

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

WEDNESDAY

- 9.30 am Morning Prayer**
10.45 am Holy Communion

THURSDAY

- 9.00 am Morning Prayer**

SATURDAY

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

FEBRUARY 2020

Sunday 2 February – Candlemas or Presentation of Christ

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

Sunday 9 February – 3rd Sunday before Lent

- 8.00 am Holy Communion – Hazel O'Sullivan
10.45 am Worship for All Ages (Songs of Praise) – Hazel O'Sullivan
Preacher: Brian Griffiths

Sunday 16 February – 2nd Sunday before Lent

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

Sunday 23 February – Sunday before Lent

- 8.00 am Holy Communion at **St Mary's** – Hazel O'Sullivan
10.00 am Joint Service – Richard Ford
Preaching: Richard Ford with Liz & Mike Jeggo

Wednesday 26 February – Ash Wednesday

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

Every Wednesday

- 10.45 am Holy Communion

MARCH 2020

Sunday 1 March – Lent 1

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

Sunday 8 March – Lent 2

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

Sunday 15 March – Lent 3

8.00 am Holy Communion at **St Mary's** – Richard Ford
10.45 am Family Communion – Richard Ford

Sunday 22 March – Lent 4 & Mothering Sunday

8.00 am Holy Communion – Hilary Fife
10.45 am Worship for All Ages – Hazel O'Sullivan

Sunday 29 March – Lent 5 & Passion Sunday

8.00 am Holy Communion – Richard Ford
10.00 am Joint Service at **St Mary's** – Hazel O'Sullivan
with Passion Reading

Every Wednesday

10.45 am Holy Communion

Prayer Cycle

We pray for those who live on:

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

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

Pray for The Venerable Christopher Skilton, retiring as the Archdeacon of Croydon and for The Revd Canon Rosemarie Mallett who will be taking his place. Pray also for Area Dean, The Revd Jenny Rowley, who is leaving the Diocese to be the Archdeacon of Portsmouth in the Diocese of Portsmouth.

We pray for all those who are homeless, whether that be out on the street in the cold, or who are staying with friends or family or in temporary accommodation, but who have no permanent place to keep possessions that remind them who they are. May those of us with warm houses and comfortable beds not be lulled into complacency and forgetfulness, but empower us to work for justice and peace through words and deeds.

The earth that God created is miraculous and beautiful but human lifestyle choices are damaging the sustainability of life. Pray against confusion and inaction in confronting the challenges of climate change. Pray for world leaders to find new, just and radical agreements that will protect our fragile world for future generations.

Parish Records

Give thanks for the wedding of Howard Derham and Michelle Teare on Saturday 28 December at St Francis' Church.

We remember with thanks the life of Joan Groombridge, who died on 7 January 2020.

Dear Friends

As I sit down to write this, we have only just celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany, otherwise known as the Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles, a festival that celebrates the fact that although Jesus was born a Jew and although it is the Jewish scriptures that look forward to the coming of a Messiah, it was God's plan from the beginning that Jesus was to be the world's Messiah, a point emphasised at the end of Matthew's Gospel, with Jesus' instruction to his disciples that they are to make disciples of all nations, and the reason why you are reading this today, when a third of the world is already Christian and the numbers in places like Korea and China are growing daily.

Christmas and Epiphany occur, in the words of Christina Rossetti's carol, in the bleak midwinter, but soon it will be spring, the Old English word for which is 'lent,' a word which has become the name which we give to the time in the Church's year when traditionally we undertake a period of self-examination and reflection in preparation for the greatest festival in the Church's year, Easter.

Again, traditionally, it has become the custom to 'give something up for Lent,' more often than not something which is not good for our health. Good as this might be, it isn't really what Lent is all about. Rather, Lent is about spiritual discipline, about doing something that will help our spiritual growth, such as spending more time in prayer or reading the Bible or joining a home group. Or doing all three by participating in one of our groups following the Lent course.

This year's Lent course is based on the 2008 BBC serialisation of 'The Passion,' which was broadcast during that year's Holy Week. Opening with the Jesus and his disciples on their way to celebrate Passover, it dramatises the events of that momentous week in world history, culminating in the Resurrection, with a cast including Joseph Mawle, James Nesbitt and Penelope Wilton.

Using the film, the whole of which we will see as part of the course, we shall look at the significance of the events of Holy Week, including the part played by Judas, and the reality of what our salvation cost Jesus.

