St George the Martyr Shirley

Christ in the Community

Remembrance Sunday: Cenotaph



A Member of Churches Together in Shirley

November 2026 **50p**

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If you are following RSPB guidelines on feeding the birds, it is OK to start peanuts and birdseed again now that November is here. RSPB advice remains to keep feeders clean: because they concentrate bird attendance in a way that natural food supplies do not.

If you could invite two Saints to tea, which two would you choose? I think I would choose Francis and Claire. (At least I could be confident they would get on with each other!)

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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 **All Saints: November 1st**



View from the Palace – Ray Wheeler

By the time you read this edition of the magazine Remembrance Day will be upon us. With this in mind let me introduce to you Pip, Squeak and Wilfred! "Pip, Squeak, and Wilfred" were the nicknames for the three most common British and Commonwealth campaign medals awarded for service during World War I: the 1914-15 Star (or 1914 Star), the British War Medal, and the Victory Medal. The names came from a popular comic strip published in the Daily Mirror during the 1920s featuring a dog named Pip, a penguin named Squeak, and a young rabbit named Wilfred. When worn together, they are displayed in this order: Star, British War Medal, and Victory Medal. **1914 Star (or 1914-15 Star):** Awarded to those who served in France or Belgium between August 5, 1914, and the end of 1915. **British War Medal:** Awarded to all who served between August 5, 1914, and November 11, 1918. **Victory Medal:** Awarded to all who were awarded the British War Medal, and who had entered a theatre of war between August 5, 1914, and November 11, 1918.

The medals were being issued to veterans around the same time the comic strip was popular, leading soldiers to adopt the characters' names for the medals. A pair of the British War and Victory medals (without a Star) was often referred to as "Mutt and Jeff" after another popular cartoon duo. Military medals and ribbons are more than decorations. They are symbols of service, honour, commitment, and bravery. You can't earn them without great sacrifice. But what does a medal also symbolize? The name Remembrance Day is the clue. We remember Guy Fawkes night of course “Remember, remember the fifth of November!” More specifically, we remember all those who lost and continue to lose their lives in conflict both military and civilian. 30,000 civilians lost their lives in London during WW2

So on this Remembrance Sunday, we recall those who died in the service of their nation - we give thanks for them: for their courage and dedication, and for their legacy - the peace and freedom we enjoy, the good relations with our allies - but which we know to be so fragile. Let us remember that conflict is costly, that there is the fragility of peace, and we need to know the sacred worth of every human life. And just as Remembrance Day is not about re-living 20th and 21st century conflicts, but about re-membering the past in order to live in the present, so is our faith. By ‘re-membering’ I mean actively bringing together the lessons and experiences of the past so that they become a living part of our present identity and actions. And likewise, in the Eucharist we celebrate Sunday by Sunday at St George’s, we recall that the life, the peace and the freedom that Jesus Christ offers each of us, was also won at a price – we remember the price of his own life as he died for our sake on the cross and then rose again to give us life in all its fullness. **Blessings to you all.**



Bonfire Night

Bonfire Night, also known as Guy Fawkes Night, goes back to 5 November 1605, when a group of English Catholics, led by Robert Catesby, planned to assassinate King James I and anyone else around, and restore a Catholic monarch to the throne. The conspirators aimed to blow up the Houses of Parliament during its opening session and considered kidnapping the king's daughter, Princess Elizabeth, to install her as a puppet queen. Guy Fawkes, an explosives expert, was tasked with guarding the barrels of gunpowder placed beneath the House of Lords. The plot was foiled when authorities discovered the explosives early on 5 November, and Fawkes was arrested while attempting to ignite them, leading to the torture and gruesome execution of the conspirators for treason.

Following the plot's failure, Londoners lit bonfires to celebrate the king's survival. In January 1606, Parliament passed the Observance of 5th November Act, also known as the "Thanksgiving Act," which mandated an annual public day of thanksgiving for the plot's failure. The day was initially called Gunpowder Treason Day and carried strong Protestant religious overtones, often including sermons warning against Catholicism and the burning of effigies of hated figures, such as the Pope .

I'm sure very few of the children holding sparklers gathered round the guy burning in the fire think of people being tortured or burnt alive, or of Christians hating each other. Let's celebrate the destruction of hatred, and the unity of being together to brighten up the world!

Do it yourself parables (7): Left plus Right equals Whole



Their friends will vouch for the fact that partners are not always mirror images of each other. Getting on with each other does not demand that each of the couple is very much like the other. Ted and Flo exemplified that togetherness does not require sameness. His ideal holiday was a fortnight together in which every activity had been scheduled, every hour accounted for, every item of expenditure budgeted for...and, ideally, paid for in advance. Her ideal holiday, with him, was getting into the car to go they knew not where and do they knew not what, at a price they could sort out as they went along. He got up each morning with the clothes for the day neatly laid out ready. She got up and went to the wardrobe with an open mind. Over the years together, they had sorted out what really had to be planned, and agreed the desired outcome; and he kept the notes of their agreement and usually "did it". In other areas, he had reconciled himself to being surprised; and enjoyed his partner's pleasure in exploring, whether or not things went quite as intended.

