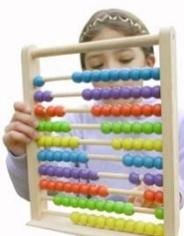


ST FRANCIS' PRE-SCHOOL HELD IN THE CHURCH HALL

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>



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.

JUNE 2017

Sunday 4 June - Pentecost

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

Sunday 11 June

8.00 am Holy Communion – Richard Ford
10.45 am Holy Communion – Richard Ford

Sunday 18 June – Father's Day

8.00 am Holy Communion at **St Mary's** – Hazel O'Sullivan
10.45 am Worship for All Ages – Men's Group
Preacher: Ken Bryan

Sunday 25 June

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

Every Wednesday

10.45 am Holy Communion

JULY 2017

Sunday 2 July

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

Sunday 9 July

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

Sunday 16 July

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

Sunday 23 July

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

Sunday 30 July

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

Every Wednesday

10.45 am Holy Communion

Dear Friends

I wonder what thoughts crossed the mind, those of you who were at the recent, excellent “Let there be light” concert to mark the official switching on of St Francis’ new lights, as the London Concert Chorus sang “June is busting out all over?” For me it was yet another reminder that it’s time once more to start taking a serious interest in the garden.

In my parents’ garden, there was a bird-bath with the inscription: *One is nearer God’s heart in a garden than anywhere else on earth.* How true that is for you, I leave you to decide, but there is no doubting that gardens play a significant part in the Bible.

Right at the beginning of the Old Testament we have the incident with the apple in the Garden of Eden, with the lesson it teaches us about free will. It is the nature of humankind that, given a free choice by God, we will sometimes make the wrong choices. But if God didn’t give us that free will, then we should be no more than automata and no more responsible for what we do than is a computer. Personally, I prefer the thought that I have some control over what I do, rather than being completely under the direction of some external force.

Then there is the Garden of Gethsemane, where the disciples fall asleep, rather than watching and praying with their Lord – how often is that true of us, at least metaphorically speaking? And we see the very human nature of Jesus as he asks to be spared the suffering which he sees lying ahead. Nevertheless, he accepts that it is not his will which is paramount, but that of God the Father – there’s a lesson for us here as well.

Moreover, it’s in a garden where we have what has been called “the greatest recognition scene in all history” – when Mary Magdalene mistakes the risen Jesus for the gardener. Clearly, she wasn’t expecting to meet Jesus because as far as she was concerned, he was dead. Again, that poses a question for us: do we, in our daily lives, recognise Jesus as a living presence, someone we can turn to at all times and in all circumstances, or do we regard him as a distant figure located somewhere beyond the grave?

So this summer, whether it’s when you’re watering your own garden or when you’re admiring someone else’s - that of a friend, maybe, or a stately home - remember the part that gardens have played in God’s plan for the salvation of his creation, including you and me, his creatures.

Have a blessed summer,

Richard

Prayer Cycle

We pray for those who live on:

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: their Minister, Rev Bill Bowman, and all the church family there.

We also pray for:

- The countries of Israel and Palestine: that years of tension and division between might be overcome and that people of different religions might begin to talk together and recognise God in each other.
- Citizens of countries where the power of fear and violence rules, rather than the power of love. Pray in particular for South Sudan, Yemen and Syria where violence is distracting people from their livelihoods.
- Our systems of social care, that we might be able to provide for the needs of older people within the community in care homes and in their own homes in an effective way, so that hospital beds can be available for those who really need them.

- The work of the Children's Society, helping vulnerable children across the country towards resolving crises in their lives.
- Give thanks for the completion of the work on the lighting at St Francis. Pray that this will encourage more organisations to use the building for meetings and concerts.



Music at St John's

On **Saturday 17 June** at 7:30 pm St John's are hosting a singer called Gari Glaysher, who is touring a number of churches to showcase an album he's releasing called 'It is Well with My Soul'. All the proceeds from the evening will go to charity.

Women's Event

Our latest event included an interesting discussion on being good neighbours and how our own projects at St Mary's and St Francis' support those in need. Our next event will be on **Wednesday 19 July** at 8.00 pm in St Mary's Youth Hall. We will be thinking about how significant life changes, including puberty, pregnancy and menopause, affect women – physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. I'm sure there will be lots to discuss on this topic.

Healing and Wholeness Service

There will be a Healing Service held at St Francis' Church on **Sunday 2 July** at 3.00 pm: an opportunity to receive anointing and laying on of hands and prayer for healing.

