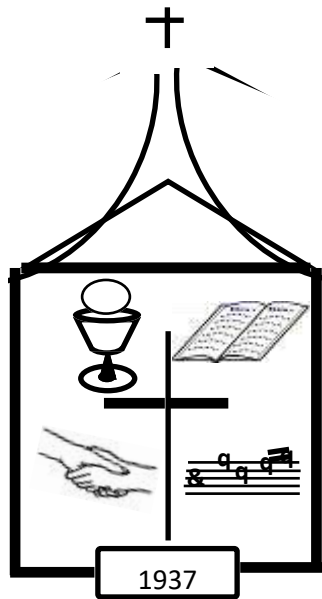




St George the Martyr Shirley



Christ in the Community

South Norwood Country Park



September 2026

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Something to think about:

*Kindness is respect put into
practice.*

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

*Singsmiths Chamber Choir will be
performing 'Songs of Flight' on Sun-
day 13th September at St George's
Church at 2:30pm. Tickets are £8 on
the door and £5 for under 18's. The
performance will last about an hour.*

Has your favourite poem appeared
in the magazine? It might appear if
you tell us what it is. That could
include a "foreign language" poem
if you can provide a translation.

*Need a helping hand or is the garden getting too much? **Farthing Garden Ser-
vices** 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 days off are Friday
and the first Saturday of the month.)

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

South Norwood Lake



A View from the Green... Hilary Fife

Here we are in September traditionally the month of peak harvests and named, by the Anglo-Saxons, Haefest monath (harvest month) because crops like barley were ready to collect. It has long been the month when services of thanksgiving were held – as ours will be here at St George's on 13th – the opportunity to give thanks to God our creator and sustainer.

September isn't the only month when harvests are gathered -the months of August, October and November are part of the harvest season, and you may have noticed that the fruits of the earth seem to be ripening earlier these days. Black-berrying – once a September pastime – has now been on offer for most of August. Harvests have varied but my mum's apple tree has showered apples down from mid-July and August saw a hive of activity in my kitchen as fruit was bottled, turned into jams and chutneys and yet more apples pressed for juice.

However this is only a small part of the picture nationally and globally. Following the extreme heat across July and August (will we have had any rain by the time you read this?) harvests in the UK are predicted to be the worst on record. It's not just us though – we can't shrug our shoulders and import what we want from Europe, top up grain supplies from Ukraine or Canada, fly in vegetables from the other side of the world, as climate change, drought and war mean those options are now greatly reduced.



Perhaps we need to add other considerations to our harvest thanksgiving. Yes, give thanks to God for his goodness. Yes, give thanks for those whose work has made a harvest possible. But also look at what is happening to the planet God created in love and humanity has exploited. What can we do to tread more lightly on the earth? Let's resolve to enjoy what we have responsibly, minimise waste and buy only what we need. Finally let's remember that too many people in our country, as well as abroad, are struggling to afford food – and may well be struggling a lot more as prices rise – so let's support food banks and other initiatives to help ensure **all** have enough.

Hallelujah literally means "Praise the Lord" or "Praise Yahweh," expressing joy, gratitude, and worship toward God.

The word "hallelujah" comes from **Biblical Hebrew**, combining two elements: "**hallelu**", meaning "praise" or "extol," and "**Yah**", a shortened form of **Yahweh**, the sacred name of God in Judaism (Hebrew Bible). In Hebrew, it is written as הללו־יָה (halēlū-yāh) and is a plural imperative form, essentially commanding "praise ye Yah." The term conveys not just praise but joyful, exuberant worship, often expressed in song or communal celebration. "Hallelujah" appears frequently in the Book of Psalms and other parts of the Hebrew Bible, serving as both a call to worship and an expression of gratitude toward God. In Judaism, it is central to Hallel prayers recited during festivals like Passover and Sukkot, symbolizing communal and individual devotion. In Christianity, the term was adopted into liturgies, hymns, and prayers, often associated with moments of joy and triumph, such as Easter celebrations or Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus."

In contemporary English and other languages, "hallelujah" is used as an interjection of praise or thanksgiving, often in response to good news or during worship. Variants like "alleluia" reflect Latin and Greek transliterations, but the meaning remains the same. Beyond religious contexts, it has also entered popular culture, appearing in music, literature, and art. The wow factor

There are two intriguing issues: (1) Why do we quite often use words without actually knowing their meaning? (2) Why do we use a foreign word rather than speaking English?

No convincing answer to either question; but the advantage of saying or singing Hallelujah, rather than "Praise God!", is that it links us with all the praising generations and countries that praise God but don't /didn't speak English.



In a review of Croydon Council's Adult Social Care and Health Neighbourhood Grant programme, residents are being invited to attend community events and vote for the initiatives that they think should be funded. Our local meeting will be held on Tuesday 1 September between 6 and 8pm at Shirley Community Centre by Shrublands at the top of Bridle Road (198 and 194 bus routes). We understand Shirley Neighbourhood Care has made a collaborative application with Addiscombe Neighbourhood Care. They will need your votes. Please try to attend the meeting.

