

## REGULAR SERVICES

### SUNDAY

- 8.00 am Holy Communion**  
1st & 3rd Sundays at St Mary's Church, The Avenue  
2nd Sundays at St Francis' Church  
*4th & 5th Sundays vary – See calendar for details*
- 10.45 am Parish Communion**  
Activities for younger children (aged 3+) and crèche facilities in church
- 10.45 am Normally 2nd Sunday – Worship for All Ages** (non-Eucharistic)
- 10.00 am Normally last Sunday – Joint Family Communion**  
with St Mary's, held alternately at each church  
*See calendar for details*

### WEDNESDAY

- 9.30 am Morning Prayer**  
**10.45 am Holy Communion**

### THURSDAY

- 9.00 am Morning Prayer**

### SATURDAY

- 9.00 am - 10.00 am Church open for quiet and prayer**

## FEBRUARY 2019

### **Sunday 3 February – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Lent**

- 8.00 am Holy Communion at St Mary's** – Richard Ford  
**10.00 am Joint Worship for All Ages** – Brian Griffiths  
Preacher: Hazel O'Sullivan  
**3.30 pm Burrell Mead Prayer & Praise** – Richard Ford  
**6.00 pm Baptism & Confirmation service at St Mary's** – Bishop Jonathan Clark

### **Sunday 10 February – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Lent**

- 8.00 am Holy Communion** – Hazel O'Sullivan  
**10.45 am Holy Communion** – Hazel O'Sullivan  
Preacher: Ken Bryan

### **Sunday 17 February – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Lent**

- 8.00 am Holy Communion at St Mary's** – Richard Ford  
**10.45 am Holy Communion** – Hazel O'Sullivan  
Preacher: Brian Griffiths

### **Sunday 24 February – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent**

- 8.00 am Holy Communion** – Hazel O'Sullivan  
**10.00 am Joint Service at St Mary's** – Hazel O'Sullivan & Ken Bryan  
Preacher: Hazel O'Sullivan

### **Every Wednesday**

- 10.45 am Holy Communion**

## MARCH 2019

### **Sunday 3 March – Sunday before Lent**

- 8.00 am Holy Communion at **St Mary's** – Hazel O'Sullivan  
Preacher: Ken Bryan  
10.45 am Parish Communion – Richard Ford  
Preacher: Ken Bryan

### **Wednesday 6 March – Ash Wednesday**

- 10.45 am Holy Communion – Hazel O'Sullivan  
Preacher: Richard Ford  
8.00 pm Churches Together Holy Communion at **West Wickham Methodist Church, Hawes Lane**

### **Sunday 10 March – Lent 1**

- 8.00 pm Holy Communion – Hazel O'Sullivan  
10.45 am Holy Communion – Hazel O'Sullivan & Brian Griffiths  
Preacher: Hazel O'Sullivan

### **Sunday 17 March – Lent 2**

- 8.00 am Holy Communion at **St Mary's** – Hazel O'Sullivan  
Preacher: Brian Griffiths  
10.45 am Parish Communion – Richard Ford  
Preacher: Brian Griffiths

### **Sunday 24 March – Lent 3**

- 8.00 am Holy Communion at **St Mary's** – Richard Ford  
10.00 am Joint Service – Hazel O'Sullivan  
Preacher: Richard Ford

### **Sunday 31 March – Lent 4**

- 8.00 am Holy Communion – Hilary Fife  
10.45 am Worship for All Ages – Brian Griffiths  
Preacher: Hazel O'Sullivan

### **Every Wednesday**

- 10.45 am Holy Communion

### *Dear Friends*

Having disgraced myself in the October-November parish magazine by attributing Keats' *Ode to Autumn* to Samuel Coleridge, let me assure you that the lines I am about to quote were, indeed, penned by Alfred, Lord Tennyson: "In spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love." (*Locksley Hall*). And before anyone emails me to point out that I can hardly refer to myself as a young man, may I ask you whether you still recognise 14 February by going out for dinner or sending a Valentine card? Surely I'm not the only romantic in the parish!

