

Solutions to June/July Crossword

E		F		E		T		B		A		O
G	R	A	N	D	C	H	I	L	D	R	E	N
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S	T	R	U	T		S	T	A	R	T	L	E
	E			E				D			O	
B	A	B	Y	S	I	T		O	R	A	T	E
R		E				H		P		R		X
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October/November Magazine

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

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

AUGUST 2017

Sunday 6 August

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

Sunday 13 August

8.00 am Holy Communion – Hazel O'Sullivan
10.45 am Holy Communion – Hazel O'Sullivan

Sunday 20 August

8.00 am Holy Communion at **St Mary's** – Nick Lang
10.45 am Holy Communion – Richard Ford
Preacher: Brian Griffiths

Sunday 27 August

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

Every Wednesday

10.45 am Holy Communion

SEPTEMBER 2017

Sunday 3 September

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

Sunday 10 September

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

Sunday 17 September

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

Sunday 24 September

8.00 am Holy Communion – Hazel O'Sullivan
10.00 am Joint Service – Ken Bryan
Preacher: Hazel O'Sullivan

Every Wednesday

10.45 am Holy Communion

Dear Friends

It's incredible that, although the world has been in existence for 4½ billion years, we are still the only creature that we know of that's capable of asking the question 'why?' Every person, no matter what their beliefs, has an innate need to search for meaning in their lives and ask that question – Why? This is how God has made us: as people who are constantly searching for something beyond themselves. Secular solutions to this question, such as celebrity culture, sport, creativity, or a search for greater knowledge, often result in a sense of let down when one thing comes to an end without something else to replace it. There is also little in these activities to help in facing a disappointment in their life, which will inevitably come about.

Christianity provides a different meaning to life. We know that God loves us, because of what Jesus did and we can experience this love through the work of the Holy Spirit in many different ways. It might be through the beauty of creation, through worship, through something in the Bible, through an interaction with another person, or through some other way. How it happens will vary for each person and for different times in your life.

Also, being part of a church helps, by putting us together with others who are looking out for similar things and by providing situations where God's work is noticed and encouraged. We create special times where God's glory is revealed to the world and we show this to other people. A saying that's attributed to St Teresa of Avila explains how God's glory is shown in the world:

Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours, yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion is to look out to the earth, yours are the feet by which He is to go about doing good and yours are the hands by which He is to bless us now.

God has given us so much. Giving thanks for this in our worship and in joining in with God to show his glory in the world is what we are called to do and it's this that gives meaning in our lives. We dedicate our time, talent and money back to God. Time enables each of us to grow in faith as we spend more time with God, whether this be on our own,

or together with others. Talent means that we're sharing something of ourselves with others and this is always more enjoyable than operating alone. Money is required to pay for clergy and other support from the diocese, to improve the buildings that we use and to pay for any other support to spread the word of God's glory.

In the autumn there will be another opportunity to make commitments to God of time, talent and money. My prayer is that everyone associated with both St Mary's and St Francis' churches will give prayerful consideration to this over the summer and will make such a commitment at special services in the autumn, or through communication with contacts at the church for those who do not attend services, but who are nevertheless an important part of our church family or community.

The summer is a great time for being able to put things in perspective and take a step back from day to day activities. Even if you're not going away, please do take some time for prayer and reflection on your walk with God and how this might be added to in the near future.

Hazel



Prayer Cycle

We pray for those who live in:

Knox-Johnson House, High Street; Linden Leas; Links Road; Manor Court, Manor Road; Manor Park Close; Manor Park Lane; Manor Road; Martin's Close; Hawes Lane; The Mead; Monkton House, The Alders; North Road; Oak Grove; Oak Lodge Drive; Oaklands Avenue.

In our cycle of prayer for other churches in West Wickham, we pray for Coney Hall Baptist Church: the minister, Rev Ian Hamlin, and all the church family there.

