

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+) on 3rd
Sundays. There are crèche facilities in church
Contact Kate Dyer– 020 8650 8493
- 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
- 6.30 pm Churches Together in West Wickham Service**
4th Sunday of the month, held in rotation around the
various churches– *see calendar for details*

WEDNESDAY

- 10.45 am Holy Communion** at St Francis' Church

SATURDAY

- 9.00 am-10.00 am: Church open for quiet and prayer.
10.30 am-11.30 am: Coffee and cakes in church, raising money for
Action Aid.

APRIL 2017

Sunday 2 April

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

Sunday 9 April – Palm Sunday

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

Thursday 13 April – Maundy Thursday

- 8.00 pm Holy Communion, Foot Washing
Presiding: Richard Ford
Preacher: Hazel O'Sullivan

Friday 14 April – Good Friday

- 11.00 am CTWW Service
Hazel O'Sullivan & John Ward
2.00 pm An Hour at the Cross at **St Mary's**
Ken Bryan & Brian Griffiths

Sunday 16 April – Easter Sunday

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

Sunday 23 April – St George's Day

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

Sunday 30 April

- 8.00 am Holy Communion – Richard Ford
10.45 am Holy Communion – Richard Ford
Preacher: Brian Griffiths

Every Wednesday

- 10.45 am Holy Communion

MAY 2017

Sunday 7 May

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

Sunday 14 May

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

Sunday 21 May

8.00 am Holy Communion – Hazel O'Sullivan
10.45 am Holy Communion – Richard Ford
Preacher: Hazel O'Sullivan

Thursday 25 May – Ascension Day

8.00 pm Joint Service of Holy Communion at **St Mary's**
Preacher: Ken Bryan

Sunday 28 May

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

Every Wednesday

10.45 am Holy Communion

Dear Friends

There's a saying which describes Christians as 'Easter people living in a Good Friday World'. Sadly, the church has not always lived up to this description. If it had, then in 2,000 years, we would surely have won the whole world to Christ by now. So, how can we recover what it means to be 'Easter people living in as Good Friday World'?

As Easter people, we remember that Christ has died and Christ has risen! As a result, everything has been changed for all time. We know about the power of God's love that's been released into the world. We know it's sufficient to change everything, to change all of us, for the better. And we have the Holy Spirit to give us strength and inspiration to share this power with others.

However, we also live in a Good Friday world. Jesus' own experience on that first Good Friday shows the kind of world we live in. It is broken, people suffer with pain and hurt, and there's rebellion against God's ways. This world is a beautiful place and there are many wonderful, kind, caring and loving people living here. But even the best of us are sinners who need a Saviour – and probably the good people are in the minority.

I believe that the vast majority of people know that they are sinners, but they don't know how to change. When Jesus looked at the society of his day – in all their sin and need – he didn't condemn them, but He looked at them with compassion. He saw that the vast majority of people were 'harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd' (Matthew 9:36). It is vital that we see people the way Jesus saw them. We are not here to judge others, but to share the Good News of the Gospel with people who need to find a way out of their hopelessness, a way back to God, a way of living that will bless others!

Yes, we live in a Good Friday world, but we live as Easter people. Pope John Paul II said several years ago: "Do not abandon yourselves to despair, for we are the Easter People, and 'Hallelujah!' is our song".

With love and prayers

Hazel

Prayer Cycle

We pray for those who live on:

Boleyn Gardens; Braemar Gardens; Bramley Way; Cavendish Way; Chamberlain Crescent; Chatsworth Lodge, 2 Wickham Court Road; Chessington Way; Christie House; Dixon Place.

In our cycle of prayer for other churches in West Wickham we pray for the people at Hawes Lane Methodist Church and West Wickham & Shirley Baptist Church.

We also pray for:

- The clients of the Churches Together in West Wickham Work Club. Pray that new volunteers will come forward and that the help and advice received from the Work Club will enable the clients to find jobs.
- South Sudan, where a famine has been declared and the country is in the grip of a humanitarian catastrophe following more than three years of conflict. This has resulted in tens of thousands of deaths and the displacement of 3 million people. Pray that our collections during Christian Aid Week in May will go some way toward helping this organisation to meet the needs of these people, as well as the other good work that they are involved with.
- Our plans to open up our church in the next few months for concerts and lunchtime recitals as well as offering a listening ear and coffee on occasion. We give thanks for the near completion of our lighting project and pray that the church will be seen as a Place of Welcome in West Wickham.
- Those who are sick or in some kind of need at this time. Pray that we might be open to God's nudging where there is help that we can provide to individuals that we know.
- Scouting groups in West Wickham. Pray that the District Event on St George's Day will promote the scouting movement and generate interest in the organisation.