Then on Passion Sunday, March 29th, at the joint service, we shall be having a dramatised reading of the Passion, which will complement admirably what we shall be doing on the Lent course. So do think seriously and prayerfully about giving up around two hours a week for the six weeks that lead up to Easter. And you can also give up chocolate if you really think that's necessary!

God bless,

Richard Ford

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

**SPRING HALF-TERM EVENT
"A CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION"**

on **TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY**
from 12 noon to 2.30 pm
for children under 8 and their carers.
Children MUST be accompanied

VENUE: Hawes Lane Methodist Church,
Hawes Lane West Wickham.

Lunch will be served after the first
Activity/Story session (approx 12.45 pm/1 pm)

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

DONATIONS towards costs would be appreciated.

Contact: Barbara Plummer (020 8289 3846)
E mail: krandbp@ntlworld.com

Lent Quiet Day

Following a very meaningful Advent Quiet Day at St Francis' in December, the next in the series will be for Lent at St John's in Layhams Road on Saturday 7 March from 10.30 am to 3.30 pm – do drop in at any time. This is an opportunity to reflect on the significance of Lent as a time to draw closer to God. It's often difficult to do this on your own and worship on a Sunday might not provide the right environment for this, so do come and find some other resources to help you.

Please note this date is recently changed from that included in the Calendar of Events.

Hazel

Lent Groups

As Richard has set out in his letter, our Home Groups will be looking at the significance of the events of Holy Week during Lent. If you would like to join one of these groups for Lent, please contact one of the leaders before Sunday 23 February:

Time of Meeting	Contact Details
Monday evening	Richard – 020 8289 2432
Tuesday afternoon	Rowena – 020 8777 6112
Wednesday evening	Nicky – 020 8916 9855
Thursday morning	Debbie – 020 8777 7834
Friday morning	Ken – 020 8777 1850
Friday lunchtime	Hazel – 020 8777 5034

Hazel

Ash Wednesday

We start Lent on Wednesday 26 February. Two communion services (with ashing available at both) will be held:

- 10.45 am at St Francis' Church, Ravenswood Avenue;
- 8.00 pm at St Mary's Church, The Avenue.

Hazel

Women's Event: Food & Nutrition

As a follow up to our meal out in January we are having an evening with Nutrition & Wellness as our theme. Come along and hear more from Victoria who is a Nutritional Therapist & Health Coach, and is passionate about helping people take control of their health and fertility in small achievable steps. The event will be held at St Mary's in the Youth Hall on Wednesday 11 March at 8.00 pm. Refreshments will be served – do bring a friend.

Hazel

World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer is an opportunity to come together with others to consider some of the challenges that women and girls face in different parts of the world. Finding out about another country through prayer is a great way to travel and meet people without needing to leave West Wickham. Our ecumenical service this year is on Friday 6 March at 10.30 am at St Mark's Catholic Church. All are welcome.

Hazel

Deanery Synod Elections 2020

At our annual meetings this year we will be electing new representatives for the Croydon Addington Deanery Synod. Deanery Synod is a group of representatives from local churches who work together, supporting each other and sharing resources. It can be very insightful to see how other churches are laid out, to experience different forms of worship and to hear what other churches and the central diocesan team are doing. If you are interested in being part of this group, please do speak to Hazel or the current representatives (Lesley East, Helen Freeman and Barbara Goodchild).

Hazel



Festival of Arts



Well-being through the Arts

2-12 JULY 2020 - ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH, WEST WICKHAM

St Francis of Assisi Church, in the heart of the community at West Wickham, is pleased to announce that we will be hosting a 'Festival of Arts' from 2 to 12 July 2020. This exciting and inclusive Festival will have something for all the family. The Festival starts with drama from The Matchbox Theatre, with an amazing production of *Amadeus* with choir and orchestra. Other events include music, exhibitions, workshops, demonstrations, afternoon tea and open church throughout the week. The Festival ends with an evening of music with the London Concert Chorus on Saturday evening and a special 'Healing' Service on Sunday.

We are supporting two great charities: Bethlem Gallery at The Bethlem & Maudsley Hospital and MIND, with monies raised throughout the week to be shared between both these charities.

We are looking to bring all aspects of the West Wickham Community together throughout the week with everyone welcome and we hope that many will spend time reflecting on Art as a medium for Healing. We

are also pleased to have our friends at the Rotary Club of West Wickham working with us on this worthy project.