We also pray:

- For all those families who are connected with St Francis' Church, either through our pre-school, the scouts, or as families who have had children baptised here.
- That the summer holidays will be a time of refreshment for them and that there will be opportunities in the autumn to reconnect and maybe build up the links through things like the Place of Welcome and our Worship for All Ages services.
- That the mental health services in the UK can be expanded and developed to meet the increased demand created by deteriorating mental health, especially among young adults.
- To give thanks for the good news about the work of Action Aid in Kenya, which is supported by the money from the Saturday coffee mornings at St Francis'.
- That the training in poultry-keeping will continue to support people like Janet Sanga in living life to the full and bringing hope to communities previously blighted by injustice and poor education.
- For Christians in those areas of the world where they are persecuted. Give thanks that many of the areas occupied by self-proclaimed Islamic State have now been liberated and residents can return to rebuild their homes there.
- That people of different faiths will be motivated to work together to form a stronger community in these places.



Inquisitive?

If you are not a regular worshipper at church, or you have a friend who might be interested in Christianity, but you don't feel able to encourage them in faith, then this series of events is for you and/or your friend.

Once a month we will have a discussion around the big questions of life. Things like 'Can you live a good life without God?' and 'Is truth a straight-jacket or a liberator?' If you think that you, or someone you know, would benefit from such discussions, please do speak to me for more information. There will be three evening meetings on 12 October, 9 November and 7 December, all being held at St John's in Croydon Road, Coney Hall.

Hazel

Place of Welcome

Each week on a Friday morning, between 10.00 am and 12 noon, St Francis' Church is open as a Place of Welcome. This is a time and place where you can meet others, have a chat to whoever is there and maybe share something of interest to you. There is tea and coffee available, as well as Wi-Fi and children's toys. We hope that, over time, a community of friends will develop who enjoy spending time together and who give support to each other.

Do come along and join in if you'd like to meet new people. Bring a friend too.

Hazel

Spiritual Wilderness

In June, we held our third Wholeness & Healing Service for St Francis and St Mary's on the theme of 'Jesus calming the storm'. For those of us there it was a very moving service.

This got me thinking of our inner turmoil and dark times when God seems far away. We have all experienced these moments of doubt and times when our prayers seem to dry up. Sometimes they don't last long, but for some they can go on for months or years. St Teresa of Calcutta comes to mind, as she struggled with this for most of her life, from 1948 almost until her death in 1997.

Having been brought up by the sea they remind me of the rhythm of the waves. They rise up and come crashing on to the shore, then they flow back out and the rhythm starts again. This rhythm is natural and could be likened to God training us to follow Jesus in the good times and the bad.

Recently, in St Francis' we have lost quite a few of our congregation through bereavement and quite a few people are asking 'Why?' This, coupled with the atrocities in Manchester and London Bridge, and the tragic Grenfell Tower fire, seems to be a very 'dark time' for our congregation. People are hurting and some are finding it hard to grasp and cope with all these losses at once. We need time to heal and time to re-connect personally with God.

This is not something I find easy to talk about but a very 'dark day' in my life was when my Moorfields Eye Hospital consultant told me that my eyesight had deteriorated to the point that there was no further treatment available and he was changing my registration to 'severely sight impaired/blind with limited vision'. The only thing they can do is monitor the condition and hopefully keep it stabilised.

I was very angry with God for a long time after that and couldn't find a way through this physical, mental and spiritual wilderness. The loss of independence, giving up driving, relying on others, together with having to learn new ways of adapting and doing things, were all alien to me.

Then, a couple of years ago, I was on a Croydon University Hospital Chaplaincy Quiet Day at the Emmaus Centre led by Chris Chapman. We were meditating on and discussing the works of St John of the Cross, the 16th century Catholic priest, poet and Carmelite mystic. In particular, we were looking at his poem 'Dark Night'. This dark night (of the soul) referred to in this poem, describes a spiritual crisis in the journey toward union with God. Out of nowhere, I began to connect with the following two verses:

"On that glad night,
In secret, for no one saw me.
Nor did I look at anything.
With no other light or guide
Than the one that burned in my heart;"

"This guided me
More surely than the light of noon
To where He waited for me
Him I knew so well –
In a place where no one else appeared."

