

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 Family 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**

JUNE 2019

Sunday 2 June – Easter 7

- 8.00 am Holy Communion at St Mary's** – Richard Ford
9.15 am Collation & Induction Joint Service,
starting with Morning Prayer at **St Mary's**
with a procession to St Francis' for
Communion at 10.15 am – Bishop Jonathan

Sunday 9 June – Pentecost

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

Sunday 16 June – Trinity Sunday & Fathers' Day

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

Sunday 23 June – 1st Sunday after Trinity

- 8.00 am Holy Communion** – Richard Ford
10.45 am Parish Communion – Richard Ford

Sunday 30 June – 2nd Sunday after Trinity

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

Every Wednesday

- 10.45 am Holy Communion**

JULY 2019

Sunday 7 July – 3rd Sunday after Trinity

- 8.00 am Holy Communion at **St Mary's** – Richard Ford
10.45 am Parish Communion – Richard Ford
Preacher: Brian Griffiths
3.00 pm Healing Service
Hazel O'Sullivan & Rowena Griffiths

Sunday 14 July – 4th Sunday after Trinity

- 8.00 pm Holy Communion – Richard Ford
10.45 am Worship for All Ages – Brian Griffiths
Preacher: Ken Bryan

Saturday 20 July

- 7.00 pm West Wickham Choir Concert at St Mary's

Sunday 21 July – 5th Sunday after Trinity

- 8.00 am Holy Communion at **St Mary's** – Hazel O'Sullivan
10.45 am Family Communion – Hazel O'Sullivan
3.00 pm West Wickham Choir Concert

Saturday 27 July

- Afternoon Tea at St Francis

Sunday 28 July – 6th Sunday after Trinity

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

Every Wednesday

- 10.45 am Holy Communion

Dear Friends

As I'm writing this letter, the sun is shining outside, the clouds are high in the sky, and the temperature is on the up. Maybe the false start to the Spring in February really is behind us, and we can begin looking forward to what the weather forecasters love to call a "barbeque summer."

Ah, but that is to forget about 15 July – St Swithun's Day! According to tradition, if it rains on St Swithun's Day, then it will rain for the next forty days, just in time to catch the end of the academic year and wipe out the school holidays!

So who was this Swithun and why does he have such an adverse effect on the weather? Facts are hard to find, but there is plenty of legend surrounding him.

What we do know is that he was born in Winchester around 800, became counsellor to the Saxon kings Egbert and Ethelwulf, and was Bishop of Winchester for the last 10 years of his life. When he died in 863, he was buried in front of the west door of the Saxon Old Minster, and here he rested for over a hundred years. And that would probably have been that, if a later Bishop of Winchester, Aethelwold, hadn't decided to set up a new community of Benedictine monks at Old Minster around 964. Furthermore, he decided they needed a new, purpose-made patron saint, so Swithun's bones were dug up and repositioned inside the building in a precious reliquary, given by King Edgar.

And that apparently is when the trouble started, for according to one source, before he died Swithun asked to be buried out of doors 'where the feet of ordinary men could pass over him'. So when, on his feast day on 15 July 971, he was moved inside Old Minster and a terrible storm broke out, which it is claimed lasted for 40 days and nights, it was thought that this was a punishment for moving the old bishop's bones against his will, a punishment, which according to legend stretched out into the future.

Other legends associated with Swithun, however, focus on his generosity, compassion and kindness. For example, he is said to have

built the first stone bridge over the River Itchen that runs through Winchester. But probably his most famous deed was a simple act of human kindness to a poor woman. When crossing this bridge, she was jostled by some young rogues and dropped her basket of eggs. The saint took pity on her – and made her broken eggs whole once more.

Legendary miracle it may be, but the quality of compassion is one that should be characteristic of all Christians. And that I think is the value of saints, they embody qualities that all Christians should seek to emulate: such as obedience to God's will, as demonstrated by St Mary, the mother of Jesus; loyalty to Jesus' teaching, as demonstrated by St Telemachus, the little monk whose martyrdom, when trying to act as peacemaker, is said to have ended the Coliseum Games; or sharing the good news of what God has done for us in Jesus, like St Luke, the writer of both a gospel and the Book of Acts, and, indeed, all the gospel writers.

You can't now visit St Swithun's shrine, because it was destroyed on 21 September 1538, under cover of darkness at 3 o'clock in the morning, by Henry VIII's commissioners who smashed it apart, and stole all the valuables, so nothing remains of his once great shrine today, but you can see a modern memorial that marks the spot where it stood. And you can certainly seek to copy the qualities for which he and others have been sainted.

The sun's still shining outside, so maybe we are in for a barbeque summer!