One year, he agreed to plan the church fete, and she agreed to do the church fete. A lot of people thought it was the best fete ever. He, in consultation with her, had booked the hall and field, arranged the advertising, done the budgeting, and catered as far as possible for the risk of rain. He had negotiated the core ingredients for a wide age range. He had a broad-minded opener in reserve, just in case. She had given full scope to her imagination, and had floated participation with all sorts of talented and imaginative people - enough people and events for a number of fetes across a wide area. She had engaged with an opener of such reputation with the younger population that the very possibility of him being there would attract large numbers...even though the adverts made no promises.

While he planned who was going to count and bank the takings, and where they would be safely located, and who would get the money to them and when; and done a careful health and safety assessment for everywhere and everything; she dreamed dreams. The dreaming and the planning came together. The celebrity opener came, but left early. The reserve opener stayed and chatted.

Challenges to Believers: 3. The Bible says good people get good things, and bad people get bad things. Really?

As is so often the case, the psalms provide the most familiar punch line: *I was young, and now I am old, and I have never seen the righteous abandoned or their children going hungry.* That doesn't say good people will never experience bad things: it promises protection from extremes for those who try to get it right. There are two very human feelings wrapped up in this good for good and bad for bad teaching: as one of our elderly parishioners in times gone by said *"They'll get their come-uppance!";* and, on the other hand, we rejoice when people we respect for being nice people do well (as well as doing good). One other Bible message before we move on: Jesus, famously, promised His followers not lives of unremitting material prosperity, perfect health and unbounded happiness, but A CROSS TO CARRY, And if you look at what we are told about the first disciples, we don't see people having things easy.

Setting aside what we might like to believe, and concentrating on what we actually experience, I guess most would sign up to two certainties. 1) Bad activities can have bad consequences. For example if you do drugs or over-do alcohol, there are often health consequences. This isn't necessarily a moral consequence: if your family do drugs or over-do alcohol, you might be trapped by example into that pattern of behaviour. And an unhealthy life-style with bad health consequences might reflect inability to afford a healthy life-style rather than free choice.
2) There are a lot of decent people who get cancer or are hit by nasty injuries; and there is no statistical evidence I am aware of that shows "bad" people are more likely to have chronic conditions or serious disabilities.

I have heard people going through very bad times ask "What have I done to deserve this?" (Or their nearest and dearest asked on their behalf.) But nowadays you would get funny looks if every time you met someone suffering you asked them what they had done wrong..... and rightly so. Jesus discouraged that sort of judgmentalism.

It is perhaps worth adding that few folk are wholly bad or wholly good. And, dare I say it, people of faith should be doing good because it is good, not because they are guaranteed a reward here and now, and in the life to come. Doing good is its own reward; and should be our motivation as it was the motivation of the martyrs.

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

Wednesday November 4th Our Lady of the Annunciation

Tuesday December 1st Shirley Methodist

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

Anyone hearing Christians singing "The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ the Lord" - which proclaims a united Church - is bound to wonder why there are not just individual church buildings catering for local Christians, but many different national and international Church families, Other religions are also divided into (sometimes rather hostile) different groupings. Maybe it is just the way humans are, whether it is politics or religion. You can see it happening in both Old and New Testaments. The good news is the extent to which one Church or church can embrace very different people and their likes and dislikes.

The "splits" over the centuries, and today, relate to any one or more of: personalities, understanding of the foundation texts, leadership, structure, ways of doing things, relationship with the state, cultural norms, flexibility or lack of it. In a religious context, "natural" differences become exaggerated because the different parties see their preferences not as "What we prefer" but as "What God wants". You can't argue with God! Human modesty requires that we recognise God "wanting" the unstructured un-led meeting of the faithful in silent prayer as much as the structured firmly led and carefully rehearsed Solemn Mass of the faithful.

Christianity and repressive regimes: Andy Bebington

In November 2025, we had an article asking whether there would be enough evidence, under a regime where Christianity was banned, to convict you? This rang a bell with Mr M of Bridle Road, Shirley, who told me of his time as a junior officer in the British Embassy in Romania in the late 1950s. My knowledge of Romania was limited, but I did know that after 1945, it was one of the countries used by the USSR as a "western barrier" between it and the rest of Europe. This was the "Warsaw Pact", elsewhere referred to as "the eight bright satellite states" (Poland, Hungary, East Germany etc.). All were communist-led and all were conscious that the USSR wouldn't stand for much deviation from Moscow's line (remember the 1956 invasion of Hungary and another in 1968 in Czechoslovakia?).