The Shirley Neighbourhood Care Scheme offers a range of services aimed at assisting older residents in Shirley, Croydon, and the surrounding areas. These services include:

- **Befriending Services:** Regular visits and companionship to combat loneliness.
- **Lunch Clubs:** Weekly lunch gatherings that provide social interaction and meals.
- **Shopping Bus:** A regular service to help elderly residents with their shopping needs.
- **Medical Transport:** Assistance with transportation to medical appointments.
- **Outings:** Organized trips to local attractions, restaurants, and garden centres.
- **Film Club:** Regular movie screenings for entertainment and socialisation.

Shirley Neighbourhood Care relies on a combination of paid staff and (many more) unpaid volunteers to deliver its services.



Murder Mystery Evening (In Aid of Church Funds) The Luxor Murder

Where: St. George's Church, Elstan Way, Shirley, CR0 7QJ

When: Saturday September 26th 2026

Time: 6.00 pm for a 6.30 pm start

Price: £10 per ticket plus bring a plate of food for the buffet table

Please bring your own drinks!!!!

Maximum of **8 people** in a team per table. Don't worry if you plan to come on your own as we will allocate a space on a team for you.

We will be holding a raffle so please remember to bring some cash!

Tickets available from: Heather Barker or Jan Payne

heather.barker10@btopenworld.com or janmpayne@hotmail.com

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 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 September 3rd St George's Church Compline

Tuesday October 6th All Saints Church

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



**The oldest church in the UK still in use is St Martin's in Canterbury
Dated AD 597**

We owe it to a woman in the sense that it was originally the private chapel of the Christian Queen Bertha, who was married to the pagan King Ethelbert. There are Roman bits visible, though most of what you see is later than the 6th Century. So, not a difficult or long journey if you want to visit our oldest church. The cathedral is about the same age as St Martin's, though re-built in the 1070's.

The most special thing(s) I have seen: Miranda Haslem

Recently I've started saying to myself quite regularly 'that's the most beautiful thing I've ever seen' which doesn't make sense in some ways but feels good. It feels like my ability to appreciate beauty is small compared to how much beauty there is in the world, so it doesn't take that much to fill it up. So the last few things have been - a crow flying over my head whilst I was walking in the woods, driving through a tree tunnel, a meadow full of flowers, a tiny beetle landing on my hand, a dragonfly flying circuits around me.

Keith says - being 12 and seeing his dog Cally (slightly naughty border collie) coming home. She had been 'doggy arrested' and taken away from them after biting a kid (happened to be the bully at his school) and they were told she would be put down. But his dad got a solicitor to fight the case and she was let off on a technicality! Also, seeing our daughter Caris being born at home when he expected that would happen at the hospital and he wouldn't have to see it in so much detail.

We currently have 5 assorted children in our house - they have anonymised themselves by creating nick-names, and here are their answers to the question;

Crazy Guinea Pig Dog Lady - 2 dogs I know, Luna and Tiggy, have both done a thing where they go under my legs. When I saw a photo of them doing this, there was a dog's head peering out from between my legs.

Skittles - My mum was holding my new guinea pig Rita for the first time and Rita flew out of her hands and landed on my other guinea pig Oreo.

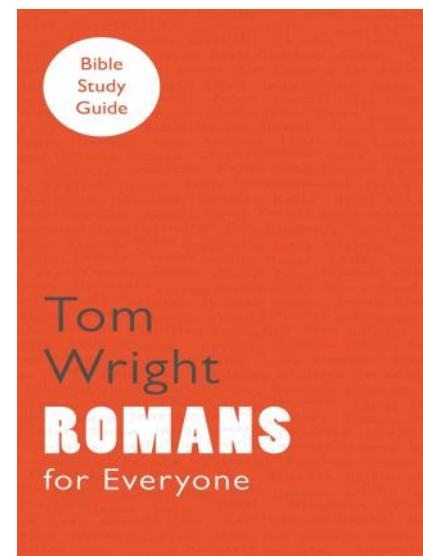
Tay Tay - The famous red steps in Times Square New York, I saw them and wanted to go there in real life for ages, and then I did.

Marnini - When we were getting a puppy we visited the whole litter at the breeder's house and there were 7 little puppies all running around her living room.

Martina - A beach in Greece called Bali beach, the water is really see-through and you can ride on jet skis.

Some notes for you to note

- ♥ **Deadline for the October magazine, Sunday September 20th.**
- ♥ **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 starting our reading of perhaps the most challenging of all the Epistles/ Letters: St Paul's Letter to the Romans. A commentary is available free for everyone who would like to join us. Regular and occasional new members both welcome. If you want to think about your (potential?) Christian faith, this is your opportunity..
- ♥ **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?



Extracts from Romans: (Message Version)-

I write this letter to all the believers...God's friends.

God, out of sheer generosity, put us in right standing with himself.