Night and the darkness can be threatening, isolating, and cause lots of doubt and uncertainty, and we often can't see the way ahead. It brings with it feelings of fear but also hope and dreams. If you can see the moon and the stars, it is also very beautiful. If we agree to stay in the darkness our eyes begin to adjust and we realise we are not alone; God is there for us.

With the loss of my sight the night and darkness took on a new dimension. It is very difficult and disorientating but I have gradually had to learn to let go, to have faith and put my trust in another. The 'light that guides me' is God, and His light has triumphed over all the darkness.

We must learn to put our trust in Him, allow His healing to take place and let His light shine in our parish. We can do this through prayer for ourselves and each other.

If you are struggling or need to talk to someone in confidence about your 'dark night' please do talk to someone on the Ministry Team or Pastoral Care Team.

Rowena Griffiths



Summer Time Lunchtime Recitals at St Francis' Church

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

10 August Organ Recital by Peter De Croos
21 September Langley Park Schools

Come and enjoy great live music!

Anita Curtis



Mothers' Union

As Joan is still in the USA at the time of the publication of this magazine, I am keeping you informed of our activities in her place

Our Annual Tea Afternoon in June was enjoyed by all, although we had fewer people attending this time. Thank you to all who supplied the scones and cakes, and laid out the tables and served.

For our July meeting, we had a speaker from the Cats Protection League. This was very interesting and we learned signs cats gave and what they meant. We also heard about keeping their water away from their food. Not what we did years ago when we had cats!

On 1 August we will be having our own Garden Party at 2.00 pm. This time for a first, it will be in the Pre-school garden. However, unfortunately(!), all the children's equipment will be removed, so no slides for us! Please members, if you can bring a garden chair and a few cakes or savouries that would be much appreciated. If the weather is wet, the hall is near at hand.

For our September meeting we will welcome Jo Bega, who will talk about rescuing children in Nepal. She is Chief Executive of the charity that supports this and will be off again to Nepal in November with Richard Stilgoe. All are welcome.

Meanwhile, continue to enjoy the summer and hopefully this lovely weather will continue, with just a small amount of rain to keep our gardens watered!

Barbara Goodchild



A Summary of Mike & Fiona's Recent Newsletter from Ear Aid Nepal - June 2017

Dear Friends and Family,

In Esther 4:14 it talks about "... for such a time as this".

Hi to our friends and supporters, we recently returned from another few weeks in Nepal. It is a privilege to be in Nepal when so many things are changing and developing. God is keeping us on our toes and on our knees!

We had planned to be in Nepal for just five weeks, because of the uncertainty around the visa situation and limited amount of time available on tourist visas. Also, Mike still has until July in his locum job at Birmingham. On 6 June, we received our official work visas after 18 months of negotiation and preparation, so we will return to Nepal in September. We can now relax and return with a degree of certainty.

While we were in Pokhara several others secured their visas and there is a fresh atmosphere of hope and optimism. The Ear Centre and its team are doing well; we currently have four audiology trainees on attachment from Kathmandu. Mike had some complicated patients, including a 6-year-old boy with very bad disease of both mastoids waiting for him.

From Pokhara, Mike and the camps team went to Jumla for an ear camp, which turned out to be more of an adventure than usual because of the extreme road conditions. The journey there and back took a total of 7 days in 4 wheel drive vehicles with plenty of precipitous edges, hairpin bends, small landslides and mechanical problems to contend with!

After a safe arrival, the team immediately assisted local doctors in the hospital with a deaf and dumb lady who had fallen out of a tree and sustained severe facial injuries. She had thankfully avoided damage to her eyes and was able to go home a few days later.

Several patients required mastoidectomies, including an 18-year-old boy. In all, 480 people were seen in outpatients and 50 hearing aids were fitted. A supply of knitted hats and blankets were given to people who looked like they could make good use of them. There was an opportunity to teach final year nurses from a local training college about ears and ear disease.

On the way back, they took a detour to see and admire the magnificent Rara Lake, which is truly remote. Our church had recently been to meet the four groups of believers who live in the area.

We give thanks for:

- Ongoing support from people round the world.
- Visas.
- Training opportunities.
- A successful ear camp.
- Fresh vision.

