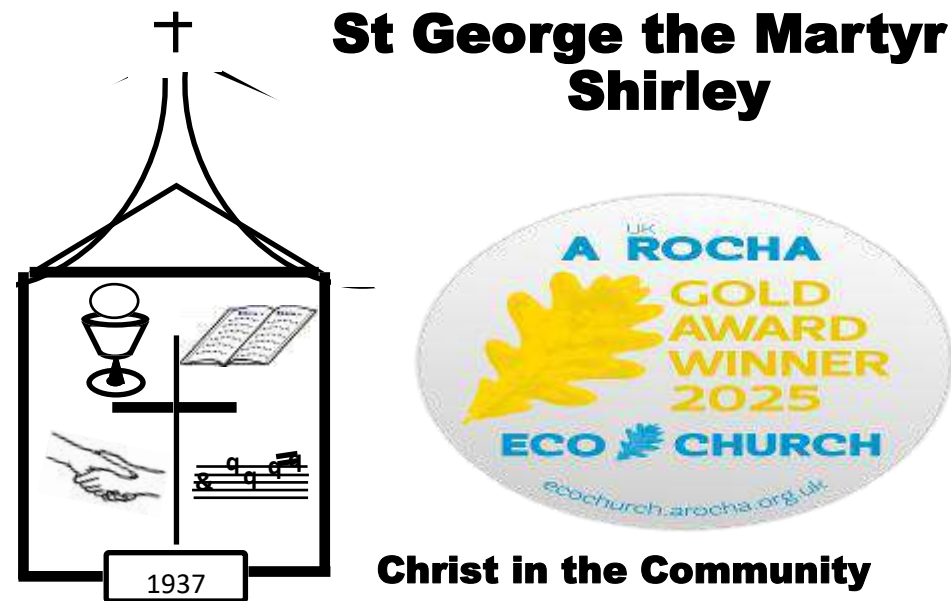




St George the Martyr Shirley

Christ in the Community

Addington/Shirley Hills



A Member of Churches Together in Shirley

October 2026

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**The Outdoor Worship on Sunday 4th October at 4pm will be
marking the 800 year anniversary of St Francis who is patron
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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..

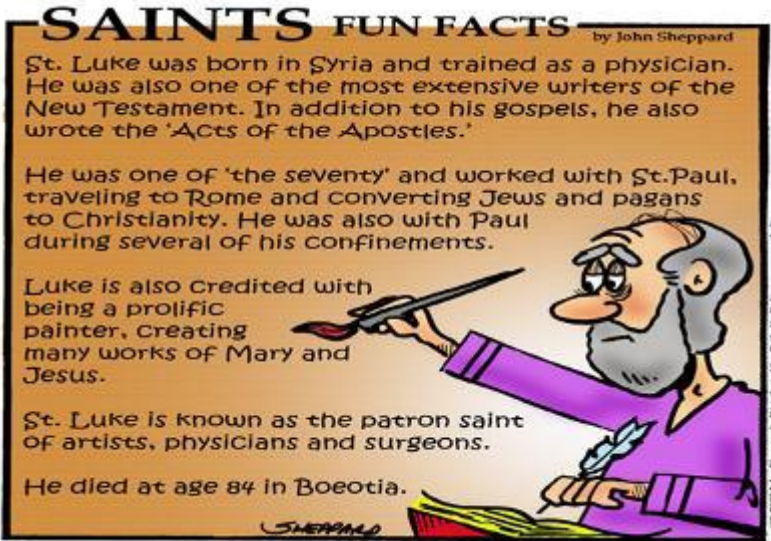
Priest in Charge: The Reverend Jennifer Walpole 2 The Grove,
West Wickham BR4 9JS 07947 585 326
020 8654 8747 rev.jennywalpole@gmail.com (Her main day off is Friday.)

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 Luke: 18th October**



A View from The Vicarage; Rev Jenny Walpole

Our current Church Hall was built in 1937, and it was consecrated as the first St George's Church. Next year it will be 90 years old, and it really has served us well. It continues to be used throughout the week as a Dance Studio, for Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and many other Hall hires. No doubt many within and beyond our congregation have fond memories of happy times in the Hall. However, it is a wooden structure (with asbestos), and it would be fair to say that it has seen better days.

We have some initial plans for a new Church Hall, with modern facilities so that we can continue serve our community well for the next 100 years (at least). See pages 22 and 23. These plans are also up on the noticeboard in the porch, and we welcome your feedback on them. These plans include an access road to a development of 8 houses (each with 3 bedrooms), a new Church Hall and parking for both the church community and the residents. We are working with the Diocese to put in a pre-planning application. Once that is complete the land to the rear of church, with the former Vicarage will return to the market. The funds raised from the sale of the land will go towards building our new Church Hall. We anticipate that the full planning application and crucially, the fundraising may take several years; however, I do believe that we can do it together – cake sale by cake sale! We need to keep the vision alive and remember that this is a marathon, not a sprint.