God is the god of outsiders as well as insiders.

God's Spirit confirms who we really are.

The word that saves is right here, as near as the tongue in your mouth, as

close as the heart in your chest.

Take your ordinary everyday life—your sleeping, eating, going to work, and walking around life—and place it before God as an offering.

Dress yourself in Christ, and be up and about.

Do it yourself parables (6): The parable of the two bus drivers

David Clayton

There were two bus drivers, one was obsessed with the bus timetable and always left the bus stop on schedule; and would close the doors on the second even if someone was struggling to get to the stop. The second driver would wait a short time if he saw someone hurrying to the bus stop even if it meant he got behind with the bus timetable. Sometimes the bus managers received complaints about driver 1 as he seemed brusque and uncaring about his passengers but the second driver received great feedback from his passengers. Which driver received the promotion?

Sometimes, parables are more subtle than good versus bad. Sticking to the bus timetable is not a bad thing: cumulative delays can mean that someone misses a doctor's appointment or a job interview.. We have bus and coach drivers in our congregation at St George's.



I might have taken bus drivers for granted, but for incidents. The first was our near neighbour in Chaffinch Close killing a pedestrian who walked (unheralded) in front of his bus—probably deliberately, George, that driver, never recovered. The second incident was being on a bus from Bromley that had to stop dead at Lock's Bottom when a car swung (un-announced) in front of the bus. The bus driver had to abandon the journey,, and was badly shaken. Third was the relief driver who normally took a single decker under the Portland Road Bridge, and was called in an emergency to take a double decker back to the garage at the end of the day. He smashed into the bridge, and everything changed.

Challenges for Believers: 7 Think about it articles:

1. Miracles don't happen nowadays. Did they ever?



The Bible is not a one dimensional account of God doing spectacularly nice things for people that the people can find no natural explanation for. But there are memorable water diversions, lengthened days, victories against all the odds, food and drink in large quantities in unlikely places, pregnancies in old age, sudden relief from long-term medical problems, and very dead folk becoming very alive. The first disciples impressed not just by preaching very effectively without any formal training, but by doing dramatic

healing miracles. In more recent times, there have certainly been miracles in the sense of unexpected good things happening – including people who were not expected to get better getting better, and people succeeding in tasks that seemed well beyond their reach. Victories have been won against the odds. However, the Hospital Chaplain does not hasten to the hospital mortuary to get dead patients signed off as ready for discharge to home and job. And if a church is in an earthquake zone, even the most optimistic believer does not expect the whole town to be totally destroyed and the church building to remain intact.

No easy answers as to “Why then and not now?”. But three things to think about. One, nobody at the time seems to have challenged the reality of the miracles. Critics challenged the conclusions drawn from them being done. Two, keep the context in mind: the Exodus was miraculous, but only two of the thousands who left Egypt survived to settle [for a time] in the Promised Land; and the Psalms reflect the reality that miracles were not always available when desperately looked for; and there is no evidence that the individual healings of Jesus and his disciples were reflected in an overall improvement in health and longevity in that place at that time. Three, there is real historical evidence that the Church's healing ministry did make a huge difference to the health and well-being of the populations where the Church operated: a ministry based on prayer and science and hard work. Monasteries were hospitals.

A lady with autism, commenting on disability benefits, said “I had autism yesterday. I will have autism tomorrow. What matters, and what can change, is how other people treat me (and value me) with my autism!” Her words were reported

Poetry Page: :**Boris Pasternak: A Dream**

*I dreamt of autumn in the window's twilight,
And you, a tipsy jesters' throng amidst. '
And like a falcon, having stooped to slaughter,
My heart returned to settle on your wrist.*

*But time went on, grew old and deaf. Like thawing
Soft ice old silk decayed on easy chairs.
A bloated sunset from the garden painted
The glass with bloody red September tears.*

*But time grew old and deaf. And you, the loud one,
Quite suddenly were still. This broke a spell.
The dreaming ceased at once, as though in answer
To an abruptly silenced bell.*

*And I awakened. Dismal as the autumn
The dawn was dark. A stronger wind arose
To chase the racing birch trees on the skyline,
As from a running cart the streams of straws.*

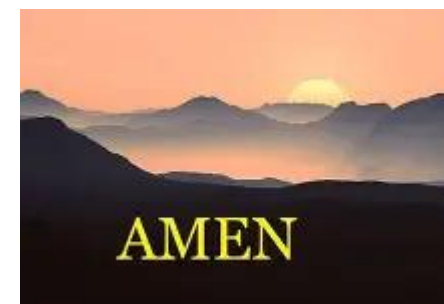
**That odd business of praying: Number 180: Saying Amen**

The word Amen is Hebrew, and a valuable reminder that Christianity is rooted in the Jewish faith: Jesus a Jew, His first disciples Jewish, the bulk of our Bible Jewish. Jewish worship, as well as Christian worship, has "Amen" as a signing off word to prayers. The word could be translated as "Yes, I agree. Count me in." It makes sense particularly when the church leader has been saying the prayer, and the congregation is signing up to what the leader has been saying.