Factual information on St Valentine is not easy to come by. All that can reliably be said is that Valentine was his name and that he was martyred and buried at a cemetery on the Via Flaminia, close to the Ponte Milvio to the north of Rome on 14 February, probably in 269 AD. So, why has he become the patron saint of lovers (as well as of bee keepers, epilepsy, fainting, greetings, happy marriages, love, plague, travellers, and young people!)? Probably because of the legends attached to him.

The Roman Emperor, Claudius the Cruel (268-290 AD), was prevented by law from drafting married men into the army and, being short of soldiers, banned marriage between younger citizens. Nevertheless, Valentine, a priest, continued to conduct illegal wedding ceremonies, maintaining that marriage was part of God's plan and purpose for the world. This led to his arrest and execution, but not before Valentine fell in love with his jailer's daughter and, on the evening of his execution, passed her a note reading, "From your Valentine."

Although the Church of England doesn't include St Valentine's Day as one of its festivals, when a few years ago St Valentine's Day fell on a Sunday, it was suggested that its churches hold services with a love theme and an order of service was provided. The gospel chosen was John 15:9-17, in which the words "love" or "loved" occur no less than nine times.

Jesus invites his followers “to abide in his love.” He then clarifies what this means by adding that “If you keep my commandments, you will abide (or remain) in my love.” He then goes on to explain, twice, what the most significant of those commandments is: “Love each other.”

We shall soon be celebrating Maundy Thursday, which derives its name from the Latin “mandatum,” meaning “commandment.” At the Last Supper, St John records that after washing his disciples’ feet, Jesus gave them a new commandment, “Love one another.” He then goes on to say, “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

And that commandment holds true for our church today: we should be a community that is recognised for the care that we take of each other, particularly, but not only when our members are going through difficult times, and sometimes, maybe, at a cost to ourselves.

God bless,

*Richard Ford*

*If you would like to follow this up further, then do join one of this year’s Lent Groups, which will be looking in more depth at what it means to be a caring community.*



## Prayer Cycle

We pray for those who live on:

Acacia Gardens; Alderbrook Court; The Alders; Arragon Gardens; Ash Grove; Barwood Avenue; Beckenham Road; Blakes Green; Bolderwood Way.

In our cycle of prayer for other churches in West Wickham, we pray for the people at Coney Hill Baptist Church and St John’s Church.

We pray to God:

- To protect our cities from acts of violence, and to fill our streets with peace.
- To draw close to those who are mourning the loss of loved ones as a result of street violence and for those who feel fearful or vulnerable, to be filled with hope.
- That recent violent attacks do not lead to fear, uncertainty, or division. and may they not become a catalyst for further acts of hate.

We give thanks for the men and women who risk their lives on behalf of others – the police and the emergency services.

We ask for empowerment of church-based groups to be peacemakers in our communities.

We look forward to the day when weapons will be beaten into ploughshares, every tear will be wiped away, and death will be swallowed up forever. We pray for a foretaste of that day right now.

We pray for our confirmation candidates: Amy Skallist and Joyce Town, that their continuing journey of faith will be a fruitful one and that their stories will encourage others to find out more about God’s love.

## Parish Records

We remember with thanks the life of Linda Hill, who died on 4 December 2018.

## Paraclesis Making our Church Family/Community Distinctive

At baptism renewal services in January, we thought about how our faith journey is one where we are aiming to become more like Christ. One of the things that we can do to reflect Christ to others is to journey with and care for others, especially in difficult times, as a reminder that God is there with us in these times. During Lent our home groups and two other groups will be meeting to follow a course called 'Paraclesis'. This is all about coming alongside others in the journey of life.