Next year we will be celebrating 90 years of St George's Church, Shirley and we are beginning to plan some special celebrations. I hope we can celebrate our Church Hall as part of those plans, with food, music and opportunities for us all to take part. As we give thanks for all that has been, and look forward to all that will be, we celebrate God's faithfulness to us all.



The Anglican Communion

If you are (what we might call) a Roman Catholic, you probably take being a member of a worldwide Church for granted. There is a strong likelihood that you have now or have had in the past a parish priest who is not British. If you are a member of the Church of England - nominally or actively - you maybe don't give your worldwide Church so much thought. After all, C of E is not even about the British Isles; and the Anglican Communion (42 Provinces, 165 countries, about 100 million members) sounds aggressively English as a description of an international body. The Archbishop of Canterbury is not head of the Anglican Communion in the way the Pope is Head of the Roman Catholic Church. She is *primus inter pares*: "first among equals". Even that rather odd sounding status is in question at the moment; because a lot of Anglicans do not sign up to female priests, still less to the same sex relationships that Sarah Mullaly not only tolerates but values.

This USPG photo of the Archbishop in Ghana is a reminder to pray for her in her influential but unenviable position; and to pray for our worldwide Church community, that diversity may mean strength not weakness

Do it yourself parables (6): Having a go, or holding back to get it absolutely right

Karen and Deirdre were identical twins: identical in the usual sense that they were born at the same time to the same mother, and had the same father. Physically, they looked less alike than you might expect, and - having passed beyond the stage at which their mother dressed them alike to emphasise their shared identity - they chose not to look alike. If Karen had a trousers day, Deirdre had a dress day. Where they differed most markedly was in trying things. Karen's (spoken) motto was "You don't know until you have tried". Deirdre's (un-spoken but rigidly adhered to) motto was "I know what I like, and I know what I'm good at". Obviously, in growing up, you have to keep taking on new things; but Deirdre was very afraid of public failure; and thought hard before taking up options. Her teacher said she was a perfectionist: do it well, or don't do it at all. Deirdre was very talented musically; and of course doing music well means talent plus a great deal of hard work.

Both girls were active in their local church. Karen was quite happy to volunteer for anything that needed doing: flower arranging, cleaning, reading the lesson, helping in Sunday School, sports day. She shone at sports and helping. With some other things, the person in charge wished she hadn't asked but was reluctant to back off. (The flowers were quietly re-arranged.) Deirdre was the jewel of the choir and music group; and reluctant to try anything else.

Their mother was chatting with one of the older members of the congregation about the two girls. The old man quoted Mrs Malaprop: "Caparisons is invidious!" He said: "They are different but equal. If the Archbishop visited us, and asked for a teenage assistant, Karen would volunteer without even asking what she had to do; and her enthusiasm would satisfy the Archbishop if her performance fell short of expectations. If Deirdre sang a solo for the Archbishop's service, the Archbishop would know what heavenly perfection meant."



Challenges for Believers (7): Think about it articles (2): If God's focus is on humans, why were there billions of years without humans?

You can look up the estimates for yourself; but one version is that the universe started about 4 billion years ago, and human beings about 315,000 years ago. Generalisations about what Bible writers over the Bible writing centuries believed about timescales are suspect; and Genesis incorporates very different versions of imagined Creation; but it is safe to say that none of the Bible writers pictured a Creation spanning a billion years, or humans appearing very late in the process, or humans emerging through evolution. However, read and ponder Psalm 8 before you conclude that the Bible features humans as the tops and a natural focus of God's attention. The writer of that psalm saw humans as very small creatures in a very big universe, and wondered that God bothered with humans. When Abraham stood outside his tent, free from our light pollution, and looked at the stars..... And at a practical level Bible people were very much at the mercy of "the elements": they didn't threaten the rest of creation as we do.

Perhaps the best way of looking at it is that God loves humans in context not in isolation. From the Garden of Eden (Genesis) to the New Jerusalem (Revelation) human beings are part of a wider and bigger story. Psalm 90, and the hymn Isaac Watts based on that psalm, make it clear that God's timescale is not our human timescale: *A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone*. C S Lewis is very good at putting humans in context: if one day we find that there are other creatures in the universe with souls, we might be surprised - as some Jews were surprised when they found that God loved Gentiles - but this does not cast doubt on our Christian faith. And, without going into detail about the place or the reality of angels, it is notable that the Bible talks quite a lot about beings that are not human beings playing a significant role in God's plans ... and it seems angels preceded humans time-wise if not priority-wise.

One other thing to think about under this God and humans heading is another issue that the Bible touches on: Does God expect too much of humans? (Jews sometimes complained that being the Chosen People meant having to live up to higher standards than everyone else.) Selective quotes can be read as suggesting God expects more from us than we are capable of giving. Christian teaching is that the God of high standards is also the God of forgiveness and Jesus redemption.

