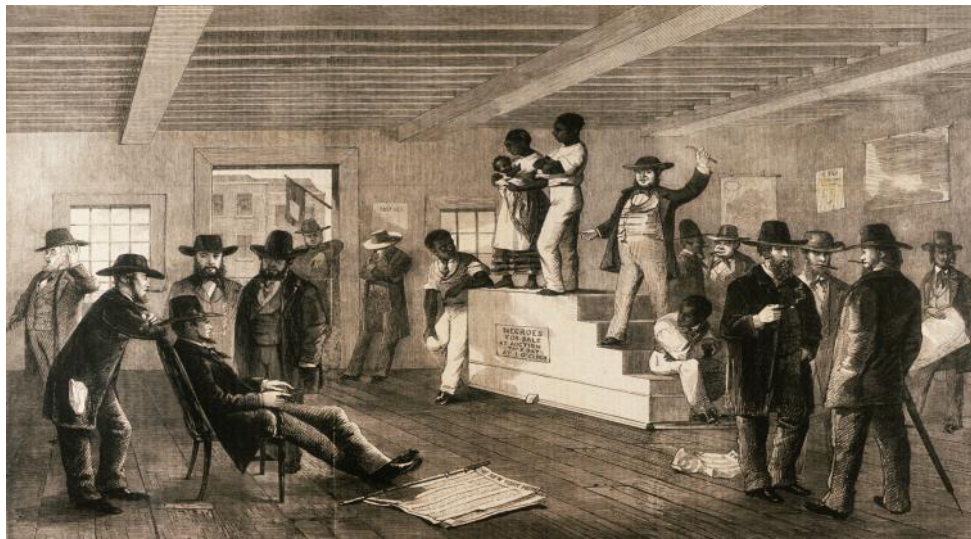


# St George the Martyr Shirley



## Christ in the Community

July 30th: Anti-Slavery Sunday (Slave Market 1861)



### A Member of Churches Together in Shirley

**July 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

**Christian Aid Week 2026; The St George's updated total, including estimated Gift Aid, is £1,477.**

Thank you all.

**We are toying with trying again a Christian Aid Words and Music Concert in October. Might you be willing to take part?**

*Something to think about: If I were on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict me? If my neighbours were compiling a list of good neighbours, would my name be on the list?*

*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)**



Olaudah Equiano  
Commemorated 30th  
July:

1745-1797: Sold into slavery as a child, purchased his freedom, in 1766 and became one of the most prominent anti-slavery campaigners.

Also known as Gustavus Vassa.

## View from the Palace ; Ray Wheeler

At the end of July the Church of England marks Anti-slavery Sunday on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Many of those who were opposed to slavery in the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries included William Wilberforce who with fellow evangelicals including Henry Thornton, John Newton, Henry Venn, and others, worshipped at Holy Trinity, Clapham Common. Because of this they were known as the Clapham Sect. They campaigned firstly for the abolition of the slave trade and later for the abolition of slavery itself. A politician, Wilberforce, formerly a gambler and socialite was converted and believed God had set before him the suppression of the slave trade. Religious conviction above political ambition.

Prior to the passing of the Anti-slavery bill through parliament a huge number of petitions were circulated around the country which thousands signed including women. This proved to show that women, could exercise democratic political action. although denied the vote. The image on the front cover of the magazine features an American Slave Auction where slavery still continued through the 19<sup>th</sup> century in the Southern States.

Unfortunately, slavery does still exist today even in our own Diocese and local area. This is termed 'Modern Slavery', and affects so many very vulnerable people. A group within the Reigate Archdeaconry has established that slavery still exists right here in our communities, right now. Many vulnerable people are still coerced into slave conditions, but it is a hidden crime. Many work at carwashes, in nail bars, on construction sites, and a recent emerging industry where Modern Slavery is apparent is in the private care sector, not forgetting the sex industry. Young people can be found in 'County Lines', as drug mules, or ferrying weapons. 'Cuckooing' is a form of slavery and is the term in which very vulnerable lonely people are exploited by criminal gangs who gain entry to their homes and set up 'crack' houses and brothels.

If you suspect someone is being used as a 'slave' please report it to the Modern Slavery Helpline on 0800 0121 700 or look at the website <https://southwarkagainstmmodernslavery.org.uk> Alternatively contact any of the Ministry team here at St George's Church for further information.

Verse 4 from Psalm 146, the Psalm appointed for the day to remember William Wilberforce. "Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the Lord their God."