Update on West Wickham Group Ministry

Before I came to West Wickham, there was a meeting between three churches (St Francis', St John's and St Mary's) to discuss the possibility of becoming a Team Ministry. At this meeting it was clear that no-one was ready for such a change and the idea was put on hold with the agreement to strengthen the way in which the three churches work together as a group.

New patterns of working together take time to establish, especially when they are based on brand new relationships. Over the past 18 months, the clergy of the three churches have met a few times and there has been some working together (for example, when St John's ran an Autumn Fair at St Francis' church hall in October 2016). We are now embarking on a number of new joint projects, including a presence at the West Wickham Village Day in Blake's Park on Monday 1 May. Here we are planning a family-friendly fun area, where there will be ride-on toys and a soft-play area for very young children, as well as large, lawn-based games and craft activities for older children and adults. This will be located next to a seating area which is sponsored by the Churches Together in West Wickham, where we can provide information on the activities that go on in our three churches.

In order to make this a success, there are some things that we will need to provide from St Francis' and St Mary's, the main one being people. If you are available on Monday 1 May, please would you sign up on a rota for an hour (or more) in one of the activities where help is needed (transport, set-up and take-down, children's activities and meeting with those who use the seating area).

We hope that this will be the start of being able to do more events together with St John's (and other churches), so that we are no longer reliant only on our own resources and we can build on the great work that each of the churches currently does. Please do be encouraging of any joint working together which happens so that we can make the most of what God is doing amongst us.

Hazel

The Life of Christ at Wintershall

Each year *The Life of Christ* brings together hundreds of actors telling the story of Jesus in an open-air epic production. This is a very moving and evocative setting, where you feel you are really there in the midst of the action. The Surrey countryside provides wonderful views, a landscape of lakes, plantations and ancient woodland, and rich grazing pasture. Young and old from all walks of life become mesmerised as the story unfolds across three captivating acts from 10.0 am to 3.30 pm.

This year the Saturday performance is on 24 June and I've already got a ticket to go! Please do get your own tickets now (www.wintershall-estate.com or ☎ 01793 418299) and then we can arrange to meet up and experience this encounter with Christ together. It's appropriate for all ages, so great for families, but don't feel that you can't come if you don't have family to bring. People with disabilities are welcome and a buggy is available for those with mobility problems.

Hazel

St George's Day

As well as being the Patron Saint of England, St George is also the Patron Saint for the Scouts. This year, the Bromley District is coming to West Wickham for a parade and service in Blake's Park and we're excited about an opportunity to host such an event on Sunday 23 April. However, this does mean that holding a Joint Service at our normal time of 10.00 am will not work well and so this will now start at **10.45 am** instead.

There will be lots of opportunity to promote scouting in West Wickham before the parade, which is due to set off from the Ravenswood Avenue Car Park at 10.00 am. We can then use our Joint Service afterwards as a real celebration of Scouting. Do put this special date in your diary.

Hazel

Ascension Day

There will be a joint service of Holy Communion in St Mary's at 8.00 pm on Thursday 25 May. This is an opportunity to remember the time when Jesus rose up into heaven.

St Francis' Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

The APCM for St Francis' will take place following the service on Sunday 2 April at 11.45 am. This is an important meeting in the life of our church, so do please make a note of the date and try to join us. At this meeting we have to elect 6 Churchwardens, Deanery Synod Representatives and PCC members. Do give some consideration as to whether this is something you could do, or encourage someone else to do. If you are unsure of what is involved, please speak to Hazel, John Curtis, Kate Dyer, Nicky Nightingale or any PCC member.

Please note that in accordance with Church Representation Rules, a member of the laity must have been entered on the electoral roll of a parish for at least 6 months before qualifying to be elected to the PCC or Deanery Synod.

Copies of the Annual Report, the Accounts, Agenda and Minutes of last year's meeting will be available at the back of the church from Sunday 19 March. Please take a copy to read, even if you are unable to attend the meeting.

Nicky Nightingale

Mission Action Plan

As you will remember, at the end of last year, we spent time thinking about our vision for St Francis' and our Mission Action Planning. One of the things we identified as a priority was to be a more community-centred church, visible to the people around us.

