

## Seasons Flying

It seems like only yesterday the Canada geese flew north;  
Today, they're headed south again – so quickly back and forth.  
Spring and summer have faded away and autumn now is here;  
Then comes winter's icy blast and mountains of snow appear.  
Time travels on, so never fear – spring will be reborn,  
And once again we'll watch the geese and hear each honking horn.

*Joan Adams Burchell*



## **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: [gsmith0001@aol.com](mailto:gsmith0001@aol.com)  
URL: <http://strancispreschool.uk.com>



## **REGULAR SERVICES**

- 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.

### WEDNESDAY

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

# OCTOBER 2017

## **Sunday 1 October – Gift Day for St Francis**

8.00 am Holy Communion at **St Mary's** – Richard Ford  
10.45 am Holy Communion – Hazel O'Sullivan  
3.00 pm Pet Service

## **Friday 6 October**

Launch Event for St Francis' Place of Welcome

## **Saturday 7 October**

St John's Autumn Fair – Church Hall  
St Mary's Harvest Supper

## **Sunday 8 October – Harvest Celebrations**

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

## **Sunday 15 October**

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

## **Sunday 22 October**

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

## **Sunday 29 October – Bible Sunday**

8.00 am Holy Communion at **St Mary's** – Richard Ford  
10.00 am Joint Service at St Francis' – Richard Ford  
Leading: Brian Griffiths  
3.00 pm Memorial Service at **St Mary's** – Richard Ford  
Preacher: Ken Bryan

## **Every Wednesday**

10.45 am Holy Communion

## **The Art of Keeping Christmas**

How can we best keep Christmas? How can we best defeat the little bit of Scrooge in all of us and experience the glory of the Great Day?

By sinking the shafts of our spirits deep beneath the sparkling tinsel of the surface of Christmas and renewing within us the radiance of the inner meaning of the season.

By following the Star on an inward journey to Bethlehem to stand again in awe and wonder before the Babe in a Manger.

By rediscovering the faith and simplicity of a little child, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.

By being still and listening to the angels sing within our hearts.

By quietly evaluating our lives according to the Master's standards as set forth in the Sermon on the Mount.

By reaffirming the supremacy of the spirit in our conquest of ourselves.

By rededicating ourselves to the Master's ideals of Peace, Brotherhood, and Good Will.

By resolving to give ourselves away to others in love, joy and devotion.

By using the light of Christmas to guide us through the darkness of the coming year, refusing to go back to the dim kerosene lamps of the spirit when the brilliant electricity of Christmas is available to show us the way.

*Wilferd A Peterson*



**Answers to August/September Crossword**

A	M	A	Z	E	D		O	T	H	E	R	S	
P		T		A			A		N		H		
P	E	T	E	R		Z	E	B	E	D	E	E	
E		A		N		A		L		E		K	
A	C	C	U	S	E	R		E	N	D	U	E	
L		K				E		A				L	
		S	C	R	I	P	T	U	R	E			
U				U		H				P		E	
S	H	R	U	B		A	B	A	S	H	E	D	
E		H		B		T		B		E		I	
F	O	O	L	I	S	H		U	P	S	E	T	
U		D		S				S		U		O	
L	O	A	T	H	E			L	E	S	S	E	R

**NOVEMBER 2017**

**Sunday 5 November – All Saints’ Day**

- 8.00 am Holy Communion at **St Mary’s** – Hazel O’Sullivan  
Preacher: Ken Bryan
- 10.45 am Holy Communion – Richard Ford  
Leading: Brian Griffiths
- 3.30 pm Burrell Mead Service – Richard Ford

**Sunday 12 November - Remembrance Sunday**

- 8.00 am Holy Communion - Richard Ford
- 10.45 am Worship for All Ages – Richard Ford  
Preacher: Hazel O’Sullivan

**Sunday 19 November**

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

**Saturday 25 November**

Christmas Market at St Mary’s

**Sunday 26 November - Christ the King**

- 8.00 am Holy Communion – Hazel O’Sullivan  
Preacher: Ken Bryan
- 10.00 am Joint Service at **St Mary’s** – Hazel O’Sullivan  
Preacher: Ken Bryan
- 6.30 pm Churches Together in West Wickham Service  
St Francis’ Church

**Sunday 26 November – Christ the King**

- 8.00 am Holy Communion at **St Mary’s** - Hazel O’Sullivan
- 10.00 am Joint Service - Hazel O’Sullivan

