

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 2nd Sunday – Worship for All Ages** (non-Eucharistic)
- 10.00 am Last Sunday – Joint Holy Communion**
with St Mary's, held alternately at each church
See calendar for details

TUESDAY

- 8.00 am Morning Prayer at St Mary's**

WEDNESDAY

- 9.30 am Morning Prayer**
10.45 am Holy Communion

THURSDAY

- 9.00 am Morning Prayer**

FRIDAY

- 9.00 am Morning Prayer at St Mary's**

SATURDAY

- 9.00 am - 10.00 am Church open for Quiet and Prayer**

APRIL 2019

Sunday 7 April – Passion Sunday

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

Sunday 14 April – Palm Sunday

- 8.00 am Holy Communion** – Richard Ford
- 10.45 am Parish Communion** – Hazel O'Sullivan
Preacher: Richard Ford

Thursday 18 April – Maundy Thursday

- 7.00 pm Seder Meal & Holy Communion** – Hazel O'Sullivan
Lesley East & Rowena Griffiths

Friday 19 April – Good Friday

- 11.00 am Churches Together in West Wickham Service**
To be advised
- 2.00 pm An Hour at the Cross at St Mary's**

Sunday 21 April – Easter Sunday

- 8.00 am Holy Communion at St Mary's** – Hazel O'Sullivan
- 10.45 am Family Communion** – Hazel O'Sullivan
Preacher: Richard Ford
- 3.30 pm Prayer & Praise at Burrell Mead** – Hazel O'Sullivan

Sunday 28 April – Easter 2 & St George's Day

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

Every Wednesday

- 10.45 am Holy Communion**

MAY 2019

Sunday 5 May – Easter 3

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

Sunday 12 May – Easter 4 & Godparents' Sunday

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

Sunday 19 May – Easter 5

- 8.00 am Holy Communion at **St Mary's** – Richard Ford
10.45 am Family Communion & Baptism – Hazel O'Sullivan
3.30 pm Prayer & Praise at Burrell Mead – Hazel O'Sullivan

Sunday 26 May – Easter 6

- 8.00 am Holy Communion at **St Mary's** – Richard Ford
10.00 am Joint Holy Communion – Richard Ford

Thursday 30 May – Ascension Day

- 7.30 pm Deanery wide Holy Communion at **St Mary's Addington**

Every Wednesday

- 10.45 am Holy Communion

Holy Week & Easter Services

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on 14 April, when there will be services at St Mary's and St Francis' at the usual times. Services during the week will be as follows:

Weds 17 April	10.45am	Holy Communion at St Francis'
Thurs 18 April	7.00 pm	Seder Meal & Holy Communion for Maundy Thursday at St Francis'
Fri 19 April	10.00 am	Act of Witness in West Wickham, starting at St Mark's
	11.00 am	Churches Together in West Wickham service at St Francis'
	2.00 pm	A Devotional Hour at the Cross at St Mary's

The week will finish with our Easter celebrations at the normal times on Sunday 21 April.

The Act of Witness on Good Friday will be a little different this year as we want to engage with the community more on this day. There will be pictures displayed in the High Street during Holy Week, with publicity, so that people become aware of something that's happening.

In the hour before 11.00 am, small groups of those who meet at St Mark's will then walk to three of the locations where a picture has been displayed and will reflect on a part of the Good Friday story. There will also be booklets and hot cross buns to distribute.

In addition to these events, on Maundy Thursday evening West Wickham & Shirley Baptist Church will have the Riding Lights Theatre Company performing *The Narrow Road*, which is a theatre and worship event that follows Jesus' footsteps to the cross and beyond. The event is free: doors open at 7.00 pm and it will start at 7.30 pm.

St George's Day

St George will be remembered as the patron saint for scouting at our special joint service on **Sunday 28 April** in St Mary's Church at 10.00 am. We will be joined by all groups from the 7th West Wickham Scout Troop for this service, so please do make an effort to support it and generate greater community links that were very much in evidence when we joined them for their Quiz Night in early March.

Prayer Cycle

We pray for those who live on:

Boleyn Gardens; Braemar Gardens; Bramley Way; Cavendish Way; Chamberlain Crescent; Chatsworth Lodge, 2 Wickham Court Road; Chessington Way; Christie House, Dixon Place.