From the beginning of June, we would like to have the church open on one week-day morning each week to provide a place for people to meet, have a hot drink and where we would provide a listening ear to those with worries to share.

We want this to be a real community thing, involving a variety of people and so we need your help. We are looking to have at least two people in church at any one time, with the focus on being a welcoming space. If you, or anyone you know, would be willing and able to give some time on a regular basis: weekly, fortnightly or monthly, please get in touch with one of the following:

Hazel

Kate Dyer (katedyer41@hotmail.com)

Pat Williams (8777 5348 or patricia@normanhurst.plus.com)

Kate Dyer

Churches Together in West Wickham

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 26 April at Coney Hill Baptist Church at 8.00 pm, refreshments at 7.45 pm.

This meeting is open to everyone.

Barbara Plummer

Women's Event

Our next women's event is on Tuesday 9 May at 8.00 pm at St Francis' Church. We will be discussing what it means to be a 'Good Neighbour' and how well the 'Big Society' is working. Come and hear about the work of a local food bank and bring along some non-perishable foods for them to pass on to those in need.

Hazel

Christian Aid Week Door-to-Door Collection: 14-20 May

Just as Christian Aid had its origins 70 years ago to alleviate the refugee crisis in Europe after the Second World War, so Christian Aid Week was born 60 years ago out of the same compelling need to help the world's displaced people. This year, to celebrate Christian Aid Week's Diamond Anniversary, the fundraising is for present-day refugees and the displaced worldwide. "When I needed a neighbor were you there?" is the slogan on this year's publicity.

More information can be found in the Christian Aid magazine on the table at the back of the church.

Anita Curtis

Let There Be Light Concert at St Francis'

We are holding this concert on **Saturday 6 May**. Col Bob Stewart, our MP, is coming to officially turn on the new lighting in the church.

The first half of the concert will be performed by the Langley Park School for Boys' Orchestra and the second half by the London Concert Chorus with their *Magic of the Musicals* programme.

This will be the culmination of raising of £80,000 to give our church the most up-to-date lighting and make it of more use to other organizations for events and the wider population in general.

Although admission is free, there will be a bucket collection at the end.

David Wada

Old Testament Heroes Concert

We invite singers from choirs, music groups and congregations to join us for this concert, which is in aid of Bromley Welcare. Music reading is not essential. The performances are on Saturday 8 July at 7.00 pm and Sunday 9 July at either 3.30 pm or 4.00 pm.

Rehearsals will be on various Thursday and Friday evenings at St Mary's, St Francis' and Emmanuel Churches and these started in March. A full schedule and other details are available from me either by phoning 8650 8389 or emailing geoff@mussard.org.uk.

Works will include *David* by Roger Jones; *The Daniel Jazz* by Herbert Chappell; a medley of songs from *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber, and *Zadok the Priest* by George F Handel.

Geoff Mussard



Summer Time Lunchtime Recitals at St Francis' 2017

This season the free lunchtime recitals, held on a Thursday from 12.45 pm to 1.30 pm on the following dates throughout the summer. Free tea and coffee will be provided. Please bring your own lunch.

15 June	Students of Trinity-Laban Conservatoire.
20 July	Bromley Music Make
10 August	Organ Recital by Peter De Croos
21 September	Langley Park Schools

Come and enjoy great live music!

Anita Curtis

June/July Magazine

Items for inclusion in the next magazine are needed by Sunday 14 May 2017 please, or contact Margaret Green to make alternative arrangements via:

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



Mothers' Union

I am looking out of the window whilst writing this and it looks as if spring has arrived, the sun is shining! March is such a beautiful month, with daffodils, tulips and tree blossom, but I must stop looking out of the window and concentrate on this report!

We held our AGM on 7 February, with Hazel as our Chairperson. It is understood that there would be some changes next year, but for the current year, all will remain the same, including the committee members. Hazel finished the meeting by telling us of her walk to Lindisfarne (Holy Island) last year and it was fascinating. We all enjoyed listening and looking at the screen.

Our Lent Lunch was held on 7 March, with Brian Griffiths keeping us enthralled with his story of how he became a Reader, the different churches he attended, and the people he met along the way. The lunch made a profit of £116.48, which will go to the 140th Anniversary Appeal of the MU and I shall be taking the cheque when I go to the Southwark Diocesan Council Meeting on Wednesday 15 March.

