

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**

OCTOBER 2019

Sunday 6 October – Gift Day for St Francis' Church

- 8.00 am Holy Communion at St Mary's** – Hazel O'Sullivan
Preacher: Ken Bryan
- 10.45 am Holy Communion** – Hazel O'Sullivan
Preacher: Brian Griffiths
- 3.00 pm Pet Service** – Lesley East
Preacher: Hazel O'Sullivan

Saturday 12 October

Harvest Supper at **St Mary's**

Sunday 13 October – Harvest Celebrations

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

Saturday 19 October

Diocesan Prayer & Spirituality Day at Southwark Cathedral

Sunday 20 October – 18th 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 27 October – 19th Sunday after Trinity

- 8.00 am Holy Communion** – Richard Ford
- 10.00 am Joint Service** – Hazel O'Sullivan

Every Wednesday

- 10.45 am Holy Communion**

NOVEMBER 2019

Sunday 3 November – All Saints’ Day

- 8.00 am Holy Communion at **St Mary’s** – Hazel O’Sullivan
Preacher: Ken Bryan
- 10.45 am Holy Communion – Hazel O’Sullivan
Preacher: Ken Bryan
- 3.00 pm Memorial Service at **St Mary’s** – Richard Ford
Preacher: Hazel O’Sullivan

Sunday 10 November - Remembrance Sunday

- 8.00 am Holy Communion – Hazel O’Sullivan
- 10.45 am Worship for All Ages – Richard Ford
Preacher: Brian Griffiths

Sunday 17 November -22nd Sunday after Trinity

- 8.00 am Holy Communion at **St Mary’s** – Richard Ford
- 10.45 am Holy Communion – Richard Ford

Sunday 24 November – Christ the King

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

Saturday 30 November

Christmas Market at St Mary’s

Every Wednesday

10.45 am Holy Communion

Parish Prayer Cycle for October & November

We pray for those who live in

Park Avenue, Phoenix Close, Hawes Lane, Pine Avenue, Pond Cottage Lane, Posting House, High Street, The Railway Pub, Red Lodge Road, Ravenswood Avenue, Ravenswood Crescent, Red Lodge, Red Lodge Road, Riverside Walk, The Alders, Rose Walk, St David’s Close, Sherwood Court, High Street.

In our cycle of prayer for other churches in West Wickham, we pray for St Mark’s Roman Catholic Church: the Minister, Father Ray, and all the church family there.

We also pray for:

- All those with mental health issues that they feel they cannot discuss with others. Pray that they may find a safe place where they are able to open up and share their experiences with others and gain support in their life.
- Leaders in this country and in the European Union, that they might be able to find a way through the Brexit negotiations that improves life for all. In this country, pray that those with different views on this matter can be reconciled around a common concern for our nation.
- Those who have undertaken research, written reports and campaigned peacefully for action on climate change, raising awareness of the crisis that we are now facing. Pray that discussions at the UN Climate Action Summit will result in countries taking concrete action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In respect of all these issues, pray that God would stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess and revive in us new hope that creation will one day be healed.



Parish Register

We remember with thanks the life of Peggy Taylor, who died on 26 August.

Dear Friends

I wonder how many of you have had that experience of going upstairs to fetch something and on reaching the top, finding that you have forgotten what it was that you went for. Only when you go down again, are you able to remember what it was that you wanted. Being back where you first thought of the thing that you wanted acts as a kind of cue or trigger for the memory.

And memory is an important part of our identity. If we don't know where we've come from we don't really know who we are, something that is clearly demonstrated by the desire that many adopted children have to trace their natural parents. And the importance of memory to identity is as true of nations as it is of individuals.

Early in the book that bears his name, the Old Testament hero, Joshua, is told by God that after the Israelites have crossed the river Jordan, dry-foot, into the Promised Land, they are to erect twelve stones taken from the middle of the river in the place where they camp that first night in their new country. The reason for this, Joshua tells the people, is that they are to be a memorial to the people of Israel for ever, marking the place where the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord and helping them remember what God had done for them.

November is the month for remembering, beginning with the memorial services around All Souls' Day, when, as individuals, we have the opportunity to remember before God those who have had, perhaps, the most formative influence on our lives and whose presence we miss the most.

