

So you think you know who you are!

Tracing your family tree has become a fascination for 1000s of people. This has been encouraged by the interesting characters on TV tracing their grandmas and granddads and anybody else they can find.

As two people who met aged 20 with no known family connections of any sort we were amazed at what we found from the 1881 census and the Family Record Office in London.

Grandparents on both sides had lived in the same part of south-east London around 1900. And members of the generation before that, with their families, lived in the same Aberdeenshire village in 1881. Eddie's granny and cousins of Pamela's grandfather must have gone to the same school.

We gave up once we discovered that one great grandfather was in prison in Winchester on census day 1881.

So it can get scary. And it can become an obsession, joining Family Record Societies and pursuing limitless connections. The 1901 census crashed when it went on line so great was the demand.

Who do you think you are? It seems to be about our need for identity and belonging. Traces of family past and roots, no matter where, help us feel more secure today.

But it only goes so far. There can be disappointment and frustration. And secrets we might have wished had stayed that way.

For us the real joy has been to realise that we are loved and accepted by God, knowing that we have been adopted into his family. Just knowing that he wants us to belong to him, whatever our past. That's where our security lies today.

Eddie and Pamela Shirras

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Sunday 21 January 4pm at All Saints' Church

Speaker The Rev. Ruth Whitehead, Trinity Church, Abingdon

An invitation to everyone to join those who attend our various local churches in worship and prayer. Tea will follow the service.

Trinity Church in Abingdon brings together Christians from the Methodist and United Reformed Churches—the URC itself being formed in 1972 with the union of the Congregational and Presbyterian churches across England. Trinity is one of fourteen churches across the town which form the Church in Abingdon partnership.

***All Saints' Marcham
Sunday Worship
10am and 6pm*
*4pm 21 January***

Sundays at 8am
7 January, 4 February

All Age Worship at 10am
14 January

Wednesdays
10am Holy Communion
at Duffield Place
12 noon Café from 10 January
at Sports Scouts & Social
Club

Fridays
5 30pm Friday Club
at church from 19 January
for Primary Age children

Saturdays
8 30am Men's Breakfast
6 January, 3 February
at Sports Scouts & Social
Club

***St. Luke's, Garford
Sunday Worship
10 30am
7 January, 4 February***

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www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk