for the choir.

At the church meeting last week, the rector spoke briefly and delighted the audience.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick both of our church and the community.

Smile at someone who you find hard to love. Say 'hell' to someone who doesn't much care about you.

**Seize the day** :Today is the oldest you've ever been, yet the youngest you'll ever be, so enjoy this day while it lasts.

**I know**: I'm not bossy. I just know what you should be doing.

**Short-staffed** Two men were working for the town council. One would dig a hole and the other would follow behind him and fill the hole in. They worked up one side of the street, then down the other, then moved on to the next street, working furiously all day without rest, one man digging a hole, the other filling it in again. An onlooker was amazed at their hard work, but couldn't understand what they were doing. So he finally approached the hole digger, "I'm impressed by the effort you two are putting in to your work, but I don't get it – why do you dig a hole, only to have your partner follow behind and fill it up again?" The hole digger wiped his brow and sighed, "Well, I suppose it probably looks odd because we're normally a three-person team. But today the guy who plants the trees called in sick."

### Sunday Readings for May (Message Version)

#### Sunday 3rd May: Easter 5

**Acts 7: 55-end:** He only had eyes for God.

**1 Peter 2: 2-10:** Drink deep of God's pure kindness.

**John 14: 1-14:** There is plenty of room for you in my Father's house.

#### Sunday 10th May: Easter 6

**Acts 17: 22-31:** He makes the creatures: the creatures don't make him.

**1 Peter 3: 13-end:** What Jesus says goes.

**John 15: 15-21:** I put you in the world to bear fruit.

#### Thursday 14th May: Ascension Day

**Acts 1: 1-11:** You will be able to be my witnesses.

**Ephesians 1: 15-end:** See exactly what he is calling you to do.

**Luke 24: 44-end:** You're the witnesses.

#### Sunday 17th May: Sunday after Ascension

**Acts 1: 6-14:** They agreed they were in this for good.

**1 Peter 4:12-14, 5: 6-11:** Live carefree before God; he is most careful for you.

**John 17: 1-11:** My life is on display in them.

#### Sunday 24th May: Whit Sunday/ Pentecost

**Acts 2: 1-21:** I will pour out my Spirit on every kind of people.

**1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13:** Each person is given something to do that shows who God is.

**John 20: 19-23:** Peace to you!

#### Sunday 31st May: Trinity Sunday

**Isaiah 40: 12-17, 27-end:** God doesn't come and go. God lasts.

**2 Corinthians 13: 11-end:** Think in harmony.

**Matthew 28:16-end:** I'll be with you...day after day.

### Please remember by name in your prayers the following people for whom prayers have been requested...

|                |                     |                  |
|----------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Camilla Harley | Ken                 | Verity Johnson   |
| Paul Oates     | Mark & Paul Hare    | Steve Barrett    |
| Pat Barrett    | Catharine Wilkinson | Ruth & Tony      |
| Fiona Sibley   | Jill Hollamby       | Alison Stiff     |
| Mike Wilkins   | Chris Reynolds      | Debbie Bell      |
| Pam Purkis     | Heather Orton       | Peter Collingham |
| Barbara Brown  |                     |                  |

Please remember in your prayers the care givers known to you: doctors, nurses, pharmacists, psychologists, paramedics, social workers, support staff, carers paid and unpaid. Our St George's care –givers list includes those with St George's links: *Toyin, Desmond, Temi, Christine, Jonathan, Marie, Luke, Emma, Jessica;* and the members of the chaplaincy teams at Croydon University Hospital, Princess Royal, and Bethlem, including *Lymbert, Deborah, Sister Sheila, Mary Geoghegan, and Sampson.* It includes carers for partners, children, parents, siblings, friends.

**May Day** has ancient European roots, marking the beginning of summer and celebrated around May 1, halfway between the spring equinox and midsummer solstice.

