

St George the Martyr Shirley



Christ in the Community



Commemorated on June 19, Sundar Singh was born into a Sikh family in 1889 in Rampur, near Doraha, Northern India. His mother took him to learn from a Hindu Sadhu (holy man) while also ensuring he received an English education at Ewing Christian High School, Ludhiana. His mother's death when he was fourteen deeply affected him, leading him to burn a Bible in anger. Despite being raised in the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita, Sundar Singh turned to Christ. In **October 1906**, he embarked on his lifelong mission as a Christian sadhu. He endured persecution but remained unwavering in his faith. His remarkable journey earned him the title "The Apostle with the Bleeding Feet."

A Member of Churches Together in Shirley

June 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

Thank you to all who helped with Christian Aid Week. The St George's total, including Gift Aid, was about £873. Some may have sent money direct to Christian AID. Disappointing in some ways; but we triedand every penny does good.

We tend to have a few magazines left over each month. Have you thought of giving one to a new neighbour.... Or a newly befriended neighbour?

See Church Diary for June church garden survey. We need YOU to be involved!!

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

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
Parish Office: parish.office@hotmail.co.uk



St Alban, first British Martyr c 250

Celebrated on June 22nd

Alban met a priest fleeing from persecutors and sheltered him in his house for a number of days. When the house was searched, Alban dressed in the priest's clothes, and declared himself a Christian. He was offered the chance to "repent", refused, and was killed. He died saying: "I worship and adore the true and living God who created all things." (The words are still used in prayer at [St Alban's Abbey](http://www.stalban.org).)

View from the Vicarage: Rev Jenny Walpole Our Land and Building Plans

As a Church we are seeking to be good stewards of our resources, as we intentionally choose paths which will help us to fulfil our calling to serve God's Kingdom here in Shirley. Last year we needed to make a choice based on the reality of our financial position. It is no longer possible to build both an Annexe and a Church Hall. Following the community wide listening exercise and the Facilitated Conversation with our PCC we have taken the decision to proceed with plans for a new Church Hall. Our current hall has served us well for nearly 100 years, but it is no longer economically or ecologically sustainable. We want to provide good facilities for mission and ministry that are future proof, so that we can fully share the love of God in this place.

We initially accepted an offer of £900,000 for the sale of the land behind the Church Hall which includes the old Vicarage and Scout Hut. This fell through because the developer tried to put conditions on an unconditional sale and sought to reduce the price further. We could not accept this. We are now ready to move forward, with an holistic approach which will involve working with the Diocese, an Architect and a Planning Consultant to put in a joint pre-planning application for the whole site. This means that we will have more control over plans for the residential development, access road and parking. It will include initial plans for a new Church Hall. Once this pre-planning application is in place the Parish and Diocesan land will return to the market.

The PCC has collective responsibility for money spent and for our land and building plans. In between meetings a project team, a sub-committee of the PCC, will be doing the detailed work to progress these plans. This team will consist of Hilary Fife, Jan Turner, Jenny Walpole and Owen Whalley. The first steps we need to take are research, visiting other Church Halls and progressing a successful pre-planning application. We have three questions to address: What do we do at the moment? What are the problems? What would we like to do?

It may take around 5 – 7 years for construction to be completed. Please hold all this in prayer as we go forward, we will keep you informed and consulted. With all our plans we seek God's guidance as we seek to honour our commitment as an Inclusive Church and as an Eco Church.

The Family



“Family” in the Bible means lots of very different things. A surprising number of Bible families are what we might call dysfunctional—perhaps because of more than one Mum or Dad, perhaps because of the pernicious habit of showing favouritism. Jacob’s family is a good example. David and Solomon did not set a good example. Abraham and his wife would hardly have won a “Parents of the Year” award. Over the years at St George’s, we have known (and valued) a wide range of family types. Jesus broadened His definition of family to include His disciples; but let’s stick to the “nuclear” (sounds explosive!) family, whatever the sex/gender of the parents, and including adopted children. Two partners without children also constitute a family. The partners are committed, whether or not married. Siblings living together are family.

In God terms, the family is the testing ground for unselfish partnering; the challenging opportunity to put into practice all that we say about “loving one another”: knowing all there is to be known about each other and still loving each other in word and in deed. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It ain’t easy. If you can get this right, you have a flying start in managing all the other less demanding relationships. *“The greatest institution in the world is the human family.”* Politicians talk a great deal about the value of the family, and about family values. How well the State supports the family, I leave you and your family to judge.