### Anyone who goes to church is a Missionary?

The Monday Evening Bible Reading Group is reading the Acts of the Apostles—which is about mission: motivation and content and method. Assuming that this, like all the other Bible books, is not just ancient history but relevant to folk today, Acts invites questions about the who, how, what and why of mission today. Are we all, intentionally or not, missionaries? How do we do the job well? Jump from religion to football. Anyone who goes to Crystal Palace football matches (and doesn't keep it secret), and/or wears a CP shirt, is a missionary for football and for their particular football team. Their message (spoken or not) is at the very least: here is something to be enjoyed and being done reasonably well by "my" team, so why don't you give it a try? The missionaries are not writing off rugby, or saying CP is the only team worth watching. They are inviting others to discover and invest in what they have discovered and are investing in...without necessarily actually inviting anyone to join them. Football is in general a spare time occupation, whereas religion is a life-time full-time commitment, so any bad behaviour on the part of the football missionary is less of an issue than bad behaviour by the religious missionary!

The big names in Acts preach the Gospel in written and spoken words, though they also do it by healing and caring.. However, a lot of those featured in Acts, and particularly the women, DO the Gospel (DO mission) by hospitality, caring, practical skills, and (surprisingly) funding the more independently mobile men. "Hear how clever these Christians are with words!" probably had less impact on ordinary folk than "See how these Christians show love in action!" The Gospel was, and is, about letting Jesus in to CHANGE PEOPLE... and keep them changed. So it really isn't surprising that the outsider is more convinced by the mission of faith in action than by a really clever use of words to explain The Trinity or Transubstantiation.

When St Francis said "Preach the Gospel. Use words if you have to", he was not asking Christians to kid themselves that the only good people in the world are regular church-goers! He was building on the reality that good parents, good spouses, good friends, good neighbours, good professional or full-time carers, don't talk love. They show it. No doubt the occasional thank you is appreciated; but sermons on caring cut less ice than doing listening and caring.

**HOG ROAST**  
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# Summer Gathering

**18th July**  
**4.00-8.00pm**

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**jan.m.turner09@gmail.com**

**Hymn Says...**

This was prompted by two articles in the May Shirley Methodist "Matters". They referred to two hymn writers with Croydon links: Graham Kendrick and Fred Pratt Green. Kendrick, who lived in Oaks Road for some time, has written a number of well-loved hymns - including "Shine Jesus shine", "Jesus stand among us", and "All I once held dear". Green was a Methodist minister here in Shirley. He wrote "An upper room did our Lord prepare" and "God is here as we his people" and "Christ is the world's light". If you have noticed Pratt Green's name in the hymn book, it may have prompted a giggle because of Pratts Bottom - the unfortunately named village in Bromley, named after a wealthy family that lived in that hollow/valley. Samuel Taylor Coleridge is an earlier hymn writer with Croydon connections. (e.g. "God's child in Christ adopted".)

If my memory is not tricking me, there is one other very well-known hymn author with a St George's connection. In the days when we had an AYPAs (Anglican Young People's Association) group, we hosted a national AYPAs service; and Patrick Appleford attended. (Appleford's hymns include "Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us" and "O Lord, all the world belongs to you".)

You can, of course, sing hymns without paying much attention to who wrote the words and the music. I'm more conscious of authorship because I have to report the hymns we use to the licensing authority (CCLI) so that, if the license still applies, the authors can be paid a fee. You can sing the hymn words without registering what the words are - not least when the words are familiar from frequent use. This is a mistake, because it means you enjoy the tune but lose the message. The assertion that "The person who sings the words, prays twice" implies that you are listening to what you are singing!

There is another reason for paying attention to hymn words. Just sometimes, you might want to sing DIFFERENT words. I can't sing the hymn words which proclaim that the death of Jesus was to "satisfy the wrath of God" (hymn "In Christ alone")- even if that is the way you read Isaiah 53 verses 10-11. Nor can I pledge to my country "Love that asks no questions" (hymn "I vow to thee, my country") Blind patriotism is a crime, not a virtue.

Read and think and sing and mean, and remember!

**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 .- 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)

Tuesday July 7th St John's

August: No Meeting

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

**Psalm121 Message Version<sup>1-2</sup> I look up to the mountains;**

*does my strength come from mountains?*

*No, my strength comes from GOD,*

*who made heaven, and earth, and mountains.*

*<sup>3-4</sup> He won't let you stumble,*

*your Guardian God won't fall asleep.*

*Not on your life! Israel's*

*Guardian will never doze or sleep.*

*<sup>5-6</sup> GOD's your Guardian,*

*right at your side to protect you—*

*Shielding you from sunstroke,*

*sheltering you from moonstroke.*

*<sup>7-8</sup> GOD guards you from every evil,*

*he guards your very life.*

*He guards you when you leave and when you return,*

*he guards you now, he guards you always.*

## Dust – an eternal matter? Andy Bebington

“We are stardust, we are golden” goes the song – written in 1969 AD by Joni Mitchell. “He knows of what we are made; he remembers that we are but dust” – Psalm 103:14, probably written by King David around 1000 BC. So, some 3000 years apart, two writers reflected the thinking of “their” day, giving us words which still resound in “our” day. David knew that when people die, “on that day, all their thoughts perish” and their bodies eventually become nothing but skeletons. This may be thought of as a view of the body – and therefore of the world – as transient, while things of the spirit are eternal.