Under communism, religion was seen as "the opium of the masses" and was barely tolerated at best and hounded down at worst. Romania, before the War, had been a mix of denominations, with Orthodox being the largest but with sizeable populations of Roman Catholic and Greek Catholic, and with smaller ones of Lutheran, Anglican, and others. When Mr M was there, there was only one Anglican church – in Bucharest – where, in the absence of a priest, Morning Prayer was said weekly with (of course) the Book of Common Prayer. Mr M remembers that the service was led by the Embassy's First Secretary, despite him saying that he had no faith (he possibly regarded the Book of Common Prayer as being on a par with Shakespeare and the King James Bible as underpinning English culture, and enjoyed it as such).

Mr M did say that being known as a Christian meant that Romanians would avoid that person in the street, in case they were spotted together by Secret Police agents … "an object of dread to my acquaintances, when they see me in the street, they flee from me" (Ps. 31:11) … and, while no-one wanted to be on the wrong side of the Russians, certainly no-one wanted to be drawn to the attention of the Secret Police. Mr M went on to say that he suspected that life for Christians became even more restrictive when "that dreadful man" Ceausescu came to power; but that by that time he was no longer in Romania. For those whose interests have been stirred by this, might I recommend looking up Brother Andrew – known as "God's Smuggler", from his practice of smuggling Bibles through the Iron Curtain (including into Romania).



Some notes for you to note

- **Deadline for the December magazine, Sunday November 22nd.**
- **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 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:** New is a big book accessible to those with imperfect vision; Tom Wright's "God's Home-Coming: The Forgotten Promise of Future Renewal" Inspiring and challenging, it cuts across the "going to heaven" tradition with a challenging and inspiring vision of what lies in store for all creation. Let Brian McGinnis know if you want a copy to join our reading/sharing journey.

The history of All Saints Day All Saints' Day began as a way for early Christians to honour martyrs—those who had died for their faith in Christ. From the third century, Christians would commemorate the anniversary of a martyr's death at their tombs, offering prayers and celebrating their witness to the faith. These martyrs were seen as exemplary models of Christian virtue, and their graves often became sites of pilgrimage and veneration. Over time, the celebration expanded to include all saints, not just martyrs, recognising those who had lived holy and virtuous lives in accordance with Christian teaching.

Initially, feasts for martyrs were held on various dates, often near Easter or Pentecost. In the 7th century, Pope Boniface IV established a feast for all martyrs on May 13, coinciding with the dedication of the Pantheon in Rome as a church in honour of the Blessed Virgin and all martyrs. Later, in the 8th century, Pope Gregory III moved the celebration to November 1, dedicating a chapel in St. Peter's Basilica to all saints. This date helped unify local celebrations and may have been chosen to supplant pagan festivals with a Christian observance.

By the 9th century, the November 1 feast was observed in Gaelic Ireland and Anglo-Saxon England, and it was extended to the entire Catholic Church by Pope Gregory IV. Irish missionaries and scholars at Charlemagne's court influenced its adoption across the Frankish Empire. The day became known as All Hallows' Day, with the evening before called All Hallows' Eve, now known as Halloween. All Saints' Day is part of a three-day period called Allhallowtide, which includes All Souls' Day on November 2, which focuses on the faithful departed. Living and dead are united.

Empathy: Virtue or Vice? Strength or Weakness? "Poisonous" ? Or none of the above?

How you feel about the familiar word *sympathy* and the less familiar word *empathy* of course depends on what you think they mean, and indeed on what those you are sharing your thoughts with think the words mean, and what a person who has publically claimed to be sympathetic or empathetic meant. For what it is worth, my computer says: ***Empathy is feeling with someone, while sympathy is feeling for someone****. Empathy involves understanding and sharing another person's emotions. It requires putting yourself in someone else's shoes and experiencing their feelings, either through affective empathy (feeling their emotions) or cognitive empathy (understanding their emotions without necessarily feeling them) . Empathy is an internal, emotional response that fosters connection and deeper understanding, often expected in close relationships Sympathy, on the other hand, is feeling concern or sorrow for someone's situation without sharing their emotional experience. It is more of an outward expression, often involving pity or care, but it maintains emotional distance between the observer and the person suffering Sympathy is commonly used in formal or polite contexts, or when the relationship is not intimate .* Sympathy/Empathy: feelings not virtues?