Understanding and dealing with impairment/difficulty/disability/impairment/handicap/difference: BRF resource book “Belonging Without Barriers” Building Accessible Christian Communities

People who use the English language are not very good at using it accurately, partly because there is a very proper desire to use it sensitively. Parents were once notified that they had a mentally retarded child who was ineducable. Now they might be told they have a child with learning difficulties who will need special support. The disability spectrum is very wide, from those who might well be described as just “differently abled” to those who need 24 hour support to do anything and everything. Some impairments don’t disable. Circumstances and environment can increase or diminish disability. Technology and human support can reduce the handicapping affects of disability. You have lived an extraordinarily sheltered life if you end your days without encountering and experiencing disability. There are usually choices about how you respond.

The resource book named above is written by people who know what they are talking about, to help others (specifically church leaders) who are struggling to make people with disabilities WELCOME and FEEL WELCOME. The writers also address the problem for believers of reconciling the existence of disability with a perfect world created and sustained by a perfect and loving God. Their practical advice is great. Their theology is, to me at any rate, unconvincing. They avoid the still sadly common notion that Jesus Himself dismissed: namely that disability implies someone has sinned. They stick with the notion that children being born “imperfect” is due to Adam and Eve sinning, and the rest of us inheriting that sin. In other words, God created a perfect world, and human kind messed it up: Eve is born in 2026 with multiple disabilities and a 5 year life-span because the First Eve sinned! Animals give birth to defective offspring, and the earliest human ancestors gave birth to defective children. Disabled births did not begin once there were beings with the ability to make bad choices! Nor did the “norm” of elderly disability start with the “myth” of original sin.

So, let’s not try to explain disability - accepting that sometimes the explanation is obvious, and often it is mysterious. Let’s just stick with the reality of our opportunities to make people with physical or mental disabilities not only feel welcome, but feel wanted and valued. Sometimes we do this very well. Sometimes maybe we could do better, in word (or friendly silence) and deed and attitude.

MASINAKEKELANE



I would love to know whether any readers read the name above, knew what it meant, and pinpointed the place on the map where it fits? It means “to take care of each other”. It is Zulu (or isiZulu), a Southern Bantu language, the native language of about 13.56 million people - most of them living in KwaZulu Natal in South Africa. I came across it in the USPG prayer diary in connection with the

Masinakekelane Agency, which (aided by USPG) supports disaster relief, victims of violence, and local families. I suppose our nearest English equivalent word is the multi-purpose word “Love”. (See word 3 above!) The Agency’s Food Gardens and Resilience Project focuses on resilience: looking after people by helping them to help themselves.

“Loving each other” is always a challenging concept, and not least in multi-tribal and multi-racial South Africa. It implies that I have a great deal in common with the other, whatever differences may separate us. Old Testament guidance on looking after does say a lot about fellow Jews; but also firmly includes the alien and stranger: e.g. Leviticus 19: 9-10 (reminding the Jews that they had been aliens and strangers themselves). The New Testament encourages Christians to do good to all; but adds (uncomfortably?) “Especially those of the Household of Faith” - other Christians! (Letter to the Galatians chapter 6 verse 10.)

In the Charity World, believers and non-believers alike tend (understandably but not perhaps rightly) to respond more enthusiastically to the needs of nice people who have fallen on hard times (seeing themselves as potentially in the same category) than to the needs of e.g. ex-prisoners, ex-prostitutes, ex-addicts. Current prisoners, current prostitutes, current addicts, (still) illegal immigrants, come still lower down the charity pecking order.

Masinakekelane is a valuable reminder that all of us have a lot in common with all the rest of us - even without the recognition that, in some cases at least, “There, but for the grace of God go I”. Jesus called Judas “Friend” **after** the betrayal.

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 re aiming to meet monthly for half an hour of prayer together: 7 30 p.m.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 .

Thursday June 4th West Wickham and Shirley Baptist Church
 Tuesday July 7th St John’s

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

May (page 22) church pictures challenge: All three churches are named after St Mark: St Mark’s Venice, St Marks’s Woodnote, St Mark’s Beckenham.

R.I.P Martin Cook

Martin died in hospital in the first week of May. Despite on-going health problems, he had re-appeared in church as a choir member—having been in earlier years choir boy; and, more recently, music group guitarist. Martin and his brother also used their musical skills in the Over Sixties Group. Two Cook families are celebrated in St George’s: Brian and Elaine (with Andrew and Peter), and Norman and Jean (with Martin, Howard, and Susan). The Cook name is to be treasured for what its members have done with and for us...though we need to remember that the original female surnames do tend to get forgotten in our male surname British system. Martin is to be remembered both for what he did, and for what he said—including the healthy challenges to the changes he did not like!