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

Tuesday October 6th All Saints Church

Wednesday November 4th Our Lady of the Annunciation

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

Estimates vary, and the reliability of the estimates varies, but if you counted all the people in church on a good weather Sunday morning in England, you might find about 5 million worshipping Christians - of whom about 1 million would be Anglican/Church of England. This cautious statement does not imply that being physically in church on Sunday morning is what defines a Christian. I make it simply to emphasise one way in which Churches Together matters. It would be easy to assume that, because there are 3 Church of England church buildings in Shirley, the bulk of Shirley and England Christians are C of E. Not so! If the majority of people (who are not likely to be in church on Sunday morning) are to be persuaded that the Christian thing is to be taken seriously, they probably need to see both that there are a lot of Christians (more than the number in football stadiums on Saturday?), and that Christians work with (not just argue with) other Christians. P.S You have to pay to attend a football match.

It is absurd for the Evolutionist to complain that it is unthinkable for an admittedly unthinkable God to make everything out of nothing and then pretend that it is more thinkable that nothing should turn itself into everything.

. Favourite Words...continued from September Magazine



Grace: Fay Westray **Absquatulate:** Claytons

Bozo: David Frost **Flippertyflapperty:** Helen McMullan

Crepuscular: Dan Talmage
Floccinnaucinihilipilification: Sarah Talmage
Bobble: Rosa Talmage

Detritus: Helen Aylward **Somnambulism:** Peter Cook

Bioremediation: Miranda Haslem **Earthling:** Caris Haslem **WhompWhomp:** Nina Haslem
Biscuits: Keith Haslem (alternative to swear words)

Fandabidozey: Heather Barker **Petrichor:** Adam Jones **Fermions:** Wendy Ellis
Ultrasonic: Mike Ellis **Smile:** Carly Aufenast (via parents)

Verdant: Andrea Davidson Ndukwe **Prestidigitation:** Anon

And if you wondered what are the most frequently used Bible words, they are, perhaps predictably **Lord/God** (far exceeding any other word) and **Man/Mankind**.

In other words, the Bible is about the relationship between God and us and the whole of God's creation. The word "whole" prompts a reference to the favourite Shalom (שָׁלוֹם) Hebrew word meaning "peace," also wholeness, harmony, well-being. It is used as both a greeting and farewell in Hebrew and Jewish culture. This is not just absence of conflict, but a state where nothing essential is missing—physical, emotional, spiritual, and social wholeness.

Some second choices: **Serendipity, Weird, Dreich, Preantepenultimate, Halcyon, Perseverance, Renaissance, Canny**

Some notes for you to note

- ♥ **Deadline for the November magazine, Sunday October 18th.**
- ♥ **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 the Christian faith, this is your ideal companion.
- ♥ **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?

Autumn Prayer

O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons. As we embrace these autumn months, May the earlier setting of the sun remind us to take time to rest. May the crunch of the leaves beneath our feet remind us of the brevity of this earthly life. May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that it is you who give us your breath of life. May the scurrying of the squirrels and the migration of the birds remind us that you call us to follow your will. We praise you for your goodness forever and ever. Amen.

**Loving our neurodivergent neighbour (in a neurodiverse world)
as we love ourselves : Tanya Whyte**

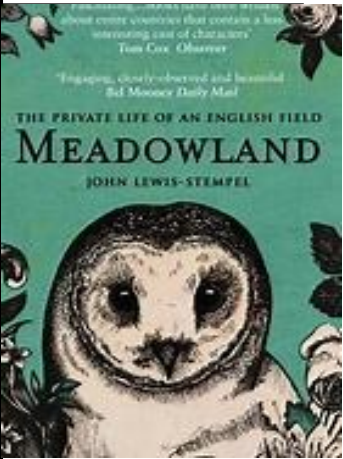
Jesus teaches us to “love your neighbour as yourself.” That command becomes richer when we recognise that every neighbour’s mind works differently. Some are neurotypical, some neurodivergent, and all of us are neurodiverse because God created human thinking in beautiful variety. Paul reminds us in Romans 12:4-5 and 1 Corinthians 12:12 that the Body of Christ has many parts, each essential. Neurodiversity and neurodivergence reflect this truth: different ways of processing, communicating, and experiencing the world are not problems to fix but gifts to honour.

Jesus consistently noticed those others overlooked. He listened without judgement, welcomed without condition (unconditional love), and valued people without reference to abilities and socially accepted norms. All are equal in God’s eyes. Christ’s compassion and inclusion is not a modern trend; it is a Gospel imperative. A neuro-inclusive church becomes a place where difference is welcomed, gifts are encouraged, and community is shaped by grace rather than conformity. When we embrace neurodivergence, we honour God’s creativity and live out Jesus’s command as good disciples of one body with various attributes and qualities to love.