We pray for:

- Trust and commitment between senior management and everyone else.
- Revival of prayer meetings in various sections of Green Pastures complex.
- Witness of care, love and compassion.
- Further opportunities for the medical work to improve standards and to reach poor communities.

Thank you for all your support and prayers.

There is also a fresh news item with exciting pictures on the EAN website. Do look at: (<http://www.earaidnepal.org/blog.html>)

Love and greetings from Mike & Fiona

Cynthia Matthew



FUN & GAMES AFTERNOON

Wednesday 9th August 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm
At Sparrows Den (Corkscrew Hill entrance)

No unaccompanied children under 6

If you wish to leave older children, please ensure that they are registered with one of the helpers who will be wearing CTWW badges.

This event will not take place if it rains

Contact: Barbara Plummer (8289-3846) or
Email: krandbp@ntlworld.com

This is a Children's Link event



St Francis' Prayer Support Chain

If you know of someone (or it might be yourself) who would value prayer support for an emergency, or it could be for something longer-term, please contact me 020 8289 1483 and your request will be passed on. You do not need to tell us the reason for your call, but you will be prayed for until you let us know otherwise.

Your name will be known only to the members of the team who pray for you. If you feel that this ministry is something that you would like to be part of at St Francis, please speak to me, Rowena or Hazel.

Lesley East

Living Lord Jesus

We pray today for those whose lives have been destroyed by war and those whose souls have been crushed by lifeless religion.

For the childless and the parentless; the unloved and the unloving; for those who hate the company they have to keep and those who hate the solitude they have to endure.

For those who are struggling to live and those who are longing to die.

May God, who brings life out of death and hope out of despair, renew each one of us by the wild incursions of His spirit and may He be born again in us today.

Amen



SUPPORT CHAIN

(in Publisher)



Bishop Richard wrote in June

The few weeks in the run-up to the summer holiday period in the UK have seen some deeply disturbing and tumultuous events which have caused immense human suffering and anguish. There have been at least four very serious terrorist attacks (one on the doorstep of our Cathedral) and others foiled, and a disastrous fire at Grenfell Tower raising many questions of justice and safety. These have occurred in the context of major political uncertainty, following the June general election and the start of the Brexit negotiations. Looking more widely across the world the situation is even more worrying with large numbers of terrorist attacks in many contexts and vicious conflicts continuing in Syria and other parts of the world. The withdrawal of the United States from the Paris climate agreement is another profoundly disturbing issue for our world – even though the consequences are not so immediate they could be devastating in the not too distant future.

All this very disturbing news and context has to be counterbalanced with a large number of inspiring stories about how members of the public and the emergency services have responded with great care and compassion to those injured in the terrorist attacks and the fire. In addition, there are countless charities, churches and many others working in a deeply committed and dedicated way for greater justice and peace across the globe, including tackling the issue of climate change. All of these are causes for real hope in our world.

Our response to all this as Christians, and as the Church is vital - both in terms of practical action, but also in prayer and theological reflection. There is nothing new in having to have an understanding of life and faith which embraces both terrible evil and suffering whilst also seeing great goodness and reasons for real hope in many places. “The beauty and the horror – searching for God in a suffering world” is the title of a

book recently written by Bishop Richard Harries. He begins by recognising that human life is, at one and the same time, “so astonishing and so appalling”. There are times when we can be profoundly moved by the sheer beauty, goodness and loveliness of life, but also times when we are overwhelmed by its suffering and horror. Joy and woe are interwoven in human life - raising the fundamental question of how we are to find and understand God in a suffering world.