It is a Bible word, though sometimes this isn't obvious because "truly" or another word is used in the English translation. The Old Testament uses Amen to sign off a pledge (Numbers 5.22), a curse (Deuteronomy 27. 15-26 repeatedly), an announcement (Psalm 41.13 and elsewhere—sometimes appearing as Yes, Yes, Yes). Isaiah 65.16 calls God "The God of Amen/Truth". Amen might be called the standard Psalm closure. As against about 30 Old Testament uses of the word Amen, the New Testament has about 129 uses: 99 of them quoting Jesus—often in the Greek to English translation "truly"/"verily". In context, Jesus is often using Amen to say "This is the Truth!"

Paul is fond of putting an Amen at the end of his letters. The writer of the Letter to the Hebrews punches home with a loud Amen. The Book of Revelation shouts Amen to the Second Coming. That book (Revelation 3.14) affirms Jesus Himself as the Great Amen: **"God's Yes/Amen, the Faithful and Accurate Witness"**.

Nobody is saying that you must end your prayers with Amen, or they won't work! But you might like the comment of the Reformer Martin Luther (with whom you may not always agree) that Amen can be, and should be, used to sign off with "God has heard my prayer; this I know as certainty and truth".



I had to laugh.....or not?



When something said or done or heard strikes you as funny, it can be very difficult NOT to laugh. If you are on your own, laughing and then regretting it is maybe self-contained: nobody else gets hurt. You might be listening to the radio, and a “dirty joke” gets to you before you can think harder, and decide “That really wasn’t funny!” When you are with someone, or part of a group, it is different. At an all-boys school, sometimes one of the boys would share a dirty joke. (I dare say girls at an all girls school have their own version of this.) One of the boys could be guaranteed to walk away without laughing: the others expected this. One of the other boys tended to stay, go red, and not laugh—even if it was sort of funny as well

as dirty.

The jokes that, funny or not, hurt are often when someone gets it wrong (maybe physically such as falling over) or is “put down” for something said or done that didn’t work out as intended. You want to be part of the group; you see the joke; but you don’t want to hurt the person - perhaps because you can see yourself being where the person being laughed at is, and know you would be hurt by the laughter. A friend might share something uncomfortable with you, and you, unthinkingly rather than maliciously, share that confidence with other friends when the victim is present. The others laugh. [Have you been there?]

A leader took a group ice skating. Predictably, one of them fell over. The rest of them did the control thing rather well: check person not hurt, check person himself laughing: OK to laugh. (The leader had the control advantage of being hopeless at ice skating, so no temptation to laugh because he could and the other couldn’t.) This is a good example of one of the strongest arguments for laughter control: if you try something new, you are quite likely to get it wrong. If getting it wrong attracts laughter, you are that much more likely not to try again... Perhaps missing out on the possibility of a lot of successful pleasure.

CHURCH DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

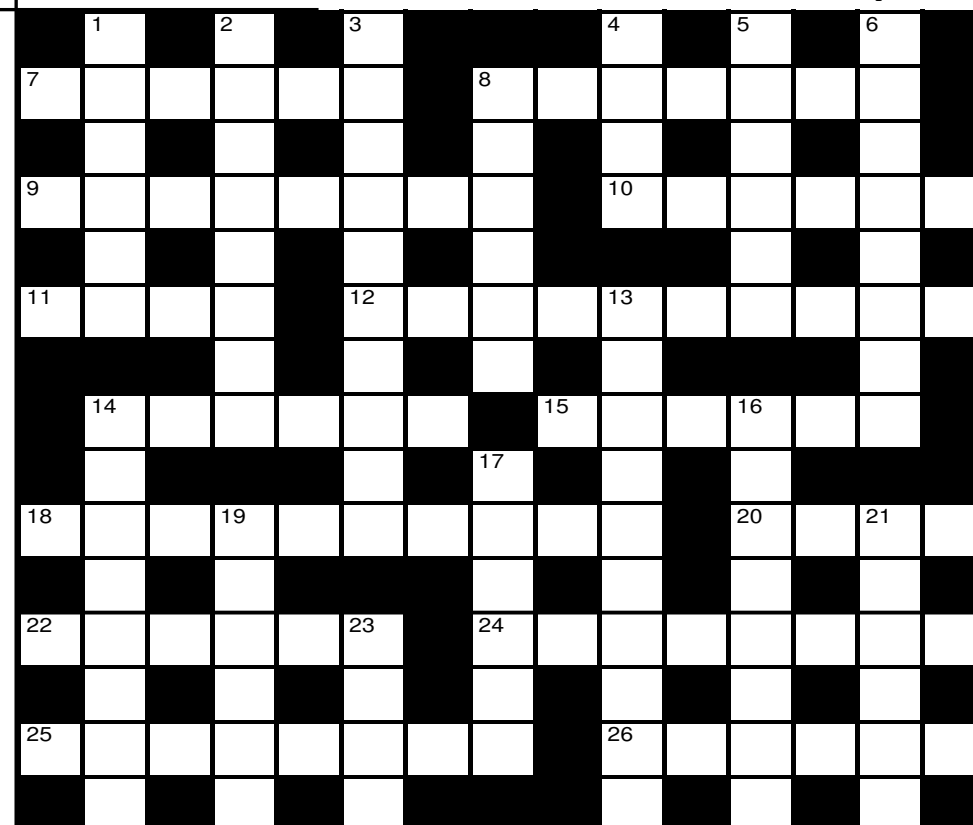
► Morning Prayer:

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

		► Tue 1 Sept	
			10.0 11.3 Cha
Sun 6 Sept CREATIONTIDE: CREATION IN CHRIST	► Mon 7 Sept	► Tue 8 Sept	
10.00 Sung Eucharist 4.00pm Outdoor Worship	10.30am-12.00 Pop-In 9.30-11.30am Little Dragons 7.30pm Bible Reading Group		10.0 11.3 Cha
Sun 13 Sept CREATIONTIDE: HARVEST	► Mon 14 Sept	► Tue 15 Sept	
10.00 Sung Eucharist 10.00 All-Age Sung Eucharist with Church Parade 2.30pm Singsmiths Chamber Choir Concert in Church	10.30am-12.00 Pop-In 9.30-11.30am Little Dragons 7.30pm Bible Reading Group		10.0 11.3 Cha
Sun 20 Sept TRINITY 16	► Mon 21 Sept	► Tue 22 Sept	
10.00 Sung Eucharist	10.30am-12.00 Pop-In 9.30-11.30am Little Dragons 7.30pm Bible Reading Group		10.0 11.3 Cha
Sun 27 Sept TRINITY 17	► Mon 28 Sept	► Tue 29 Sept	
10.00 Sung Eucharist	10.30am-12.00 Pop-In 9.30-11.30am Little Dragons 7.30pm Bible Reading Group		10.0 11.3 Cha

tes for you Diary: Saturday 21st November - Church Winter fayre

▼ Wed 2 Sept	▼ Thurs 3 Sept	▼ Fri 4 Sept	Sat 5 Sept
00am Church Cleaning 0am Eucharist - Lady pel	7.30pm CTIS Compline at St. George's		
▼ Wed 9 Sept	▼ Thurs 10 Sept	▼ Fri 11 Sept	Sat 12 Sept
00am Church Cleaning 0am Eucharist - Lady pel			
▼ Wed 16 Sept	▼ Thurs 17 Sept	▼ Fri 18 Sept	Sat 19 Sept
00am Church Cleaning 0am Eucharist - Lady pel			
▼ Wed 23 Sept	▼ Thurs 24 Sept	▼ Fri 25 Sept	Sat 26 Sept
00am Church Cleaning 0am Eucharist - Lady pel	7.0pm PCC		6.00pm for 6.30 start - Murder Mystery Evening
▼ Wed 30 Sept			
00am Church Cleaning 0am Eucharist - Lady pel			



Solon 200

Across

- 7 In recent times, passed empty labora-
tory (6)
 8 Piece of film that is a measure of
time (7)
 9 Musical is in a state (8)
 10 Performing group tore up rockily (6)
 11 He could be in a whirl (4)
 12 Professional who could be Clement
Atlee initially (10)
 14 At first curate leaves every rector in
charge of the cloth (6)
 15 Resistant artist Tracey is upset taking
in Greek letter (6)
 18 A fine story about the beginning of
love causes suffering (10)

20A cleaner hero? (4)

- 22 Booming in the outskirts of city could
be dull (6)
 24 These people could argue with old
doctor (3,5)
 25 Priests persist in measuring gerani-
ums for the production of these (8)
 26 Hang out regularly in Lyon, in theory
(6)

Down

- 1 Millions implored to attend this sort
of ball? (6)
 2 Maybe get dodgy information (8)
 3 Criminal with a burning desire (10)
 4 Wine left at sea (4)
 5 Strange exit (3-3)

- 6 Press one to change answer (8)
 8 In Amalfi a Scot could create havoc (6)
 13 Peace keeper meets author of The Magic Mountain before time without article being ill-bred (10)
 14 Stud found in cliff in northern UK (8)
 16 Una, although sounding ragged, is not frightened (8)
 17 In the vestry incumbents can always read scripture primarily (6)
 19 Sit about the room (6)
 21 Medusa could be entertained (6)
 23 Ready for change when daughter leaves for a time (4)

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

Answers to August puzzles:-

Crossword: Across: 9 Hardliner, 10 Amigo, 11 Stand-in, 12 Nabokov, 13 Reinforce, 15 Unfit, 17 Glimmer, 19 Rhizome, 20 Idyll, 21 Oyster bed, 24 Valanc369/e, 26 Testify, 28 Unarm, 29 Talking to. **Down:** 1 Chaser, 2 Creativity, 3 Clad, 4 Inaner, 5 Grandeur, 6 Tambourine, 7 Kick, 8 Corvette, 14 Family name, 16 Footbridge, 17 Grievous, 18 Roomette, 22 Settle, 23 Dry-rot, 25 Loan, 27 Spin.