Then comes the national act of remembering those who have died in the service of our country, especially in the two great wars that have had such a defining influence on the character of the British. The importance of Remembrance Sunday is well made by George Santayana who, in his book "Reason in Common Sense," said, "Those who cannot remember the past, are condemned to repeat it," later paraphrased by Winston Churchill as, "Those who fail to learn from history are condemned to repeat it." Remembrance Sunday has many lessons to teach us!

However, for Christians the greatest act of remembrance is the one that is enacted Sunday by Sunday during Holy Communion, when we follow Jesus' request at the Last Supper to "do this in remembrance of me," and, in receiving the bread and the wine that represent his body and his life blood offered up on the cross, recognise just what was the cost to Jesus of our salvation.

God bless
Richard



Sing To Me Autumn

Sing to me, Autumn, with the rustle of your leaves.
Breathe on me your spicy scents that flow within your breeze.

Dance with me, Autumn, your waltz that bends the boughs of trees.
Now tell me all the secrets you've whispered to the seas.

Sleep with me, Autumn, beneath your starlit skies.
Let your yellow harvest moon shimmer in our eyes.

Kiss me, Autumn, with your enchanting spellbound ways
That changes all you touch into crimson golden days.

Love me, Autumn, and behold this love so true
That I'll be waiting faithfully each year to be with you.

Patricia L Cisco

December/January Magazine

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

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

Harvest Thanksgiving

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service will be held on **Sunday 13 October at 10.45 am**. We will be collecting donations of non-perishable foods for the Croydon Refugee Day Centre, who provide food for asylum seekers moving to new homes each week and for Croydon Nightwatch, who provide food and toiletries to homeless people. Please come along and give thanks for our daily bread and bring some food for those who have less.



Gift Day

This year our Gift Day is on **Sunday 6 October**. We are currently planning a Festival of the Arts for July 2020 and there will be some costs associated with installations and publicity that need to be met up front. This year 50% of the money that we raise on Gift Day will go towards these costs. The other 50% will be donated to the two charities that we will be raising money for through the Festival, namely MIND and Bethlem Hospital.

Hazel

Pet Service

St Francis' annual pet service will be held on **Sunday 6 October at 3.00 pm**. Please let all your family, friends and neighbours know about this opportunity to bring beloved animals to the church for a prayer of blessing.

Hazel



In Loving Memory

Our annual service to remember those who have died will be on **Sunday 3 November at 3.00 pm** in St Mary's Church. This is an opportunity for those who have faced bereavement to come and remember with thankfulness the lives of those that they have loved and lost.

If you would like the names of loved ones read out at this service, please complete the relevant sheet that will be in the church a few weeks beforehand. Also, do let others know who you feel might find this service helpful and offer to come along with them to provide support.

Hazel

Women's Event

We have had a number of therapists come and explain how their therapy works and some have offered an opportunity to try it out. But is all this emphasis on wellness creating too much pressure on women to live the perfect life? Come and hear a podcast on the wellness industry and discuss your own experiences with others. The event will be on **Tuesday 22 October at 8.00 pm** in St Francis' Church. Refreshments will be available. Bring a friend.

Hazel

Place of Welcome

The Place of Welcome on a Friday morning at St Francis' has been in operation for two years now. As well as providing the opportunity to chat with others and build community, we are now also offering help with searching the Internet or other things that are easier on line, but which you might find difficulty with. We will be having a special event to promote the Place of Welcome on **Friday 11 October**, when there will be lunch and a piano recital after the normal 10.00 am-12 noon slot.

Hazel

Children's Society Boxes

It is time, once again, to open The Children's Society Boxes, and I would be grateful, therefore, if they could be brought into Church or, if more convenient, I can arrange for them to be opened in your home. With many thanks, Christine Morton (Tel 8777 9213).



St Francis' Ramblings

At the May joint meeting of the Men's & Women's Group, we considered how walking together can be a good way of meeting with others and enriching our fellowship. So a group of nine people (and two very well behaved dogs!) walked 3½ miles along the Thames Path from London Bridge to Canary Wharf. This was very enjoyable (especially lunch at The Captain Kidd Pub) and we decided to organise another ramble.