The Christian word that is relevant to this discussion is ***Compassion. C****ompassion is a strong feeling of sympathy and sadness for the suffering or bad luck of others underpinning a wish to help them.*

When a young Palestinian girl was injured, and her parents and sister drowned, in this country, I guess most of us had understanding feelings for the girl and a desire to help - more than when much of a family dies and a child is severely injured in Palestine. Politicians have argued that feelings can create bad policies - hence the "poison" idea. They are right. But lack of fellow feeling can mean insensitive, and far worse, policies. Lack of compassion kills. A reaction that the Palestinians should not have been in England de-humanises them and us.

As a celibate male, I can't "walk in the shoes" of a woman in labour, or indeed of someone losing a child. "Effective Empathy", in these contexts, is beyond my reach. I can feel, I hope, Compassion: an outsider's understanding that makes me want at least to say something helpful....and do something helpful if possible.

Favourite Sentences: Humans being what humans are, the invitation to share a favourite WORD inevitably produced some offerings which were a bit more than one word. Some were so clearly phrases/ sentences that it seemed right to have what follows:-

A child responding to Mum choosing as bed-time reading a book about Australia: *"Mummy, why did you want to bring that book that I didn't want to be read out to from about down under there?"*

A peculiar adult response to letters carved on the side of a hanging valley in a Norwegian sea loch: *"Cwm fjord-bank glyphs vex'd quiz".*

"Even if you can't be confident of saying what you mean, you should be sure to mean what you say,"

"To call you stupid would be an insult to stupid people."

"You have now. You may not have tomorrow."

"The challenge is also the opportunity."

"One man's fish is another man's poisson."

"See what is right; say what is right; do what is right."

"Putting your foot in it is problematic; but you can take your foot out again."

"Sir, you have tasted two whole worms; you have hissed all my mystery lectures; and been caught fighting a liar in the quad; you will leave by the next town drain."

"If God did not exist, it would be necessary to invent him." ("Si Dieu n'existait pas, il faudrait l'inventer")

"In this country, it is good to kill an admiral from time to time, to encourage the others." (Dans ce pays-ci, il est bon de tuer de temps en temps un amiral pour encourager les autres.")

Poetry Page: : A Child's Calendar: November: John Updike

The stripped and shapely
Maple grieves
The ghosts of her
Departed leaves.
The ground is hard,
As hard as stone.
The year is old,
The birds are flown.
And yet the world,
In its distress,
Displays a certain
Loveliness---

November Morning : Evaleen Stein

A tingling, misty marvel
Blew hither in the night,
And now the little peach-trees
Are clasped in frozen light.

Upon the apple-branches
An icy film is caught,
With trailing threads of gossamer
In pearly patterns wrought.

The autumn sun, in wonder,
Is gayly peering through
This silver-tissued network
Across the frosty blue.

The weather-vane is fire-tipped,
The honeysuckle shows
A dazzling icy splendor,
And crystal is the rose.

Around the eaves are fringes
Of icicles that seem
To mock the summer rainbows

Along the walk, the pebbles
Are each a precious stone;
The grass is tasseled hoarfrost,
The clover jewel-sown.

Such sparkle, sparkle, sparkle
Fills all the frosty air,
Oh, can it be that darkness
Is ever anywhere!



That odd business of praying: Number 182: Blessing God and Being Blessed by God



I suppose most of us come across the idea of blessing for the first time when someone helps someone, and the person helped says "Bless you!" Or it might be when someone sneezes, and someone else says "Bless you!" In a church service, if you listen carefully, you will find the (odd?) combination of God blessing us and us blessing God. ("Bless the Lord, oh my soul", and "The Lord bless you and keep you")

The common explanation of the sneeze blessing is that it goes back to the days when sneezing might mean THE PLAGUE....and things much worse than sneezing possibly following. But, plague and sneezing were actually not closely associated; and why sneezes demanding a blessing, but not coughing?; and the Romans had a habit of bowing when someone sneezed. I quite like, though I don't believe, the notion that a sneeze expelled an evil spirit, and a blessing stopped it coming back again.

But, back to God blessing us, and us blessing God. You can regard us blessing God as just another way of saying us thanking God....for His blessings. I prefer the idea that God blesses us with gifts, not least the gifts to be able to do things. In turn, we use those gifts in the service of God and other human beings and the rest of God's creation. (Some will give back by founding a Church; others by offering a smile of encouragement.) I can understand the argument that we need God's blessing (acknowledged or not), while God doesn't need our blessing. However, for reasons best known to God, God has chosen the partnership model! Bless Him!!!

Answers to October "Women of the Bible" quiz

1.Rachel 2 . Mary of Bethany 3. Ruth 4. Rahab 5. Eve 6. Mary Magdalene 7. Miriam 8. Salome 9. Delilah 10. Mary 11. Queen of Sheba 12. Esther 13. Dorcas 14. Hagar 15. Hannah 16. Jezebel 17. Bathsheba 18. Martha 19. Naomi 20. Lydia

Women Saints Quiz: identify the saints (or saintly women) from these descriptions?