Planned activities:

- 2-4 July: The Matchbox Theatre Company will be performing 'Amadeus'
- 5 July: Songs of Praise
- 6-12 July: Exhibitions including Art from Bethlem Gallery, West Wickham Art Association and local schools, Kent Potters, West Wickham Photographic Society, 'Forgiveness Project' and more
- 7, 9 & 11 July: Workshops and demonstrations
- 7 July: Aromatherapy and Well-Being Evening
- 9 July: Comedy Night with Paul Kerensa
- 10 July: Lunchtime concert with Langley School for Boys
- 11 July: *Day* - Dad's Out Breakfast; Afternoon Tea with 'Rhythm & Steel'
Evening - London Concert Chorus
- 12 July: Special Church Service

We look forward to welcoming you to this fantastic event and please take a look at the St Francis of Assisi Church website for information on what happening including events that will be taking place leading up to the Festival in July at the following link:

<http://www.stfranciswestwickham.co.uk/>





SATURDAY 29 FEBRUARY 2020 at 7.00 pm

**WINE TASTING EVENING at
ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL, THE AVENUE**

Our wine expert, JANINA DOYLE WSETdip, will be talking about eight different wines from around the world and we will have the pleasure of tasting them all!

The evening will include a cheese supper with breads and pickle. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible plus friends and family.

Tickets £15 per head, including eight bottles of wine for tasting and food available from Tim Shingler 020 8402 8286



**ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI
PRAYER SUPPORT CHAIN**

**HAZEL
O'SULLIVAN**



**LESLEY
EAST
8289 1483**



**ROWENA
GRIFFITHS
8777 6112**



**MARGHARET
MARSH
8462 6906**

**CHRIS
PARISH
8777 6845**



**PHIL
FREEMAN
8289 3029**

**SARAH
COVERDALE
8777 0130**



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



(This letter was written before Christmas)

Bishop Christopher writes

I have just returned from my annual pre-Advent retreat and I have been reflecting on the past year and preparing for Advent and Christmastide when we welcome the Christ child again. In the last few days it has turned cold and I could not help but reflect that many will find this time of year especially hard because of that. I am sure that, like me, you have noticed that there seem to be more street homeless now than there were a year ago. As I walk down Borough High Street from the Cathedral towards Trinity House, the Diocesan Offices, I am aware that there are many people whom I see day after day and it is partly for this reason that, once again, I will be joining the large numbers of people sleeping out at the Cathedral as part of the annual fundraising drive for the Robes Project.

Robes provides a meal and a bed as well as other services for the homeless in churches of different denominations in the Boroughs of Lambeth and Southwark during the winter months. I am Patron of Robes and support them and Glass Door and other work with the homeless throughout our Diocese. The work that our churches do to help those in need is truly impressive and I want to thank all who share in this good work. Advent is a time for us to renew hope as we recall what we each have, giving thanks to God for his many gifts to us. In the coming weeks I hope that you will want to spend time considering the Holy Scriptures prayerfully as you prepare once again to welcome the Christ child into our world.

There are many things which are uncertain as I write: we do not know the outcome of the General Election or if, and when, Brexit will happen. Our society can feel increasingly fragmented and it is those who live on the margins of our society who often suffer the most. As you look forward to Christmas and think about how you will spend it with friends

and family, please think about those whom you know who may not have others with whom to spend Christmas. So many, like the Holy Family, find that they do not have somewhere to stay or people to be with and I hope that, like the innkeeper, you will want to welcome the stranger at this Christmas time.

May I wish you and your families a blessed Advent and a holy and joyful Christmas.

