

# THE CHURCH OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

# **RAVENSWOOD AVENUE WEST WICKHAM KENT BR4 0PW**

Church Website: www.stfranciswestwickham.co.uk

f www.facebook.com/StFofA							
Vicar:	The Revd Hazel O'Sullivan 8777 5034 The Vicarage, The Avenue, West Wickham, BR4 0DX email: hazelos58@gmail.com Day off: Monday						
Assistant Priest:	The Rev Richard Ford 8289 2432 email: richard.ford73@ntlworld.com						
Reader:	Brian Griffiths 8777 6112						
SPA [Pastoral Auxiliaries]:	Lesley East 8289 1483 Rowena Griffiths 8777 6112						

# **Church Directory**

Churchwardens:	Barry Burford 8777 2034
	Kate Dyer katedyer41@hotmail.com
Secretary:	Nicky Nightingale 8916 9855
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Director of Music:	Geoff Mussard 8650 8389
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Parish Magazine – Content:	Margaret Green 07931 537888
Magazine – Distribution:	Nicky Nightingale 8916 9855
Library:	Sarah Coverdale 8777 0130
Bible Reading Fellowship:	Lesley East 8289 1483

# **REGULAR SERVICES**

**ONCE RESUMED** 

### **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 amMorning Prayer10.45 amHoly Communion

#### THURSDAY

9.00 am Morning Prayer

#### **SATURDAY**

9.00 am – 10.00 am Church open for quiet and prayer

During June and July on-line and paper-based resources for worship at home will be circulated each week in addition to some services taking place in person. At the time of going to print, the following services are planned in church but this is subject to change at short notice, dependent on local restrictions arising from the Coronavirus pandemic.

# **JUNE 2021**

# Planned Services as at 26 May

On-line and paper-based resources for worship at home will continue to be circulated each week in addition to services taking place in person. At the current time, the following services are planned in the church buildings, but this is subject to change at short notice, dependent on local restrictions arising from the Coronavirus pandemic.

Date	Readings	Talk	President/Lead				
Sun 6 June	1 Sam 8:4-11	Richard	Richard	8.00 am at St M			
1st Sunday	2 Cor 4:13-5:1			10.00 am at St F			
after Trinity	Mark 3:20-end						
Tues 8 June	9.00 a	am Morning F	Prayer at St M	lary's			
Wed 9 June	9.30-11.30 am Mo	rning Prayer	at St Francis	' & Private Prayer			
Fri 11 June		Messy Chur	ch at Home				
Sun 13 June	Non-Eucharistic	Hazel	Ken	8.00 am at St F			
2nd Sunday	Commissioning of			10.00 am at St M			
after Trinity	Church Wardens:						
-	Parable of the Talents						
	Matthew 25:14-30						
Tues 15 June		m Morning F	n Morning Prayer at St Mary's				
Wed 16 June	9.30-11.30 am Mo	Brian	Richard				
Sun 20 June	Job 38:1-11 2 Cor 6:1-13	Dhan	Richard	8.00 am at St M 10.00 am at St F			
3rd Sunday	Z Cor 6.1-13 Mark 4:35-end			10.00 am at St F			
after Trinity	Mark 4.35-end						
Fathers' Day	0.00.0	Nomina F		lom/o			
Tues 22 June			Prayer at St M				
Wed 23 June	9.30-11.30 am Mo						
Sun 27 June	Wisdom of Solomon	Ken	Hazel	8.00 am at St F			
4th Sunday	1:13-15, 2:23-24			10.00 am at St M			
after Trinity	2 Cor 8:7-end						
-	Mark 5:21-end	<u> </u>					
Tues 29 June			ayer at St Ma				
Wed 30 June	9.30-11.30am Morr	ning Prayer a	t St Francis' a	and Private Prayer			

# **JULY 2021**

# Planned Services as at 26 May

On-line and paper-based resources for worship at home will continue to be circulated each week in addition to services taking place in person. At the current time, the following services are planned in the church buildings, but this is subject to change at short notice, dependent on local restrictions arising from the Coronavirus pandemic.