The course includes sermon materials as well as videos and topics for discussion in small groups. This will strengthen the culture of care in both our churches, supporting what goes on in the home groups, from the pastoral care team and within individual friendships. We will start on Sunday 24 February with a joint service at St Mary's, looking at the story of the Good Samaritan. The service on that day will be followed by a brunch – a chance to spend an extended time talking to others and making new friends with those you might not normally have a chance to speak with. St Mary's have found that such occasions are very helpful in strengthening and encouraging the church family.

The Paraclesis material is relevant to everybody as we will all have situations where we want to offer God's care to someone (a family member or a friend maybe) but we might not know where to start or how to make the offer. If you are not already part of a group, please sign up for one of the following weekly meetings on the sign-up sheet in church or by telephoning or e-mailing me:

- Monday evenings: 8.00 pm – 9.30 pm
- Tuesday afternoons: 2.00 pm – 3.30 pm
- Tuesday evenings: 7.30 pm – 9.00 pm
- Wednesday evenings: 8.00 pm – 9.30 pm
- Thursday mornings: 10.00 am – 11.30 am
- Thursday afternoons: 2.00 pm - 3.30 pm
- Friday mornings: 10.00 am – 11.30 am

## Ash Wednesday

We start Lent on Wednesday 6 March. Two communion services (with ashing available at both) will be held:

- 10.45 am at St Francis', Ravenswood Avenue;
- 8.00 pm at West Wickham Methodist Church, Hawes Lane.

## Lenten Practice

During Lent the church encourages the spiritual Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. What are you going to give up, or 'take up' for these six weeks?

If you don't already pray at home, this would be a good time to start. We have a number of books in church that could help with this, or there are on-line and phone apps that can help – do ask me or Richard if you would like advice. Alternatively, we have the following opportunities for prayer every week during Lent:

- **Morning Prayer** at:
  - 8.00 am on Tuesdays at St Mary's.
  - 9.30 am on Wednesdays at St Francis'.
  - 9.00 am on Thursdays at St Francis'.
  - 9.00 am on Fridays at St Mary's.
- **Holy Communion** at 10.45 am on Wednesdays at St Francis'.
- **Quiet Hour** from 9.00 am to 10.00 am on Saturdays at St Francis'.

Perhaps you could support a charity through giving up certain things. Christian Aid produces a leaflet 'Count Your Blessings' that can help with this. It can be accessed online at:

[www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/lent](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/lent)

*Hazel*



## Women's World Day of Prayer

The Women's World Day of Prayer is an opportunity to come together with others considering some of the challenges that women and girls face in different parts of the world. Finding out about another country through prayer is a great way to travel and meet people without needing to leave West Wickham.

Our ecumenical service this year is on Friday 1 March at 10.30 am at West Wickham & Shirley Baptist Church. And it's not just for women, men are very welcome too.

*Hazel*

## Women's Event: Reflexology

Reflexology is said to balance all the body systems and improve our well-being. A stress-relieving and restorative therapy is just what some of us might need for relaxation. Come along and hear more from Janice, who has a practice in West Wickham. The event will be held at St Mary's in the main hall on Tuesday 19 February at 8.00 pm. Refreshments will be served – do bring a friend.

*Hazel*

## St Francis' Electoral Roll

We have to do a completely new Electoral Roll this year and I am awaiting details. However, it is necessary for everyone to fill in a new form and return it to me by a certain date, probably end of March. Details will be on the Pew Sheets in due course.

*Barbara Goodchild*

## GraveTalk

This was a quote from one person at the end of our last GraveTalk event:

*I feel so much better than when I arrived!*

As Christians we have much to be hopeful for in connection with death and dying: Christ has promised us eternal life and we know that God is there with us throughout our life on earth, even in the darkest valley, as suggested in Psalm 23, verse 4.

Yet we are reticent to talk about death, possibly because the secularisation of our society and death happening mostly in hospital, means that fewer people know about the hope that's there in death. Removing the negative association that's attached to death is exactly what GraveTalk offers the opportunity for. Do come to our next event at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 5 March at Corza in West Wickham High Street, when we will talk about death and dying in an open and relaxed way.