Feeding the birds selectively



The revised RSPB advice on feeding birds in the garden (including the Church Garden) takes some getting used to. It is dramatically backed up by the RSPB (major bird feed provider) not selling bird seed and peanuts between 1st May and 31st October: the RSPB putting its finances where its mouth is. Fat and mealworms are OK during the no-feed months; though we are encouraged not to leave un-eaten food in place for long periods. Remove if not being eaten.

The technical explanation is the spread of *trichomonosis* - a choking disease infecting finches in particular, spread rapidly where birds with it share food and feeding space with other birds. If you think, "but I don't see Chaffinches and Greenfinches in my garden!": that might well be why! Trichomonosis is more easily spread in warmer weather. The revised RSPB guidance is based on intensive research; but the logic is easy to see. Left to themselves, garden birds do not congregate every day in the same small space: they eat food temporarily available and then go elsewhere. Accumulated faeces etc is not an issue until we create that issue.

Look at human feeding habits. When we flock to a popular cafe, we expect a table that has been cleaned, plates that have been thoroughly washed, and food and drink that have not already been nibbled/sipped by others. These days, we generally don't share a bath, or re-use bath water already used by other people. Even if, within the family, there is a bit of bath sharing, we can be pretty sure that nobody else has urinated or defecated or spat in our bath water.

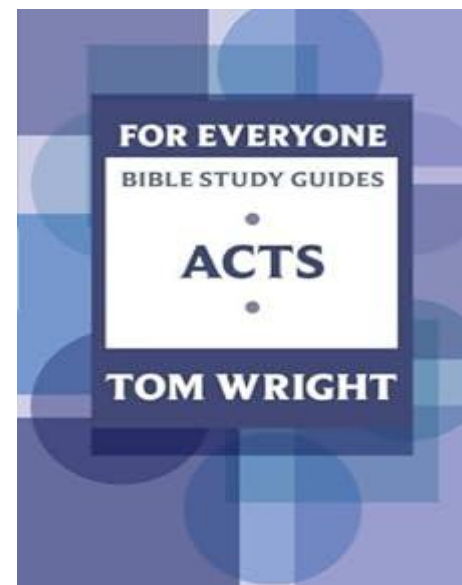
So there are two RSPB messages: (1) Feed selectively, (2) Clean regularly. There is a recommendation on moving bird feeding stations around your garden. I am not sure that this is realistic. Moving is certainly no substitute for selectivity and cleaning.

Trichomonosis in birds is caused by flagellated protozoal parasites, leading to caseous necrosis of the oral cavity and potentially orbital, brain, and liver lesions.

Some notes for you to note

- ♥ **Deadline for the July magazine, Sunday June 21st.**
- ♥ **The Bible Reading Group: Monday evenings 7 30 p.m. to 8 10 p.m. On Zoom.** See notes on the parish website. In June, we shall be reading Luke's account of the Early Church, in the Book of Acts: a story of ordinary people doing extraordinary things. Commentary available free for everyone who would like to join us. Regular and occasional new members both welcome.
- ♥ **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 Gamma 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?

The story of Jesus doesn't end with Jesus. It continues in the lives of those who believe in him. The supernatural does not stop with Jesus. Luke makes it clear that these Christians he wrote about were no more spectators of Jesus than Jesus was a spectator of God - they are in on the action of God, God acting in them. Which also means, of course, in us. (Eugene Peterson introducing Acts.)



Do it yourself parables (3); The Church of St Flexible

The way St Flexy did things was rational, logical, and, of course, flexible..and made the most of modern technology. It had long been the case that the younger children used a play space during the service, accompanied by very willing or slightly reluctant adults. Older children and young people went off for active learning elsewhere. Now there was also a comfortable adult space, for distracted adults. Refreshments were available in both spaces. It had always been the case that a few adults were in church out of a sense of family responsibility rather than by free choice; and that many adults found it hard to stay 100% focussed on 100% of the service... And, of course, as well as the inevitable distractions of cash problems, work difficulties, family and health issues, next meal, a sermon might be a bit dull, or the prayers not loud enough, or a hymn hard to sing. Sometimes, an individual or family had to arrive late or leave early.

Knowing all this, Vicar and PCC had taken steps to enable attendees to enjoy all the flexibilities enjoyed by those who tuned into the service remotely. Most of the congregation now had earphones. With these, they could (as could the remote participants) choose alternative hymns and prayers, and select a sermon of a length and nature to suit them...and guaranteed not to upset them. In between, they could select their own music (or sports commentary), and ignore what was going on around them. It had always been made clear that receiving Communion was a choice, not a necessity... Recently, house-bound people had been reminded that they could use un-consecrated bread and wine to symbolise what was happening in church. Those in church could now retreat to the adult lounge for tea and biscuits instead of wafer and wine if they so wished.