In our cycle of prayer for other churches in West Wickham, we pray for the people at Hawes Lane Methodist Church and West Wickham & Shirley Baptist Church.

We also pray that each of the projects that are supported by the Bishop's Lent Appeal will be able to make a difference using the money raised:

- *For the Leprosy Mission in Sri Lanka*, that there will be a change in attitude, so that people are able to receive treatment for this disease earlier;
- *For Urban Mission Training at Carlile College, Nairobi*, where students are trained to take part in Church Army Mission programmes which have a transformational impact on urban communities in poverty;
- *For the Sutton Women's Centre*, where counselling and support is given to women who have experienced domestic abuse;
- *For Christian CARE*, where volunteers befriend families in need throughout the London Borough of Merton;
- *For the Salmon Youth Centre in Bermondsey* which builds long term relationships with young people through regular social interaction;
- *For projects in Zimbabwe* which offer income-generating initiatives for the church.

Pray for unity in our world and our country, which have been shaken by events in Christchurch, New Zealand, by the increase in knife and gun crime on our city streets and by the divisions created by the Brexit process.

Dear Friends

The lengthening days in spring always make me feel better. Currently in mid-March we are gaining an extra three or four minutes of daylight every day and this can be a great boost to human health. Daylight enhances mood and increases energy through the release of endorphins, which trigger a positive feeling in the body, similar to that given by morphine.

Having Easter at this time of year gives a great synchronicity between the calendar year and the liturgical year. Although Lent is sometimes seen as a depressing time, with the focus on penitence, this is an important practice as it shows the contrast when we compare life with sinful behaviours to the life that we're offered when we give them up and turn towards God.

During Lent we are letting God's light shine into our lives. This is partly to shine a light into those dark places, where we might need to be penitent, but it's also a time to turn towards God in new behaviours, whether that be in prayer, in meeting with other Christians or in increased generosity of time and other resources. Letting God's light shine into our lives means that at Easter, the highlight of the church year, we can really proclaim the Good News that Jesus gave us: a deeper personal relationship with God, bringing life in all its fullness.

So, I wonder how much more of God there is in your life at Easter, compared to the beginning of Lent. This year there will be four extra hours of daylight on Easter Sunday, compared to Ash Wednesday. Just imagine, if we had four extra hours of God in our lives each day. This isn't about doing more stuff ourselves, but allowing God to do more through us. Recognising God at work in our attitudes, what we take notice of in the world, how we respond to situations and our interactions with others will all increase the amount of his light that shines in your life.

Have a very Happy Easter

Hazel

London Concert Chorus Event

The London Concert Chorus under the baton of Georg Torman, will perform an evening of popular songs on Saturday 13 April at 7.30 pm in St Francis' Church. Tickets at £10 each, including refreshments, are available from stfrancisboxoffice@gmail.com; from David Wada, or on the door.

Hazel

Men & Women's Event

In May, Kate will be completing the MoonWalk in London, Tim will be walking with family members on the Norfolk Coast Path and I will be walking the South Downs Way from Winchester to Eastbourne. We are going to combine a May men and women's event to provide an opportunity to hear about these three challenges. We will also consider how walking can be a way of meeting with others and with God and discuss how we might use walking as a way of continuing the theme of journeying with others from our Lent Paracletus material. The evening will be on Wednesday 8 May at 8.00 pm in St Francis' Church. Bring a friend.

Hazel

West Wickham Village Day

This event had a break in 2018, but is back in 2019. Put the date – Monday 6 May – in your diary. Churches Together in West Wickham will have a presence in Blakes Park and will be looking for volunteers to help set up, take down and spend an hour being there to talk to people attending.

Hazel

Confirmation at St Mary's

On Sunday 3 February nine candidates from the Croydon Addington Deanery were confirmed by Bishop Jonathan at St Mary of Nazareth Church. This was truly a multi-generational event: the youngest candidate's son of one year old was there and the oldest candidate, Joyce Town, was 98 years older than him!

Joyce is a member of St Francis' and since the service there has been a great deal of publicity around having a 99-year-old confirmation candidate. This has been a great encouragement and confirms that it's never too late to do anything in life.