Faith Pictures

During Lent, six small groups met to look at this material developed by the Church Army. Faith Pictures is a different way of thinking and talking about faith. By exploring images, colours and memories from our past, we were able to draw out deep and profound reflections on our relationship with God. For example, thinking about what household appliance I might like to be, brought out the importance of the natural world for me. This was also an opportunity to spend time with others from the church and get to know them better.

Faith is difficult to nurture if your relationship with God is restricted to one hour on a Sunday morning. You might also pray at home and many people find that joining with others on a regular basis is also a helpful way to deepen faith. If you would like guidance on prayer at home or a link with a Home Group, please do speak to me about this.

Hazel

Feedback on Sunday Morning Services from January to March

A number of changes were made to the Sunday services while the work on the church lighting was being undertaken and feedback from members of the congregation has been very useful in planning future changes.

In summary:

- There was a greater sense of togetherness when the front chairs were moved to face each other, but it meant that there was no focus on the altar and the stained glass window.
- The choir face practical difficulties whenever they are asked to move out of the choir stalls.
- The altar rails have been reinstated. Many people found that receiving communion standing did not allow time for prayer and reflection.

- Using a different (said) liturgy on certain occasions will continue as many thought it was refreshing and encouraged greater thought.

There will continue to be some movement of chairs in the church as we try out different seating arrangements, but flexibility will be maintained, so that no permanent re-organisation is made without careful thought.

Hazel

West Wickham Choir - Old Testament Heroes Concert

A concert will take place on **Saturday 8 July** at St Mary's Church at 7.00 pm and on **Sunday 9 July** at Emmanuel URC at 3.30 pm. Pieces to be performed include *David* by Roger Jones, *The Daniel Jazz* by Herbert Chappell, songs from *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, as well as Handel's *Zadok the Priest*.

Tickets (to include refreshments) are £7 each and available from Beryl Bolton (8289 8097) and me (8650 8389) or email me at Geoff@mussard.org.uk.

Geoff Mussard



Summer Time Lunchtime Recitals at St Francis' Church 2017

This season the free lunchtime recitals, held on a Thursday from 12.45 pm to 1.30 pm, will be 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

Churches Together In West Wickham Work Club **Précis of Report to Churches Together AGM**

It is now four years since the launch of the Work Club in May 2013. Time has flown by and much has happened in those four years. So, where are we now and what does the future hold in store? There have been several developments in the last year.

- The client information pack has been completely revised. The document has now been split into different sections which can be tailored to the individual client. What hasn't changed is the opening paragraph of the introduction to the Work Club which explains the whole reason why it exists:
- ***We are a group of Christians representing all the churches in West Wickham. We believe in a God who loves and cares for everyone and is concerned about all aspects of our lives. The Work Club has been set up as a response to this love and care for the community in West Wickham. If you want to know more about our faith, please ask one of the volunteers who would be happy to explain what we believe and give you information about our churches.'***
- Following previous difficulties in recruiting students to our 'Ignition' jobseeker courses, we have not organised a course in the past year.
- We were able to recruit several new volunteer coaches in 2016 – in September last year we had 12 coaches on the Monday rota. However, for various reasons, a number have now stepped down and currently in April 2017 we have 7 coaches. This reduction is a significant concern. If any other coaches step down, we may have to consider reducing the frequency of the advice sessions (maybe down to once every 2 weeks) or suspending the club until new coaches can be found and trained.
- Coupled with the decline in the number of volunteer coaches is a marked reduction in the number of new clients. Since the

New Year we have had less than 10 initial contacts. Publicity is clearly an issue and there are a few initiatives happening that may help to address this. Flyers advertising the Work Club will be available in the Churches Together marquee for people to take away at the May Day Funday at Blake's Recreation Ground. It is also intended to send letters with publicity posters and flyers to the local GP surgeries. We have a publicity page on the 'Nextdoor' community website which has replaced 'Streetlife'. A report highlighting our concerns has also been sent to our contact at Bromley Job Centre Plus. It is difficult to attract new coaches when there are few clients attending Monday drop-in sessions.

- There have been three talks given to various organisations about the Work Club – to our benefice branch of the Mothers' Union, the Pastoral Auxiliaries in Training at the Southwark Diocesan Training Centre in a session on 'Faith and Justice', and to the Central Croydon Rotary Club at a recent lunch. The latter presentation was very well received and the club was given a donation of £100 at the end of the meeting.
- We now have a 'sister advice centre' in the form of 'Career Cafe' which is open every Wednesday afternoon from 1.00 pm to 7.00 pm in SJ's, Coney Hall. This is facilitated by Barbara Bassot, a professional career adviser and member of St John's Church, West Wickham.