*Hazel*



## April/May Magazine

Items for inclusion in the next magazine are needed by Sunday 10 March 2019 please, or contact Margaret Green to make alternative arrangements via:

Tel: 8777 4450 or email: [magletitiagreen@hotmail.com](mailto:magletitiagreen@hotmail.com)

**Summary of PCC Meeting held on  
27 November 2018**

- Benefice of St Francis' & St Mary's Lifting of Suspension of Presentation - following discussion with the Diocese, the Bishop has lifted the suspension of presentation as St Francis', St Mary's and St John's will not become a Team Ministry and therefore there was a vacancy at St Francis' and St Mary's for a Vicar. There is legal requirement for both St Francis' and St Mary's PCCs to pass a resolution to appoint Hazel O'Sullivan as Vicar. Hazel left the room and the PCC approved the resolution that Hazel would become Vicar. A special service will be held in 2019 for the Bishop and Archdeacon to officiate.
- Safeguarding Audit - Kim Teare, Parish Safeguarding Officer, presented the annual report.
- Youth Group - regular group of young people that came along each Sunday evening and were looking to involve them in more Church activities over the coming months.
- Gift Day - £2166.80 had been raised including Gift Aid to be split equally between Croydon Nightwatch and St Francis' Church Maintenance Programme.
- Deanery Synod report from meeting in October given by Barbara Goodchild.
- Date of next meeting - Tuesday 5 February 2019.

*Nicky Nightingale, PCC Secretary*



**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WEST WICKHAM  
CHILDREN'S LINK**

**SPRING HALF-TERM EVENT  
"COME ON AND CELEBRATE!"**

On Tuesday 19 February from 12 noon until 2.30 pm for children under 8 and their carers. Children **MUST** be accompanied.

It will be held at St John's Church, Layhams Road, West Wickham.

Lunch will be served after the first activity/story session at approximately 12.45 pm/1.00 pm.

Whilst adults are welcome to just sit, we hope they will feel like joining in.

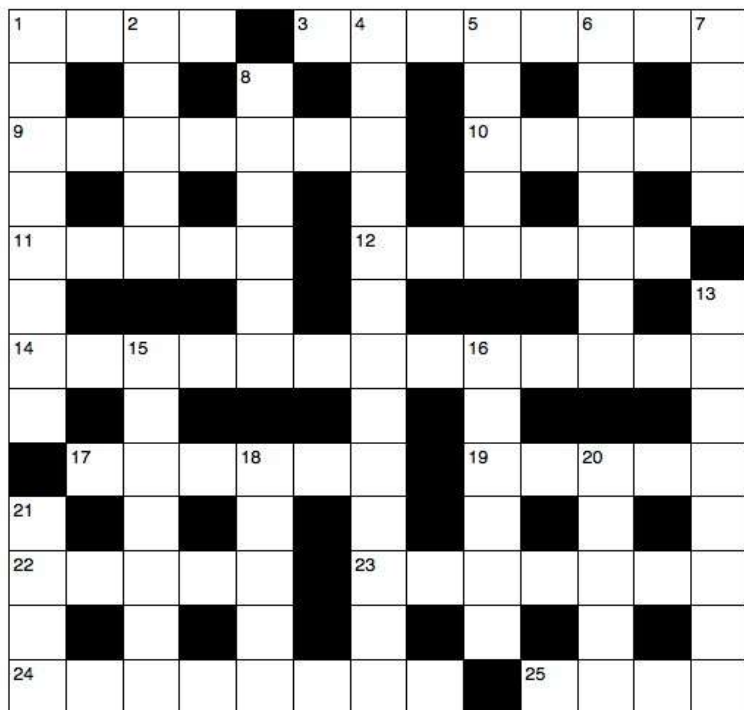
Donations towards costs would be appreciated.