Early celebrations include the Roman Floralia, honouring Flora, the goddess of flowers, with theatrical performances, games, and floral decorations. In Celtic regions, the Beltane festival marked the start of summer with bonfires and fertility rituals. Common traditions include dancing around the maypole, crowning a May Queen, creating May baskets of flowers or sweets, and decorating homes with greenery. Since 1889,

May 1 has also been observed globally as International Labour Day—celebrating workers' rights.



also been observed globally as International Labour Day—celebrating workers' rights.

**One person wrote all these lines: April Magazine Quiz: the writer/speaker was Sir Winston Churchill**

***Try this one: again, just one person was responsible for these lines. Who was that person?***

*Why would I want to go and live on the moon when I've got this world of badgers, and thrushes and jellyfish and corals?*

*No nation has completed its development, because no advanced nation is yet sustainable.*

*Our motivation should not be fear, but hope.*

*We need more than just intelligence. We need wisdom.*

*After all. This planet is all we have, There is nowhere else to go.*

*What we do in the next few years will profoundly affect the next few thousand years.*

*Every breath of air we take, every mouthful of food we eat, comes from the natural world.*

*Care for the natural world: treat it with respect and reverence.*

*The job is really pretty easy: because the animals are so fantastic.*

*The story of how life developed on this planet is the greatest story ever told.*

*If there were no trees around, we would suffocate.*

*In the most hostile environments that you can imagine, there is some little creature beaver away, earning a living.*

*I've always got to remember that I'll forget something.*

## Organisations

**St George's Table Tennis Club** (in the Church Hall)

Tuesdays 8—10 p.m. Doubles Table Tennis. £3 per evening, including refreshments. New members welcome. Contact Ron 020 8656 9176, Ken 020 8654 3233.

**Whist Drive** (in the Church Hall)

Wednesdays 7 45p.m. *Inquire in Hall Wednesday 7 - 7 45 p.m.*

**Medau** (in the Church Hall)

Tuesdays 1.30-3.00p.m Mrs Gammon 01689 815646

**Shirley Neighbourhood Care Scheme**

020 8662 9599

info@shirleyneighbourhoodcare.co.uk

**Your Local Councillors and Safer Neighbourhood Police Teams** The dividing line between Shirley North and South Wards is roughly the Wickham Road, but some roads at the Croydon end on the south side of Wickham Road (St John's parish) are in Shirley North Ward

**Shirley South Ward - Councillors:** Jason Cummings (020 8651 2575) and Scott Roche (07783 152370) **Police Contact:** Phone 0208 721 2469  
Email SNMailbox.ShirleySouthSNT@met.police.

**Shirley North Ward - Councillors:** Sue Bennett (0208 768 0561), Richard Chatterjee (07710 183564) and Mark Johnson (07716 092484). Surgeries 3rd Saturday of every month except December 10-11 a.m. 49A Longheath Gardens

**Police Contact:** Email SNMailbox.ShirleyNorthSNT@met.police.uk Phone: 0208 721 2474. **URGENT 999** (Other crime reports 101)

## Principles

*When a person sells principles for popularity, he is soon bankrupt*

*It takes a wise person to know whether (s)he is fighting for a principle, or merely defending a prejudice*

*What this world needs is fewer rules, and more good examples*

## Organisations

### St George's Church Hall Bookings -

Mrs Jan Payne 07702 756913 hall-  
 manager@stgeorgeschurch.co.uk

### Overseas Missions Committee

Mr Brian McGinnis, Ms Pauline Russell 020 8654 6190

### Georgettes

Contact Mrs Jan Payne 020 8776 0185

**Beavers** Boys and Girls age 6 to 8 approx. Mr Darren Hawken 07903 399185  
 Wednesdays 5-6.15 p.m. 31stcroydonscoutgroup@gmail.com

**Cubs** Boys and Girls age 8 to 10.5 approx. Mr Darren Hawken 07903 399185  
 Wednesdays 6.30-8.00 p.m. 31stcroydonscoutgroup@gmail.com