1. Founder of the Mothers Union
2. Joint founder of the Salvation Army
3. Associated with the Catherine Wheel
4. 1098-1179 visionary, healer, poet, musician, Bible scholar.....
5. Companion of St Francis, founder of a religious order
6. Queen and abbess, linked with Ely
7. A generous Hungarian Queen and servant of the poor
8. Quaker "Angel of the prisons"
9. The Lady of the Lamp
10. Leader of armies, French heroine, celebrated by Bernard Shaw
11. Abbess of Whitby (hosting men and women), source of wise advice to many important people, champion of education
12. Lived alone in Norwich but sought out by many for advice
13. Mother of Augustine, famed for her patience with him
14. Protector of the Holy Places, and a great collector of relics
15. Missionary in West Africa, champion of women and children
16. Wrote many hymns, including "Blessed assurance" and "To God be the glory"
17. "Mother of Methodism"
18. Albanian-Indian Catholic nun. Founder of The Missionaries of Charity, admired by Princess Diana
19. Missionary to China (Inn of the Eight Happinesses)
20. One of the Queens of Crime; but also wrote "The Man Born to Be King" and other Christian texts.: *"I feel as though I were holding the whole world in my arms"*

Defining "Oracy": The ability to speak well includes the ability to listen well. So.....

CHURCH DIARY FOR NOVEMBER 2026

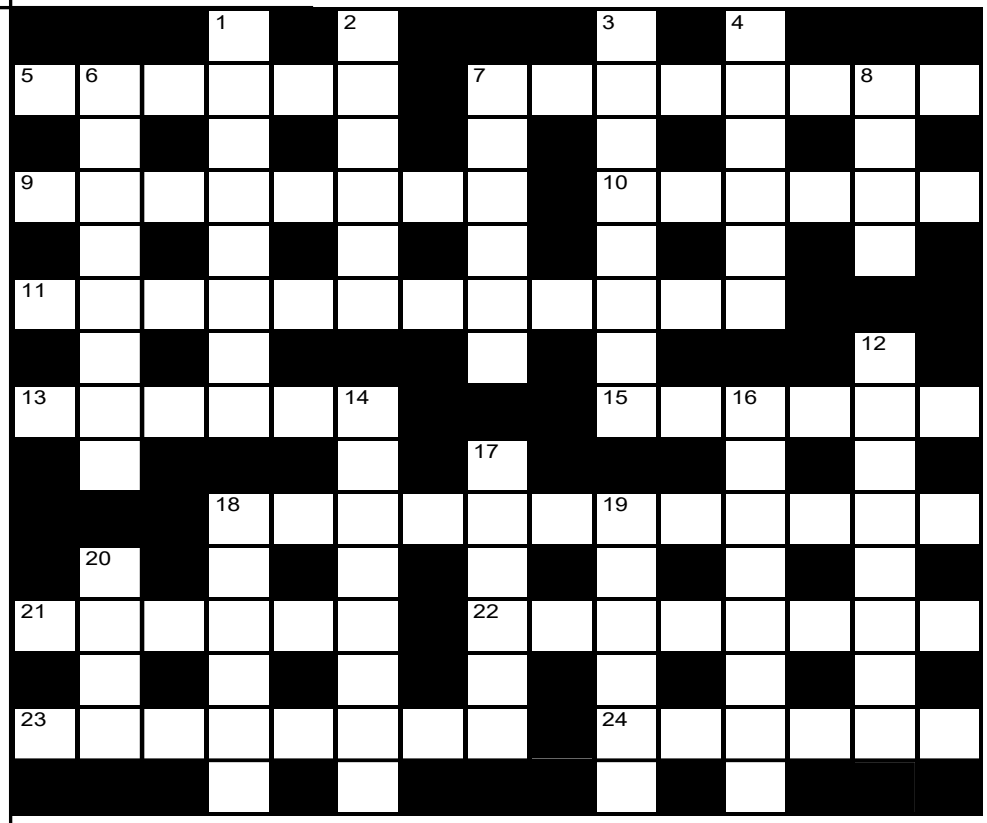
◤ **Morning Prayer:**
Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri 9.00am Zoom only