This doesn't mean we can ignore the world; our neighbours, after all, whom we are bidden to love, live there too. How can we love them as bidden, if we don't know them? If we don't know what problems they face (some of them of *our* making) and how they would like us to contribute to solutions ...

3000 years later, we're told that the way the universe works is that giant stars explode as supernovae, once they have used up their nuclear “fuel” and after they have created – through nuclear fusion – heavy elements, such as iron, nickel, oxygen and the rest. These are blasted out into space by the explosion and so form part of the “next phase” of star and planet production. All we can see on earth (indeed the earth itself) arose because heavy elements came from the “death” of giant stars. We are, indeed, stardust. Whether we are golden is moot – we possibly each have a trace of gold in us. And whatever we are will again be blasted into space at some distant future time, to be (perhaps endlessly) recycled.

The point is that, separated by millennia, David then, and scientists now, tell us the same thing – our bodies are impermanent. If that's right, what do we mean in the Creed by our words “...and the resurrection of the body ...”? Answers on a postcard, please ...

**Editor's Footnote:** *The Creed continues “and the life everlasting”. The Jesus Resurrection story and the Transfiguration story illustrate the difficulty of envisaging eternal life with no visible expression of that life. St Paul emphasises that the resurrection body is NOT the one we had when we died (which in turn, was not the one we had when we were born). Resurrection goes with Transfiguration?*

## Some notes for you to note

- ♥ **Deadline for the August magazine, Sunday July 19th.**
- ♥ **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 Acts of the Apostles: the story of the (Very) Early Church, and the sequel to Luke's Gospel. A commentary is 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 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?
- ♥ **I wonder why?** Whether or not we are people who enjoy quizzes, most of us like to think of ourselves as people who - in some areas at least – have answers. An autistic acquaintance of mine was delighted when someone mentioned London buses: because he knew most of the bus routes by heart. I was delighted when Hilary quoted a George Herbert poem, because I knew it by heart. After childhood, we are perhaps rather less good at asking questions. Asking questions is often the best way of learning answers....and, while Googling can help (and I use it a lot for magazine research), sometimes sharing the question can help both you....and others who also wondered, but didn't ask.

If you come across a Bible passage that you feel like questioning, or a hymn line that sticks in your throat, or a news item that challenges your [potential] faith, why not share it with the church magazine? You can include your name, or remain anonymous. Over to you!



## Do it yourself parables (4): See what you know, not what you think you know.....and try to avoid judging

Jacqueline and Charlie were both 14, born just two weeks apart. They were best mates...mates being a word that illustrates the tendency in English of one word to mean very different things. Mates can mean life partners, or, especially where the mates are all men, just good friends. Since Jacqueline and Charlie were girl and boy, they were girl friend and boy friend. They were NOT romantically entangled; and they were entirely (and contentedly) aware of the constraints that their sex difference imposed on the way they lived their friendship. No sleep-overs! Charlie held his mate's hand—when she cut her finger on his chisel.

What particularly reinforced their friendship was the similarity between their family circumstances. Jacqueline had a mother, but no father; and her mother had major health issues which meant that Jacqueline cared for her mother much more, and much more effectively and consistently, than her mother cared for her. Charlie had a father, but no mother, and his father had major health issues which meant that Charlie cared for his father much more, and much more effectively and consistently, than his father cared for him. It has never been easy for young people to combine intensive caring with school, and with teenage social norms.... Or easy for other, more "normal", young people to tune into young carers. Young carers can be great supporters of other young carers.

Jacqueline and Charlie's Head Teacher happened to get given a slot on national television to talk about uneven performance by school students. She did not name the two mates; but she pointed out to the interviewer that differences were not just "Some are more intellectually gifted than others (or have better physique)", or "Some try harder". She explained that homework was easier if you have your own room, and encouragement to study, and maybe extra individual tuition at home. She explained that it was a great deal easier to "keep up" at school, or even "keep ahead", if you didn't have to do most of the house-work, cook for yourself and your parent(s), provide personal care for your parents, and worry about your parents while you are at school. "I hadn't thought of that!", said the interviewer, "People don't", said the Head Teacher.

Their school had a "Student of the Year" award. Reflecting on her interview, the Head Teacher persuaded the Governors to choose Jacqueline and Charlie.