**Every Wednesday**

- 10.45 am Holy Communion

**ST MARY’S CHRISTMAS MARKET**  
**SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2017**

If any member of St Francis’ Church is able to - and would like to help in any way - we would welcome you! If you are interested, please contact Jan Mason on 8777 1762 or Beryl Bolton on 8289 8097



## Parish Prayer Cycle for October & November

We pray for those who live in

Park Avenue; Phoenix Close, Hawes Lane; Pine Avenue; Pond Cottage Lane; Posting House, High Street; The Railway Pub, Red Lodge Road; Ravenswood Avenue; Ravenswood Crescent; Red Lodge, Red Lodge Road; Red Lodge Road; Riverside Walk, The Alders; Rose Walk; St David's Close; Sherwood Court, High Street.

In our cycle of prayer for other churches in West Wickham, we pray for St Mark's, Roman Catholic Church: the Minister, Father Ray, and all the church family there.

We also pray for:

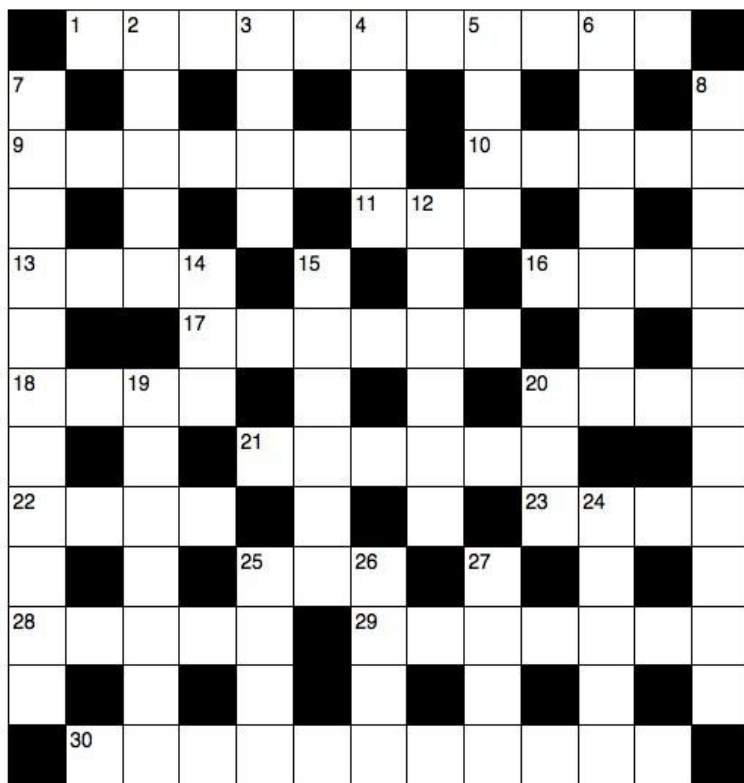
- Those affected by hurricanes in the Caribbean and Southern United States and also those affected by the earthquake in Mexico. Pray that homes and livelihoods can be restored and that support from other countries will be forthcoming. Pray that any links with climate change will be tested and actions taken to prevent a similar occurrence in the future where possible.
- The country of Yemen. Pray for God's protection on Christians in Yemen, where some have been killed and abducted by Islamic radicals who have gained greater influence recently. Praise God for the Yemenis who have turned to Christ and we ask God to help them grow in faith. We also pray for the continued provision of aid to the Yemen where 80% of people rely on aid.
- The strengthening of our own faith. Pray that our new bibles for use in church will emphasise to all who come into the building that the Bible is a guide to living life in all its fullness.
- The Place of Welcome on a Friday morning. Pray that it will become known as a time when there will always be someone available to listen and chat with.
- All residents of residential homes in the locality. Pray especially for Burrell Mead, where we will be taking a service and meeting with residents on Sunday 5 November at 3.30 pm.
- Hawes Down Primary School. Pray that children and parents will find a warm welcome at the school Harvest Service in St Francis' Church and that our new relationship with this school continues to strengthen.

