

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**

AUGUST 2019

Sunday 4 August – 7th Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 11 August – 8th Sunday after Trinity

- 8.00 am Holy Communion** – Hilary Fife
10.45 am Holy Communion – Hilary Fife

Sunday 18 August – 9th Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 25 August – 10th Sunday after Trinity

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

Every Wednesday

- 10.45 am Holy Communion**

SEPTEMBER 2019

Sunday 1 September – 11th Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion at **St Mary's** – Hazel O'Sullivan
10.45 am Holy Communion – Hazel O'Sullivan

Sunday 8 September – 12th Sunday after Trinity Celebrating Grandparents

8.00 pm Holy Communion – Richard Ford
10.45 am Worship for All Ages – Hazel O'Sullivan
Preacher: Ken Bryan

Sunday 15 September – 13th Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion at **St Mary's** – Richard Ford
10.45 am Holy Communion – Richard Ford
Leader: Brian Griffiths

Sunday 22 September – 14th Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion – Hilary Fife
10.45 am Holy Communion – Hazel O'Sullivan
Preacher: Brian Griffiths
6.30 pm CTWW Service for The Turning

Sunday 29 September – 15th Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion – Richard Ford
10.00 am Joint Service at **St Mary's** – Richard Ford
Preacher: Jon Ward

Every Wednesday

10.45 am Holy Communion

Dear Friends

My annual retreat this year was spent walking the South Downs Way: 100 miles from Winchester to Eastbourne. Although I was unsure at the start whether to call this a pilgrimage, it became very clear that God had intended it to be so, with the end of the journey being on Sunday 2nd June when I was collated and inducted as vicar at St Francis and St Mary's churches, including a walking procession between the two churches.

The summary of what I gained from the journey shows how God was present in affirming my call to prayer and the care of souls in these two churches:

- Firstly I gained a real sense of peace, which reminded me of the prayer of St Francis, beginning:
Lord, make me a channel of your peace.
- Secondly, I increased my trust in God, which reminded me of the conversation between the Angel Gabriel and Mary when she committed herself to God:
'... nothing is impossible with God.' Then Mary said 'Here I am, the servant of the Lord ...'
(Luke 1:37-38)

And since I completed my pilgrimage I have continued to take much more time out to find that peace in God's presence and to trust in God, so that it's no longer all down to me. Instead I am looking out for those times when I see God at work and join in with him, because, in this way, so much more can be achieved. I documented my journey in an on-line blog:

<https://isitapilgrimage.blogspot.com>

as well as in a photo-book which has been available in the churches recently. If you would like to borrow the book, please let me know and I will ensure that you have an opportunity to do so.

Hazel

Prayer Cycle

We pray for those who live in:

Knox-Johnson House, High Street; Linden Leas; Links Road; Manor Court, Manor Road; Manor Park Close; Manor Park Lane; Manor Road, Martin's Close, Hawes Lane; The Mead; Monkton House, The Alders; North Road; Oak Grove; Oak Lodge Drive; Oaklands Avenue.

In our cycle of prayer for other churches in West Wickham, we pray for Coney Hall Baptist Church: the minister, Rev. Ian Hamlin and all the church family there.

As a new Prime Minister for this country is chosen, a new government is put in place and decisions about future relationships with our neighbours in Europe are taken, we pray for our leaders: that they will lead wisely, listen attentively, exercise grace and that they will know peace in their deliberations. Heal any divisions that have been created over the past three years through the Brexit process and bring comfort to troubled spirits whose futures are uncertain. Bring peace to conflicted hearts whose loyalties are torn. Bring wisdom to confused minds whose decisions are momentous. Teach all of us grace and generosity in this time of discourtesy and guide us in how to enjoy the liberating work of Jesus without the need to see God's vengeance worked on others.

We pray for all those who are affected by the violence of knife and gun crime. Bring comfort and compassion to families living in fear of tragic news or mourning the loss of their young. Give protection and a safe way forward to young people drawn to the lure of gang culture or struggling to escape its hold. Ensure success for church and community initiatives, which provide hope and practical help to all those affected.

As many as three million children face the risk of food insecurity this summer. This is termed 'holiday hunger' and results from the entitlement to free school meals not continuing into the school holidays. Pray for families affected by this issue, that they can access some provision from the voluntary sector during the long summer holiday and that children in these families do not return to school in a worse educational, health and developmental state than at the start of the holidays.

The Turning

From 21- 29 September this is a London-wide mission event in which Bromley is a key borough. We are part of a 'hub' that includes most of the churches in West Wickham and Hayes. The week will kick off with a Central London launch event for a full day on Saturday 21 September, then a local service here in West Wickham on Sunday evening (22 September). It will end with a Central Bromley event on Sunday 29 September. During the week there will be a gathering for prayer and worship each evening and then an opportunity to go out onto the streets locally, to share our faith, each day. We will also be looking for people to pray while all this is going on and, importantly, to meet one-to-one with those who have expressed an interest in follow-up afterwards. More information will follow, including details of some preparation and training gatherings, but this is something we'd love everyone to be a part of, so do start praying and note the dates!