Sudoku: 427158369/
 583469172/ 196237854/
 314725698/ 652894713/
 978613425/ 865372941/
 241986537/ 739541286

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

"I Believe" is an OK thing. We all believe in something, whether it is God, fairies, yoga, the superiority of our country, the potential of our football team, the idea (I)s of our political party, the health benefits of vitamin pills, the trustworthiness of our preferred sources of information..... Sometimes, we can test belief against reality. **"I Believe"** is an incomplete thing.. It needs to be accompanied by **"I do"**. Inactive belief is not necessarily unbelief. It is ineffective belief.

Motto: I believe, therefore I do. (And what I believe and do, I am.)

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

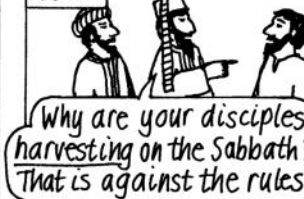
It can be read in the Bible in
 Matthew 12:1-14, Luke 6:1-11

The Pharisees watched Jesus to see if he broke any of God's laws, or the rules they had made up to stop the laws being broken.

Jesus' disciples were hungry so they picked some wheat from a field as they walked.



The Pharisees said to Jesus



But King David broke the rules when he ate the bread that was only for the priests*



And priests are allowed to work in the temple on the Sabbath*



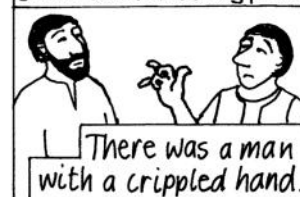
Don't you understand when God says 'Keeping rules doesn't make up for not having kindness'?*



If you understood, you would know my disciples did nothing wrong.



The Pharisees followed Jesus to the meeting place



The Pharisees wanted to accuse Jesus of breaking rules, so they asked him a trick question.



If your sheep fell into a ditch on the Sabbath you would lift it out.



People are worth far more than sheep, so it is right to do good on the Sabbath



Hold out your hand.



The Pharisees left and made plans.



Rule breaking and rule keeping

I suspect that most readers are going to skip through these two stories, and join the long line of readers who condemn the Pharisees as miserable gits who spent their lives being miserable and tried to make everybody else miserable. *"Does God want people to starve on God's special day?" "Does God want hospitals to close and ambulances stop running on God's special day?" "If I pick a blackberry on my Sunday walk after church, am I erasing all the good I did by going to church?"* Jesus clearly isn't on the side of the Pharisees in these two stories. I rather doubt that any of the Pharisees kept sheep; but Jesus is suggesting that just maybe they are not quite so rigid as they pretend to be in keeping the rules: "If your mother fell over on the Sabbath, would you wait until the next day to pick her up?"

But hang on a bit. The disciples were peckish, not starving; and they were all Jews who knew about Sabbath observance. (If the future St Paul had been there, he was a Pharisee and would not have been snacking.) The man with the poorly hand was not in need of urgent medical attention: he could have waited until the next day to get rid off his life-long impairment. The Pharisees had developed all these detailed rules, not for the hell of it, but because ordinary folk had kept coming to them with *"I know I can't work on the Sabbath, but is it alright to blow my nose....or scratch myself....or use the toilet....or take medication...or visit my mother...or.....?"* Oh, and don't condemn the ordinary people too hastily; have you never explored the scope of a strict rule you wanted to stretch but not break?

It is when you get to the end of the second story that you can legitimately condemn the Pharisees. We could readily understand *"We wish you had waited until tomorrow to make that man very happy: we could all have rejoiced without doubts the day after the Sabbath"* ; but to witness a healing, and just want to kill the healer, is not good! Even so, it is worth remembering just how important the Sabbath was in Jewish thinking. For most Christians, Sunday is probably "church plus normal". Sabbath, for a Jew, meant the day God rested from creating the universe, and was a GOD ONLY DAY. The Book of Maccabees shows graphically how important the Sabbath was: a group of Jewish patriots were attacked on the Sabbath, and refused to fight back. They died rather than "break the Sabbath".