Contact Barbara Plummer  
[☎ 020 8289 3846 or email [krandbp@ntlworld.com](mailto:krandbp@ntlworld.com)]

*In the event of snow, which might make access difficult, check [www.stjohnsww.com](http://www.stjohnsww.com)*



## Bible Crossword for February/March



### Clues

- 1 Salary (Isaiah 19:10) (4)
- 3 Question Jesus asked of those healed of leprosy, 'Were not all ten — ?' (Luke 17:17) (8)
- 9 Wide, elevated level area of land (Joshua 13:9) (7)
- 10 'So you also must be — , because the Son of Man will come... when you do not expect him' (Matthew 24:44) (5)
- 11 '[He] said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He — — , and his hand was completely restored' (Luke 6:10) (3,2)
- 12 'Who has gathered up the wind in the — of his hand?' (Proverbs 30:4) (6)
- 14 Not born again (13)
- 17 'Again and again he — the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins' (Hebrews 10:11) (6)

- 19 Mails (anag.) (5)
- 22 'He — — here; he has risen' (Matthew 28:6) (2,3)
- 23 Defeated (Judges 20:43) (7)
- 24 Soldiers' quarters (Acts 21:34) (8)
- 25 'Pillars of marble' were how the Beloved described those of her Lover (Song of Songs 5:15) (4)

### **Down**

- 1 Totally destroyed (Genesis 7:23) (5,3)
- 2 What the Philippian jailer was told to do with his prisoners Paul and Silas (Acts 16:23) (5)
- 4 Object of ridicule (Job 12:4) (8-5)
- 5 In most years, the month in which Easter falls (5)
- 6 For example, Caesarea, Joppa, Tyre, Sidon (7)
- 7 '[Jesus] was in the desert for forty — , being tempted by Satan' (Mark 1:13) (4)
- 8 'Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power — to our God' (Revelation 19:1) (6)
- 13 Mend dots (anag.) (8)
- 15 Purifier (Malachi 3:3) (7)
- 16 Attacked (1 Samuel 27:8) (6)
- 18 The good Samaritan to the innkeeper: 'When I return, I will reimburse you for any — expense you may have' (Luke 10:35) (5)
- 20 How Matthew described the crowds who followed Jesus (Matthew 4:25) (5)
- 21 For example, one of 25 Across (Judges 19:29) (4)



**Answers to December/January Crossword**

H	I	D	E		D	I	S	G	R	A	C	E
I		O		S		M		R		L		A
S	O	N	S	H	I	P		O	A	T	H	S
S		O		R		R		A		E		Y
T	U	T	T	I		I	G	N	O	R	E	
A				N		S				E		S
F	O	R	E	K	N	O	W	L	E	D	G	E
F		E				N		A				A
	A	S	H	R	A	M		M	E	N	O	R
J		T		E		E		E		E		C
A	R	O	M	A		N	I	N	E	V	E	H
D		R		C		T		T		E		E
A	M	E	T	H	Y	S	T		T	R	O	D

**A Prayer for Lent**

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations;  
 and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save.  
 Through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and for ever.

*Amen*



**St Francis of Assisi,  
 Ravenswood Avenue, West Wickham**

**SATURDAY 13 APRIL 2019**

An evening with  
 The London Concert Chorus  
 Musical Director: Georg Tormann  
 From BBCtv's 'All Together Now'

A return visit after their concerts at  
 The Churchill Theatre, The Royal Albert Hall,  
 Central Hall Westminster,  
 The Symphony Hall Birmingham  
 and other local venues  
 featuring popular songs, including  
*Africa, Proud Mary, Run, Nine to Five,*  
*Stand by Me, California Dreaming,*  
*When We Were Young, and Thousand Years*

and with guest soloists

Tickets priced at £10, including refreshments,  
 are available from [stfrancisboxoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stfrancisboxoffice@gmail.com)  
 or David Wada at  
[stfranciswwtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:stfranciswwtreasurer@gmail.com)  
 or on the door