- 18 'Cursed is everyone who is — on a tree' (Galatians 3:13) (4)
- 20 Where Samson killed a thousand Philistines with a donkey's jawbone (Judges 15:14) (4)
- 21 He succeeded Moses (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 22 'When he saw him, he took — on him' (Luke 10:33) (4)
- 23 'For — is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction' (Matthew 7:13) (4)
- 25 'The god of this — has blinded the minds of unbelievers' (2 Corinthians 4:4) (3)
- 28 Fear or terror (Psalm 31:22) (5)
- 29 'We, who are many, are one body, for we all — of the one loaf' (1 Corinthians 10:17) (7)
- 30 Assyrian ruler assassinated by his sons while worshipping his god Nisroch (2 Kings 19:37) (11)

### **Down**

- 2 'For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made — ' (1 Corinthians 15:22) (5)
- 3 'After supper he — the cup' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (4)
- 4 The request of a man of Macedonia in Paul's vision: 'Come — to Macedonia and help us' (Acts 16:9) (4)
- 5 He disobeyed his father Judah by refusing to impregnate his dead brother's wife (Genesis 38:9) (4)
- 6 I veto me (anal) (7)
- 7 Fourth king of Judah (1 Kings 15:24) (11)
- 8 Priest of God Most High, who blessed Abram (Genesis 14:18) (11)
- 12 'I have made you — — for the Gentiles' (Acts 13:47) (1,5)
- 14 Implore (1 Samuel 15:25) (3)
- 15 'Out of the eater, something to eat; out of the — , something sweet' (Judges 14:14) (6)
- 19 'I am the most ignorant of men; I do — — a man's understanding' (Proverbs 30:2) (3,4)
- 20 'Sin shall not be your master, because you are not under — , but under grace' (Romans 6:14) (3)
- 24 Native of, say, Baghdad (5)
- 25 The last word in the Bible (Revelation 22:21) (4)
- 26 Heroic tale (4)
- 27 'Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you — ' (John 8:32) (4)

## Bible Crossword for October/November



### Clues

#### **Across**

- 1 The sixth disciple (Matthew 10:3) (11)
- 9 'And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the — — ' (Matthew 6:13) (4,3)
- 10 Love intensely (Song of Songs 1:4) (5)
- 11 From Mt Carmel to Jezreel, Elijah — all the way (1 Kings 18:46) (3)
- 13 One of the Midianite leaders who was captured and killed after Gideon's victory in the valley near Moreh (Judges 7:25) (4)
- 16 Metallic element (4)
- 17 At line (anag) (6)

### *Dear Friends*

From October to November – a time of movement from warmth to cold, from light to dark, as the clocks alter at the end of the October and the evenings close in ever earlier and the last vestiges of summer warmth are lost.

And there's a similar movement in the church's year, as the festivals of Easter and Pentecost are left further behind and we enter the time of memorial services, in which we remember those whom we have loved and lost around All Souls' Day and those who have given their lives on the battle field in the season of Remembrance.

But before we enter the dead time, there's the chance to remember with thankfulness what the summer has given us – the harvest. In a world which tends to assume that our food grows on the shelves of a supermarket and forgets that we only have food on our plates thanks to the hard work of our farmers and the risks taken by our fishermen, it is good that the church still celebrates its Harvest Festival and reminds us how dependent we are on the rhythm of the seasons and the God who created and sustains this beautiful and fruitful world which we inhabit.

However, both the Book of Genesis and the Psalms remind us that we are stewards of this earth, not its owners, and that its fruits are intended for all of its inhabitants, not just a privileged minority. At the Lambeth Conference in 1988, five marks, or aims, of mission were developed. Two of these, relevant to this were to:

- Seek to transform unjust structures of society.
- Strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the earth.

So as we celebrate harvest, let's also be aware of those many parts of the world where people go to bed hungry and show our gratitude by contributing to those organisations such as Christian Aid and Action Aid, World Vision and Save the Children, which are working to overcome these inequalities which so mar our world.

I'm writing this at the beginning of September, when Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Jose are devastating the West Indies and Texas and Florida – again a reminder of how dependent we are on the forces of nature and a challenge to those who deny the existence of climate change.

We are stewards of God's world with a responsibility to those who come after us to leave them a world which will sustain them as it has sustained us, so let's take climate change seriously, consider what we can do to reduce our carbon footprint on the earth and urge governments to move towards renewable energy, cleaner air in cities and the preservation of forests and other green areas, and so avoid permanently entering a dead time. That really would be a fruitful harvest.

God bless  
*Richard Ford*



### **Harvest Thanksgiving**

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service will be held on Sunday 8 October at 10.45 am. We will be collecting donations of non-perishable foods for the Croydon Refugee Day Centre, who provide food for asylum seekers moving to new homes each week and for Food +, who provide food and toiletries to those facing food poverty across Bromley. Please come along and give thanks for our daily bread and bring some food for those who have less.



### **Gift Day**

Our Gift Day, when we celebrate St Francis, will be held on Sunday 1 October at 10.45 am. Our church building is a wonderful open space that could be used more by the community and ourselves for

Needless to say, the website can be used for other purchases throughout the year, not just for Christmas presents!