As the St Flexible church literature said, religion was all about unfettered individual choice, and the bad old days of group compulsion irrespective of God-given choice had gone. No more threats of hell fire if you didn't get into uncomfortable positions to chant incomprehensible words, listen to unintelligible lectures, and proclaim adherence to doctrines you didn't understand. Of course, St Flexy's had NEVER been like that!

The morning service over, and everybody finished doing their own thing in a collective space, Mrs Smith took off her headphones, turned to her neighbour, and said reflectively, "Are we missing something?"

How could we do that to us?

Sir Thomas More (1478 – 1535) was an English lawyer, judge, social philosopher, author, statesman, theologian, and noted Renaissance humanist. He served Henry VIII as Lord Chancellor. He wrote *Utopia*, which describes the political system of an imaginary island state. More opposed the Protestant Reformation, and Henry VIII's separation from the Catholic Church, refusing to acknowledge Henry as supreme head of the Church of England and the annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon. After refusing to take the Oath of Supremacy, he was convicted of treason and was executed. At his execution, he said: "I die the King's good servant, and God's first." Pope Pius XI canonised More in 1935 as a martyr. Pope John Paul II in 2000 declared him the patron saint of statesmen and politicians, stating: "he demonstrated in a singular way the value of a moral conscience ... even if, in his actions against heretics, he reflected the limits of the culture of his time".

John Fisher (c.1469 – 1535) was an English Catholic prelate who served as Bishop of Rochester from 1504 to 1535 and as Chancellor of the University of Cambridge. Fisher was executed by order of Henry VIII for refusing to accept him as Supreme Head of the Church of England and for upholding the Catholic Church's doctrine of papal supremacy and the independence of the Church from control by the State. He was named a cardinal shortly before his death. In answer to a popular petition of English Catholics, Pope Pius XI canonised John Fisher and Thomas More on 19 May 1935 as representatives of the many Catholic martyrs of England..

Fisher and Moore, both in a sense killed by the Church of England because they opposed the Church of England, appear together in the Church of England lectionary to be celebrated as martyrs. Both, as Pope Paul hints, would have supported killing Protestants as heretics. Their own deaths were as much political as religious, at a time when the death penalty was seldom challenged and frequently imposed. We can't deny the reality of Christians killing Christians, much as we may say "Yes then, but No now". The lectionary shows just how much we have changed. Fear was a big motivator in Henry VIII's time, and subsequently - though Elizabeth I was more inclined to a "Believe what you like as long as you behave" policy. It would be nice to think that today the prime mover is not fear, or indifference, or even tolerance; but respect.

Poetry Page: : *Sonnet 18: Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?*
William Shakespeare

*Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
 Thou art more lovely and more temperate:
 Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
 And summer's lease hath all too short a date;
 Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
 And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;
 And every fair from fair sometime declines,
 By chance or nature's changing course untrimm'd;
 But thy eternal summer shall not fade,
 Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st;
 Nor shall death brag thou wander'st in his shade,
 When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st:
 So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,
 So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.*



That odd business of praying: Number 177: Do your own thing, once you know what it is Thanks to Lyndall Bywater "Prayer in the Making"

*Not My Brother, Not My Sister,
 But It's Me, O Lord,
 Standing In The Need Of Prayer;*

In a prayer series lasting about 14 years so far, there are bound to be repetitions; but this article is unique in continuing the theme of the previous article—as a result of reading the rest of the book that inspired the May article. Free copies of that book at the back of the church.

Of course, private prayer is personal prayer. Of course those praying in private do not need to do what those leading intercessions have to do—namely capture and hold the attention of those sharing the worship space. But Lyndall makes the point very powerfully. In saying: **"Most parents would choose a home-made birthday-card from their children over a shop-bought one any day. How much more, then, must your Father in heaven love it when you celebrate him in a way that's wholly you."**

That quote carries a number of key messages: - Prayer is about relationship: about tuning in, rather than just asking for things. God listens to prayers in 3,000+ languages... and that is just earth languages - there may be other languages. God is beside us all the time, whether we feel that all the time or not: He does not have to be called down from heaven, or shouted at up in heaven so we can be heard above the rustle of angel wings. God is OK with tuning in on the part of folk who have lost or never had command of words.

So, for planned personal prayer rather than arrow prayer as and when, choose a place and a position which suits you; and don't be afraid to change place or position if you feel it appropriate, Stillness is fine; but so is movement. If moving your hands is your thing, that is OK. So is keeping your hands clasped, or even sat on. You can vocalise or not, as suits you and your prayer space—maybe quiet if you are in a public space. Do include a time of silence: listening is vital even if all you think you hear is the world around you. God shares that world space with you.