We are very clearly at something of a crossroads in the project, so now would be a good time to have a 'root and branch' review of the way the work club operates. We are hoping to use an external facilitator for this, when we can look at what works well, what can be improved and maybe different ways of working or linking up with other organisations to offer help to the unemployed. It is planned to hold this review with the facilitator and all the coaches sometime in early June.

We know that there have been a number of success stories relayed back to us by clients in the past year and this is very encouraging. So far, the project has been very blessed and we feel that it is a real outreach of God's love for our local community. Please keep on

praying for the club, both as individuals and in the intercessions in Sunday worship. Pray that God's Spirit will show us the way forward and for the unemployed that they may not lose heart and be successful in their search for work.

Brian Griffiths, Work Club Coordinator

Action Aid

The following letter has been received from a community in Kenya which we support from the funds of our Saturday coffee mornings.

Dear Supporter

I send you warm greetings from my village here in Mombasa, Kenya, where I live with my six children and three grandchildren. My name is Janet Sanga and I am 54 years old. Lizzie Kabeya from ActionAid has asked me to tell you how your generous support of ActionAid's work through The Next Step has helped transform my life and that of my community.

For many years, I kept poultry to feed my family, but I found them really difficult to rear. However, when ActionAid started working in our community, helping us to improve our lives, I took the opportunity to learn new skills and joined the newly established AA Poultry Keeping Group. That was back in 2012. The group consisted of me and 19 other people, each of us contributed one chicken to the group's flock. Over the course of the first year the chickens bred and our flock increased to 50.

We were so excited with our success. At the end of that first year we sold 30 of our chickens for £4 each. We used this money to buy medicine and food for our remaining chickens and opened a bank account where we could deposit the extra money we had made selling our chickens. As the number of our chickens increased, we approached AA and asked if they could provide us with more chicken

rearing training. They agreed and trained us how to build poultry houses, control common diseases, select good breeds, how to make chicken feed rather than buy it, plus marketing skills to ensure we get the best price for our birds.

To ensure long term development of our group, in 2014 AA linked us with the Mombasa County Government's agriculture development support programme. Through this programme we have been provided with building materials for a poultry house and follow up trainings on best practices. In 2016 we received a further 103 chickens. Our poultry group has gone from success to success, we recently sold a further 50 chickens at £4 each plus 300 eggs.

Another benefit of belonging to the group is that each member keeps 30-40 chickens at home. Using the knowledge and skills I have learnt at the poultry group, I am able to take good care of my chickens. They are providing me with a steady income that has helped me meet the needs of my family, such as paying for their education, medicines and food. My whole family is delighted with this new scheme and the benefits it has brought to our home. My husband helps me care for the chickens and with transporting them to and from the market.

I am also a keen member of other ActionAid groups, including the SautiyaWanawake (The Voice of Women) Women's Movement which is helping fight the injustices women face, whilst helping us build the confidence to have a voice in the future development of our communities.

Thank you very much, Janet.

The SautiYaWanawakeWomen's Movement started in 2001 and aims to create a safe space for women to meet and discuss issues affecting them. There are now over 6,500 members. It has been instrumental in reducing and preventing cases of violence against women and children, and provided guidance and support to women who have undergone physical and sexual violence. Group members also mentor young girls on reproductive health.

Barbara Goodchild

Mothers' Union

Our April speaker was excellent, her name was Sandra Shaw, and she spoke about exercise, fitness and balance. We all found it very interesting and it has made me join one of her classes, with the hope to become fitter!

We had a speaker from Trading Standards for our speaker in May, his name was Rob Vale and he gave us a lot of information, certainly lots to think about and he was quite amusing with the jokes he told.

On Saturday 6 May there was a MU Festival Eucharist at Southwark Cathedral. Barbara and Julie went along and said how enjoyable the service was and that it was a slightly different format to previous years. I was very disappointed not to have been able to go this year.

We are looking forward to our annual Tea Party in the Church Hall on Tuesday 6 June at 2.30 pm. We hope to have lots of visitors. Anyone is welcome, but for catering purposes it would help if you let me know in advance if you are coming.

I am going to the USA for almost a month, so I will not be at the July meeting. We are having Tracy Newvell from the Cats' Protection League as our speaker – thanks to Margaret Thorne – so all cat lovers are welcome.

August's meeting will be our Garden Party. We are in the midst of arranging it and will let everyone know about it as soon as a venue has been booked.