## Dirty Money?



dreamstime.com

ID 251912832 © Microvector Art

When the London church announced a big new community project, an international firm with a head office in the parish made a significant financial contribution. The Vicar and Church Council said thank you very much, and reported the gift *pour encourager les autres*. A teenage member of the congregation came to see the Vicar. She asked, quite angrily, why the church was accepting money from an international oil firm—dirty money earned by polluting the atmosphere and destroying the planet.?

This article is not taking sides. It is just airing the arguments. Churches, political parties, voluntary bodies, etc, can not demand of every would-be donor conclusive evidence that none of the donor's resources had ever been sourced by activities that someone might think questionable. They are now well aware that publicity about large donations from a questionable donor could be reputationally damaging—from a bank with some investments in the arms industry, to a successful firm with a good reputation but with a boss with questionable sexual morality.

One argument is that if you are using what some might call dirty money for good purposes, only the clean use of the money matters; ...and that if you think "capitalism" is a bad thing, it is going to be extremely difficult to attract any "clean" money in a capitalist society. You might want to turn down a large donation from Cosa Nostra—because it could well be blood money; but e.g. the oil industry is legitimately making money out of a commodity most of us currently need. (Sadly, we also currently need arms to defend ourselves, and therefore an arms industry.)

The opposite argument is that financial advantage never justifies setting aside fundamental principles such as stewardship of the environment and social jus-

**Poetry Page : To the Summer by William Blake**

O Thou who passest thro' our vallies in  
Thy strength, curb thy fierce steeds, allay the heat  
That flames from their large nostrils! thou, O Summer,  
Oft pitched'st here thy golden tent, and oft  
Beneath our oaks hast slept, while we beheld  
With joy, thy ruddy limbs and flourishing hair.

Beneath our thickest shades we oft have heard  
Thy voice, when noon upon his fervid car  
Rode o'er the deep of heaven; beside our springs  
Sit down, and in our mossy vallies, on  
Some bank beside a river clear, throw thy  
Silk draperies off, and rush into the stream:  
Our vallies love the Summer in his pride.

Our bards are fam'd who strike the silver wire:  
Our youth are bolder than the southern swains:  
Our maidens fairer in the sprightly dance:  
We lack not songs, nor instruments of joy,  
Nor echoes sweet, nor waters clear as heaven,  
Nor laurel wreaths against the sultry heat.

**Poetry is an act of living**

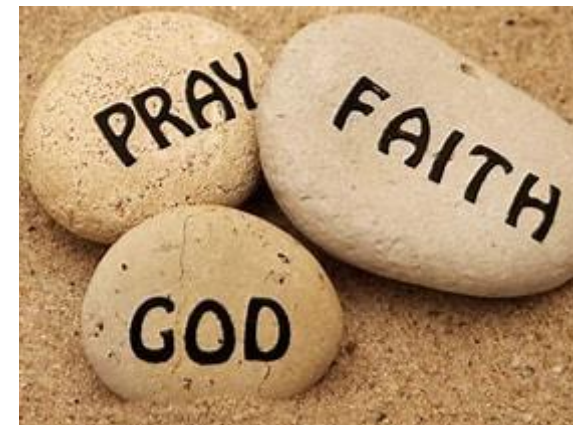
**That odd business of praying: Number 178: Uncertain Prayers**

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it,  
and it will be yours. ( Mark 12,24)


And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith. (Matthew  
21.22)

These are not the only texts that emphasise praying with confidence that you will receive. Perhaps the best known text is: Mark 11.23 "if anyone says to this mountain, 'Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him" (v. 23). I don't know whether anyone has tried to put Mark 11.23 into practice. I'm absolutely certain that, while mountains do fall into the sea, no mountain has ever gone into the sea because someone prayed for it to happen. God asks for a bit of faith on our part - if only the faith that He will listen to them. God does not ask that we have absolute confidence where the outcome may not be the outcome we want. If every person someone has prayed would stay alive did stay alive, the number of multi-centenarians would be hugely problematic. ( And no mountains!)

Keep in mind Mark 9.23-25: "Lord, I believe, help my unbelief ". This was a father seeking help from Jesus for his sick child; and being wonderfully honest, on behalf of all of us. Keep in mind too Matthew 26.39: "But let your will be done rather than mine." : Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, praying about His pending crucifixion. If we could be absolutely certain of God giving us exactly what we want, we, not God, would be in charge of the world, (And God help that world!)