Interruption can be irritating, because it wasn't what you planned. However, a person or incident interruption to your prayers can give you someone/something else to pray about. **Free copies of book at back of church.**



Birds of Prey: 1) Red Kite, 2) Buzzard, 3) Kestrel, 4) Sparrowhawk. 5) Peregrine Falcon, 6) Marsh Harrier. You have probably seen 1-4 in this area.

CHURCH DIARY FOR JUNE 2026

▼ Morning Prayer:

Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri 9.00am Zoom only

	▼ Mon 1 June	▼ Tue 2 June
	10.30am-12.00 Pop-In 9.30-11.30am Little Dragons 7.30pm Bible Reading Group	
Sun 7 June TRINITY 1	▼ Mon 8 June	▼ Tue 9 June
10.00 Sung Eucharist	10.30am-12.00 Pop-In 9.30-11.30am Little Dragons 7.30pm Bible Reading Group	
Sun 14 June TRINITY 2	▼ Mon 15 June	▼ Tue 16 June
10.00 All-Age Sung Eucharist with Church Parade	10.30am-12.00 Pop-In 9.30-11.30am Little Dragons 7.30pm Bible Reading Group	
Sun 21 June TRINITY 3	▼ Mon 22 June	▼ Tue 23 June
10.00 Sung Eucharist	10.30am-12.00 Pop-In 9.30-11.30am Little Dragons 7.30pm Bible Reading Group	
Sun 28 th TRINITY 4	▼ Mon 29 th June	▼ Tue 30 th June
10.00 Sung Eucharist	10.30am-12.00 Pop-In 9.30-11.30am Little Dragons 7.30pm Bible Reading Group	

Dates for you Diary: Summer July 18th - Summer Church and Community Hog Roast Event from 12.00pm to 10.00pm **June 6-14 A Rocha survey of birds, insects, plants, trees, etc, in church grounds. All are invited to contribute, Suggest Watch for One Hour. Recordings to Brian McGinnis please: what you saw, and how many.**

Wed 3 June	Thurs 4 June	Fri 5 June	Sat 6 June
10.00am Church Cleaning 1.30am Eucharist - Lady chapel	7.30 CTIS prayers at West Wickham and Shirley Baptist Church		Church garden nature count
Wed 10 June	Thurs 11 June	Fri 12 June	Sat 13 June
10.00am Church Cleaning 1.30am Eucharist - Lady chapel			Church garden Nature count
Wed 17 June	Thurs 18 June	Fri 19 May	Sat 20 June
10.00am Church Cleaning 1.30am Eucharist - Lady chapel			
Wed 24 June	Thurs 25 June	Fri 26 June	Sat 27 June
10.00am Church Cleaning 1.30am Eucharist - Lady chapel			

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
9				10				11						
12						13								
				14										
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17		18				19		20		21		22		
23												24		25
												26		
27										28			29	
30												31		

Solon 197

Across

- 1 Drug addict takes heroin and becomes a guide (5)
- 4 Supervisor may be one of these when Victor succeeded in leaving (9)
- 9 Weight found at the end of Carshalton (3)
- 10 Primarily dark in Manchester (3)
- 11 Ian and Leo with a wind up harp? (7)
- 12 Bad to be the wrong way round (4)
- 13 PC on the go I would make a lovely picture (10)
- 15 Cat meets regularly built tycoon (5)
- 16 She may somehow rise to become a philanderer (9)

17 Leo is one of a dozen that celeb auto-graphs (4,5)

- 21 Bargains here when shops are labelling expensive stock at first (5)
- 23 Paltry shortened nightwear accepting endless holy book (10)
- 24 See English agent (4)
- 27 Talk about partial adoration (7)
- 28 Fuss discovered in El Salvador? (3)
- 29 Would their hearts be made of this? (3)
- 30 The press for example shown in pew sheets? (4,5)
- 31 At first ten or thirty added liberally makes forty in this case (5)

Down

- 1 In Paris a match is free (5)
- 2 Atilla for one receives peal and goes ferreting (7)
- 3 Rode oddly and make again (4)
- 4 Little old me in a production by hook or by crook (7)
- 5 Camouflaged elephant omitting Lloyd Webber creation (7)
- 6 Rearrange hidden orangeries (10)
- 7 Familiarises oneself towards the east (7)
- 8 Function mends posts (9)
- 14 Oddly, local causes hitch in some ancient mode of expression (10)
- 15 Girl, it's heard, enters class, to deceive (9)
- 18 Hounds found in mountainous country? (7)
- 19 Smiled before bearing it? (7)
- 20 Ruler's wife found in some cake? (7)
- 22 The French call attack! (4,3)
- 25 Mountain call swaps duke for king for this bumpkin (5)
- 26 Shady seller is all French (4)