As usual, I am inviting you all to join us at any of our meetings, you will be made welcome.

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





Bishop Christopher wrote in March/April . . .

'Then cometh St Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie . . . Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.'

(KJV John 20. 6-8)

Although I write this amid March rains in the sombre spirit of Lent, no Christian can ever wholly mask the joy of the resurrection that comes bubbling up like the waters of life of which Christ speaks in John 4. Even our Lenten liturgy looks forward. The Eucharistic Preface speaks of fasting and the desert of repentance, but concludes "As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds . . ."

For we, like John, the beloved disciple, have seen and believed. And in the Gospels we can see again and again, with eyes refreshed and reopened - we can see anew - we can believe, trust and follow.

It is a very good practice, which I know many follow, particularly at this time of year, to re-read a Gospel from beginning to end, simply reading, reflecting and praying through the story. It may indeed be helpful to read it in an unfamiliar translation. I chose to quote the King James' Version (KJV) which will be the translation of choice for some, but perhaps not so for many, precisely in the hope that the words may surprise us, bouncing us into a new immediacy with the story.

In fact the KJV, if you can come to grips with it, may be particularly helpful. For of all the translations it is arguably the one that conveys most of the sense of the original Greek, faithfully turning into English all the grammatical slips of the Apostles, without presuming to tidy them up.

Perhaps, too, the unfamiliar language will help make the well-known story unfamiliar again. Then we can read it again simply as something

that happened, at a particular time and place, to Peter and John and not to others. Many will be more familiar with the New Revised Standard Version in which the scene is set a little earlier in Chapter 20:

'Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved . . . (NRSV John 20. 1-2a)

And the rest is history, rather to be more precise faith!

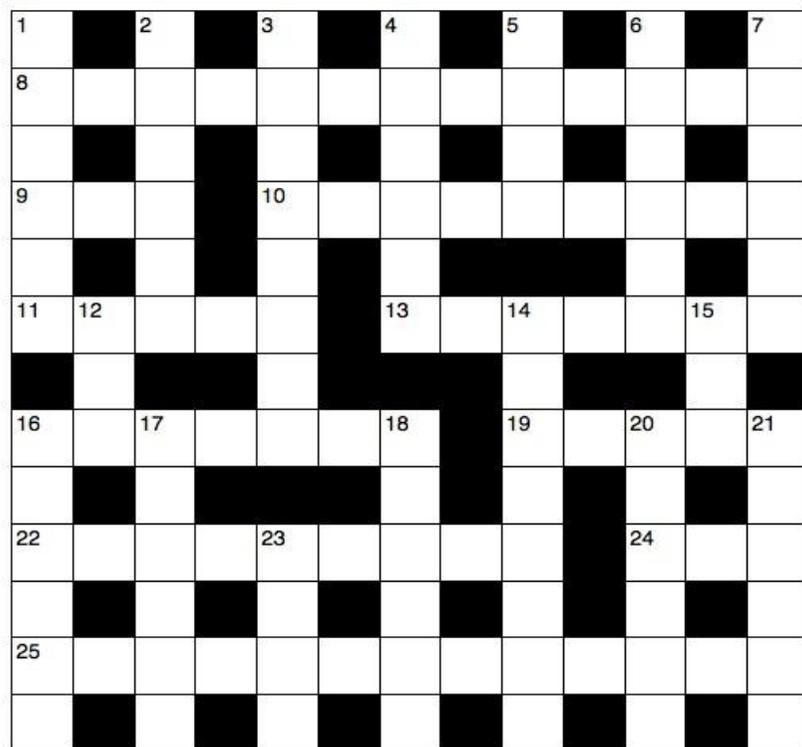
It is a story that is transfigured by eternity, a story by which we strive, in God's strength, to live. But all that came later. Here and now, in the garden, the first witness is Mary Magdalene, then it is just Peter and John. They are not yet St Peter and St John, figures in stained glass windows. They have not yet written the Gospel and the Letters, or received the Revelation of the Risen Lord – in other words they do not yet know that Jesus has risen from the dead. They are there in their great need and distress, longing for Jesus, but not yet knowing the Risen Saviour. Let us, as we approach Holy Week, be there with them. To read the story again, as if for the first time, can be a slow business. It is not a matter of catching a glimpse. For sight is not enough - seeing is only the start. The perfection of seeing is faith. We have to look with real attention and from the heart if we want to see, and believe. The more we look, the more we will be drawn to look, into these wonderful stories that tell us, as Jesus told the woman at the well, all that we ever did.