			Dat 4th N
Sun 1 Nov ALL SAINTS/ALL SOULS	◤ Mon 2 Nov	◤ Tue 3 Nov	
10.00 Sung Eucharist 4.00pm All Souls Service	10.30am-12.00 Pop-In 9.30-11.30am Little Dragons 7.30pm Bible Reading Group		10.00 11.30 Chap
Sun 8 Nov REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	◤ Mon 9 Nov	◤ Tue 10 Nov	
10.00 All-Age Sung Eucharist with Church Parade and Bugle	10.30am-12.00 Pop-In 9.30-11.30am Little Dragons 7.30pm Bible Reading Group		10.00 11.30 Chap
Sun 15 Nov 2nd BEFORE AVENT	◤ Mon 16 Nov	◤ Tue 17 Nov	
10.00 Sung Eucharist	10.30am-12.00 Pop-In 9.30-11.30am Little Dragons 7.30pm Bible Reading Group		10.00 11.30 Chap
Sun 22 Nov CHRIST THE KING	◤ Mon 23 Nov	◤ Tue 24 Nov	
10.00 Sung Eucharist	10.30am-12.00 Pop-In 9.30-11.30am Little Dragons 7.30pm Bible Reading Group		10.00 11.30 Chap
Sun 29 Nov ADVENT SUNDAY	◤ Mon 30 Nov		
10.00 Sung Eucharist Carvery Lunch at CDMC (Oakfield Road)	10.30am-12.00 Pop-In 9.30-11.30am Little Dragons 7.30pm Bible Reading Group		

es for your Diary:

November: CTIS Prayer: Our Lady's, Bingham Road 7.30pm

◤ Wed 4 Nov	◤ Thurs 5 Nov	◤ Fri 6 Nov	Sat 7 Nov
Dam Church Cleaning Dam Eucharist – Lady el			
◤ Wed 11 Nov	◤ Thurs 12 Nov	◤ Fri 13 Nov	Sat 14 Nov
Dam Church Cleaning Dam Eucharist – Lady el			
◤ Wed 18 Nov	◤ Thurs 19 Nov	◤ Fri 20 Nov	Sat 21 Nov
Dam Church Cleaning Dam Eucharist – Lady el			11.00am - 2.30pm Church Autumn Fayre
◤ Wed 25 Nov	◤ Thurs 26 Nov	◤ Fri 27 Nov	Sat 28 Nov
Dam Church Cleaning Dam Eucharist – Lady el			



Solon 202

Across

5 Cook filets to make the very thing (6)
7 To toil the whole 24 hours is mundane **(8)**
9 Religious house takes it as an matter of urgency (8)
10 Acquainted by way of poetry (6)
11 Roughly grease one's palms without men for theatre instrument (5,7)
13 Curry for one made by princess in the outskirts of Seasalter (6)
15 Agreeable folk found in Hayes mental hospital (6)
18 Unitarian ham served up for do-gooder (12)
21 Alert affects local and regional underage males principally (6)
22 Entering during non-British hairdressing (8)
23 Brave nobleman kept in iron ship (8)
24 Exaggerate after party (6)

Down

1 Upset doctor came to politician (8)
2 Jeering without Simon Callow initially in the near future (6)
3 Tasty rev could become a parody (8)
4 Spicy food for insane artists (6)
6 Transform Dad's Army character on toll road (8)
7 Ambush could be the hen's method (6)
8 Sale brews beer (4)

12 Stayed and somehow deaden it (8)
14 Don't forget about fellow (8)
16 Loose woman seen in the finest rum petticoat (8)
17 Somehow relives these pants (6)
18 Fast runner takes a rook in the city (6)
19 Businessman is possibly not coy (6)
20 Down in Cambridge it's light (4)

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

Answers to October puzzles:-
Crossword: Across:

Across: 1 Lush, **3** Load, **6** Laity, **10** Ineffable, **11** Noddy, **12** Misdeed, **13** Relents, **14** Take, **16** Amused, **18** Sap, **21** Vow, **22** Manure, **23** Mart, **25** Suffuse, **27** Embargo, **29** Sauna, **30** Old school, **31** Latte, **32** Earn, **33** Star.

Down: 1 Leitmotiv, **2** Specs, **4** Ombudsman, **5** Drear, **6** Landlady, **7** Indonesia, **8** Yo-yos, **9** After, **15** Kiwi fruit, **17** Surrender, **19** Potboiler, **20** Amputate, **24** Aback, **25** Sisal, **26** Evoke, **28** Roost.

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

Sudoku: 372865941/ 681947532/ 594213867/ 416538729/ 957624318/ 823791456/ 168359/274/ 239476185/ 745182693





Two Winter visitors you might see: 1) Fieldfare, 2) Redwing



First things first

The picture summary holds back what the Bible stories say about the nature of the health complaint of the woman in the crowd: "bleeding". One female commentator has suggested that the two healing stories are linked not only in time, but by one being about on-going "women's problems" and the other about a girl starting "women's problems". (Though I gather "women's problems "don't usually kill you.) This interpretation would help explain why the woman was not keen to come out in public with her problem (which made her "unclean" under Jewish law). Sadly, because her problem was apparently public knowledge, only publicity for the healing would make her socially acceptable again.