*David Wada  
Hon Treasurer*



### Autumn

When gems of summer look tired and sad,  
we clean up reluctantly;  
When autumn colours replace summer's jewels,  
it happens gradually.  
By the time summer's packed and put away,  
warm russets and reds catch our eye;  
Crimson and gold step softly in and we haven't  
had time to spy.  
When we watch flocks of geese flying south, s  
suddenly all is clear;  
The seasons have changed in the blink of  
an eye - the fall of the year is here.  
When we take a deep breath of crisp autumn air,  
it's a tonic and a relief,  
And we know we have secretly waited for this - the season  
that's hallowed, but brief.  
Stately spruce, green balsam and pine accentuate  
amber and cream;  
And when coloured leaves float silently down  
they're a blanket on which we can dream  
Of pumpkin and spice, and family, gathered  
around the fire,  
Mesmerized by autumn's treasures - all that  
a heart could desire.

*Joan Adams Burchell*



concerts, plays, meetings, exhibitions and flower festivals. It would be great to welcome in those who might not normally step inside the church on a Sunday, making them feel at home and open to returning again. Please do invite anyone you feel might like to find about more about us.

There will be an opportunity to contribute towards bibles in the church and our general church funds.

*Hazel*



### Pet Service

A short service where we have an opportunity to consider our relationship with animals and to give thanks for all that they provide for us. We will also bless any pets that have been brought along in person, or in mind through a photograph.

*Hazel*



### Annual Memorial Service for All Souls

Our annual memorial service will be held on Sunday 29 October at 3.00 pm in **St Mary's**. The service will be led by Richard Ford and Ken Bryan will be preaching. This is a very peaceful and reflective Service, which provides an opportunity to remember our loved ones who have died and now rest in Christ, together with the saints in heaven. If you would like to have a loved one's name read out at this

service, please enter their name on the special sheets which will appear at the back of the church in October.

*Hazel*

### **Advent Course**

We will be holding a series of Tuesday evening reflections on the Christmas story during Advent, which might help us to encounter this well-known narrative from a different perspective. Look out for more detail on where these sessions are to be held.

*Hazel*



### **Inquisitive?**

Not everyone feels happy discussing difficult life questions and yet they are key to how we live our lives. Questions like 'Why is there so much suffering in the world?' and 'Does God really love everyone?' We are working together with St John's in holding a series of relaxed and informal discussion evening around these and similar questions. This is primarily intended for those who are not regular members of a church, so do invite any friends who you feel might benefit from such discussions (invitation cards are available in church). There are three evening meetings on Thursdays 12 October, 9 November and 7 December, all being held at St John's, 56 Croydon Road, Coney Hall. Let me know if you'd like to come along.

*Hazel*

### **Link with Hawes Down Primary School**

Hawes Down School has operated as two separate infant and junior schools until this September, when they combined into one primary school. The Head, Matt De Freitas, came to speak at the 10.45 am service on Education Sunday, 10 September, when he told us about the challenges that this brings. So that the whole school can meet

The event is in aid of Christian Aid. There is no admission charge, but a collection for Christian Aid will be taken. Free refreshments will be provided.

We would be grateful if this could be publicised by your church/organisation.

*David Wada, Events Co-ordinator*



### **Website : [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk)**

Now that we are thinking about buying Christmas presents for our family and friends, if you buy on-line, please consider buying via 'easyfundraising'.

By using the website, easyfundraising, to make any on-line purchases, our Church will get a commission on your purchases without you paying any more than you would have by going direct to the supplier.

We appreciate that some of you do not have access to the Internet at home, but suggest that you may be able to solicit the help of other Church members or use the computers at the Library.

The procedure is:

1. Login in to: [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)
2. Select our page – St. Francis of Assisi, West Wickham.
3. Select the supplier you want.
4. Continue with your purchase as you would normally

No record of your transaction is retained by easyfundraising as you have paid your supplier direct. Your supplier pays the commission to easyfundraising, who pay it to us quarterly.



## **40th Anniversary Service**

Brian Griffiths will be celebrating 40 years since being licensed as Reader in Llandaff Cathedral on Sunday 19 November. Since moving to London from South Wales, Brian served as a Reader for nine years at St Philip's in Norbury and 15 years at St Mark's, South Norwood. He and Rowena have been worshipping at St Francis' since 2003. Please come and join his friends from St Philip's and St Mark's for a Celebration Eucharist on that day at 10.45 am in St Francis' followed by a buffet lunch in the church hall.