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

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

Answers to May puzzles:-

Crossword: Across: 1 Dubbing, **5** Cobbler, **9** Seagull, **10** Sierras, **11** Graceless, **12** Kelly, **13** Scout, **15** Erstwhile, **17** Come clean, **19** Yummy, **22** Eyrie, **23** Gold miner, **25** Manhole, **26** Written, **27** Dwarfed, **28** Resides. **Down: 1** Dosages, **2** Bravado, **3** Inure, **4** Goldeneye, **5** Costs, **6** Breakaway, **7** Lorelei, **8** Restyle, **14** Ticked off, **16** Sunflower, **17** Creamed, **18** Miranda, **20** Minuted, **21** Y-fronts, **23** Greed, **24** Mains.

Sudoku: 42981563/389562147/
615347298/ 831724659/
927635814/ 456819372/
193276485/ 568493721/
274158936

Time is a useful ally, but a dangerous master; and "not having it" is often an excuse for not making choices rather than a given reality.

My time does not mean me time

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in 1 Samuel 17:1- 50

The Philistine and Israelite armies faced each other. For 40 days, the gigantic Philistine champion, Goliath, taunted them..

Panel 1: I will fight the best soldier in Israel's army and if I win, you will be our slaves

Panel 2: David's brothers were in Israel's army. He came to bring them food, and he heard Goliath.

Panel 3: David's brothers were not happy. You just came to watch the fight. Go back to your few sheep.

Panel 4: He is insulting God!

Panel 5: But David didn't stop.. We shouldn't be cowards. I will fight him!

Panel 6: I have killed lions and bears with God's help.

Panel 7: and King Saul heard what he said. You don't stand a chance. Then go ahead. You can wear my armour.

Panel 8: I can't move with all this on!

Panel 9: He took his sling and chase 5 stones from the stream bed.

Panel 10: Goliath couldn't believe what he saw. Do you think I'm a dog that you have come with a stick?

Panel 11: I have come to fight you in the name of the All-powerful God. The Lord always wins His battles

Panel 12: David slung his stone and hit him on the head. The Philistines ran away, chased by Israel's army.

Panel 13: So David took it off.

Panel 14: As Goliath came forward.. Goliath fell down dead.

David and Goliath

It is fair to ask of every Bible story: "So what?" In traditional understanding, the David and Goliath story is saying that the big guy doesn't always win. In the mind of the Bible story writer, the message was almost certainly that God always wins... and those "with God on their side" eventually win. Some readers may be jumping to the later Sampson story, where the big (Jewish) guy sort of won eventually, although at the cost of his own life....because God was on his side. Physically big single warriors generally don't count for much in today's military conflicts: they are simply an even easier target for a drone! Interestingly, the majority of Bible battle stories, while giving due credit to good leaders, are more about large forces being beaten by smaller forces rather than about big individuals being beaten by smaller individuals..... With "God on the winning side"

My school history was not explicitly "God on our side" history, but there was a strong implication that the defeat of the "French" at Agincourt, of the Spanish in the Armada story, of the Germans in two World Wars, and indeed of the Boers, the Indian "Mutineers", etc, etc, was down to little us plus God. Clearly, well relatively clearly, there are wars in which there is a broadly good and a broadly bad side.....and God might be supposed to be on the good side. But if you look across the years, and currently round the globe, the "God on our side" narrative can be a bit hard to maintain. The broadly accepted in theory international understanding of the dividing line between war **crimes** and "decent" war is good; and some countries seem more inclined to put it into operation than other countries. But it is hard to think of any conflict in which both/all parties have entirely escaped awkward questions about war crimes.

In terms of David and Goliath stories that cut it for me, there is Sister Fidel using her Irish unarmed combat skills to throw a startled armed male bully to the ground. In real life, there is the small boy challenging the rowdy man on the aeroplane; the small girl telling the big boys on the crowded bus to remember their manners; the teenage girl in the youth group stopping two lads beating the living daylights out of each other; the young lady seeing her boy friend home because he was nervous of being attacked as a lone male.

Oh, and maybe D & G carries a message about NOT throwing stones... A habit which Jesus condemned.