Hazel

Refreshing Church

This is a conference for lay people in the Croydon Area. It is happening on Saturday 14 September from 10.00 am until 4.00 pm at St Bede's School in Redhill. Paula Gooder (a great author and speaker) and Bishop Christopher will both give addresses. There are also many different workshops to explore how God can renew the way we live as Christians – in our church life as well as individually. It would be great to have a group from St Francis' & St Mary's go together and then share what we have learned at an event following the conference. Please book your ticket on-line at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/refreshing-church-tickets-56110341542>, sign the sheet in church to indicate which workshops you have booked and arrange transport with others who are also going.

Hazel

Sainsbury's Volunteers

You may have noticed from the in-store sign that members of staff at the Sainsbury's Station Road branch are volunteering 150 days with Churches Together in West Wickham. This is an initiative associated

with Sainsbury's marking 150 years of trading and we were chosen by the staff as their organisation to support in this way. They are assisting us with our development of a Place of Welcome at St Francis' Church on a Friday morning, to include help with Internet access and improving our publicity, and they are volunteering at the monthly lunches at St Mary's Church on a Wednesday. There will be other projects that they get involved with over the next three or four months and it should help us to improve our community links in West Wickham.

Hazel

**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:

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



**Letter From ActionAid Kenya Where Our
Saturday Coffee Morning Money Goes**

Dear Supporter

Jambo! My name is Loice and I am 31 years old. I live with my husband and four children in Marafa, a coastal village in Kenya. With the help of Cosmas from ActionAid, I would like to share with you how your support of *The Next Step* is helping us women change the future of our community.

Women and girls in Kenya do not enjoy the same rights as men and I grew up believing that only men were allowed to be leaders in my community. Before I left school to be married, I was elected as a prefect and I enjoyed my leadership position, but I felt that I would never be a leader again as it just wasn't what women did.

ActionAid ran a series of workshops in my village on women in leadership. During one of the workshops I learned that women do vie for political seats and even win them! In a recent election out of 35 wards, two were won by women. Hearing this news was such an inspiration and it got me thinking about my own leadership potential and I realised that I had something within me that would be useful to my community.

During the workshops we learned about the power of working together as a group. I founded a savings and loan group and I have been elected as the auditor for the group too. There are 25 members, 21 of them women, and we meet twice a month with each member contributing to the savings scheme. The members can apply for funds from the savings group to pay for school fees and materials or to buy livestock. I personally have used a loan to increase the number of goats and chickens that I own to improve my income.

I have also been elected to be the chairperson of a newly-formed women's farmers group. ActionAid has supported 24 women by providing us with seeds and securing farm land. We meet twice a week to work on the farm where we have planted maize and paw paw, which will provide us with crops all year round. We plan to sell our produce at

the local market to build our savings that we can reinvest into different seeds.

I am now an advocate of female leadership and I'm helping other women realise their own potential too. I am happy to tell you that I have influenced my husband and he has joined an ActionAid-supported farmers' group where he's learning to grow drought-resistant crops.

Thanks to your support, I am today a happy female leader in my community. My family's income has improved and with access to the savings group, I have joined the village polytechnic where I'm studying tailoring. I am very thankful to ActionAid for coming to my community and helping to empower us women. My life is so much better now.

Thank you and best wishes,

Loice

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

FUN AND GAMES AFTERNOON

on

Wednesday 21 August : 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm

at

Sparrows Den (Corkscrew Hill entrance)

No unaccompanied children under 6 years.

If you wish to leave older children please ensure that they are registered with one of the helpers who will be wearing CTWW badges

The event will not take place if it rains.

*Barbara Plummer
(8289 3846)*



Bishop Jonathan writes

I have just got back from an exhausting and wonderful week's holiday in New York. While there, we took a boat trip which included a close-up view of the Statue of Liberty and of Ellis Island, for many years the entry point for immigrants to the United States. Unlike those of so many, our journeys were safe and uneventful, with only the briefest of checks at passport control.

It is Refugee Week as I write, and the contrast could not be starker between the ease with which I can travel, as a white, middle-class British citizen, and the barriers which are placed in the way of others. For some it is knowing that your skin colour, or passport, or place of birth, mean that you are always more likely to be stopped and interrogated; for others it is the still worse situation of being prevented from crossing borders at all – unable to leave oppressive regimes or theatres of war, or stuck as asylum seekers confronted with fences, yes, but even worse, the hostility and fear of the country in which you are seeking refuge.

The Churches' Refugee Network, which I chair, exists in order to bring together representatives of the churches and Christian charities in giving expression to a part of the calling of all Christians. Caring about, and caring for asylum seekers is not a specialist interest for those who like that sort of thing. It has at its heart the recognition of the face of Jesus Christ in those who are most oppressed, ignored and dehumanised in the world's eyes. Whether or not an individual's claim for refugee status is justified in law, they are a child of God and God demands of us that we treat them with respect and dignity.