The Scream by Edvard Munch 1893

Edvard Munch’s *The Scream* represents universal human anxiety, existential dread, and the psychological turmoil of modern life. Seeing things differently.



The Private Life of an English Field: Meadowland: John Lewis-Stempel

Perhaps the most interesting book I have ever read. Someone is going to react to that statement with the comment that this is a book of 294 pages about A FIELD! A lot of my books these days (with dodgy sight) are audio books, and most of these are in some sense “Who dunnits”. With some of these, “intended to be exciting”, books about human activity, I would be quite happy if all the murders, investigations, and punishments of the guilty, had been squeezed into one chapter - the stretching across twenty or more chapters leaves me bored rather than enthralled. Now it is possible to be bored by a field. If you just see grass, trees and some flowers...and maybe a few cows... What is enthralling about that?

Lewis-Stempel is farmer and naturalist and, above all, observer. He doesn’t see grass. He sees common bent, perennial rye grass, crested dog’s tail, meadow foxtail, sweet vernal, quaking grass, red fescue, cock’s foot, timothy, and rough meadow grass. He doesn’t just notice that there are some flowers among the grasses. He sees cuckoo flower, pignut, yellow rattle, meadow vetchling, tormentil, bird’sfoot trefoil, bugle, meadow saxifrage, devil’s bit scabious, eyebright, lords and ladies, yellow archangel, cleavers, meadow cranesbill, autumn hawkbit..... And the mention of autumn is a reminder that this book describes the field/meadow in every month of the year and every variety of weather.

There are also, of course, birds, animals, insects, and the huge number of creatures in the soil; and the farm animals that are placed in or at times allowed into (or find their way into) the field. Lots of created things depending on other created things, with human kind influencing or tolerating or destroying.

Lewis-Stempel also knows his poetry, and he shares some of his favourite nature poetry... And the nature-awareness that was roused in him (as in some of us) by such children’s book authors as Arthur Ransome and Bramwell Evans.

Poetry Page: : October by Robert Frost 1874-1963

O hushed October morning mild,
Thy leaves have ripened to the fall;
To-morrow's wind, if it be wild,
Should waste them all.
The crows above the forest call;
To-morrow they may form and go.
O hushed October morning mild,
Begin the hours of this day slow,
Make the day seem to us less brief.
Hearts not averse to being beguiled,
Beguile us in the way you know;
Release one leaf at break of day;
At noon release another leaf;
One from our trees, one far away;
Retard the sun with gentle mist;
Enchant the land with amethyst.
Slow, slow!
For the grapes' sake, if they were all,
Whose leaves already are burnt with frost,
Whose clustered fruit must else be lost—
For the grapes' sake along the wall.



That odd business of praying: Number 181: Muslim Prayer

For most Christians, prayer has guidelines in the sense of suggestions about content, how, when, where, and how often; but there are no strict rules. Guidance is the same for men as for women. For Muslims there are rules about getting ready to pray, when to pray, what to wear when praying, positions to adopt, the content of prayer, and, not least, the direction to face when praying—towards Mecca. The rules differ for men and women. Muslims, of course, recognise that age and disability require modification of the rules. Christians can pray in their own language; Muslims are expected to make extensive use of Arabic: the language of The Prophet'

Muslims are taught that we were created to worship Allah and that by praying we fulfil our purpose in life. Salah (the second pillar of Islam) is a particular form of devotion It is a five-times-a-day mandatory form of prayer given in the Koran and taught by the Prophet Muhammad. It has to be carried out with a variety of physical actions such as standing, bowing, prostrating, and sitting. It is believed to unite you with Allah. It entails reciting passages from the Koran in Arabic, as well as reciting a number of dua (supplications).

There are 5 daily mandatory prayers::

Fajr: the dawn prayer. It is a two Rakat Salah.

Dhuhr: the early afternoon prayer.

Asr: the late afternoon prayer. .

Maghrib: the sunset prayer. .

Isha: the night prayer.

A Muslim Prayer for Peace:

In the name of Allah, the beneficent, the merciful. Praise be to the Lord of the Universe who has created us and made us into tribes and nations, that we may know each other, not that we may despise each other. If the enemy incline towards peace, do thou also incline towards peace, and trust in God, for the Lord is the one that heareth and knoweth all things. And the servants of God, Most Gracious are those who walk on the Earth in humility, and when we address them, we say "PEACE."

—Based on the Koran, 49:13, 8:61

God and the flag



Patriotic religion is familiar in history and in the present day. You might count “No God” countries as part of this story! We all want God on our side, and if “we” is a country, we want God on the side of our country. It isn’t just the top people who think this way (e.g. “Divine Right of Kings”); ordinary folk are happy to sing “God who made thee mighty, make thee mightier yet”. A lot of Christians are apparently happy to sing “I vow to thee my country, all other things above...the love that asks no questions”. But that unconditional *My country can’t be wrong* way of thinking prompts some of us to ask whether there might be a conflict between faith and nationalism?