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## CHURCH DIARY FOR JULY 2026

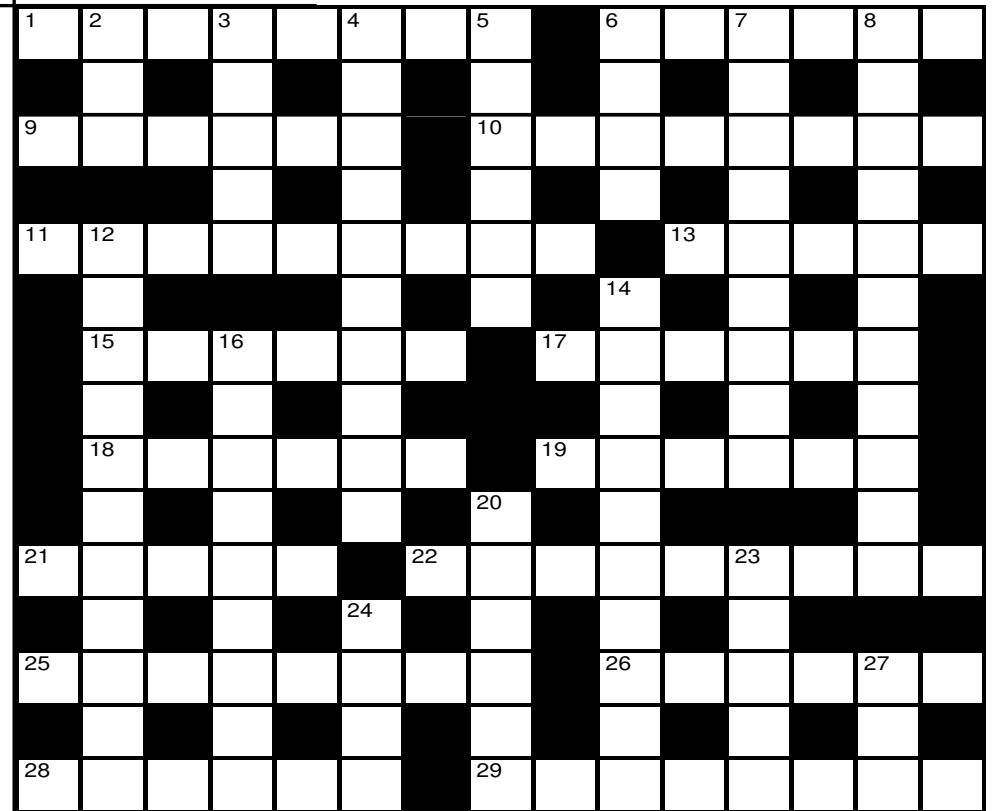
▼ **Morning Prayer:**

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

			Dates 4.00pm
			▼
			10.00am 11.30am Chapel
Sun 5 Jul TRINITY 5	▼ Mon 6 July	▼ Tue 7 July	▼
10.00 Sung Eucharist	10.30am-12.00 Pop-In 9.30-11.30am Little Dragons 7.30pm Bible Reading Group	7.30pm St. John's Church - CTIS Prayers	10.00am 11.30am Chapel
Sun 12 July TRINITY 6	▼ Mon 13 July	▼ Tue 14 July	▼
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		10.00am 11.30am Chapel
Sun 19 July TRINITY 7	▼ Mon 20 July	▼ Tue 21 July	▼
10.00 Sung Eucharist	10.30am-12.00 Pop-In 9.30-11.30am Little Dragons 7.30pm Bible Reading Group		10.00am 11.30am Chapel
Sun 26 July TRINITY 8	▼ Mon 27 July	▼ Tue 28 July	▼
10.00 Sung Eucharist	10.30am-12.00 Pop-In 7.30pm Bible Reading Group		10.00am 11.30am Chapel

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

Wed 1 July	▼ Thurs 2 July	▼ Fri 3 July	Sat 4 July
Church Cleaning Eucharist - Lady			
Wed 8 July	▼ Thurs 9 July	▼ Fri 10 July	Sat 11 July
Church Cleaning Eucharist - Lady			
Wed 15 July	▼ Thurs 16 July	▼ Fri 17 July	Sat 18 July
Church Cleaning Eucharist - Lady			4.00-8.00pm Hog Roast Summer Gathering
Wed 22 July	▼ Thurs 23 July	▼ Fri 24 July	Sat 25 July
Church Cleaning Eucharist - Lady			
Wed 29 July	▼ Thurs 30 July	▼ Fri 31 July	
Church Cleaning Eucharist - Lady			



Solon 198

**Across**

- 1 Revolutionary message - one thousand heavenly beings (8)
- 6 Attack one politician with faulty gun (6)
- 9 Three ways to find useless information (6)
- 10 Since finest sailor makes building material (8)
- 11 Somehow breaks apart without qualification those involved (9)
- 13 Provided backlight placed on record (5)
- 15 Feel disappointment when run over bird (6)
- 17 In place wearing terrible suit (2,4)