God bless,

Richard

Induction And Collation Service - Sunday 2 June **Request For Donations Of Cakes**

For Hazel's Induction and Collation Service on Sunday 2 June, there will be refreshments being served in the North Aisle following the service. To help plan for this, we would be grateful for donations of cakes – large or small – to be provided and brought along to church in the morning ahead of the service. If you are able to help in this way please can you sign the sheet at the back of the church.

Nicky Nightingale

Prayer Cycle

We pray for those who live in:

Duncan House, The Alders; Gable Lodge, Beckenham Road; The Glade; Glebe Way; Grosvenor Road; The Grove; Hardcourts Close; Hawes Lane; Hawkhurst Way; High Broom Crescent; High Street; Highbury Close; Highfield Drive; Kent Road.

In our cycle of prayer for other churches in West Wickham, we pray for Emmanuel Church where the minister, Rev Bill Bowman, has just retired. We pray for him and his wife, Marion, as they begin their new life of retirement. We pray also for the church elders and members as they begin their search for a new minister.

Following our focus on Paracletis (coming alongside others in their time of need), we pray that we might be able to do just that in our personal relationships with others and also as a church through our Place of Welcome on a Friday morning. Pray that our plans to extend this to a place where those without access to the Internet can gain help in making necessary connections in a safe environment.

Pray for the situation in Yemen where the implementation of a ceasefire agreement seems to have been brought to a halt by air strikes. Pray that the complex web of relationships between nation states and rebel forces in the Middle East will not lead to wider instability and conflict.

With recent calls for changes in government policy to meet the climate change emergency, we pray that nature's wellbeing will be seen as a national priority and all people will be encouraged to make small changes to their lifestyle in order that global disaster can be averted.

Parish Records

We pray for the families of children recently baptised at St Francis':

- Jada Neves-Pereria, baptised on 16 March
- Dolores (Lola) Girling, baptised on 19 May

Give thanks for those couples who have had Banns of Marriage read at St Francis':

- James Arnold and Kate McNamara, married on 18 May at St Mary's, Rye
- Jack Thirkell and Laura Gray, married on 25 May at St Mary's, Speldhurst
- Peter Little and Michelle Chin, who will be married on 1 June at St John's, West Wickham
- Paul Teague and Ariane-Elaine Franke, who will be married on 29 June at St Mary Magdalene, Addiscombe

We remember with thanks the lives of those from our congregation who have recently died:

- Muriel Castor, who died on 30 March
- Margaret Walsh, who died on 2 May

Healing Service

We have a Healing Service on Sunday 7 July at 3pm at St Francis' Church. An opportunity for a quiet, time with God to reflect and pray about any area of life that feels uncomfortable at the moment, whether that be health, grief, relationships, financial or any other kind of difficulty.

Hazel

Parade Services

Our next joint parade service will be on Sunday 30 June at St Francis' Church, with the theme 'Celebrating Achievement'. The service will start at 10.00 am and afterwards there will be a badge award ceremony and a BBQ, which will offer the opportunity to make stronger links with parents, leaders, children and young people who are involved in the scout troop. Please do make this a priority for your diary

Hazel

Burrell Mead Garden Party

All are welcome at the annual Burrell Mead Garden Party on Saturday 20 July at 2.30 pm.

Hazel

Welcare

There is a Service of Thanksgiving for the 125th Anniversary of Welcare at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 15 June, starting at 11.00 am. If you would like to travel with others from the benefice, please let me know and we can share the details with you.

Hazel

Prayer Ministry at St Francis

In 1 Thessalonians (5:17). St Paul advises us to pray without ceasing, Prayer is vital in both good times and bad, as it is our way of communicating with God. Many people appreciate the support of prayer from others when they are sick or in a difficult situation. At St Francis' this support is offered in a number of ways.

Prayer Requests from the Intercession Book

Personal prayer requests are read out as part of the intercessions at Holy Communion services at St Francis' (except services held jointly with St Mary's). Names remain on this list for 4 weeks if there is no update on the individual, but this time can be extended. Some individuals may also request prayer support from the Prayer Support Chain.

Guidelines for using the Intercession Book are at the front of the book, or ask any member of the Ministry Team or the Church Wardens.

Prayer Support Chain

Members of the Prayer Support Chain will pray in private for those who have requested such support. Requests usually come to Lesley East,

who then passes the message on to other members of the group with information kept confidentially. It helps to have some background to the situation, but this is not necessary and the request may come direct or can be made on behalf of someone else. Prayer Support is offered for as long as is needed. This is a confidential ministry even if the person's name is in the Intercession Book as well.