Nations across the world are putting up barriers. President Trump's wall is famous but the UK has its own, a network of forbidding barriers at Calais. In Ireland, communities are praying that barriers will not reappear between Northern Ireland and the Republic, with the potential for renewed conflict that they might bring. But politicians, famously,

respond to what will bring them votes. If there were no barriers of fear in our own hearts, the cry of “keep them out!” would not win votes. “Perfect love casts out fear”: let us pray for the gift of Christ’s love in ourselves, in our communities and between the nations.

✠ Jonathan Croydon



Prayer Ministry at St Francis’ Church

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



**ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI
PRAYER SUPPORT CHAIN**

HAZEL
O'SULLIVAN

LESLEY
EAST
8289 1483

ROWENA
GRIFFITHS
8777 6112

JOAN
GROOMBRIDGE
8777 0206

CHRIS
PARISH
8777 6845

MARGHARET
MARSH
8462 6906

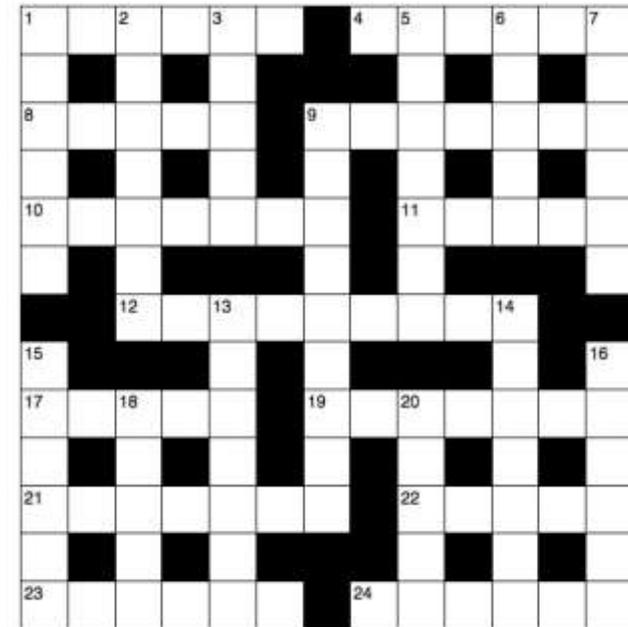
SARAH
COVERDALE
8777 0130

PHIL
FREEMAN
8289 3029



WOULD YOU LIKE PRAYER SUPPORT? IF SO, PLEASE
CONTACT LESLEY AND SHE WILL PASS THE MESSAGE ON

Bible Crossword for August/September



Clues

Across

- 1 'The people were — at his teaching' (Mark 1:22) (6)
- 4 'He saved —; let him save himself' (Luke 23:35) (6)
- 8 He addressed the crowd in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:14) (5)
- 9 Father of James and John (Matthew 4:21) (7)
- 10 One who charges another with an offence (Job 31:35) (7)
- 11 ' — thy ministers with righteousness' (Book of Common Prayer) (5)
- 12 and 15 Down 'All — is God-breathed and is — for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness' (2 Timothy 3:16) (9,6)
- 17 'No — of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up' (Genesis 2:5) (5)
- 19 Made to feel embarrassed (Isaiah 24:23) (7)

- 21 This man built his house on sand (Matthew 7:26) (7)
 22 David's hypocritical message to Joab on the death in battle of Uriah: 'Don't let this — you' (2 Samuel 11:25) (5)
 23 Detest (Job 10:1) (6)
 24 'God made two great lights, the greater light to govern the day and the — light to govern the night' (Genesis 1:16) (6)

Down

- 1 To make a serious request (1 Corinthians 1:10) (6)
 2 Launches an assault against (Genesis 32:8) (7)
 3 'The wicked man — deceptive wages' (Proverbs 11:18) (5)
 5 Tuba ale (anag.) (7)
 6 'The day thou gavest, Lord, is — ' (5)
 7 Old Testament measure of weight, equivalent to about 12 grammes (Exodus 30:13) (6)
 9 Where Elijah restored life to the son of a widow with whom he lodged (1 Kings 17:10) (9)
 13 Paul said of whatever was to his profit, 'I consider them — , that I may gain Christ and be found in him' (Philippians 3:8) (7)
 14 City visited by Paul, described by the city clerk as 'the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis' (Acts 19:35) (7)
 15 See 12 Across
 16 Rioted (anag.) (6)
 18 She had a surprise when she answered the door and found 8 Across outside (Acts 12:13) (5)
 20 Maltreat (1 Chronicles 10:4) (5)

October/November Magazine

Items for inclusion in the next magazine are needed by Sunday 8 September please, or contact Margaret Green to make alternative arrangements via:

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

Solutions to June/July Crossword



**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 ☎ 8777 6112