So, on Saturday 7 September another group of nine people walked into 'Green Croydon'. The route took us from St Francis' Church along the 'London Loop' through Spring Park and Shirley Heath to Addington Hills and Heathfield Gardens. We paused for a packed lunch here, where we gathered around convenient seats and a bistro table next to the colourful herbaceous border. After a vote on whether we should take the long or short route (walkers voted heavily in favour of the shorter option!) we followed the 'Vanguard Way' along Ballards Way and Conduit Lane, finishing the walk at the beautiful Coombe Wood Gardens and Cafe.

The next walk is planned for **Saturday 23 November** where we will tackle 'The Three Commons Walk'. This is one of Bromley Council's Circular Walks, starting and finishing at the Greyhound Pub on Keston Common. The walk takes in Hayes, West Wickham and Keston Commons and is about 5 miles long. Why not join us for fun, health and fellowship? For more details, contact Brian Griffiths by email: brian.griff19@btinternet.com or phone 8777 6112.

The Curtain Falls On The Work Club

Sadly, the Churches Together in West Wickham Work Club has ceased operating on Mondays in West Wickham Library. Since the launch in May 2013, the volunteer coaches provided over 150 clients with advice on CV development and revision; assisted with job searching and helped clients prepare for interviews. The vast majority of these job seekers were signposted to the club from the Bromley Job Centre Plus. However, in the last year, the footfall at the Job Centre has fallen dramatically. So, the employment advisers at the Centre are offering the same services as the Work Club coaches. Consequently, the number of clients visiting the Work Club in the Library since last January has dwindled to a trickle. The decision has therefore been taken to cease operating. If there is an increase in unemployment again, we may well resurrect the club as the expertise is too valuable to lose.

The club was launched six years ago, very much on a wing and a prayer as we had no idea of the extent of unemployment in West Wickham. The club has been blessed with several dedicated volunteer coaches who have shown gifts of empathy, computer skills and, often, the patience of Job! Thank you to all of them, for without the coaches, the club would not have been the success that it was. Thanks also are due to Churches Together in West Wickham, who supported the club by prayer and also with finance. The email account for the club is still open and monitored, so if anyone needs advice they can email ctwwworkclub@gmail.com and their query will be answered.

Brian Griffiths



Bishop Richard writes

So many issues in life focus around our sense of identity, meaning. There is growing awareness of the huge and damaging impact of human activity on both our climate and biodiversity across planet Earth. The effects of this are becoming more and more obvious in our own country and dramatically more so in other parts of the world. There have been some encouraging responses to this, such as the Paris agreement in 2015 and the recent UK government commitment to be carbon neutral by 2050. There are many arguments about the best approaches to achieve effective action. Some are very supportive of the approach of Extinction Rebellion whilst others see it as a step too far. Some argue that we should divest immediately from fossil fuels, others that we should stay invested in the large energy companies and influence policy from within. In the UK at the moment this also takes place in the midst of our political chaos in dealing with the issue of Brexit with all the underlying questions about the identity, values and direction of our country in the 21st-century. The pressing issues around Brexit, important as they are, can mean that even bigger challenges which face us can fade into the background.

We are in urgent need of the values which help us navigate these complex policy and lifestyle issues in a way that leads genuinely to the common good of all God's creation. For Christians our response to this is not simply a moral one, but it springs out of our whole understanding of how we see our place in the universe – our relatedness to God, the world, each other, and all of God's creation. It is central to the primary themes of the Gospel – creation, redemption, salvation, and the resurrection order. As such, it needs to be properly expressed in worship, which both expresses our Christian faith and shapes

our hearts and minds and the way we live. And it needs to be lived out in our daily lives and actions. Looking at the central elements of the Gospel through the lens of the environment and all God's creation can deepen and enlarge our understanding of the good news of God's love in Christ.

In church life there have been some important developments such as the establishment of a Church of England national environment working group, on which I and others from our Diocese sit, and the crucial Eco-Church and Eco-Diocese programme run by A Rocha. Liturgically some very good material has been produced especially for the Creationtide season, which runs from 1 September - 4 October, embracing themes from Franciscan spirituality and the harvest festival season. This is a good start, but it needs to go far deeper.