The more usual discussion of these two related healings focuses on managing priorities. Jesus was on his way to deal with an emergency: an emergency in the family of a prominent local citizen. The woman in the crowd, asking for help with her on-going needs, delayed him. Think medical team on way to critical incident, and someone with a chronic illness stops them because (s)he is having a bad day. We are well resourced compared with many countries; but what we call medical need triage still presents serious issues—as anyone who has waited in an A and E queue knows. It is an unusual person who can be wholly rational about the priority of their own health needs in relation to the health needs of others.

A trainee priest was advised that if someone was on their way to take a Communion Service, nothing should be allowed to get in the way: advice perhaps based on the Bible quote about missing out burying your father or kissing your mother goodbye when you were called to ministry. Sometimes Jesus "exaggerates" to make a point. I don't believe that the priest late for a service because of stopping to comfort/get help for someone in urgent need is going to lose heavenly brownie points.

Those of us not in the Emergency Services also need to think about our priorities; and sometimes, as with those in the Emergency Services, there is not going to be an obviously right answer. If your son has just fallen off his bike and hurt himself when you are about to rush to the hospital because your partner has been admitted, both needs have priority—but you will probably "choose" the son because you can do something there.

Walking Together: Christian Aid



Archbishop Thabo Makgoba, head of the Anglican Church in Southern Africa, is the new Chair of Christian Aid. He grew up in a poor family in a poor township. He says: *"Hope is not a feeling you wait to arrive, it is a practice. And on the days when you do not feel hopeful, act anyway. Give, speak out, show up, because hope is built by doing. And to do it together is critical, because courage is contagious, and a voice joined to others becomes impossible to ignore."*

Christian Aid activity around the world is a partnership with local communities, and involves and benefits local individuals. Examples include: *Belinda and David and their urban family in Nairobi:* thanks to Beacon of Hope, now able to feed the children and get them to school; and encouraging their neighbours. *Laila and her children bombed out of their home in Lebanon,* now making a fresh start in Beirut. Mouvement Social has enabled access to food, hygiene, and training in relevant work skills. *Precious and her Zambian friends championing climate change action and debt relief.* Pollution and debt are costing some low income countries more than health and education. *Rebecca is one of more than 12 million Sudanese people displaced by war.* Christian Aid is helping to provide food and water, dignity kits for women and girls, and communal shelters. *Nann's farm was one of many destroyed in the Myanmar earthquake.* Christian Aid is helping the farmers to rebuild. *Rendele is in the same position following floods in Ethiopia.* Agri Service is providing seeds, tools, and agricultural training.

One way you can help is by Christmas gifts: perhaps a Christian Aid present rather than looking desperately for the right present for the person who has everything already. **Check caid.org,uk/gifts.** These charity gifts mean that your friend gets a card, and somebody who desperately needs help gets help. There is a wide range of options, including:-

- *£60 for emergency essentials in Sudan*
- *£20 for olive tree saplings in Palestine*
- *£25 for schooling in Burundi*
- *£10 for a pair of chickens in Sudan*
- *£100 for business start-up in Burundi*

.The Acts of the Apostles – a reflection for our time

In Church House Publishing's "Reflections for Daily Prayers", former Bishop of Oxford John Pritchard reflected late in September on the "Acts" story of Paul in Ephesus and the riot created by "rent-a-mob" organised by a silversmith who saw his business threatened by Paul's teaching of one true God and of Jesus the Messiah. He wrote, relating to v. 19 "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" (the shouts of the mob):-

Paul lived in an age when gods were numerous, whether Greek, Roman or pagan, and his evangelism often brought him up against worshippers of gods such as Artemis, the many-breasted mother goddess. On this occasion, in Ephesus, the worshippers had mixed motives as they whipped up the crowd; they were also beneficiaries as silversmiths and artisans who relied on a trade in Artemis souvenirs. Paul would love to have engaged with the crowd and argued the case for Christ, but, in the end, it was the town clerk who challenged the protestors and dispersed them.

When it comes to worshipping idols, are we so different in our time? Every age has its idols. We have the goddess Celebrity and her close friend Success. We worship at the altar of Wealth and her close companion Self-Made. Another in the pantheon of gods is Choice and her partner Autonomy. There's a common characteristic in this contemporary gathering of gods; they agree that the primary object of idolatry is Myself. When we cease to see ourselves as responsible to God, the only alternative (apart from the totalitarian state) is myself. And that's where the problems begin.

We might test our own temptation to idolatry by asking ourselves if there's something we can't abandon in the name of God because it has become God to us. Perhaps idolatry is a greater threat to faith than atheism.

When I read that I thought "wow!"; this is Christianity in today's society, when the sound-bite defeats deeper thought and we occasionally react to something by, instead of pondering quietly, being distracted – "oh, look, sparkly things!", and where I don't even think whether something in my life is a god to me …

Andy Bebington

Some Bible jokes for kids and adult kids

Who was the smartest man in the Bible? Abraham. He knew a Lot.