Our meeting on 4 April is going to be a different type of meeting as we have Sandra Shaw coming to tell us about "Exercise, Fitness & Balance"! I know some of our members attend her class on Friday mornings and I'm sure that Sandra is not going to just let us sit and listen! Come and join us and see what happens!

Someone from the Trading Standards is coming to talk to us on 2 May. I'm not sure what he will be saying, so I am looking forward to meeting him.

We have the Mothers' Union Festival Eucharist at 11.00 am on Saturday 6 May at Southwark Cathedral. This is always a very good service so do please come and join us if you can. We will be meeting at West Wickham Station and travelling together.

We look forward to seeing anyone who would like to join us on any of our meeting dates.

Joan Burford, St Francis' MU Leader (☎ 8777 2034)





Bishop Richard writes . . .

“Live simply that others may simply live” is a sentiment that has been common for at least a generation. It is sometimes first attributed to Mahatma Gandhi. Since that time, life has become far more complex, with the rise of the Internet and the digital age; far more unfair with growing inequality (Oxfam recently reporting that the wealthiest eight individuals have more than the bottom half of the entire world’s population); and far more unstable (with climate change, many intractable conflicts, the worst refugee crisis since the Second World War, and a fragile global economic system).

March saw the beginning of Lent and it is a very good time for Christians to reflect on how we live amidst all the challenges of today’s world and not least whether it is truly time to be much more serious about the matter of living simply. One of the problems in this, and perhaps particularly so in Lent, is how to avoid this being seen in a very negative, “hairshirt” kind of way which simply puts everyone off. However, Lent, and our Christian faith and tradition, offer much more positive way of thinking about living simply.

Jesus said very clearly that we cannot serve both God and Mammon. The Archbishop of Canterbury’s Lent book speaks of “Dethroning Mammon”. The thinking behind this suggests that our pursuit of unbridled gain can enslave us and when we learn to put God truly at the centre of our lives we are genuinely liberated. Of course, we need a well-functioning financial system which produces in an efficient and fair way the goods and services which we all need and depend upon. The danger is that it gets out of control, and instead of being a servant becomes the master.

This year’s Lent Call focuses on projects from our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe, which concentrate on food security. In 2016 it was estimated that over a quarter of the population of Zimbabwe needed support in finding enough to eat. This problem has been exacerbated

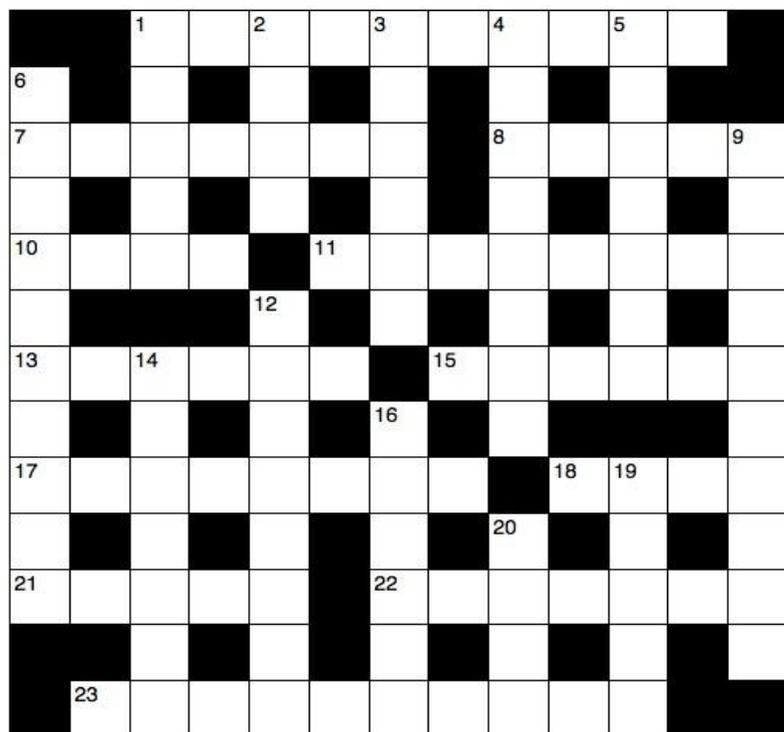
by the effects of climate change, which are damaging crops in Zimbabwe severely. By giving to the Lent Call, perhaps through money saved by some more simple living ourselves (for example by eating less meat), we will be doing a small amount to help the situation and for those affected to simply live. Similarly, many people across the globe do not have access to reliable and clean water. 22 March was World Water Day, and drew attention to the very real challenge of redressing this damaging and death-dealing situation. In past years we have supported the provision of bore holes in some of our Link Dioceses – a life-giving move for the communities they help.