Date	Readings	Talk	President/Lead					
Sun 4 July	Ezek 2:1-5	Brian	Rowena	8.00 am at St M				
5th Sunday	2 Cor 12:2-10		& Hazel	10.00 am at St F				
after Trinity:	Mark 6:1-13							
Service of	(readings may							
Lament	change)							
Tues 6 July	9.00 a	am Morning F	Prayer at St M	lary's				
Wed 7 July	9.30-11.30 am Mo	rning Prayer	at St Francis	' & Private Prayer				
Fri 9 July		Messy Chur	ch at Home					
Sun 11 July 6th Sunday after Trinity	Non-Eucharistic: Review of God with us in the pandemic – sharing stories	Hazel	Brian	8.00 am at St F 10.00 am at St M				
Tues 13 July	9.00 a	m Morning F	rayer at St M	lary's				
Wed 14 July	9.30-11.30am Morr							
Sun 18 July	Jer 23:1-6	Rowena	Lesley &	8.00 am at St M				
7th Sunday	Eph 2:11-end		Hazel	10.00 am at St F				
after Trinity	Mark 6:3-34, 53-							
Healing	end							
Service								
Tues 20 July	9.00 a	am Morning F	Prayer at St M	lary's				
Wed 21 July	9.30-11.30 am Mo	rning Prayer	at St Francis	' & Private Prayer				
Sun 25 July	Acts 11:27-12:2	Richard	Richard	8.00 am at St F				
8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Matt 20:20-28			10.00 am at St M				
after								
Trinity/James								
the Apostle								
Tues 27 July		am Morning F						
Wed 28 July	9.30-11.30 am Mo	rning Prayer	at St Francis	' & Private Prayer				

#### 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 and their new minister, David Pickering.

May we use the quieter time of summer to discern what it is that God is asking of us at this time. We know that the church across the world has been affected by the coronavirus pandemic and we ask that all Christians might be empowered by the Holy Spirit to seek justice, to defend the oppressed and take up the cause of those in need, whatever form that might take.

Pray for those areas in the world which are subject to conflict, especially the Gaza Strip and Jerusalem where air strikes and rockets fired from both Israeli and Palestinian sides have resulted in death and injury to innocent people. May the international calls for an end to the conflict meet with success through diplomatic talks that might take place.

We give thanks for the light emerging at the end of a long and deadly tunnel, as restrictions across the UK are eased. May God's warmth and care be brought to those whose hearts are feeling cold and empty and his blessing be on those who are present at such times to share his love with others.



# Dear Friends

As more parts of the economy open up, you are probably looking forward to being able to do some things just like we did before the pandemic started. Things like eating out in a restaurant with a large group of people, seeing a friend or family member in person rather than on a screen, or maybe even going overseas on holiday. However, before rushing into experiences such as this, it is important to take some time to look back, to recognise the depth of the troubles that we and others have experienced and how God has been with us throughout. It is only by giving proper recognition to these things that we will be able to move forward knowing that we have come through it all intact. If we don't spend this time, we may be hiding something inside that will make us revert to some of our pain, anxiety and being overwhelmed.

During July we will have three weeks of services that should help with this process. The first one will deal with lament – a cry to God about things which have been (and maybe still are) not right.

- Is it not you, God, you who have now rejected us and no longer go out with our armies?
- Give us aid against the enemy, for human help is worthless. Psalm 60:10-11

The second will be a time of sharing stories of how God has been with us during this time. We have another of these stories included in this magazine from Merri Womack. Do let me have any others which you are happy to share with others (anonymously if you'd prefer).

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Ephesians 3: 20-21

And the final one, will be an opportunity for healing, so that we can be assured that we have shared with God and with each other, those things which still concern us, and we have committed ourselves into his hands to bring about a greater sense of well-being, whatever that might mean. This I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:21-23

Do spend some time this summer on this process so that we don't simply go back to the old ways of living, or even go into a new way of living, without reflecting on what we might have learnt through our experience. A recent Thought for the Day on Radio 4 quoted Henri Nouwen who said:

We don't think ourselves into a new way of living, but we live ourselves into a new way of thinking.

Maybe we will find ourselves thinking differently as a result of our lived experience, but let's be open to what this might mean for our shared life together, as it's still really too early to say what exactly this will look like in the future – we need to live in the new normal for a period before coming to any conclusion. PCCs and the ministry team will be giving this some thought over the next few months. Please do bear with us during this period. Keep in touch and let us know what it is that you'd really like to see, so that we can be sure that we are following God's will when we make any changes to what it is that we do.