Why did the unemployed man get excited while looking through his Bible? He thought he saw a Job.

Where was Solomon's temple located? On the side of his head.

What is a mathematician's favourite book of the Bible? Numbers.

How long did Cain dislike his brother? As long as he was Abel.

What time of day was Adam created? A little before Eve.

What is Eve's favourite food? Ribs.

Why was Adam a famous runner? Because he was first in the human race.

Did Eve ever have a date with Adam? No, just an apple.

Where is the first maths problem mentioned in the Bible? When God told Adam and Eve to go forth and multiply.

What do we have that Adam never had? Ancestors.

What excuse did Adam give to his children as to why he no longer lived in Eden? Your mother ate us out of house and home.

Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible? Sampson. He brought the house down.

Why did nobody play cards on the Ark? Because Noah was always standing on the deck.

How did David mess up first aid rules? He put his sling on his hand. Not his arm

Sunday Readings for November (Message Version)

Sunday 1 November: All Saints Day
Revelation 7:9-end: No more hunger, no more thirst, no more scorching heat.
Psalm 34: 1-10: I live and breathe God.
1 John 3:1-3: We're called Children of God.
Matthew 5: 1-12: The truth is too close for comfort.

Sunday 8 November: Remembrance Sunday
Wisdom 6: 12-16: Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim. (Jerusalem Bible)
Psalm 70: God is mighty.
1 Thessalonians 4: 13-end: There will be one huge family re-union with the Master
Matthew 25: 1-13: Stay alert!

Sunday 15 November: 2nd before Advent
Zephaniah 1: 7, 12-end: Quiet now!
Psalm 90: 1-11: From "once upon a time" to "kingdom come" - you are God,
1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11: We know where we stand.
Matthew 25: 14-30: From now on, be my partner.

Sunday 22 November: Christ the King
Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24: I myself am the shepherd.
Psalm 95: 1-7: Because God is the best.
Ephesians 1: 15-end: Your eyes focused and clear.
Matthew 25: 31-end: Whenever you did one of these [god] things to people overlooked or ignored, you did it to me.

Sunday 29 November: Advent
Isaiah 64: 1-9: God who works for those who wait for hum.
Psalm 80: 1-8: God, come back!
1 Corinthians 1: 3-9: You don't need a thing: you've got it all.
Mark 13: 24-end: Stay at your post, watching.

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

Ken	Verity	Andy
Paul Oates	Mark & Paul Hare	Steve Barrett
Pat Barrett	Linda Shuker	Christine Lutman
Mr and Mrs Brett	Shirley Hibbert	Pauline Russell
Pam Purkis	Heather Orton	David Collingham
Robin	Anne	

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.*



"Grant them the grace to meet each moment without hurry, to listen without distraction, and to respond with kindness even when they are weary. Let patience flow through them like a quiet river. May they know that they are valued, even if they are not always thanked. And help the rest of us to respect always, and to share if and when there is the opportunity." Amen.

One person said: Answer to October quiz: Roger McGough
One person said the following . Who?

When a man opens a car door for his wife, it's either a new car or a new wife."

"Grief is the price we pay for love."

"British women can't cook."

"I declare this thing open, whatever it is."

"You have mosquitoes. I have the Press."

"The man who invented the red carpet needed his head examined."

"You can't have a barbecue on the balcony without the fire brigade turning up."

"It makes you all look like Dracula's daughters." – on school uniforms:

"People think there's a rigid class system here, but dukes have even been known to marry chorus girls. Some have even married Americans."

"It's a pleasant change to be in a country that isn't ruled by its people."

"All money nowadays seems to be produced with a natural homing instinct for the Treasury."

"I would very much like to go to Russia – although the bastards murdered half my family."

"Human population growth is probably the single most serious long-term threat to survival."

"*How do you keep the natives off the booze long enough to pass the test?" – to a Scottish driving instructor*

"Do you still throw spears at each other?" – to a student in Papua New Guinea

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)

Intelligence

Intelligence is like a river: The deeper it is, the less noise it makes.

It is incredible how much intelligence is used in this world to prove a lot of nonsense.

Not all educated people are intelligent.

Organisations

St George's Church Hall Bookings -
Mrs Jan Payne 07702 756913
hallmanager@ctgeorgeschurch.co.ok

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

Intelligence

Enthusiasm is a good engine, but it needs intelligence for a driver.

It is not the IQ but the I WILL that is important in education.

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

Say what you mean, and mean what you say; but do some listening first.

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.

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!

Shirley Neighbourhood Care
Shirley Community Library
Wickham Road
020 8662 9599
info@shirleyneighbourhoodcare.co.uk

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

Prayers on weekdays

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

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

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