Bible Truth



The picture is not of people taking the Bible as a fool-proof guide to 21st Century Christian behaviour. It is, or purports to be, a picture of Iranian Moslems taking the Koran literally...and stoning to death a woman who has offended and is being punished in line with what the Koran is thought to ordain. The Book of Deuteronomy has much to say about rights and wrongs and punishment: some of it astonishingly God enlightened and entirely in keeping with 21st Century liberalism; some of it brutal and sexist. Nothing is more certain than the conclusion that if in the 21st Century United Kingdom you insisted on living strictly according to all the Deuteronomy rules you would rapidly find yourself in either a secure mental hospital or a prison cell.

If the Bible had been written by one author over a period of a few years, you would be entitled to expect "consistency". Since it was written by many authors, over many centuries, it is not surprising that the messages change. "But surely God doesn't change?", I hear you say, The Bible was not written by God. It was written by those struggling to understand God. One of the most obvious examples of cultural influences on the Bible is that in the early Bible days, men could legitimately (if often with bad consequences) have more than one wife - although women could not have more than one husband. By New Testament times, the norm was one husband/one wife. There are same sex relationships in the Old Testament; but it is no surprise that it is hard work to find Bible commendation of such relationships. As with relationships between parents and children, our modern norms have developed (and are still developing) through prayer informing new understandings of what God wants and blesses.

"So the Bible is no use as a handbook for modern living?" Not so! It (and especially the messages of Jesus) give you the basics of God/human and human/human relationships. Where the basics leave some uncertainties about the detail, we need to be listeners not bigoted experts - and maybe respect different views.

Thoughts on Grace: Andy Bebington

At one time, all cars used petrol or diesel as fuel, and were lubricated by oil. These are all petrochemicals, as was most of the plastic used in the construction. Grace has a lot in common with petrochemicals. Both are gifts – grace being from God and oil from geological processes in the dim reaches of prehistory. God's grace gave us both life and a soul. Without wanting to debate the Gaia theory too deeply, fish have lives, as do trees; do either have a soul? Your soul and mine are the receptacles of grace, whether through life – being given a talent, or a birthplace, or an event – or through the sacraments (let's not debate how many there are!).

Grace is part of who we are, much like the plastic dashboard in my car (but much, much more important, of course) – an integral part of me, given for free by a loving God so that I could identify with God, identify Satan and know how to handle temptation, so forth ... it is as essential to being a Christian as breathing is to being a person. We must be grateful for the grace we've been given from our birth; it connects us to the Trinity by us being children of the Father, friends with the Son and guided by the Spirit. We must also be grateful for the "top-up" we get in so many ways. Forty-odd years ago, a bishop in a house group referred to the group as his "spiritual filling station", a place where, through prayer shared with others, and through studying the good book and books written by saintly people, he could open his soul to God so that God could "top him up". This enabled him to go "strongly" into the world to carry out his rôle as a pastor.

Grace comes to us in church, too – prayer (obviously) and hearing the readings and the sermon – but also through sacraments such as baptism (whether we know what's going on or not – I was baptised when I was but a few weeks old), or the eucharist, or confirmation or ordination. I watched a confirmation service once, with the bishop holding his hands over the head of the candidate and praying. His hands looked for all the world like a radio dish beaming God's grace into the mind and soul of the candidate. It made me realise quite how much we are but conduits for God's grace to others. When we do a "good turn", or sponsor someone's half-marathon, or simply provide a shoulder for someone to cry on – we use the gift of God's grace to do God's work on earth. And we need that grace to fend off evil as best we can, as well as to continue doing good, going the extra mile ... Thank God for grace!

Maybe a Smile

Quiet prayers The little boy was saying his go-to-bed prayers in a very low voice. "I can't hear you, dear," his mother whispered. "Wasn't talking to you," said the small one firmly.

For the wicked A little boy had been very naughty and as a punishment his mother told him he would go without his favourite vegetable. He sat down for a meal, and his mother served, carrots, corn, – – and ? "It's no use waiting," said his mother, "I told you, no peas for the wicked."

Motoring holiday Lost Husband: Where are we now? Wife: Halfway between Paris and Marseilles, dear. Husband: Don't bother me with details. What country are we in?

Some of the great questions of life

Why are buildings called buildings when they are finished? Shouldn't they be called built?

Why is abbreviated such a long word?

Why is it that when you tell a man there are 400 billion stars he will believe you, but when you tell him there's wet paint, he has to touch it?

If your supermarket has been lowering prices every day, how come nothing is free yet?

If con is the opposite of pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?

If a fire-fighter fights fire and a crime fighter fights crime, what does a freedom fighter fight?

Do you find it unnerving that what doctors do is called 'practice'?

Which Way to Heaven?

The evangelist Billy Graham told of a time early in his ministry when he arrived in a small town to preach a sermon. Wanting to post a letter before the service that evening, he asked a young boy in the street where the post office was.