Saving the Rhinos

the last rhinos



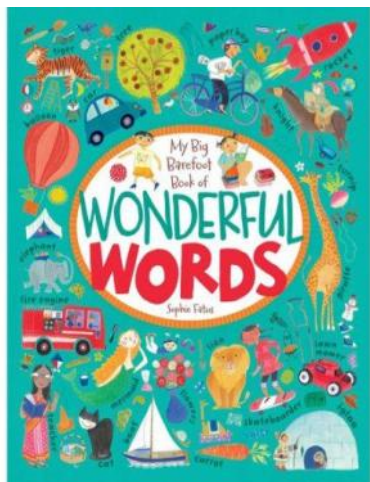
From the bestselling authors
of *The Elephant Whisperer*, a story of
one man's battle to save a species

lawrence anthony
with graham spence

This is a powerful book, mainly on the theme of the struggle to stop criminals killing rhinos to get their horns for medicinal purposes. It is a horror story. Rhinos are quite intelligent creatures, that form relationships with other creatures - including humans. Their horns, despite all the centuries old myths in many parts of the East, have absolutely no medicinal value whatever. The sponsored poachers (who are quite happy to kill those protecting the rhinos as well as the rhinos themselves) are prone to dart the increasingly rare rhinos to make them vulnerable, and then cut out their horns while they are still alive - with fatal blood loss and great pain.

But this is also a book about the wider relationship between human beings and the "natural" world, with rare glimpses of little bits of wild still largely unaffected by human beings. Living side by side with nature is not a recent Western invention. It was what lots of people did in lots of parts of the world in days gone by—when people lacked scientific understanding but had instinctive understanding, including the belief that the god who made them was present in all the things he or she made. You can believe or not believe what is said in the book about the wisdom of elephants, and their communication skills. The examples of elephant behaviour call out for explanation.

As if this were not enough, the geography of the book means that there is a lot about African politics. The Lord's Resistance Army played a significant role in the rhino preservation story... With one-time child soldiers "recruiting" new child soldiers. In that context, there is a fascinating discussion of "Mato Oput": A form of traditional justice with family and community-based mediation. It requires public confession, penance and forgiveness. Think Truth and Reconciliation Commission. This system fully acknowledges the badness, and that badness is often not one-sided, and goes for amendment rather than retribution. Sounds good??

.My favourite word

Nationally favourite words include **Serendipity**, **Ephemeral**, **Ethereal**, **Aurora**, **Euphoria**, **Felicity**, **Quintessential**, **Luminous**, **Solitude**, and **Ebullience**. These words seem to have in common Greek or Latin origins. Most, but not all, are “stand out” words—with a happiness element. A word may grab your attention simply because of the word, or because what it describes is (also) important to you. Here is a first list of words chosen by people who are part of the wider St George's Family. There will be a second article; so if you have **a word**.....

Family: Andy Reynolds **Soporific:** Jan Turner **Peace:** Marjorie Russell

Catalyst: Janet Fitt **Discombobulation:** Susan Wheeler

Betriebswirtschaft: (German business studies) Evan Russell

Antidisestablishmentarianism: Brian McGinnis **Wanderlust:** Tony Aufenast

Community: Carol Jones **Hope:** Martin Skipper **Love:** Liz Bebington

Supercalifragilisticexpialidocius: Stephen Dhonau **Welcome:** Margaret Derrick

Melifluous: Judy Talmage **Cosmology:** Christine Lutman **Food:** Tressy

Thankyou: Steve Barrett **Sweetheart:** Dawn Barrett {this was a last word}

Efficient: Ciddi Ndukwe **Tassels:** Rev Jennifer **Truth:** Steve Westray

A number of people offered more than one favourite. The extras included **Sussuration**, **Apricity**, **Feuilleter**, **Circumlocution**, **Utopia**, **Couthy**

Maybe a Smile

Creation: One day a group of scientists got together and decided that man had come a long way and no longer needed God. So, they picked one scientist to go and tell Him so. The scientist walked up to God and said, "God, we've decided that we no longer need you. We're to the point that we can clone people and do many miraculous things by ourselves." God listened very patiently and then replied: "Very well, how about this? Let's say we have a man-making contest. We're going to do this just like I did, back in the old days with Adam." The scientist said, "Sure, no problem" and bent down and grabbed himself a handful of dirt. God looked at him and said, "No, no, no. You go get your own dirt!"

Police: A young clergyman, fresh out of theological training, thought it would help him better understand the world if he served as a policeman for a while before taking on a congregation. He studied hard and passed the exams; passed the physical; and then came the all-important final interview. One question was: "What would you do to disperse a frenzied crowd?" He promptly responded, "I would pass an offering plate." He got the job.

Wedding guest : A little boy at Sunday School learned about the time Jesus went to a wedding and changed the water into wine. "And what did you learn from that story?" asked his father afterward. The boy thought for a moment and answered, "If you're having a wedding, make sure Jesus is there."

Questions: The phone rang. It was a salesman calling from a mortgage re-finance company: "Do you have a second mortgage on your home?" I said no. "Would you like to consolidate all your debts?" I explained that I had no debts. "How about freeing up cash for home improvements?" I said I was happy with what I had already. There was a brief silence, and then he asked, "Are you looking for a husband?"

The Fridge: A man bought a new fridge for his house. To get rid of his old fridge, he decided to put it outside in his front garden, along with a sign saying: 'Free to good home.' For three days the fridge sat there without even one person looking twice at it. So eventually the man changed the sign to read: 'Fridge for sale: £30'. The next day someone stole it.