There were some aspects of the confirmation that were adapted for Joyce: her preparation was more a reflection on her past life and faith journey and her seating arrangements were determined so as to make the walk to the font for her reminder of baptism and to the altar for her confirmation as short and easily accessible as possible.

The whole of this experience has shown how a positive attitude of mind and a bit of flexibility can enable God's revelation to be brought into a situation. Joyce had not considered confirmation before because it was something for younger people and the preparation required would have been too time-consuming. Neither of these factors were seen as barriers when finally she accepted God's call for her to express her faith in this way. The witness that has been given to others about always taking that next step of faith whatever your age, is a powerful message. It has also served to tell others outside church about what's possible when God is involved in your life.

Hazel

News from St Andrews' Church, Gweru

Rev Ronald Chikuyo began his ministry at St Andrews' in July last year and has now settled in well. He has been in touch to tell us that Bishop Ignatius visited his old congregation in late 2018 when he confirmed 21 candidates of mixed age groups. During the whole month of February Ronald has been teaching the parishioners on how tithing money is God's command. The response has been good, so that the church income has increased and this promises to be a stepping stone to enabling them to pay their assessment to the diocese.

Ronald also reports that they will be doing the book of Jeremiah for their Lent study and will be meeting on a daily basis. This is a tough book to tackle, as we are finding out at Morning Prayer at the moment (continuing until Palm Sunday). Maybe we could share some insights with them.

Best wishes have been shared through email: Ronald wishes everyone tender greetings as we enter the period of prayer and fasting in Lent.

Hazel

GOOD FRIDAY FOR CHILDREN

19 April 2019

Activities and worship at St Francis' Church Hall
11.00 am to 12 noon (or until the end
of the service in church)
for children aged 4 –11 years
with crèche corner for under-4s

Parents can attend the service in the church or
are welcome to stay and join in with their children

*Craft activities, puppets
Hot cross buns and cold drinks*

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY COFFEE AND CAKE MORNING

**Saturday 11 May 2019: 10.00 am to 12.00 noon
in the Large Hall.**

Once again, we are having our coffee and cake sale with the usual delicious homemade cakes as well as tea, coffee and biscuits for sale; children's amusements; "Guess the Weight of the Cake" and a raffle.

Everyone is welcome. Meet your friends for a coffee and treat yourself to a homemade cake! Donations of homemade cakes would be most appreciated.

Christine Morton



An Update from Zimbabwe

During February, Hazel and I had the pleasure of meeting the new Bishop of Central Zimbabwe, Bishop Ignatius Makumbe, whom many of you will know was the parish priest for St Andrew's in Gweru, our link parish. He was in this country to attend the annual training for new bishops in the world-wide Anglican Church held in Canterbury. Following this he stayed for a few days with Bishop Jonathan, the Bishop of Croydon.

Whilst here, Bishop Ignatius shared with us the situation in Zimbabwe, which he described, borrowing his image from the Book of Exodus, as a burning bush, adding, "But we are not consumed." He also told us that the mainstream churches in Zimbabwe, which in addition to the Anglicans, includes the Catholics, Methodists and Baptists, have come together to challenge the corruption and incompetence which afflicts the Government. As a consequence the leaders of these churches are putting their lives on the line in following what they see as their Christian duty.

Bishop Ignatius also shared with us what he would like us to focus on when praying for our Christian brothers and sisters in his diocese.

First there is education. There are nine church schools in the diocese, seven of which are primaries in rural areas and all need major renovation to improve the teaching and learning environment. There is one secondary school, St Patrick's, and one urban primary in Kwekwe. These two are the only ones in a fairly reasonable state.

Then there is health, where the focus is on St Patrick's Hospital, currently under construction, with the installation of plumbing underway, including the fitting of septic tanks. A considerable quantity of hospital equipment is now in place, which it is hoped will enable the hospital to open some sections to the public in the first quarter of this year. However, there is still much work to be done on the male, female and maternity wards.

Because of the levels of deprivation in the diocese, it is not possible for tithes and offerings to meet the financial demands on the diocese.