In our own Diocese there have been many excellent initiatives (supported by our Diocesan Environment Officer and Working Group, and by the Board of Education) in both parishes and schools with a growing number signing up to the Eco-Church process. If parishes are not already signed up Creationtide is a good time to ask why not? Importantly, the Diocesan Synod at its meeting in July has supported unanimously the move to registering as an Eco-Diocese. This excellent initiative provides a strong and deeply Christian framework for engaging with all the challenges that the environment crisis raises. In the next few crucial years it will help us to think through at every level of our institutional life what our Christian response should be. As with the Eco-Church framework this will mean reflecting on our deep theology of creation and salvation, expressing this in our worship and prayer, and living it out in our daily actions. I hope and pray we will all engage with this process as fully as we can.

✠ Richard Kingston

The Big Christmas Sing

Saturday 7 December at 4.00 pm
at St Francis of Assisi Church
Favourite Carols and Readings

Why not join the Choir for
this event in aid of Christian Aid?
Or just come on the day with your
friends and neighbours

Rehearsals for All Singers
Thursdays 28 November and
5 December at 7.45 pm
at the Church



David Wada, Events Co-ordinator

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

St Mary's Christmas Market

Saturday 30 November 2019

10.00 am – 2.30 pm

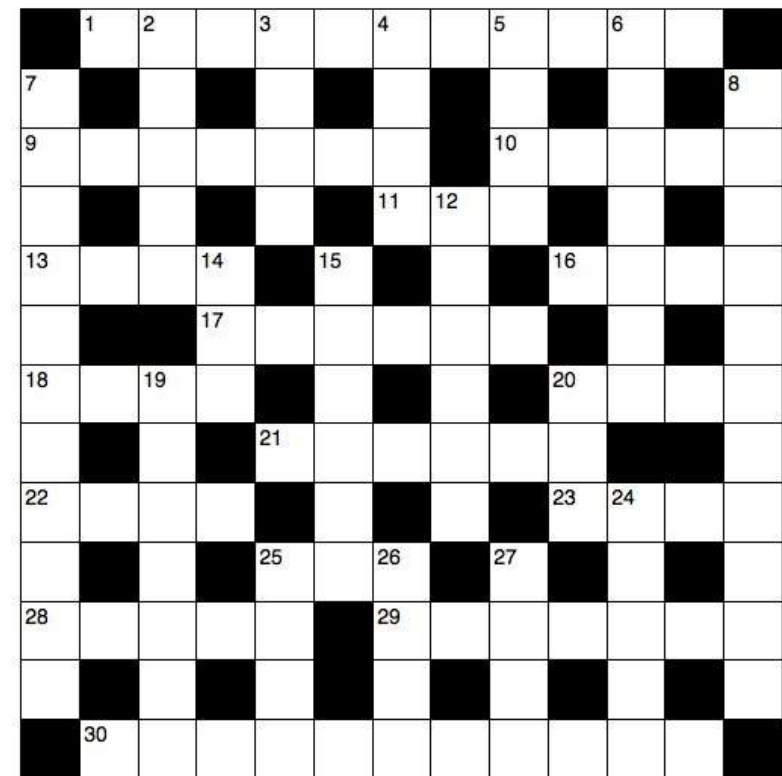
Adults: 50p Children: Free
Bring your friends!

Refreshments
Homemade Cakes & Preserves
Toys – Hampers
Christmas Stall – Chocolate Tombola
Books and much, much more



St Mary's Church Hall
The Avenue, West Wickham
BR4 0DX

Bible Crossword for October/November



Clues

Across

- 1 The sixth disciple (Matthew 10:3) (11)
- 9 'And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the — — '
(Matthew 6:13) (4,3)
- 10 Love intensely (Song of Songs 1:4) (5)
- 11 From Mt Carmel to Jezreel, Elijah — all the way (1 Kings 18:46) (3)
- 13 One of the Midianite leaders who was captured and killed after
Gideon's victory in the valley near Moreh (Judges 7:25) (4)
- 16 Metallic element (4)
- 17 At line (anag) (6)
- 18 'Cursed is everyone who is — on a tree' (Galatians 3:13) (4)
- 20 Where Samson killed a thousand Philistines with a donkey's
jawbone (Judges 15:14) (4)