Sunday Readings for September (Message Version)

Sunday 6th September: Trinity 14

Exodus 12: 1-14: You will celebrate it as a festival to God down the generations.

Psalms 149: Let true lovers break out in praise.

Romans 13: 8-end: The huge debt of love you owe each other.

Matthew 18: 15-20: What you say to one another is eternal.

Sunday 13th September: Trinity 15

Exodus 14: 19-end: The Israelites walked right through the middle of the sea.

Psalms 114: You're in the Lord's presence.

Romans 14: 1-12: Welcome fellow believers who don't see things the way you do.

Matthew 18: 21-35: Forgiveness: try seventy times seven.

Sunday 20th September: Trinity 16

Exodus 16: 2-15: In the morning you will see the glory of God.

Psalms 105: 37-end: He filled them with the bread of heaven.

Philippians 1: 21-end: There is good work for me to do.

Matthew 20: 1-16: Are you going to get stingy because I am generous?

Sunday 27th September: Trinity 17

Exodus 17: 1-7: The people will drink.

Psalms 78: 1-4, 12-16: Listen, dear friends, to God's truth.

Philippians 2: 1-13: Don't sweet talk your way to the top.

Matthew 21: 23-32: You didn't care enough to change.

Sunday October 4th: Trinity 18

Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20: No other gods, only me!

Psalms 19: Clean the slate, God, so we can start the day fresh.

Philippians 3: 4b-14: Be a partner in His suffering.

Matthew 21: 33-end: The stone the masons threw out is now the cornerstone.

*If you fancy a day's bird watching, check RSPB reserves :
rspb.org.uk/visit-us*

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

Ken	Verity Johnson	Anne
Paul Oates	Mark & Paul Hare	Steve Barrett
Pat Barrett	Sonia Birch	Pauline Russell
Pam Purkis	Heather Orton	
Christine Lutman	Andy Stranack	Alan Williams
Ninna	Andy	

Please remember in your prayers the family and professional care givers known to you: Informal carers for partners, parents, siblings or children, or for other relatives or neighbours'; professional doctors, nurses, social workers, care staff. Please pray too for the diverse chaplaincy teams at Croydon University Hospital, Princess Royal, and Bethlem, *May those who care know that they are cared for, and appreciated—even if those they help are not able to say thank you.*

A Prayer for New Beginnings

Dear God, as we step into September, we ask for Your guidance and blessing over new beginnings.

Help us embrace change with faith and optimism.

May Your presence lead us through every transition and challenge.

Grant us the strength to pursue our goals and the wisdom to make the right decisions.

Bless our efforts and help us to honour You in everything we do.

Amen.



One person said: Answer to August quiz: Pam Ayres
One person wrote the following . Who?

"Mon-
 ey can't buy you happiness but it does bring you a more pleasant form of misery."

"I'm not afraid of dying; I just don't want to be there when it happens."

"We haven't got a plan, so nothing can go wrong!"

"Chopsticks are one of the reasons the Chinese never invented custard."

"There is a time to live, a time to die, a time to laugh, and at no time are the three of them very far apart."

"My father had a profound influence on me. He was a lunatic."

"If you kill me, I promise you – you will never take me alive."

"Policemen are numbered in case they get lost"

"Money can't buy you friends, but it can attract a better class of enemy"

"One day the "Don't knows" will get in; and then where will we be?"

"A sure cure for seasickness is to sit under a tree."

"I can speak Esperanto like a native, but only to natives who don't speak it." - .

"Said Hamlet to Ophelia, I'll draw a sketch of thee. What kind of pencil shall I use?
 2B or not 2B?"

"There are holes in the sky where the rain gets in, but they're ever so small, that's why rain is thin."

"Blessed are the cracked, for they let in the light."

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)

Computers

With computers doing our thinking, all we need now is a worrying machine

To err is human, but to really louse it up, it takes a computer

No longer do we have to blame someone else. We can now blame something else

Organisations

St George's Church Hall Bookings -

Mrs Jan Payne 07702 756913
hallmanager@ctgeorgeschurch.co.uk

Overseas Missions Committee

Mr Brian McGinnis, Ms Pauline Russell 020 8654 6190

Georgettes

Mrs Jan Payne 07702 756913

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

Computers

Computers will never replace people entirely, until they learn to laugh at the boss's jokes.

Gosh, imbecility can be automated too!

St. George's Church Directory

Churchwarden: Mrs Jan Turner 020 8654 6352
07786556149

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

Members of the PCC : Liz Bebington, Mrs Jan Payne, Mr Evan Russell, Mrs Helen Aylward, Mrs Elizabeth Birchenough, Mr Owen Whalley, and those of-fice holders who are PCC members.

Secretary: Mrs Jan Payne 07702 756913

Treasurer

Deanery Synod Representatives (also on PCC): Mr Ray Wheeler Mrs Helen Aylward

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

***What was the best piece of advice you ever received? I think mine was
"Make sure you have heard the question before you give the answer!"***

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)