Prayer After a Service

Members of the Ministry Team (whose details are on the notice sheet) are always available to pray with someone after a service.

Healing Services

At the end of the service, members of the congregation are offered further prayer, giving an opportunity to talk in greater depth before receiving further ministry.

Saturday Morning Quiet Hour

The Church is usually open between 9.00 am and 10.00 am. This provides a quiet space for anyone who wishes to pray, meditate or just to use the space for a time of quiet.

Pastoral Care at Home

The Pastoral Care Team are available to visit anyone at home or in hospital and to pray with them. Home Communion is also available and Hazel or Richard can give anointing with oil for those who are sick and housebound. Rowena Griffiths acts as a coordinator for this group.

Lesley East





Bishop Richard writes...

All of the month of May falls in the Easter season this year. We reflect on the extraordinary experience of the first disciples after the Resurrection of Christ at Easter and their profound desire not only to understand the meaning of the Resurrection, but also to share this good news around the world. At the heart of the Christian faith is the belief that the unending, self-giving, sacrificial love of God is at the heart of all that is, and has the capacity to bring new life and hope to every situation no matter how dire or serious it may seem. During Holy Week and Easter, and every time we celebrate the Eucharist we seek to enter into the mystery of faith, that "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again". We do so in the belief that this love of God can truly shape and transform how we see everything.

There are many things going on in our world that can make us fearful, anxious, and defensive in our approach to life. These can range from global issues such as climate change, through national issues such as the conflicted conversations over Brexit, to more individual matters of health, well-being, close relationships, and our general sense of purpose and direction in life. It is also easy to become fearful in the Church, both over our divisions and over concerns for the future of the Christian faith in a complex plural world in which many people seem to have little time for religion of any sort. Putting our faith and trust in the power of God's love made known in the story of Jesus' life, death and resurrection is not a mindless, simplistic whistling in the dark, but rather (to use the words of Professor Keith Ward), "faith is a sort of insight into the nature of reality which does not increase our ordinary factual knowledge, but sets all our knowledge and experience in a new perspective... in the light of eternity". Or, as Bishop John Austin Baker once said, "faith is seeing things as they really are, for the first time." Or, as the French monk who ministered in India in the mid 20th century

and was known as Abishiktananda, said, "faith is to recognise and accept that we are face-to-face with our God, to realise the presence of that fundamental love, which makes us to be."

This resurrection faith brings hope and new light to every situation. Nothing is lost, no matter how dire the situation might seem from a human point of view. God's love is always at work to bring new life and hope. The Church is called to put our faith in the life-giving love of God. And to be a community which seeks to live and share the love in our world. At the very end of May is Ascension Day, which can often be overlooked in the Christian calendar. But it speaks to us of the triumph in the end of God's way of love – of the Reign of God. From Ascension Day to Pentecost, the Church of England and many other churches will be engaging a time of prayer entitled "Thy kingdom come" in which we pray particularly for people to become truly aware of God's love in Christ and to respond to it personally, and let it shape their lives.

So as we journey on in all "the changes and chances of this fleeting life", let us pray that this Easter season we may all be renewed with the Resurrection hope, and may be empowered to share it by the way we live in every aspect of life.

†Richard Kingston

Summer

*Sparkling sunshine in a clear blue sky
Unpack a picnic hamper
Make a sandcastle or a sticky mud pie
Mini beasts scurry and scamper
Everyone's enjoying this warm sunny day
Relax, have fun, it's summer, hooray!*

Sara Fox



LUNCHTIME MUSIC AT ST FRANCIS' CHURCH SUMMER 2019

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

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



Walk Along The Thames Path

Following from the May joint meeting of the Men's and Women's Groups where we considered how walking together can be a good way of meeting with others and enriching our fellowship, there will be a walk along the Thames Path from London Bridge to Canary Wharf on Saturday 8 June. This walk is 3½ miles long and should take around 2 hours. We shall meet at West Wickham Station to catch the 11.15 am train to London Bridge. During our easy-paced stroll, we will discover the history of the London Docks and walk through the old warehouses in Wapping which, although now converted into apartments, still bear marks of their former industrial past. We'll see super yachts in St Katherine's Marina and colourful canal boats in Limehouse Basin; historic pubs in Wapping and Limehouse, including The Prospect of Whitby (London's oldest riverside pub), The Grapes (owned by the actor Sir Ian McKellen) and The Narrow (owned by celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay); and the memorial to the residents of the East End killed in the Blitz of World War 2.