✠ Christopher Southwark

April-May Magazine

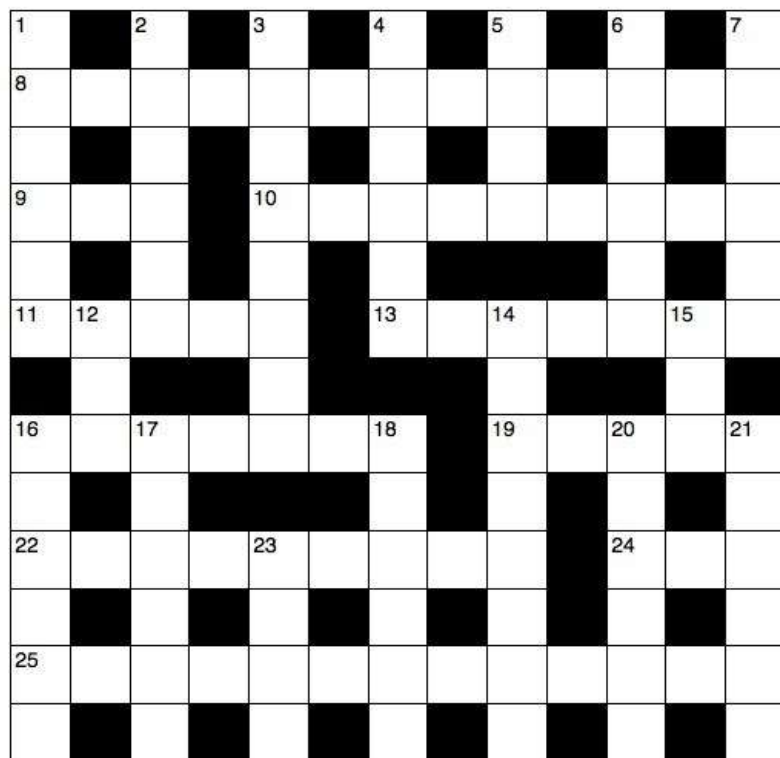
Items for inclusion in the next magazine are needed by Sunday 8 March 2020 please, or contact Margaret Green to make alternative arrangements via:

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

Answers to December/January Crossword

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

Bible Crossword for February/March



Clues

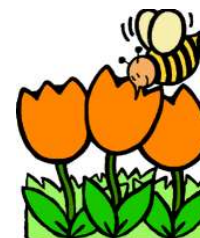
Across

- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
 9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
 10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
 11 Science fiction (abbrev) (3-2)
 13 Clay pit (anag) (7)
 16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)
 19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)

- 22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)
 24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1)
 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Down

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)
 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)
 4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
 5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
 6 Taking a chance (colloq) (2,4)
 7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
 12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
 14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)
 15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
 17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)
 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)
 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)





SATURDAY 14 MARCH 2020 at 7.30 pm

ORGAN RECITAL
by
TRAVIS BAKER

at
ST FRANCIS' CHURCH, RAVENSWOOD AVENUE

Travis is an International Recitalist and we
welcome his return with pleasure

Interval with free wine and light refreshments

Tickets £10 (under 16 years free) from
John and Anita Curtis - 8777 5973
and on the Door



Mothering Sunday and Lent – Background Information

Mothering Sunday

The Church of England keeps Mothering Sunday on the Fourth Sunday of Lent. The origins of Mothering Sunday were almost certainly pre-Christian. Both the Ancient Greeks and the Romans had a spring festival to celebrate motherhood: The Romans kept the feast of Matronalia, while the Greeks honoured Cybele (the mother of the gods) on the Ides (15) of March. When Christianity was established in Britain, the focus became a celebration of the Mother Church.

Some time after the Norman Conquest, there grew up a practice of daughter churches visiting the Mother Church of the Diocese on a particular Sunday in Lent, probably for the purpose of presenting an offering at the altar.

The fourth Sunday of Lent (sometimes called Laetare or Refreshment Sunday), was allowed as a day of respite from the Lenten fast – this forms another piece in the jigsaw behind the modern observance of Mothering Sunday e.g. the tradition of eating of Simnel cake in some parts of the country.

A popular notion is that Mothering Sunday was an occasion when, in the 18th and 19th centuries, domestic servants were given the day off to visit their mothers and the family home. What is far more likely is that the gathering of families on Mothering Sunday was due to the older custom of going together to the Mother Church.

Today Mothering Sunday is a special service when children and families are invited to church to bless gifts and give thanks for and to those who care for us and the Mother Church.



Lent

Lent is the forty-day-long liturgical season of fasting and prayer before Easter, beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Holy Saturday. The forty days represent the time Jesus spent in the desert, where according to the Bible he endured temptation by Satan.

The purpose of Lent is to prepare, through prayer, penitence, almsgiving and self-denial, for the annual commemoration during Holy Week of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus, which recalls the events linked to the Passion.

The six Sundays in Lent are not counted among the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter", a celebration of Jesus' victory over sin and death.



ST FRANCIS' PRE-SCHOOL
ST FRANCIS' CHURCH HALL
(opposite Sainsbury's Car Park)
Ravenswood Avenue
West Wickham BR4 0PW

Our pre-school is registered for 24 children
between 2 and 5 years.

07582 518529
stfrancispreschool@aol.com
www.strancispreschool.uk.com



Ofsted Registration EY462615