18 Vegetable sounds like it could belong in the basement (6)

- 19 Large spinner at the circus (3,3)
- 21 A room on high (5)
- 22 Criticise players involved in scandal? (9)
- 25 Second smuggler in court (6-2)
- 26 Native American primarily not a very apprehensive jigsaw operator (6)
- 28 Relative from Newcastle? That's a relief (6)
- 29 Entailed change of editor's details of article (8)

**Down**

- 2 Female drug seller no matter (3)
- 3 Stand without beginning will get your attention (5)

- 5 Mike may agree it's a bit thin (6)
- 6 Found in a silo may cause long range damage (1,1,1,1)
- 7 Worried misstep is making a doubter (9)
- 8 Entertainer that needs a hand? (5,6)
- 12 Growth industry for the greens (11)
- 14 Obscure instinct I'd misinterpreted (10)
- 16 Deflated folding chair gives rise to wing-er (9)
- 20 Went to sleep is the best bet (6)
- 23 Offered fifty for a hammer (5)
- 24 Backward attraction? (4)
- 27 She appears at the beginning of the year briefly (3)

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

**Answers to June puzzles:-  
Crossword:**

**Across:** 1 Usher, 4 Superiors,  
9 Ton, 10 Dim, 11 Aeolian, 12 Evil,  
13 Photogenic, 15 Mogul,  
16 Womaniser, 17 Star signs,  
21 Sales, 23 Negligible, 24 Espy,  
27 Oration, 28 Ado, 29 Oak,  
30 Mass media, 31 Total.

**Down:** 1 Untie, 2 Hunting,  
3 Redo, 4 Somehow,  
5 Phantom, 6 Reorganise,  
7 Orients, 8 Sinecures,  
14 Classicism,  
15 Misinform, 18 Afghans,  
19 Grinned, 20 Sultana,  
22 Lash out, 25 Yokel,  
26 Tout.

**Sudoku:** 971348526/  
825967431/ 346125789/  
659472813/ 134689275/  
287531694/ 462893157/  
713254968/598716342

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

What colour is a Starling? Next time you get the chance, look at your starling neighbours really carefully, and think again. Starlings are among our most colourful birds. I watched one in a stand-off with a Parakeet. The Starling had far more colours than the Parakeet.

God made the crow and the nightingale, and loves both. What is required of us is not somebody else's best, but our own best,

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
1 Samuel 24

God chose Saul to be the King of Israel, but Saul chose to disobey Him. God said that the next king would not be Saul's son.

Saul didn't know that God had chosen David to be the next king.



David was very successful as a fighter and very popular.



David had to go on the run and hide.



One day, Saul and his army were in En-Gedi. Saul needed to pee, so he went into a sheep fold built next to a cave...

David and his men were hiding at the back of the cave!



David crept over and cut a piece off Saul's robe.



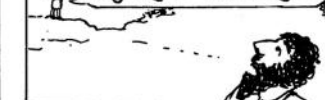
Then David felt bad.



David waited until Saul was far enough away then he shouted to him.



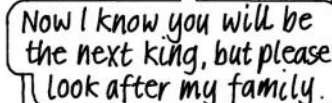
Your majesty, I could have killed you today, but I knew it was wrong. I want to prove to you I'm not trying to harm you.



David, you are better than me. I would have killed you but you were kind.



Now I know you will be the next king, but please look after my family.



David promised, and Saul and his army went home.



## Two Weirdos?

Sometimes, you read a Bible story, and .....if you are not someone who believes that everything in the Bible must be literally and absolutely true because this is God talking.....wonder "Can this really have happened?" But then, as with this story, you wonder "Why invent this story if it isn't based on truth?" The Bible books of Samuel, Kings, Judges, Chronicles, are about flawed human beings, who sometimes get it right, and quite often get it wrong... And who share with us basic human needs, such as having to pee. Saul had much to commend him—given that the Jewish people were determined to have a king, as their neighbours had kings, despite kings apparently not being what God wanted for them. A psychiatrist might have views on Saul's mental state as time passed. He certainly lacked self-control. So, in different ways, did David. These folk are not ideal role models; and both could have done with an extended course in being spouses and parents.

The Bible stories ask us to note and learn from both the good and the bad behaviour of its key figures. David resists the temptation to murder Saul; and respects Saul as king, although he wants the king job for himself. He can't resist the temptation to play silly, or the temptation to risk his own and his soldiers' lives by proclaiming his silliness. Saul is gracious enough to recognise David's moderation, while no doubt furious about David watching him and mocking him while going to the toilet. Even Saul can show restraint, and recognise his rival's good qualities.