In the meantime, and in order that time and space can be given to the ministry team, who have been providing support to both congregations without much of a break for over a year now, we will not be introducing any new activities or altering the pattern of services that are held until September at the earliest. We want to be sure about a way forward before making any changes, so that we are not putting effort into something that is not sustainable.

Every blessing

Hazel



#### **United in Giving**

Our Annual Parochial Church Meetings at St Mary's and St Francis' this year took place both in the church buildings and on Zoom. These meetings came at either end of a stewardship campaign where we encouraged everyone to consider prayerfully the amount and method by which they gave financially to the churches. If you have not already done so, please do think about making a commitment to regular giving through the Parish Giving Scheme, which you can find out more about at www.parishgiving.org.uk or from either of the treasurers: Bob West at St Mary's (robandlinwest@tiscali.co.uk) or David Wada at St Francis' (stfranciswwtreasurer@gmail.com).

## **Commissioning Church Wardens**

Just as in 2020 we were not able to go to a service where the Archdeacon commissioned all church wardens across the whole of the Croydon Archdeaconry, so in 2021, the restrictions have not been lifted sufficiently for us to be able to gather in large crowds in churches, so we have again been given permission to do this within the churches. Hazel will therefore be commissioning the church wardens for both St Mary's and St Francis' churches at the 10am service on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June. This will be held in St Mary's Church and will be livestreamed on YouTube.

#### **Morning Prayer**

Throughout the past year a growing group of people have been receiving daily reflections on two readings from Morning Prayer from Hazel and Richard. We are now meeting in the church buildings twice a week: on a Tuesday at 9am in St Mary's and on a Wednesday at 9.30am in St Francis' to say Morning Prayer together and reflect on the bible readings in a discursive way. Anyone is welcome to join us.



#### St Francis' & St Mary's Prayer Chain

# How I know that God is with Me

On March 11<sup>th</sup> John was rushed to hospital with a heart attack - a terrible shock to us all. The ambulance team were brilliant and an amazing team at King's operated to put a stent into one artery and to flush through two others.

The following day knew that I had to keep to the usual routines, including taking the dog for a walk – normally John's responsibility. Recent stories of dog-knapping heightened my awareness of my surroundings and when two men approached me as I walked by the golf course, I was somewhat wary. I transferred the lead to my left hand and held something hard – my keys - in my right. I bade them 'Good morning', they returned the greeting, and we all continued on our way.

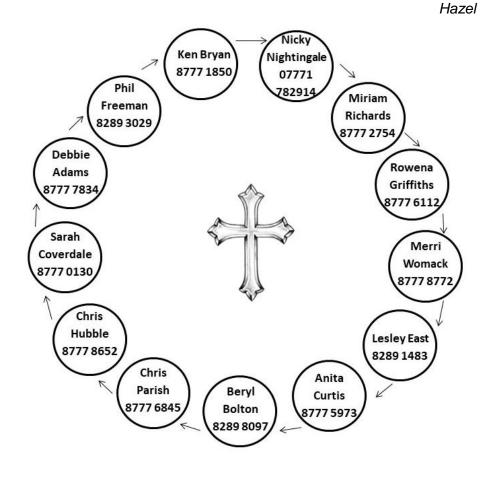
Suddenly it started to rain and soon it was pouring. Digby and I returned home soaking wet. As I turned into my road, panic set in as I realised that I had dropped my keys. Fortunately we have a key safe to the side of the house, so I was able to get in to dry the dog and change my clothes. All the time I was thinking about how I might find my keys. I made a notice to attach to the wire fence giving a telephone number in case someone had found them and, when it had stopped raining, I retraced my steps, searching all the time. After a while, I saw two ladies approaching, so I stopped them and told them about my keys. With great relief one of the ladies handed them over, telling me how she didn't really know what to do with them, so she was pleased that I'd come along when I did.

At that moment, I knew God was looking after me and I felt calm and safe. I have shared the story with a near neighbour, who has now become a great friend, having offered much support since.

The whole experience has helped me to be very mindful of people on their own and has made me more prayerful and thankful for my faith. God has clearly been at work in my life. Many people find they are given strength and peace of mind when they know that they, or their loved ones, are being prayed for – and the more people who are praying for someone, the better!