- 21 He succeeded Moses (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
 22 'When he saw him, he took — on him' (Luke 10:33) (4)
 23 'For — is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction'
 (Matthew 7:13) (4)
 25 'The god of this — has blinded the minds of unbelievers'
 (2 Corinthians 4:4) (3)
 28 Fear or terror (Psalm 31:22) (5)
 29 'We, who are many, are one body, for we all — of the one loaf'
 (1 Corinthians 10:17) (7)
 30 Assyrian ruler assassinated by his sons while worshipping his god
 Nisroch (2 Kings 19:37) (11)

Down

- 2 'For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made — '
 (1 Corinthians 15:22) (5)
 3 'After supper he — the cup' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (4)
 4 The request of a man of Macedonia in Paul's vision: 'Come — to
 Macedonia and help us' (Acts 16:9) (4)
 5 He disobeyed his father Judah by refusing to impregnate his dead
 brother's wife (Genesis 38:9) (4)
 6 I veto me (anag) (7)
 7 Fourth king of Judah (1 Kings 15:24) (11)
 8 Priest of God Most High, who blessed Abram (Genesis 14:18) (11)
 12 'I have made you — — for the Gentiles' (Acts 13:47) (1,5)
 14 Implore (1 Samuel 15:25) (3)
 15 'Out of the eater, something to eat; out of the — , something sweet'
 (Judges 14:14) (6)
 19 'I am the most ignorant of men; I do — — a man's understanding'
 (Proverbs 30:2) (3,4)
 20 'Sin shall not be your master, because you are not under — , but
 under grace' (Romans 6:14) (3)
 24 Native of, say, Baghdad (5)
 25 The last word in the Bible (Revelation 22:21) (4)
 26 Heroic tale (4)
 27 'Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you — '
 (John 8:32) (4)

Solutions to August/September Crossword

A	M	A	Z	E	D		O	T	H	E	R	S	
P		T		A			A		N		H		
P	E	T	E	R		Z	E	B	E	D	E	E	
E		A		N		A		L	E		K		
A	C	C	U	S	E	R		E	N	D	U	E	
L		K				E		A			L		
		S	C	R	I	P	T	U	R	E			
U			U			H			P		E		
S	H	R	U	B		A	B	A	S	H	E	D	
E		H		B		T		B		E		I	
F	O	O	L	I	S	H		U	P	S	E	T	
U		D		S				S		U		O	
L	O	A	T	H	E			L	E	S	S	E	R

Stop Press! Two Events For Our Joint Benefice

On **Monday 18 November at 8.00 pm** at St Mary's, Peter Graystone, Lay Training Officer for Southwark Diocese, will speak on 'Sharing Faith with Families and Friends'. This is a challenging topic, but a fertile field for making new disciples. Peter delivered this session at the recent Croydon Area Lay Training Day in Redhill. He is an inspiring and engaging leader. This meeting is open to everyone.

On **Thursday 21 November at 7.30 pm** we are holding a Climate Reality presentation at St Francis'. This is as part of a world-wide Climate Reality Day when we can learn more about the issue of climate change and its effects on our God-given planet. This meeting will also be open to all.

Brian Griffiths



**SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN
DAY OF SPIRITUALITY**

'TO BE A PILGRIM'

On Saturday 19 October 2019
from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm at
Southwark Cathedral