**Scouts** Boys and Girls age 10.5 to 14.5 approx. Mr Darren Hawken 07903 399185  
 Thursdays 6 30 - 8 p.m. 31stcroydonscoutgroup@gmail.com

*Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are currently meeting at Pinewood Scout Activity Centre*

### Rainbows (Church Hall) Girls age 5 to 7

Tuesdays 5 - 6p.m. Mrs Ruth Clery 020 8651 4116  
 07702 870030

### Brownies (Church Hall) Girls age 7 to 10

Tuesdays 6.15-7.30p.m. Miss Sheila Fenner 020 8655 0023  
 fenner240@btinternet.com

### Guides (in the Church Hall) Girls age 10 to 16

Fridays 6.00 -7 30p.m. Mrs Ruth Clery 020 651 4116  
 07702 870030

### Pop In (in the Church Hall)

Mondays 10.30-12noon Mr Ron Bright 07972 607823

### Little Dragons (in the Church) Toddlers 0-5

Mondays 9 30a.m. -11 30a.m. Mrs Mary Brown marylbrown250@gmail.com  
 07704311523

### Pride

*People who talk about things they can't afford,  
 often forget to include pride, envy and malice*

*As the chest swells, the brain and the heart shrink*

## St. George's Church Directory

**Churchwarden:** Mrs Jan Turner 020 8654 6552

### Members of the PCC

Mr Alexander Baldwin-Smith, Mrs Jan Payne, Mrs Susan Wheeler, Mrs Katie Francis, Mr Steve Westray, Mrs Elizabeth Birchenough, Mr Owen Whalley, and those office holders who are PCC members.

### Hon. Secretary PCC.

Mr Eric Baldwin-Smith

### Treasurer

**Deanery Synod Representatives (also on PCC):** Mr Ray Wheeler Mrs Helen Aylward, Mrs Fay Westray

### Electoral Roll Officer

Mr. Owen Whalley 020 8655 1349

### Organist and Choir Mistress

Mrs Sophie Clayton-Wareham 07703554159

### Safeguarding Representatives

Mrs. Susan Wheeler. 020 8777 5271  
 Dr Toyin Magbagbeola

### Church Flowers

Mrs. Marion Sheehan 020 8777 7308

### Environment (ECO) Group

Mrs Jan Turner 020 8654 6552

### Magazine Editors

Mr. Brian McGinnis 31 Woodmere Avenue, Shirley CR0 7PG 020 8654 6190

Mrs A L Clayton

### Accounts

Mrs. Janet Fitt 020 8777 7823

### Adverts

Janet Fitt or Brian McGinnis

## ADVERTISING DIRECTORY

### Making friends with your Bible

The Monday Evening Bible Reading Group offers you Zoom joining in, or notes to support your own personal Bible reading. See Bible Reading Group section of church website and page 10.

### Shirley Neighbourhood Care Sthirley Community Library Wickham Road

020 8662 9599

info@shirleyneighbourhoodcare.co.uk

**Weekday mornings except  
Wednesday 10 a.m.—12 30**

### Phone Sockets/Broadband

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**Have you ever thought of writing a piece for the magazine? If not, why not? Choose your topic - within reason!**

### Gifts to share?

if you feel that St George's is not doing something it should be doing, or that you have a gift to offer/ share that is not being used by St George's, please do not keep your mouth shut!

### Prayers on weekdays

Tuning into God doesn't require a minimum number of people: one to One is fine.! But if you want prayer company, there are Zoom prayers at 9 a.m. Monday to Friday. All are welcome.

### TV Repairs

Need a Repair, Installation or User Training, Then phone Peter your local TV Engineer on Telephone: 078855 09319

### Look

Do you want to know a secret? Join Croydon All Year Bowls For FREE Taster call 020 8688 0659

*+ Following Christ + Serving Community  
+ Welcoming All +*



### St George the Martyr

Elstan Way, Shirley, Croydon. (off the Glade)

parish.office@hotmail.co.uk

www.stgeorgeschurch.co.uk

(Charity Number: 1134140)