If you would like prayer for yourself, please call anyone on the chain below and they will pass a message on around the circle. If you would like prayer for someone you know, please get their permission first.

If you would like a name added to the intercessions list in our services (which will be on-line as well as in-person), please state this when you make contact.





## Bishop Karowei writes . . .

My dearly beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, greetings to you, your loved ones and the family of God in the name of our risen Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

As we move forward out of lockdown, I look and see bulbs of light, life, and Christ's love shining around us despite having been through one of life's most devastating experiences with the pandemic. Lots of our loved ones, friends and extended human family have died alone, are no longer with us and we've been unable to say our goodbyes. May the Lord grant the souls of the faithful departed, rest, and may Christ's resurrection give us a real sense of a living hope as we build back better.

I wish to share two thoughts as we contemplate the way forward, hoping to build back stronger by God's grace.

After the crucifixion, the disciples were afraid of the Jews and went into "lockdown", they were spellbound in fear, windows and doors locked. Their Lord Jesus Christ appeared amongst them and said, "Shalom", meaning "Peace be with you." He breathed God's peace on them in a most challenging time of anxiety, fear and crisis. So, my friends, my first thought is, remember, Christ is with you, whatever you are going through, trust Him as He breathes God's peace on you. (Luke 23:36). Perfect Love casts out Fear.

In another scenario, Cleophas and his companion travelled the short journey to the village called Emmaus. As they journeyed, Christ joined them as they discussed the events of Good Friday.

Jesus expounded the Holy Scriptures to them and what the events meant. After the journey, as they sat down to eat, He took the bread, gave thanks and broke it, then their eyes were opened and they recognised the resurrected Christ. Alas! They returned to Jerusalem to tell the disciples how their hearts burned with fire within them as He expounded the Holy Scriptures. He is Risen! (Luke 24:13-33). So, my second thought is this, remember, Christ is travelling with you in your journey of faith and Christian discipleship. He is your travelling companion and friend, who supports and gives strength as you go through life's challenges and upheavals and especially now as we return to a new post-pandemic norm.

We give thanks to God for making His grace available to us through Christ, who has given us a new hope and peace in the midst of turmoil and promise of His abiding presence through the Holy Spirit.

Finally, "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:4-7 KJV).

Therefore, hold on, beloved brothers and sisters, fellow travellers and disciples of Christ with the assurance of God's promises which are confirmed in Christ Jesus. Shalom!



# The Dean of Southwark has written the following prayer which you may wish to use

# Please pray for all who are involved in the response to this crisis worldwide.

Loving God, Source of healing and comfort, Fill us with your grace, That the sick may be made whole, That those who care for us may be strengthened, That the anxious may be calmed, And those most vulnerable be protected In the power of Spirit In the faith of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

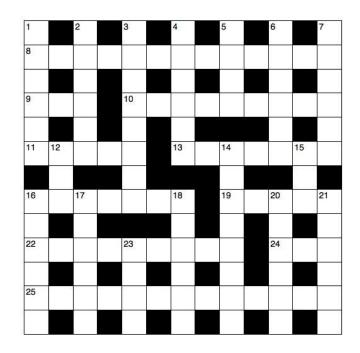
# August/September Magazine

Items for inclusion in the next magazine are needed by Sunday 2 July Please email them to Margaret Green or telephone her to make alternative arrangements.

Tel: 01793 537888 or email: magletitiagreen@hotmail.com



# **Bible Crossword for June/July**



# <u>Clues</u>

# Across

- 1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)
- 4 Place of learning (6)
- 8 'When Moses' hands grew , they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it' (Exodus 17:12) (5)
- 9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)
- 10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)
- 11 Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)
- 12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)
- 17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)
- 19 So clear (anag) (7)

21 'I have just got — , so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7)

22 Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5) 23 Musical beat (6)

24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their doorframes at the first Passover (Exodus 12:22) (6)

## Down

- 1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)
- 2 Art bite (anag.) (7)

3 'The people of the city were divided; some — with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)

- 5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)
- 6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)
- 7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)
- 9 'You love evil rather than good, rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)
- 13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)
- 14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)
- 15 'A went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)

16 How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)

18 The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)

20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)