When we reach our destination at Canary Wharf, we'll see St Peter's – London's Floating Church – which was the inspiration to start the Churches Together Work Club, Reuter's Plaza (where we can buy a coffee from the 'Change Please' coffee stall) and the really informative Museum of London Docklands, where the old docklands has been recreated in an exhibit called 'Sailor Town'. There are many places to eat and drink (and shop 'till you drop'!) at Canary Wharf. We have a choice of return journeys – by Docklands Light Railway, Jubilee Line Underground, or Thames Clipper Riverboat service.

Do come along and enjoy fellowship and exercise together. For more details contact me by email: brian.griff19@btinternet.com or phone 020 8777 6112.

Brian Griffiths

Growing In Faith And Life

This very popular course is more commonly referred to as 'The Bishop's Certificate' and has been organised by The Diocese of Southwark for a number of years. It runs from September to June, and covers six modules:

Following: about the New Testament

Remembering: about the Old Testament

Exploring: about how we have become the Church of England

Believing: about what Christians believe

Challenging: about ethics, mission, and issues facing Christians today

Responding: about prayer, worship and our spirituality.

There are two routes through the course. The first is to go to the sessions, join in the discussions and enjoy learning. At the end of the year, you will receive a scroll from the Bishop in recognition that you completed the course. The second route involves undertaking an assignment at the end of each module. You can submit a formal piece of writing, or a more creative and personal reflection. At the end of the year, you will be presented with the Bishop's Certificate. Some people undertake this route through the Bishop's Certificate as the first step to becoming a SPA (the course is now compulsory for SPAs in training), a Reader or as an exploration of ordination. Scrolls and certificates are presented at a very joyful choral evensong in Southwark Cathedral in September each year.

In 2019/2020 the course will be taught at two locations: Trinity House near London Bridge, offers two choices: (Tuesday evenings from 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm or two Saturdays a month from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm); and also at Emmanuel Church, South Croydon, (Thursday evenings from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm). The evening options consist of five sessions per module (six for the first module) and the all-day option involves two days a month (three for the first module).

The course is extremely popular – this year over 50 students enrolled, so early booking is recommended to start this coming September. All participants have found the course extremely valuable. Here's a quote from one of this year's students given in feedback to the Diocese: *"I've said it so many times – but I absolutely love the course. It is giving me the courage to talk more openly about my faith – finally using my own words! I thought I knew the Bible, but I have found such a new perspective. I've been telling everyone at church that they need to do it."* As a Reader, I have taught the 'Challenging' module for the last two years and will be teaching this on the Saturday option at Trinity House next year. For more details you can contact the Diocese by email at:

bishopscertificate@southwark.anglican.org

or by telephone on 020 7939 9475 or speak to Brian Griffiths who will be pleased to explain about what you'll learn and how the course is taught.

Brian Griffiths

Reflections Around A Barbecue On The Beach With Jesus **(Based On John 21)**

After the resurrection and His followers meeting Jesus in the Upper Room, the disciples went back to something familiar – they went back to work in Galilee. Fishing was what they knew. That's how they earned their living before Jesus came into their lives. This was their bread and butter. That night they drew a blank – not a single fish. In the early dawn light they see a man on the shore who tells them to cast their nets on the other side of the boat. When they did this they had a massive catch of fish.

They must have thought that this was *déjà vu*, because they had been in exactly the same position about three years earlier. Luke records an almost identical situation in chapter 5 of his gospel. In both John and Luke, when they do as Jesus says, they end up with an abundance of fish – a huge catch. Now Jesus recreates the scene almost exactly. This time, John records that when they reach the beach there was a charcoal fire – a barbecue – where Jesus was cooking up a breakfast of fish and bread. Over breakfast they knew that this was their Lord and Master – the Risen Christ. Maybe it was the way He gave them the fish and the bread – whatever it was, the disciples on that Galilee beach had no doubt whatsoever that they were with Jesus.