Let us look into these words that give life this Lent. Let us read the Good News again, for the first time. And may God in his infinite love, mercy and grace, open our eyes of faith to behold him and to experience as if for the first time a truly glorious Easter.

✠Christopher Southwark

Faith
makes all things Possible
not Easy

Bible Crossword for June/July



Clues

Across

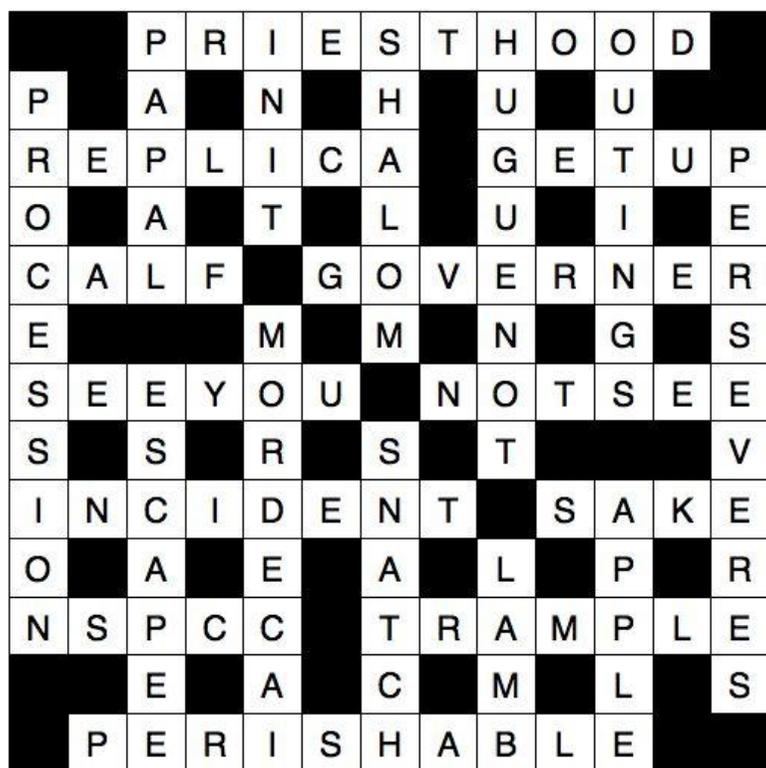
- 8 Laban complained he had not been allowed to kiss them when Jacob fled with his family (Genesis 31:28) (13)
 9 In favour of (3)
 10 'The child's father and mother — at what was said about him' (Luke 2:33) (9)
 11 Swagger (Psalm 12:8) (5)
 13 'Terrors — him on every side and dog his every step' (Job 18:11) (7)
 16 Bay bits (anag) (7)
 19 Preach, address an audience, speak in public (5)
 22 Holy Communion (9)

- 24 'On their way to — out the land, Joshua instructed them, "Go and make a survey of the land"' (Joshua 18:8) (3)
 25 Joseph advised Pharaoh to appoint these to administer his grain storage plan (Genesis 41:34) (13)

Down

- 1 'Assyria's pride will be brought down and — sceptre will pass away' (Zechariah 10:11) (6)
 2 'And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in — with God and men' (Luke 2:52) (6)
 3 The descendants of Esau (Genesis 36:9) (8)
 4 The components of the crown that Jesus was made to wear before his crucifixion (John 19:2) (6)
 5 Colour of cloth which was to cover holy objects in the tabernacle when moving camp (Numbers 4:6–12) (4)
 6 One of the gold articles plundered from the Midianites offered to the Lord by the Israelite army 'to make atonement' (Numbers 31:50) (6)
 7 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set — — ' (Jeremiah 31:29) (2,4)
 12 Ate (anag) (3)
 14 'We ourselves... groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our — as sons' (Romans 8:23) (8)
 15 Abram's nephew (Genesis 14:12) (3)
 16 Rupture (Job 30:14) (6)
 17 'Yet to all who received him... he gave the right to — children of God' (John 1:12) (6)
 18 'I... asked him the true meaning of all — . — he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things' (Daniel 7:16) (4,2)
 20 Military units (Exodus 14:20) (6)
 21 'Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to — her to public disgrace' (Matthew 1:19) (6)
 23 Diva (anag) (4)

Solutions to April/May Crossword



*Whether the weather be fine
Or whether the weather be not
Whether the weather be cold
Or whether the weather be hot
We'll weather the weather
Whatever the weather
Whether we like it or not!*



August/September Magazine

Items for inclusion in the next magazine are needed by Sunday 9 July please, or contact Margaret Green to make alternative arrangements via:

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