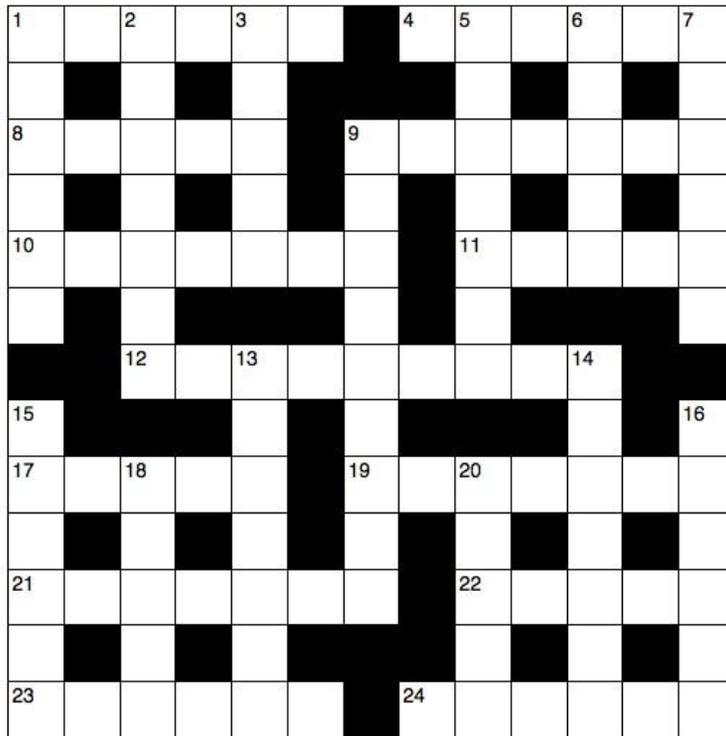
Centred on the reality of God’s self-giving love made known in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, Christianity offers a profound, and in my view, the deepest understanding of the mystery of life. In the God-forsakenness of the cross, suffering, evil and death are directly embraced, transcended and overcome through the unending love and presence of God, leading to resurrection, hope and new life. Christian faith offers true salvation and wholeness of life, which goes far beyond a superficial materialism or bucket list of experiences to be had before you die. It is a message of good news, to be shared with all as many prayed recently under the banner “Thy Kingdom come”.

I hope and pray that the summer months might provide at least some opportunity for us to reflect deeply on this “pearl of great price.” So that through our lives and the mission and ministry of our Church the world may, in the midst of profound suffering and confusion, find real hope through the deep reality of God’s suffering, self-giving and transforming love.

✠ Richard Kingston



Bible Crossword for August/September



Clues

Across

- 1 'The people were — at his teaching' (Mark 1:22) (6)
 4 'He saved —; let him save himself' (Luke 23:35) (6)
 8 He addressed the crowd in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:14) (5)
 9 Father of James and John (Matthew 4:21) (7)
 10 One who charges another with an offence (Job 31:35) (7)
 11 ' — thy ministers with righteousness' (Book of Common Prayer) (5)
 12 and 15 Down 'All — is God-breathed and is — for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness' (2 Timothy 3:16) (9,6)
 17 'No — of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up' (Genesis 2:5) (5)

- 19 Made to feel embarrassed (Isaiah 24:23) (7)
 21 This man built his house on sand (Matthew 7:26) (7)
 22 David's hypocritical message to Joab on the death in battle of Uriah: 'Don't let this — you' (2 Samuel 11:25) (5)
 23 Detest (Job 10:1) (6)
 24 'God made two great lights, the greater light to govern the day and the — light to govern the night' (Genesis 1:16) (6)

Down

- 1 To make a serious request (1 Corinthians 1:10) (6)
 2 Launches an assault against (Genesis 32:8) (7)
 3 'The wicked man — deceptive wages' (Proverbs 11:18) (5)
 5 Tuba ale (anag) (7)
 6 'The day thou gavest, Lord, is — ' (5)
 7 Old Testament measure of weight, equivalent to about 12 grammes (Exodus 30:13) (6)
 9 Where Elijah restored life to the son of a widow with whom he lodged (1 Kings 17:10) (9)
 13 Paul said of whatever was to his profit, 'I consider them — , that I may gain Christ and be found in him' (Philippians 3:8) (7)
 14 City visited by Paul, described by the city clerk as 'the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis' (Acts 19:35) (7)
 15 See 12 Across
 16 Rioted (anag) (6)
 18 She had a surprise when she answered the door and found 8 across outside (Acts 12:13) (5)
 20 Maltreat (1 Chronicles 10:4) (5)