When the boy had told him, Dr Graham thanked him and said, "If you'll come to the Baptist Church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to heaven." The boy replied, "How can you do that? You don't even know your way to the post office."

A lesson in lies A minister told his congregation, "Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To help you understand my sermon, I want you all to read Mark 17." The following Sunday, the minister asked for a show of hands. He wanted to know how many had read Mark 17. Every hand went up. The minister said, "Mark has only 16 chapters. I will now give my sermon on lying."

Sunday Readings for June (Message Version)

Sunday 7 June: Trinity I

Genesis 12: 1-9: Abraham kept moving.

Psalms 33: 1-12: God's word is solid to the core.

Romans 4: 13-end: The sacrificed Jesus made us fit for God.

Matthew 9: 9-13, 18-26: Come along with me.

Sunday 14 June: Trinity II

Genesis 18: 1-15: Is anything too hard for God?

Psalms 116: 1, 10-17: I love God because he listened to me.

Romans 5: 1-8: The wide open space of God's grace and glory.

Matthew 9: 35—10:8: Go to the lost confused people right here.

Sunday 21 June: Trinity III

Genesis 21: 8-21: I'm going to make of him a great nation.

Psalms 86: 1-10, 16-end: I count on you from morning to night.

Romans 6: 1b-11: Each of us is raised into as light-filled world.

Matthew 10: 24-39: If your first concern is to look after yourself, you'll never find yourself.

Sunday 28 June: Trinity IV

Genesis 22: 1-14: Now I know how fearlessly you fear God.

Psalms 13: I've lived with a stomach full of pain.

Romans 6: 12-end: You must not give sin a vote in the way you conduct your lives.

Matthew 10: 40-end: Accepting someone's help is as good as giving someone help.



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

Camilla Harley
Paul Oates
Pat Barrett
Jill Hollamby
Pam Purkis

Ken
Mark & Paul Hare
Catharine Wilkinson
Peter Collingham
Heather Orton

Verity Johnson
Steve Barrett
Ruth & Tony
Christine Lutman
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.

A Summer Prayer

May the brightness of the Summer mean that we see more clearly.

May the warmth of the Summer mean that we love more warmly.

May the colours of the Summer mean that we appreciate diversity more fully.

May the fruitfulness of the Summer mean that we are more ready to act on our dreams.

May the breeze of the Summer mean that we enjoy contentment, but do not confuse contentment with inertia and giving up.

May shared time mean shared blessing.

Amen.



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One person wrote: Answer to May quiz: David Attenborough***One person said the following. Who was that person?***To a farm-worker under a broken-down trailer: *Can I help?*Reflecting on a conversation with an armed intruder: *Luckily, I'm used to talking to people on street corners.**I really must snap out of this, and look smiley.**I'm too small to see them.*On being told that it had all gone terribly wrong: *Oh, good. What fun!**You can't cancel Concorde.*To a sibling: *Aren't these exams awful. You and I .
would never have got to university!**This room smells of paint. Put a bucket of hay in there and that'll take it away.**Oh, I'm sorry. I really wasn't criticising*Someone appointed to an important new job: *I learned more from X in half an hour than I learned from three weeks in Whitehall.**When life is hard, the courageous are all the more determined to struggle for a better future.**Grief is the price we pay for love.**It is through service that we find purpose.***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

info@shirleyneighbourhoodcare.co.uk

020 8662 9599

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)**Success***Don't forget the folk who are holding the ladder while you are climbing to success**You don't have to lie awake at night to succeed, just stay awake by day**Success is like underwear: we should have it without showing it off*

Organisations

St George's Church Hall Bookings -

Mrs Jan Payne 07702 756913
hallmanager@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 (Church Hall) Girls age 10 to 16

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

Pop In (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

Success

The secret of success is to never let down and never let up

Success is the ability to hitch your wagon to a star while keeping your feet on the ground

St. George's Church Directory

Churchwarden: Mrs Jan Turner 020 8654 6552

Deputy Churchwardens : Mr Alexander Baldwin-Smith, Mrs A-L Clayton

Members of the PCC : Liz Bebington, Mrs Jan Payne, Mr Evan Russell, Mr Steve Westray, Mrs Elizabeth Birchenough, Mr Owen Whalley, and those office holders who are PCC members.

Secretary: Mrs Jan Payne 07702 756913

Treasurer

Mr Alan Britcliffe

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

Electoral Roll Officer

Mr Owen Whalley 020 8655 1349

Organist and Choir Mistress

Mrs Sophie Clayton-Wareham 07703554159

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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

Mrs Janet Fitt or Mr 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

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info@shirleyneighbourhoodcare.co.uk

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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.

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