The story could have been different. David could have murdered Saul. Saul, within shouting distance of David, must have been within shouting distance of his own army ... and could have attacked and killed David and his soldiers.

God asks of top people, as he asks of ordinary folk, good behaviour - with power goes responsibility: responsibility for doing right, and refraining from doing the wrongs that your position empowers you to do. Entitled monarchs are few and far between in today's world. Entitled people abusing their power are all too familiar; as is resenting rather than welcoming being called to account.

*Footnote; the Bible text says "God chose" 3 times. How do we know what God has chosen/decided.*

## Collective Nouns

- A murder of crows .**
- A parliament of owls .**
- A flamboyance of flamingos .**
- A dazzle of zebras .**
- A prickle of porcupines .**
- A knot of toads .**
- A bloat of hippos .**
- A sleuth of bears .**
- An orchestra of crickets .**
- A colony of ants .**
- A flight of butterflies .**
- A clutch of eggs .**
- A pod of dolphins .**
- A troop of monkeys .**
- A drift of quails .**
- A bellow of bullfinches .**
- A leap of salmon .**



A murmuration of starlings



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A flight of geese



## .Dodgy Words

Whenever I think of “dodgy” words, I think of a young child in a Bywood shop being sworn at by his mother for using a swear word. I’m fairly certain the child had no idea what his word meant. His mother ought to have known what her word meant. I think too of a teacher confronted with a child using sex language in class, seemingly because he rather enjoyed the reactions he got. She asked him to come out to the front and explain the language he was using. He had to admit that he had no idea. He was just copying an older child, I very much doubt whether most of those who use the word “bloody” connect it with “God’s Blood”: the Crucifixion of Jesus. Again, I admire the teacher who responded to a classroom “bloody” with: *“if you want an explosive word, try Umbrella!: it is less likely to upset someone!”*



*“You really want to weaponize words, throw a Thesaurus at someone.”*

Some words have always been abusive, and deliberately so. Some words were once used commonly, and maybe innocently, but have come to be recognised as hurtful. Some popular words are daft once you think about them. “Incredible” and “Unbelievable” ought to mean “I am lying”; but have come to be used regularly, especially by political and sports commentators, to mean that something *unlikely* has been achieved.

The key message about words is that, while they probably are not going to break anyone’s bones, **they can hurt!** Sometimes, it is easier to move on from a broken bone than from an unkind word. The person who cares, is careful not to use words that hurt, and careful to use words that help someone else to feel valued.

*“For attractive lips, speak words of kindness.” –Audrey Hepburn*



## Maybe a Smile

### Hymns for professionals

Dentist: Crown Him with many crowns.  
 Contractor: The church's one foundation  
 Obstetrician: Come, labour on.  
 Golfer: There is a green hill far away.  
 Politician: Standing on the promises.  
 Librarian: Let all mortal flesh keep silence.  
 Barrister: In the hour of trial.  
 Dry Cleaner: O for a faith that will not shrink.  
 Census taker: All people that on earth do dwell.  
 Tax officer: We give thee but thine own.  
 Traffic patrol: Where cross the crowded ways of life.  
 Credit card user: A charge to keep have I.

### Flight path

Windsor Castle is directly in the flight path of Heathrow International Airport. While a group of American tourists was standing outside the castle admiring the elegant structure, a plane flew overhead at a relatively low altitude, making a tremendous noise. One particularly annoyed tourist demanded: “Why did they build the castle so close to the airport?”

### Appropriate baby names

Lawyer's daughter: Sue Thief's son: Rob Lawyer's son: Will Fisherman's daughter: Annette Meteorologist's daughter: Haley Steam shovel operator's son: Doug Hairdresser's son: Bob Gourmet chef's son: Herb Justice of the Peace's daughter: Mary Sound stage technician's son: Mike Hot dog vendor's son: Frank Gambler's daughter: Bette Gambler's son: Chip Exercise guru's son: Jim Astronomer's daughter: Skye Cattle thief's son: Russell Painter's son: Art Iron worker's son: Rusty TV star's daughter: Emmy Movie star's son: Oscar

### Adopted

The teacher’s young pupils were discussing a picture of a family. One little boy in the picture had a different hair colour than the other members. One of the children suggested that he was adopted. A little girl said, “I know all about adoption; I was adopted.” “What does it mean to be adopted?” asked another child. “It means”, said the girl, **“that you grew in your mummy’s heart instead of her tummy.”**

**Bucket list** I’m proud to announce that I have completed the first item on my bucket list. I have the bucket.

### Sunday Readings for July (Message Version)

#### Sunday 5 July: Trinity V

**Genesis 24: 34-38, 42-49, 58-end:** I'm ready to go.  
**Psalm 45: 10-end:** A procession of joy and laughter.  
**Romans 7: 15-25a:** Jesus Christ can and does.  
**Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-end:** Get away with me, and you'll recover your life

#### Sunday 12 July: Trinity VI

**Genesis 25: 19-end:** Esau shrugged off his rights as the first-born.  
**Psalm 119: 105-112:** By your words, I can see where I'm going.  
**Romans 8: 1-11:** Simply embrace what the Spirit is doing in us.  
**Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23:** Are you listening to this? Really listening?