Geological history reveals that what we might think of as always and for ever territorial boundaries are nothing of the sort, They were not there in the beginning; and they are unlikely to last for ever. The map and human history tell us that national boundaries are rarely “natural”, are often highly artificial, and have been made and remade over time, (There are some fierce international arguments about them today.) Migration has been a reality for thousands of years. At the crude level of nationalist debate, some fervent nationalists might be seen by others as “foreigners”!

I am Pictish/Celtic. If you excluded from the St George’s congregation those who are not multi-generation English..... And when the Romans invaded what is now England, there were no “English” there. (As an aside, I remember the puzzled look on the face of a Croydon boy who was greeted by a hostile boy in Cornwall with “*You’re English aren’t you?*”) And the Bayeux Tapestry.....

The moral is? No harm in Christians being proud of the country they live in, but Christians need to be critical of what they can not legitimately be proud of...and determined to change things for the better. And God did not create national boundaries, or sign up to top nations thriving at the expense of other nations. We are all equal citizens of God’s Kingdom.

CHURCH DIARY FOR OCTOBER 2026

Date

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

Sun 4 Oct CREATIONTIDE: ST FRANCIS	Mon 5 Oct	Tue 6 Oct	
10.00 Sung Eucharist 4.00pm Outdoor Worship with Pets	10.30am-12.00 Pop-In 9.30-11.30am Little Dragons 7.30pm Bible Reading Group	7.30pm CTIS Prayers - All Saints	10.00am-11.30am CTIS Prayers - All Saints
Sun 11 Oct TRINITY 19	Mon 12 Oct	Tue 13 Oct	
10.00 All-Age Sung Eucharist	10.30am-12.00 Pop-In 9.30-11.30am Little Dragons 7.30pm Bible Reading Group		10.00am-11.30am CTIS Prayers - All Saints
Sun 18 Oct ST LUKE	Mon 19 Oct	Tue 20 Oct	
10.00 Sung Eucharist	10.30am-12.00 Pop-In 7.30pm Bible Reading Group		10.00am-11.30am CTIS Prayers - All Saints
Sun 25 Oct TRINITY 21 BIBILE SUNDAY	Mon 26 Oct	Tue 27 Oct	
10.00 Sung Eucharist	10.30am-12.00 Pop-In 7.30pm Bible Reading Group		10.00am-11.30am CTIS Prayers - All Saints

October 2026Saint George's Parish Magazine			
tes for you Diary: Saturday 21 st November - Church Winter fayre			
	Thurs 1 Oct	Fri 2 Oct	Sat 3 Oct
Wed 7 Oct	Thurs 8 Oct	Fri 9 Oct	Sat 10 Oct
10am Church Cleaning 10am Eucharist - Lady pel			
Wed 14 Oct	Thurs 15 Oct	Fri 16 Oct	Sat 17 Oct
10am Church Cleaning 10am Eucharist - Lady pel			10.00am Shirley Singers Workshop in church
Wed 21 Oct	Thurs 22 Oct	Fri 23 Oct	Sat 24 Oct
10am Church Cleaning 10am Eucharist - Lady pel			
Wed 28 Oct	Thurs 29 Oct	Fri 30 Oct	Sat 31 Oct
10am Church Cleaning 10am Eucharist - Lady pel			

Saint George's Parish MagazineOctober 2026

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29						30								
31						32					33			

Solon 201

Across

1 Luxuriant boozier (4)

3 Cargo included by Flo Adams (4)

6 Slackness found in all but ten of the congregation (5)

10 Fashionable story contains the beginning of exciting feature and is unutterable (9)

11 Bird with big ears (5)

12 Sin when I'm back south by river delta (7)

13 Yields when L Sterne is rewritten (7)

14 Catch made of teak (4)

16 Entertained a minister under some external difficulties at the outset

18 Drain cleaner lacking oxygen (3)

21 Swear in Sarajevo woman (3)

22 Short football team about to be muck (6)

23 Vehicle reverses in shopping area (4)

25 Charge half of East Anglian county with employment (7)

27 Boycott therefore restricting business degree (7)

29 On the first of September headless animals find spa feature (5)

30 Traditional group of elderly fish? (3,6)

31 Drink is almost second (5)

32 Make loungewear, not clothes (4)

33 Endlessly gawp at bright object (4)

PAGE 18

Down

- 1 Musical phrase composed by Tim and Violet (9)
- 2 Small details that may help you to see things more clearly (5)
- 4 Government official may order young flowers on island (9)
- 5 Sorry when sweetheart takes rook (5)
- 6 Letter from countrywoman (8)
- 7 Archipelago sheltering behind one Siamese cat (9)
- 8 Playthings that have their ups and downs (2-3)
- 9 Later back in cabaret failure (5)
- 15 New Zealand produce the Chinese gooseberry (4,5)
- 17 Yield when end user takes Rolls Royce initially crashes (9)
- 19 Book about crazy Boer pilot (9)
- 20 Take away member from team up at ground (8)
- 24 Way a footballer may be taken by surprise (5)
- 25 Material for making sails (5)