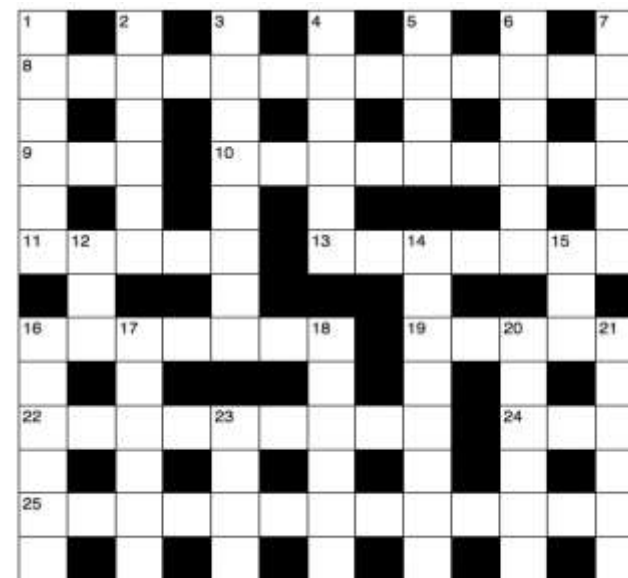
Remarkably, Jesus recreates another scene immediately the meal was finished. There was that charcoal fire on the beach. Remember the events of the night when Jesus was betrayed and Peter followed Him as far as the courtyard of the High Priest's house? What was in that courtyard? A charcoal fire that Peter and the servants were warming their hands over. It was around that fire that, when Peter was challenged, he denied three times that he ever knew Jesus. Now around another charcoal fire, Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves Him. This is the most poignant image – the way in which the three times denial of Christ by Peter is cancelled out by the three times challenge that leaves Peter reenergised and in no doubt of his future direction.

This is an encounter which is all about renewal and recovery of faith. When faith ebbs it helps to return in our minds and memories to those places and times when we were fired up with enthusiasm and purpose. That's what Jesus is doing to Peter here on the beach. Peter was sorry in his heart – his heart was broken around that charcoal fire in the High Priest's courtyard. Here on the beach around another charcoal fire, Jesus mended his broken heart – Jesus restored him – Jesus remade him. There's such an abundance of grace and forgiveness here. Such hope for all of us who fail Jesus, who let Him down in the way we act and in what we say. Jesus never gives up on us. He's always alongside us with an abundance of grace and forgiveness. As He says to Peter, He says to you and I, no matter how imperfect we are – 'Follow me'.

Extract from sermon preached at St Francis, Easter 3, 2019

Brian Griffiths

Crossword Puzzle for June/July



Clues

Across

- 8 Laban complained he had not been allowed to kiss them when Jacob fled with his family (Genesis 31:28) (13)
- 9 In favour of (3)
- 10 'The child's father and mother — at what was said about him' (Luke 2:33) (9)
- 11 Swagger (Psalm 12:8) (5)
- 13 'Terrors — him on every side and dog his every step' (Job 18:11) (7)
- 16 Bay bits (anag) (7)
- 19 Preach, address an audience, speak in public (5)
- 22 Holy Communion (9)
- 24 'On their way to — out the land, Joshua instructed them, "Go and make a survey of the land"' (Joshua 18:8) (3)
- 25 Joseph advised Pharaoh to appoint these to administer his grain storage plan (Genesis 41:34) (13)

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN DAY OF SPIRITUALITY 'TO BE A PILGRIM'

On **Saturday 19 October 2019** from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

Keynote Speakers – Dr Meg Warner, an OT Scholar & Author
And Bishop Christopher, Bishop of Southwark.

The day will include Worship, Prayer Stations, Workshops,
Market Stalls & Refreshments

Cost: £8 in advance or £10 on the door

More information re booking and workshop choices via
Eventbrite at: https://to_be_a_pilgrim.eventbrite.co.uk
Please contact Rowena for more information and to let us know
if you are interested in joining us or need help with booking.
rowena.griff19@btinternet.com or ☎ 87777 6112



Down

- 1 'Assyria's pride will be brought down and — sceptre will pass away' (Zechariah 10:11) (6)
- 2 'And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in — with God and men' (Luke 2:52) (6)
- 3 The descendants of Esau (Genesis 36:9) (8)
- 4 The components of the crown that Jesus was made to wear before his crucifixion (John 19:2) (6)
- 5 Colour of cloth which was to cover holy objects in the tabernacle when moving camp (Numbers 4:6–12) (4)
- 6 One of the gold articles plundered from the Midianites offered to the Lord by the Israelite army 'to make atonement' (Numbers 31:50) (6)
- 7 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set — —' (Jeremiah 31:29) (2,4)
- 12 Ate (anag) (3)
- 14 'We ourselves . . . groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our — as sons' (Romans 8:23) (8)
- 15 Abram's nephew (Genesis 14:12) (3)
- 16 Rupture (Job 30:14) (6)
- 17 'Yet to all who received him... he gave the right to — children of God' (John 1:12) (6)
- 18 'I . . . asked him the true meaning of all — . — he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things' (Daniel 7:16) (4,2)
- 20 Military units (Exodus 14:20) (6)
- 21 'Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to — her to public disgrace' (Matthew 1:19) (6)
- 23 Diva (anag) (4)

August/September Magazine

Items for inclusion in the next magazine are needed by Sunday 14 July 2019 please, or contact Margaret Green to make alternative arrangements via:

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

Solutions to April/May Crossword