#### Sunday 19 July: Trinity VII

**Genesis 28: 10-19a:** A stairway reached all the way to the sky.  
**Psalm 139: 1-11, 23-24:** Guide me on the road to eternal life.  
**Romans 8: 12-25:** You are delivered from that dead life.  
**Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43:** The field is the world.

#### Sunday 26 July: Trinity VIII

**Genesis 29: 15-28:** 7 years seemed like a few days, he loved her so much.  
**Psalm 105: 1-11, 45b:** He's God, our God.  
**Romans 8: 26-end:** God knew what he was doing from the very beginning.  
**Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52:** The finder is ecstatic—what a find!



### 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	Andy Scranack
Christine Lutman	Peter Collingham	Barbara Brown
Pam Purkis	Heather Orton	Ninna

Please remember in your prayers the care givers known to you: doctors, nurses, pharmacists, psychologists, paramedics, social workers, support staff, carers paid and unpaid.



#### Note on the Rosary

For some Christians, the Rosary (prayer beads) is part of daily life. For other Christians, it is weird/superstitious. Essentially, it is linking hands and mind/voice in prayer—much as thinking and saying and doing are linked in other parts of our daily lives. Mary of Nazareth looms large in traditional Roman Catholic rosary use, but if you just want to think Jesus, rather than Jesus and Mary, that's fine too. If you find it helps, use your rosary in your way. Prayer discipline is no bad thing!

Common focus points as you feel your way round the rosary are: *the Creed and the Lord's Prayer; seeking forgiveness and strength; and the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and Luminous "Mysteries" of Christ's Life—(Joyful) Annunciation (humility), Visitation—Mary to Elizabeth (love for neighbour). Nativity (poverty), Presentation in the Temple (purity). Finding Jesus in the Temple (devotion); (Sorrowful) Agony in the Garden (obedience), Scourging (dealing with pain), Crowning with thorns (courage), Carrying the cross (patience), Crucifixion and Death (sorrow for sin/forgiveness); (Glorious) Resurrection (faith), Ascension (hope), Coming of the Holy Spirit (wisdom); (Luminous) Baptism of Christ (openness to the Spirit), Cana Wedding Feast (sharing joy), Jesus proclaiming the Kingdom (conversion). The Transfiguration (desire for holiness), The Eucharist (adoration). BE SELECTIVE!*

**One person said: Answer to June quiz: Queen Elizabeth II**  
**Try this Who said/wrote (again just one person)? PS Do you agree?**

*Be yourself. Everyone else is already taken.*

*We are all in the gutter. But some of us are looking at the stars.*

*Always forgive your enemies. Nothing annoys them so much.*

*Experience is merely the name that men give to their mistakes.*

*To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, that is all.*

*Whenever a man does a thoroughly stupid thing,  
 it is always from the noblest motives.*

*Cats are put on earth to remind us that not everything has a purpose.*

*Some things are more precious because they don't last long.*

*A thing is not necessarily true because a man dies for it.*

*My wallpaper and I are fighting a duel to the death. One of us has got to go.*

*Some cause happiness wherever they go; some whenever they go.*

*Give him a mask, and he will tell you the truth.*

*To be natural is such a very difficult pose to keep up.*

*You don't love someone for their looks or clothes or their fancy car, but because  
 they sing a song that only you can hear.*

*The truth is rarely pure, and never simple.*

## 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)

## Opinions

*Many people, when they come to you for advice, want their opinions strengthened,  
 not corrected.*

*Facts do not change; feelings do.*

*Public opinion is what folk think folks think.*

## 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

## Opinions

*A wise man gives other people's opinions as much weight as he does his own.  
An obstinate man does not hold opinions—they hold him.*

*It is a sign of mediocrity to have settled views on unsettled subjects.*

## 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, Mrs Helen  
Aylward, 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

### 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

Mrs Janet Fitt or Mr Brian McGinnis

***One New Thing: Put a name to one thing growing in the church garden that  
you see regularly but haven't been able to name. Preferably right name!***

***The revised Inventory of the Church Garden is now on the website.***

## 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

Shirley Community Library

Wickham Road

020 8662 9599

info@shirleyneighbourhoodcare.co.uk

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

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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)