During Lent we are seeking to understand and live more deeply the mystery of God’s sacrificial and transforming love made known in the life and death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As we move through Lent and participate in the services of holy week and Easter, let us pray that our lives and world may be deeply shaped by this love and that we may all learn to “live simply that others may simply live”.

✠Richard Cheetham



Bible Crossword for April/May



Clues

Across

- 1 'You are a chosen people, a royal — ' (1 Peter 2:9) (10)
- 7 Exact copy (Joshua 22:28) (7)
- 8 Jesus' first words to Jairus's daughter, 'My child, — — ' (Luke 8:54) (3,2)
- 10 Idol made by the Israelites while Moses was on Mount Sinai (Exodus 32:4) (4)
- 11 Role allotted to Joseph in Egypt (Genesis 42:6) (8)
- 13 'Lord, when did we — — hungry and feed you?' (Matthew 25:37) (3,3)
- 15 'Though seeing, they do — —; though hearing, they do not hear or understand' (Matthew 13:13) (3,3)
- 17 Happening (1 Kings 21:1) (8)
- 18 'Whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the — of Christ' (Philippians 3:7) (4)

- 21 National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (1,1,1,1,1)
- 22 Stamp on (Amos 2:7) (7)
- 23 Liable to rot (1 Corinthians 15:42) (10)

Down

- 1 Of the pope (5)
- 2 'The earth is the Lord's, and everything — — ' (Psalm 24:1) (2,2)
- 3 Hebrew word for the kind of peace that Jesus promised (6)
- 4 Member of a 16th-century Protestant reform movement in France (8)
- 5 Sing out (anag) (7)
- 6 Ceremonial column of people on the move (1 Samuel 10:5) (10)
- 9 One of the things love always does (1 Corinthians 13:7) (10)
- 12 Esther's cousin who foiled a plot to assassinate King Xerxes (Esther 2:7, 22) (8)
- 14 See cape (anag) (7)
- 16 'No one can — them out of my hand' (John 10:28) (6)
- 19 Often mistakenly identified as the fruit that led to the first sin (Joel 1:12) (5)
- 20 'He was led like a — to the slaughter' (Isaiah 53:7) (4)

Solutions to February/March Crossword

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

Subscription for the Parish Magazine in 2017

During 2017 there will be six editions of the magazine, each covering two calendar months, costing 50p each. It helps us if you are able to subscribe for the year, at a cost of £3.00 (or £6.30 for a postal subscription). Please complete the form below and return it with a cheque or cash to your magazine distributor or Nicky Nightingale or David Wada (Church Treasurer).

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2017

Name

Address

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*I enclose £3.00 as my subscription to the magazine for 2017

*I enclose £6.30 for a postal subscription.

** Please delete as applicable*

(Cheques made payable to St Francis' Church, West Wickham)



**GOOD FRIDAY FOR CHILDREN
14 APRIL 2017**

There will be activities and worship taking place at St Francis' Church Hall from 11.00 am to 12 noon (or until the end of the service in church) for children aged 4-11, with a crèche corner for under-4s

Parents can attend the service in church or are welcome to stay and join in with their children.

Available will be craft activities and puppets

Hot-cross buns and cold drinks will be served



**SATURDAY 20 MAY
10.00 am – 12 noon**

Children Society's Cake & Coffee Morning in the Large Hall
Delicious Home-made Cake for Sale
Coffee & Biscuits
Children's Amusements
'Guess the Weight of the Cake' Raffle

***Donations of home-made cakes to sell at this event
Would be most appreciated***



Easter & Ascension

Tomb, thou shalt not hold Him longer;
Death is strong, but Life is stronger;
Stronger than the dark, the light;
Stronger than the wrong, the right...

Phillips Brooks, "An Easter Carol"

See the land, her Easter keeping,
Rises as her Maker rose.
Seeds, so long in darkness sleeping,
Burst at last from winter snows.
Earth with heaven above rejoices...

Charles Kingsley



"I came forth from the Father and have come into the world; I am leaving the world again and going to the Father."

John 16:28

ST FRANCIS' PRE-SCHOOL HELD IN THE CHURCH HALL

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

Contact: Gillian Smith
Tel: 020 8464 3062
Email: gmsmith0001@aol.com
URL: <http://strancispreschool.uk.com>