Keynote Speakers – Dr Meg Warner,
an OT Scholar & Author
and

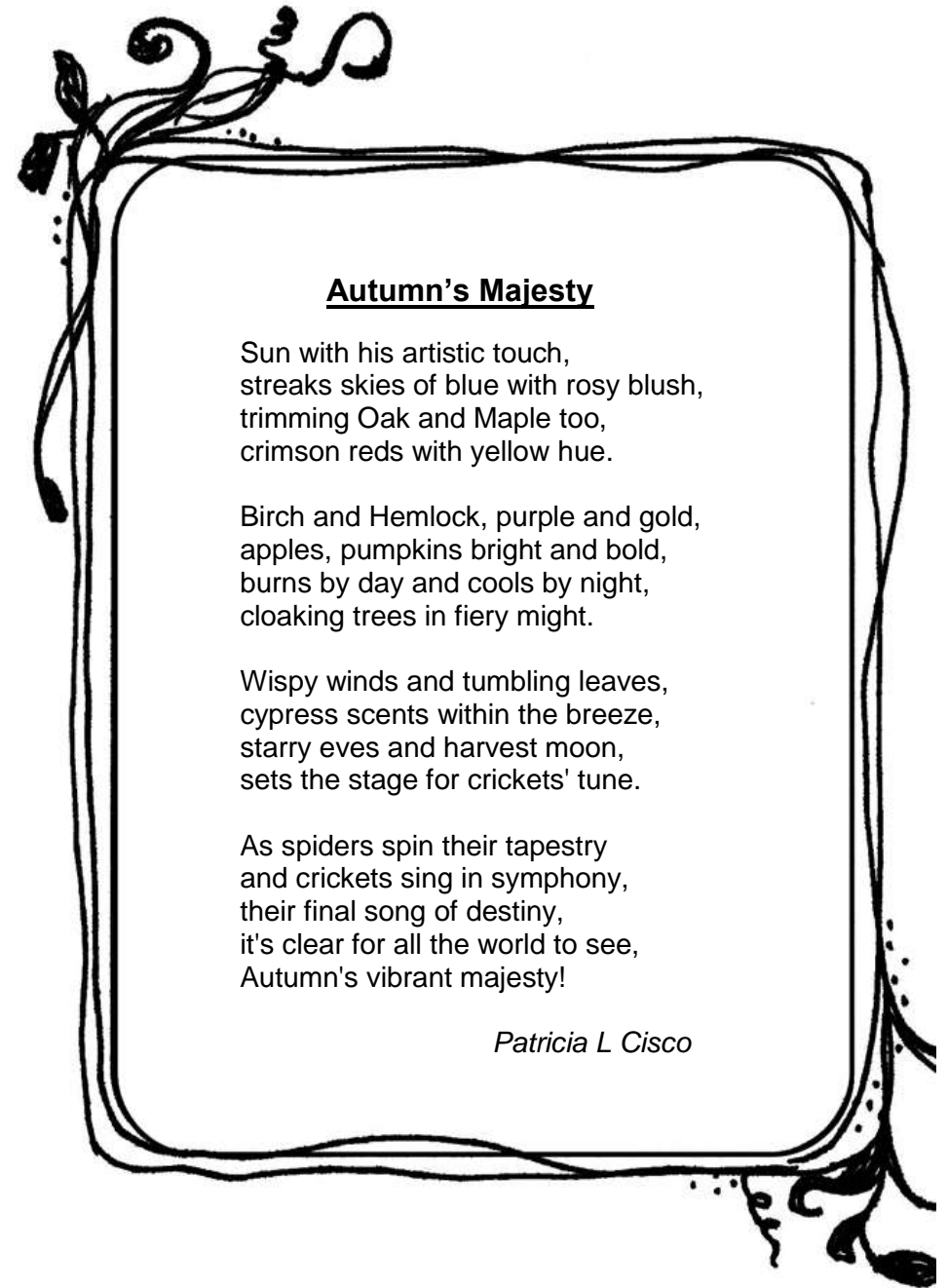
Bishop Christopher, Bishop of Southwark.

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



Autumn's Majesty

Sun with his artistic touch,
streaks skies of blue with rosy blush,
trimming Oak and Maple too,
crimson reds with yellow hue.

Birch and Hemlock, purple and gold,
apples, pumpkins bright and bold,
burns by day and cools by night,
cloaking trees in fiery might.

Wispy winds and tumbling leaves,
cypress scents within the breeze,
starry eyes and harvest moon,
sets the stage for crickets' tune.

As spiders spin their tapestry
and crickets sing in symphony,
their final song of destiny,
it's clear for all the world to see,
Autumn's vibrant majesty!

Patricia L Cisco