- 26 Arouse when Adam's mate surrounds green light (5)
- 28 Australian native takes road to resting place (5)

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

Answers to September puzzles:-

Crossword: Across: 7 Lately, 8 Footage, 9 Oklahoma, 10 Troupe, 11 Eddy, 12 Accountant, 14 Cleric, 15 Immune, 18 Affliction, 20 Ajax, 22 Cloudy, 24 Age group, 25 Anagrams, 26 Loiter.

Down: 1 Masked, 2 Megabyte, 3 Pyromaniac, 4 Port, 5 Way-out, 6 Response, 8 Fiasco, 13 Unmannerly, 14 Cufflink, 16 Unafraid, 17 Vicars, 19 Lounge, 21 Amused, 23 Year.

Sudoku: 951783624/
874265193/ 263419857/
135628479/ 642971385/
789534261/ 428397516/
317856942/ 596142738



	7			6	5			
	8		9				3	2
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	1	6			8			
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Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

Jesus warned his disciples to be always ready for his return at the end of time by telling the story of two servants

It can be read in the Bible in Matthew 24: 44-51, Luke 12: 40-46

The good servant

My master could be away a long time; I will work as if he was here

When the servants came for their food, he had it ready

While I am away, I am putting you in charge of the food

He made sure everyone got their full amount every day

Then his master came back

I am putting you in charge of everything I have

Well done!

The bad servant

My master could be away a long time; I can do what I want!

When the servants came for their food, he chased them away!

While I am away, I am putting you in charge of the food

He had friends come round, and they ate and drank as much as they liked

Then his master came back

Jesus said

This is the difference between those who follow me and those who only say they do.

and punished him.

Responsibility

There are nearly always different ways of reading the same parable. As the picture summary says, a core message here is that if you sign up to something, then, within the limits of your power, you do what you have signed up to. Since, in the story, servant equals slave, you could argue that neither of the slaves had much choice about signing up: slaves could not negotiate, and slave masters didn't reach an agreement - they gave an order. However, with the master out of the way, the signed up slaves clearly felt they had choices; and they chose very differently. If you want to be prissy, you can also question the parallel between God and the absentee master: surely God doesn't "go away, and leave us to our own devices"? It wouldn't be too presumptuous (given that Jesus told His disciples that they were friends rather than slaves) to describe us as being in partnership with God. Partnership carries heavy responsibilities!!