Consequently, the diocese is investing in three major projects, the first of which is to establish a gold processing plant. Land and some of the processing equipment have already been acquired. However, this is a capital intensive project, requiring much support. The second project is the development of a dairy herd at Patrick's Farm. Again this is in need of capital support. Finally, there are plans to construct an upmarket secondary school in the urban area, which will provide quality education and employment, and income for the diocese.

The fourth area for prayer is the church's infrastructure. There is an ongoing programme of roofing rural rectories and churches throughout the diocese, with the aim of creating worthy places of worship and decent accommodation for the clergy and their families.

Bishop Ignatius expressed his gratitude for the funds which the Croydon-Zimbabwe link has already donated and which will go a long way towards meeting these areas of need, but added that there is a need for still more resources to complete the tasks. He hoped that the projects outlined above would inspire people to support the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Appeal (for further information, see the project sheets in church, or on-line at <http://southwark.anglican.org/lentcall/resources>.) As we sometimes hear at our 8 a.m. Communion services: "How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?" (1 John 3. 17) And one would add, inspire us also to pray for our Christian brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe, especially for the protection of the Bishop and other church leaders as they work for justice in that country and for the growth of God's Kingdom here on earth.

Richard

GraveTalk

GraveTalk is a really difficult event to describe. How is it that 13 people, who gathered with some trepidation to talk about life, death and dying, left having experienced a great conversation, with much laughter? It's clearly something that God is involved in and will grow in popularity as more people hear what a worthwhile event it is. Look out for news of the next opportunity to be blessed by taking part.

Hazel

Summary of St Francis' PCC Meeting held on Tuesday 5 February 2019

- Safeguarding - reported that new documentation with updates on safeguarding from the Diocese being circulated and that an awareness session will be run to share the new changes.
- Christmas Services (2018) - agreed that notices for Christmas services in 2019 will be sent out and delivered much earlier as attendances at services were down on previous years.
- APCM - three members of the PCC standing down in 2019 and the PCC agreed to approach members of St Francis' and encourage others to join the PCC. Kate Dyer wished to stand down as Church Warden.
- Finance - approved giving £1200 to Mission equally between Ear Aid Nepal; OMF in Japan and the Anglican Eye Clinic in Ghana.

Nicky Nightingale

ST FRANCIS' ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

Sunday 7 April 2019 at 11.45 am

The APCM for St Francis' Church will take place following the service on Sunday 7 April 2019 at 11.45 am. This is an important meeting in the life of our church, so do please make a note of the date and try to join us.

At this meeting we have to elect Churchwardens and PCC members. Do give some consideration as to whether this is something you could do, or encourage someone else to do. If you are unsure of what is involved please speak to Hazel O'Sullivan, Barry Burford, Kate Dyer, Nicky Nightingale or any PCC member.

Please note that in accordance with Church Representation Rules, a member of the laity must have been entered on the electoral roll of a parish for at least 6 months before qualifying to be elected to the PCC or Deanery Synod.

The Dean of Southwark's Prayer for Zimbabwe

May there be ... no cry of distress in our streets. (Ps 144.15)

Loving God,
strong and merciful,
we hear the cry
of our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe
and we place them into your hands.
May the hungry be fed,
the sorrowful consoled,
the injured healed,
the hopeless encouraged
and the dead have new life in you.
May justice flow like a river
and may your peace rest upon them.
Amen.

Thoughts from a Care Home

I have now spent 18 months in Coloma Court, probably one of the best homes available. Despite one or two visitors and a good family, I still have a feeling of being cut off from life. It is not an easy place to reach, but few people now phone and, of course, many of my friends have died. I used to try and phone people if, after being regular visitors to the Wednesday Communion Service, they missed a week or two. It costs little in time or money and brings great pleasure. A tiny homemade cake or savoury would lift the spirits. The food here is not bad but it lacks variety.

Could anyone make time, even just once a month, for a phone call, a visit two or maybe three times a year? It would make us feel we were still part of the real world again.

The neighbourliness of my childhood seems a thing of the past. Perhaps by revisiting it, the church might live again. I send thoughts and prayers.

*Joyce Taylor, Coloma Court
020 8916 8246*



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK **Door-to-Door Collection 12-18 May 2019**

Christian Aid calls us to challenge and expose the injustice we find. We believe we can create a world where everyone can have fullness of life.