# **Crossword Solutions for April/May**



# Sudoku for June/July

			7	8	6	3		
3	4				9			8
			2				7	1
	7				3	1		
9	5	2	4		8	6	3	7
		6	9				4	
4	6				1			
4			8				1	3
		3	5	4	2			

#### Sudoku Solutions for April/May

								0
6	5	7	4	8	9	2	1	3
3	8	2	7	1	5	9	4	6
1	4	9	2	3	6	5	7	8
7	6	5	1	2	8	4	3	9
4	1	3	9	5	7	6	8	2
2	9	8	6	4	3	1	5	7
5	7	6	3	9	1	8	2	4
9	2	1	8	7	4	3	6	5
8	3	4	5	6	2	7	9	1

#### Word Search Clues for June/July

#### ST ALBAN - THE FIRST BRITISH MARTYR

Persecution of Christians worldwide is rising fast, so it is worth remembering St Alban, the first British martyr. Alban was a Roman citizen living in England when the Roman Emperor, Diocletian, began a fierce persecution. Soon Alban found a desperate priest on his doorstep, hunted by local soldiers. Alban gave the priest shelter and within days was converted. When the soldiers arrived, Alban took the priest's place, refused to offer sacrifice to the Roman gods and was condemned to death. Alban went to his execution on 22 June 250AD with such serenity that one of the executioners was converted. He died on the site of the Hertfordshire town that now bears his name.

Words to Find							
ALBAN CONDEMNED CONVERTED DEATH DIED DIOCLETIAN DOORSTEP	EMPEROR EXECUTION GODS MARTYR NAME PERSECUTION PRIEST	ROMAN SACRIFICE SERENITY SITE SOLDIERS TOWN					

Word Search for June/July



# Word Search Solutions for April/May



# Summer Wind

Sometimes

It's just a summer wind Blowing hard and strong, Warm and dry. Just hold op. Brace yourself. te'll lie dowp When the sup sets. Ī€'ll pass. Don't let it overpower you. It can't sway you. Appbor it ipstead. Set your sails. Steady your course. Go with it. Let it move you Closer and closer. Ontil you reach your destination. Then you'll see Just how great A summer wind can be.

# ST FRANCIS' PRE-SCHOOL HELD IN THE CHURCH HALL

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

Contact:Gillian SmithTel:07582 518529 & 020 8464 3062Email:stfrancispreschool@aol.comURL:http://stfrancispreschool.uk.com



Kiesha Shepard



On Saturday mornings the church is open from 9.00 am to 10.00 am for quiet and prayer. From 10.30 am to 11.30 am refreshments are served and this raises money for Action Aid.

Contact Barbara Goodchild .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 8777 8782

The Church Halls. There are two halls available for hire – a large hallsuitable for 30 people upwards and a small hall for up to 25 people.Bookings Secretary: Liz Raper..

Men's Group. This meets on the second Monday evening of themonth, alternately at St Francis' and St Mary's.Contact Tim Shingler...

**Reading Group**. This meets on the second Thursday morning of the month.

Contact Barbara Plummer .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 8289 3846

**Matchbox Theatre**. A well–established amateur dramatic society which includes members of St Francis' Church and performs in the church hall, usually three times a year. *Contact Details to be advised.* 

## යහ COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES IN THE CHURCH HALL

Contact Yvonne Bulman: yvonne.bulman@gmail.com

#### Scouts

Fridays from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm		
Contact Hilary Moy, Group Scout Leader	 	07961 826814

## **Ravenswood Women's Institute**

Fourth Thursday of the mont	h fr	om	7.45	5 pm	ו		
Contact Barbara Goodchild						 	8777 8782

West Wickham Market [Stalls & Refreshments]	
Fridays from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm	8776 1603

# Fitness Through Movement, Exercise & Dance

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Tuesdays from 8.00 pm to 9.00 pm	 	 8771 7896

# Sugar Craft & Cake Decorating

Thursdays at 8.00 pm (Six meetings a year)

At the moment the markets are not due to resume until September but in light of current circumstances this may change.

# Articles and items for the magazine are always welcome.

Any contributions can be left in the envelope at the back of the church [on the notice board] by the second Sunday of the month for inclusion in the next bi–monthly magazine [editions for Dec/Jan, Feb/March, etc]. Otherwise contact the Editor, Margaret Green, on 07931 537888 or by emailing her at magletitiagreen@hotmail.com