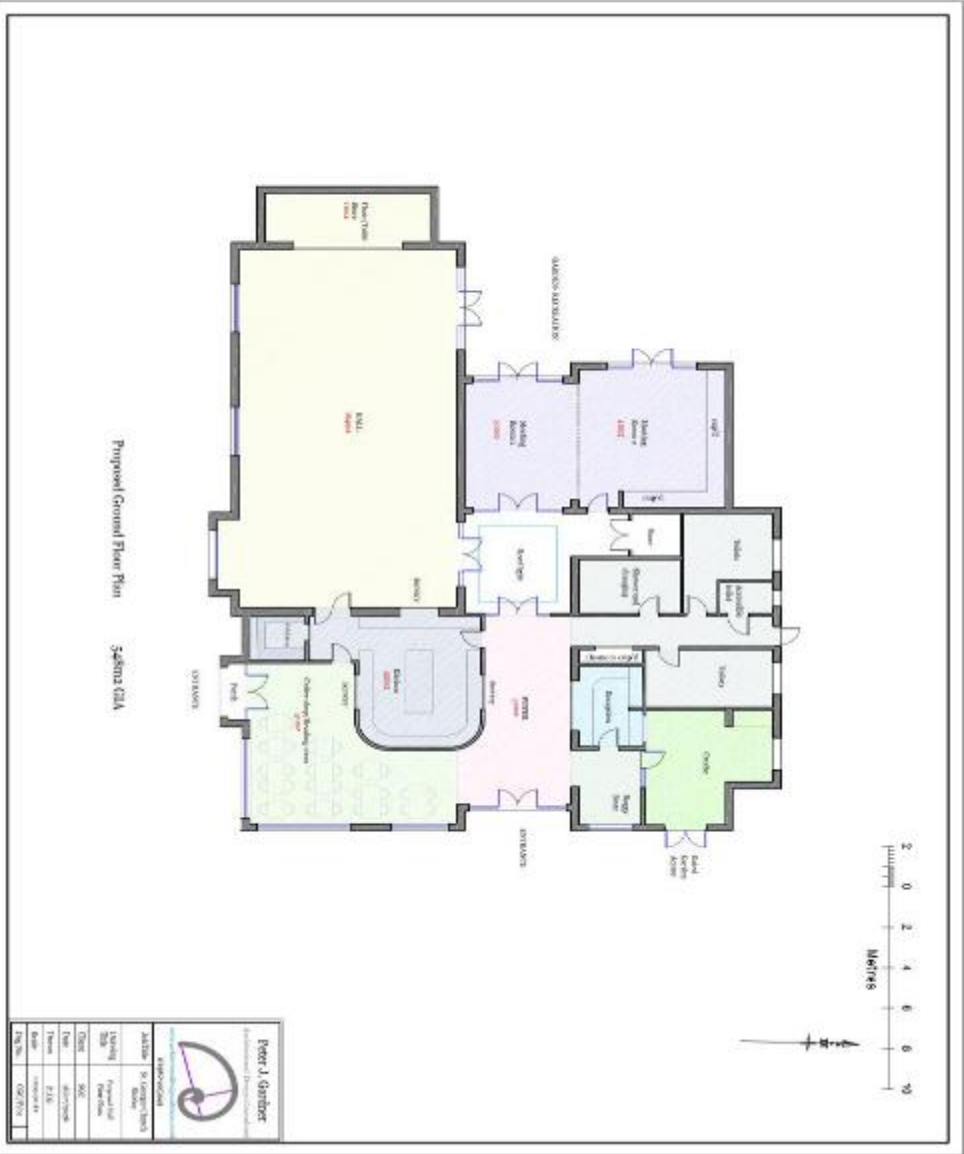
We constantly remind ourselves in church services that we are sinners. However, we need also to remind ourselves constantly that if we proclaim ourselves, however humbly, to be Christians, non-Christians are going, in some measure, to judge Christianity by our behaviour.....or at the very least to judge us by the Christian standards we proclaim. (As I write this, the vicar of Ambridge in "The Archers" is being judged as less than Christian for an angry outburst at two boys who have smashed a vicarage window with a cricket ball.)

Where the parable touches tender nerves is in its reminder that being a Christian is about responsibilities as much as it is about privileges. God doesn't leave us alone to get on with it (much as it may sometimes feel that way); but He does expect us to get on with it - whether "it" is big stuff or small stuff. Leading the choir, or singing in the choir, or making the personal labels to go with the choir robes, or sorting the music, or keeping an eye on the frailer choir members, or making new choir members feel like members rather than intruders, or remembering to thank the piano player, or..... Some have formal roles, to fulfil faithfully. All have personal roles, which matter just as much, and which require the same faithful service - even if it only the wordless smile that assures someone they are valued, when they had begun to doubt it.

To say, to do, to be.....Well done, good and faithful partner.



Showing in outline existing church and grounds and new hall, with housing developments on the site of the present scout hut and vicarage, and revised access and parking arrangements. The new Hall is intended to be more flexible for community use, and closer to the church. All this is in the draft stage of planning. Land sale will be essential to funding.



The Church Hall contains a large hall space, with room for a stage, 2 meeting rooms, a kitchen, foyer, coffee shop/reading room, creche with gated garden, reception, toilets - including an accessible toilet. It will have an entrance from the west-end (back) of the Church, and a south entrance. The “nature” area will be diminished, but is also being carefully planned.

With Bible Sunday in mind, a Women of the Bible Quiz

It has to be admitted that the Bible is just a little inclined to name men, and to refer to women as “a woman” without naming her. (Though Herbert Lockyer’s “All the Women of the Bible” takes up 322 pages!As against his “All the Men of the Bible”, which takes up 382 pages!!) See how many of these Bible women you can identify.

1. Jacob’s first and best love, but second wife:
2. She sat and listened, rather than getting on with the housework:
3. Remembered for gleaning, and for getting on well with her mother in law:
4. She hid the spies (on her roof):
5. She had absolutely no choice about her husband:
6. The first witness, so first apostle:
7. The female of the Bible’s 3 most famous siblings:
8. A horribly effective dancer:
9. A bit of a hair fixation (not her own hair):
10. The New Testament women’s name most likely to attract the question “But which one?”:
11. She came looking for wisdom. We know her title but not her name:
12. Prevented genocide and had a Book named after her:
13. Her dress-making and charitable work made her famous:
14. Loved by Abraham, but not by Sarah; mother of another nation:
15. Maybe Jesus’ mother copied this famous mother of a famous son:
16. Her name symbolises wicked women:
17. Bathed in public, with serious consequences:
18. Accused of being too busy with the less important things, but.....
19. Lost her husband and 2 sons but stayed faithful:
20. Paul’s first European female convert, and then his partner in mission:

Fairtrade Advent.