Gifts this Christian Aid Week 2019 will help to build more health clinics in Sierra Leone, provide health training and improve hygiene, so mums and babies can live long and happy lives.

There is 'A Seven-Day Devotional' book for Christian Aid Week 2019 at the back of the Church. Please take a copy.



Anita and John Curtis can be contacted at
41 Pine Avenue, West Wickham, BR4 0LN
Telephone: 020 8777 5973
Email: john.curtis23@ntlworld.com

June/July Magazine

Items for inclusion in the next magazine are needed by Sunday 12 May 2019 please, or contact Margaret Green to make alternative arrangements via:

Tel: 8777 4450 or email: magletitiagreen@hotmail.com



Bishop Jonathan writes . . .

As you read this, we will (probably) be on the verge of the UK's exit from the EU. Whatever you think about this issue, it is clear that that probable fracture has meant that many others have become more obvious – between the nations of the UK and within them, in increased race and hate crime, in uncertainty and anxiety for those many nationals of other EU countries living here, as well as our friends and families who live in other parts of the EU. It has exposed deep differences of view about our country and its nature and its future, with accusations of bad faith and even treachery becoming commonplace.

Whatever may happen next, there is real potential for a further fracturing of relationships. Against that, we must remember that it has been the task of the Church throughout the ages to make peace – a job which in this country we have been able to leave mostly to the State for as long as any of us can remember. Now it is again front and centre in our mission. The Archbishop of Canterbury put it this way in a debate in Parliament: "I hold firm to the belief that we can create a society where mutual flourishing is possible, disagreeing well is central and respect for difference is paramount . . . Reconciliation happens from the top of society down, from the bottom of society up and from the middle of society out. It must include women, youth and minorities. If any group is left out, peace is not sustainable".

Our Zimbabwean brothers and sisters, in far more trying times, are a great example to us of what it means to truly seek God's kingdom and not to live with our minds set on earthly things (Matthew 16:23). The churches in Zimbabwe, working together ecumenically, are a powerful voice in that country, calling for reconciliation between political opponents, for justice and for peace. At a national and at a local level and in our own lives we share that same calling, and the promise of Jesus, "Blessed are the peacemakers".

We go out as peacemakers not because we have everything right, but because we have a peace which passes human understanding. Within the church we have our own disagreements and conflicts, at every

level. Our witness to the peace of God is not a pretence that we have everything sorted in our own lives or our communities, but a testimony to the God who is always leading us away from hatred and violence into peace and love. We're not there yet, but that is our goal, and we invite others into that journey.

+Jonathan Croydon

LUNCHTIME MUSIC AT ST FRANCIS' CHURCH SUMMER 2019

This year our season of free summertime lunch recitals held at St Francis' Church extends from May unto September.

As usual, each recital will take place on a Thursday between 12.45 pm and 1.30 pm on the following dates:

23 May: William Fu, piano

20 June: Peter-Joe Bennett, guitar
Saki Matsumoto, piano

25 July: The Galyas Brothers (violin and piano)

15 August: Peter De Croos, organ

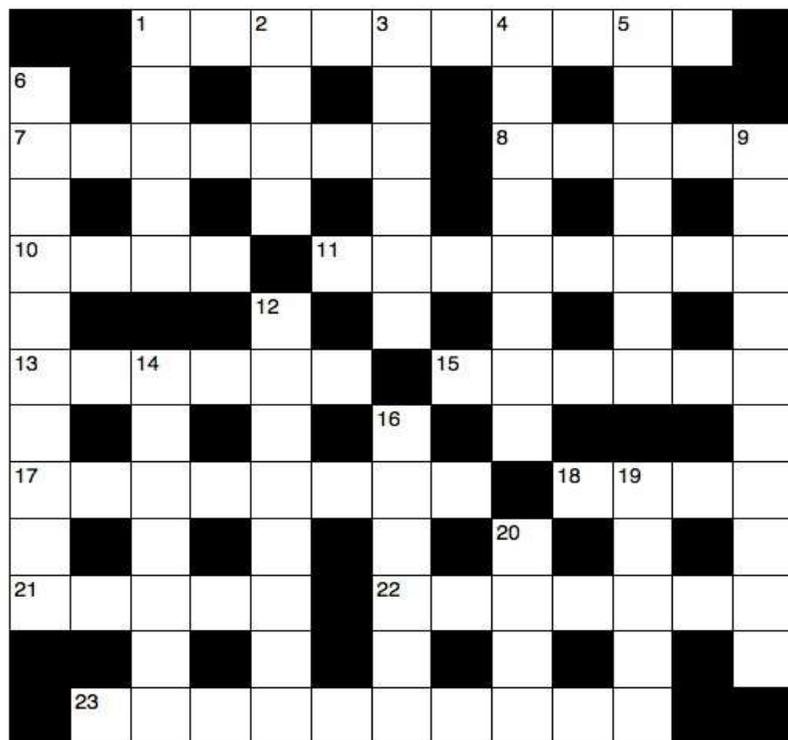
29 August: The Sundridge Trio

26 September: Students from Langley Park Boys' School

All are welcome
Please bring your own lunch
Free tea and coffee will be available



Bible Crossword for April/May



Clues

Across

- 1 'You are a chosen people, a royal — ' (1 Peter 2:9) (10)
 7 Exact copy (Joshua 22:28) (7)
 8 Jesus' first words to Jairus' daughter, 'My child, — — ' (Luke 8:54) (3,2)
 10 Idol made by the Israelites while Moses was on Mount Sinai (Exodus 32:4) (4)
 11 Role allotted to Joseph in Egypt (Genesis 42:6) (8)
 13 'Lord, when did we — — hungry and feed you?' (Matthew 25:37) (3,3)
 15 'Though seeing, they do — —; though hearing, they do not hear or understand' (Matthew 13:13) (3,3)
 17 Happening (1 Kings 21:1) (8)

- 18 'Whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the — of Christ' (Philippians 3:7) (4)
 21 National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (1,1,1,1,1)
 22 Stamp on (Amos 2:7) (7)
 23 Liable to rot (1 Corinthians 15:42) (10)

Down

- 1 Of the Pope (5)
 2 'The earth is the Lord's, and everything — — ' (Psalm 24:1) (2,2)
 3 Hebrew word for the kind of peace that Jesus promised (6)
 4 Member of a 16th-century Protestant reform movement in France (8)
 5 Sing out (anag) (7)
 6 Ceremonial column of people on the move (1 Samuel 10:5) (10)
 9 One of the things love always does (1 Corinthians 13:7) (10)
 12 Esther's cousin who foiled a plot to assassinate King Xerxes (Esther 2:7, 22) (8)
 14 See cape (anag) (7)
 16 'No one can — them out of my hand' (John 10:28) (6)
 19 Often mistakenly identified as the fruit that led to the first sin (Joel 1:12) (5)
 20 'He was led like a — to the slaughter' (Isaiah 53:7) (4)

Answers for February/March Crossword

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

Subscription for the Parish Magazine in 2019

During 2019 there will be six editions of the magazine, each covering two calendar months, costing 50p each. It helps us if you are able to subscribe for the year, at a cost of £3.00 (or £6.50 for a postal subscription). Please complete the form below and return it with a cheque or cash to your magazine distributor or Nicky Nightingale or David Wada (Church Treasurer).

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2019

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*I enclose £3.00 as my subscription to the magazine for 2019

*I enclose £6.50 for a postal subscription.

* Please delete as applicable

(Cheques made payable to St Francis' Church, West Wickham)



THE BROMLEY BOY SINGERS

(Musical Director: Travis Baker)

Present

“CARPE DIEM” . . . This is Our Time!

Hosted by our local Rotary Club at

St Francis' Church

on Saturday 18 May 2019

At 7.45 pm

Programme Includes:

Elgar – *From The Greek Anthology* (excerpts)

Davis – *The Last Train to Tomorrow* (excerpts)

Archer – *In War, Resolution*

Chilcott – *This Day* (excerpts)

Lauridsen – *Sure On This Shining Night*

. . . . and much more!

For further details about The Bromley Boy Singers and their latest events, visit: www.bromleyboysingers.weebly.com

and

Instagram: [bbs_vistra](#) **Twitter:** [BBS_VISTRA](#)

Youtube: [bbs_vistra](#)