Advent calendars come with a Christmas story book and a fairtrade chocolate for each day. This year - The Advent calendar (milk or dark chocolate) costs £5.95. - A chocolate orange (with Christingle features) is £3.50. - The Christmas Blessings bar (milk or dark chocolate) is £3.20. The Christmas Angels (milk chocolate only) come in various “guises”, being - 6 Angels Tree decorations, with a sticker set and a Christmas activity poster – at £5.50. - “Joy to the World” sharing box with 30 Angels and 30 story-activity posters at £30 (also available as 90 for £85)

Sunday Readings for October (Message Version)

Sunday 4th October: Trinity XVIII: St Francis
Isaiah 5: 1-7:
Psalms 19: The revelation of God is whole.
Philippians 3: 4b-18: I gave up all that inferior stuff so I could know Christ.
Matthew 21: 33 - end: Most people held him to be a prophet of God.

Sunday 11th October: Trinity XIX
Isaiah 25: 1-9: Do you get it?
Psalms 106: 1-6.19-23: He created a world of wonders.
Philippians 4: 1-9: Stay on track, steady in God.
Matthew 22: 1-14: Many get invited, only a few make it.

Sunday 18th October: St Luke
Isaiah 35: 3-6: Energise the limp hands.
Psalms 147: 1-7: Praise is beautiful, praise is fitting.
2 Timothy 4: 5-17: This is the only race worth running.
Luke 10: 1-9: Ask the God of Harvest to send harvest hands.

Sunday 25th October: Bible Sunday
Nehemiah 8: 1-6, 8-12: And all the people listened.
Psalms 119: 9-16: I won't forget a word of it.
Colossians 3: 12-17: Chosen by God for this new life.
Matthew 24: 30-35: Sky and earth will wear out; my words won't wear out.

posters at £30 (also available as 90 for £85)
- And there's a reusable Real Advent Calendar made by an Indian cooperative with 24 embroidered pockets, each with a chocolate and with the 2026 Activity Book at £27 (for those who already have the "basic" refillable calendar, the 2026 refill pack costs £5.50) Postage is £6 **per address** but if we spend over £89, it's free – so it makes sense to "bulk-buy" on behalf of many people. Liz and Andy will be taking orders until the end of October. Cash with order, please – or credit AP & ME Bebington at 56-00-46 a/c 01038893.

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

Ken Sheehan	Verity Johnson	Peter & Elisabeth
Paul Oates	Mark & Paul Hare	Steve Barrett
Pat Barrett	Robin	Pauline Russell
Linda	Anne	Joey
David	Andy	Sonia Birch
Pam Purkis	Heather Orton	Christine Lutman
Alan Williams		

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.*

Autumn Prayer

*Lord, help us to enjoy what we have, and to share it.
Help us to live with uncertainty, knowing that this is not helplessness
Help us to appreciate the little things, if the big things seem out of reach.
Help us to treasure the good from the past, and to move on from the bad.
Help us to go forward, knowing that you are there already.
Help us, in a season of change, to recognise that faith means constancy and change.
Amen.*

Hear Autumn
Feel Autumn
See Autumn
Smell Autumn
Taste Autumn
Live Autumn

The word "autumn" originates from the Latin word "autumnus," which possibly drives from an Etruscan root meaning the passing of the year. It was later adopted into Old French as "autumpne" before entering English in the late 14th century.

One person said: Answer to September quiz: Spike Milligan
One person wrote the following . Who?

Gone, perhaps, but not forgotten
Dear old whatsisname

What I hate about music
Is its constant crying for attention

From wherever it comes and for whatever reason.
I apologise for writing so many poems

How a fully grown python got into the boot
Of the Peugeot we will never know

Said the skeleton in the cupboard
Who locked me up in here?
Said the Brexit skeleton
It seemed a good idea

In search of the perfect firefighter
I left no house unburned

Why nobody called the police or alerted
The train crew remains a mystery,
But we sighed with relief and tried not to stare
When the lion alighted at Leicester Square

A language licence must be purchased if you're intending to speak
Available at the Post Office from the beginning of next week

You don't spend great chunks of your life
Hunched in prayer, or on your knees in church,
Without gaining a sense of direction

Organisations

St George's Table Tennis Club (in the Church Hall)
Tuesdays 8—10 p.m. Doubles Table Tennis. £3 per evening, including refresh-
ments. 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)

Health

If health is wealth, how come it's tax-free?
Why not cultivate health instead of treating disease?
The best health insurance is moderation.

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	
<i>Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are currently meeting at Pinewood Scout Activity Centre</i>		
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

Health

Medical doctors measure physical health by how the tongue looks.
The Great Physician measures spiritual health by how the tongue acts.

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 Elizabeth Birchenhough, Mr Owen Whalley, and those office 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		

Don't worry if you can't get to like someone. As long as you love them, that will do fine.

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 top-
ic - 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 nor 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)