*Hazel*

## **October & November Saints**

### ***St Denis (9 October)***

St Denis (Dionysius in Latin) was sent by the early church in Rome to preach the Gospel to the people of France (known as Gaul at the time of the Roman Empire). It's believed he was born in Rome and died around 258AD. He was sent with two companions – Rusticus and Eleutherius. The centre of Denis' missionary work was on a small island in the Seine, near the city of Lutetia Parisiorum – which, of course, later became known as Paris. Denis became the first Bishop of Paris and was a very successful evangelist.

However, it wasn't long before he was arrested and imprisoned under a persecution carried out by the Roman Emperor Decius, who was trying to wipe out the small Christian community in Paris. After a long imprisonment, Denis and his two companions were beheaded on the high hill of Montmartre. It may well be that this is how Montmartre was named – Mons Martyrum – The Martyrs' Mountain.

St Denis' remains were interred in a small chapel that became The Basilica of St Denis in the north of Paris. You pass through this suburb on the Eurostar train as it approaches Gare du Nord. The Basilica is the resting place for many of the Kings of France. Today, in addition to the Basilica, St Denis is home to the largest sports stadium in France – Stade de France, where the French national football and rugby teams play the majority of their games. St Denis is the patron saint of France and Paris.

### ***St Martin of Tours (11 November)***

St Martin was born in Hungary around 320AD. His father was a tribune in the Roman Army stationed near Milan in Northern Italy where Martin grew up. When he was around ten years old, he attended a Christian church – much against the wishes of his parents. By then, Christianity was a legal religion in the Roman Empire. Martin followed his father into the Roman Army when he was about 15 years old. He was stationed in France for part of his military service.

One cold day, whilst in Amiens, he saw a beggar who was unclothed. Immediately, Martin removed his cloak and cut it into two with his sword. He gave half to the homeless beggar. When he was around 20 years old, Martin decided that fighting in the army was no longer compatible with his Christian faith. He was accused of cowardice and ordered to be imprisoned.

All this happened just before a battle in modern day Germany. Martin offered to go to the front of the troops completely unarmed. Fortunately, the opposing force decided to sue for peace and so no battle took place. As a result, Martin was consequently released from military service and dedicated himself totally to Christ. He led many to believe in Jesus, including his mother. As far as we know, his father refused. In 371AD, the city of Tours consecrated the very reluctant Martin as their Bishop. He died in 397AD.

There is a legend about his cloak. The half of the cloak kept by Martin became a holy relic. This was carried into battle and, also, oaths were sworn upon it. The priest who cared for the cloak was called, in Latin, a 'cappelenau'. The French translated this as 'chapelains' from which we get the word 'chaplain'. Small churches were built in some places to house the cloak and these were called 'capella' – the Latin word for 'a little cloak'. This later became corrupted to the word 'chapels'. So chaplains and chapels have a real connection with St Martin of Tours.

St Martin of Tours is the patron saint of beggars, tailors and infantry soldiers.

*Brian Griffiths*



## **Mothers' Union**

We had our first Garden Party in the Pre-School garden and it worked very well. There was a nice number there and the weather was just right. The cakes, savouries and tea were enjoyed by all and we had the chance for some chatting and catching up with each other's news.

For our September meeting our speaker was Jo Bega, who spoke to us about rescuing children in Nepal. It is appalling the number of children that go missing and end up as slaves, or in the case of girls, worse. Jo was an excellent speaker and the afternoon was enjoyed by all who were there.

In October we have a speaker from the MYU who is talk to us about making ourselves understood by deafened people. Her name is Many Campbell and her talk is titled "Silence for the Lambs". It will be most appropriate, as many of us are losing our hearing as we get older.

Our speaker in November is someone known by many of us as she is in the St Francis' choir. Daphne Dack is speaking to us and I for one cannot wait to hear her. She appears to have led an interesting life! As is usual, in December we don't hold a meeting, but instead attend the Carol Service at the Emmanuel Church, which takes place on Tuesday 5 December/.

It seems unreal talking about our November and December meetings, when it was summer only yesterday, or so it seems. I hope as autumn and winter draw in, that you will still come along to our meetings and bring along a friend or two – everyone is welcome.

*Joan Burford*

## **The Big Christmas Sing!**

The West Wickham Choir, under the guidance of Geoff Mussard, will be holding the Big Christmas Sing at St Francis' Church on Saturday 2 December at 4.00 pm.

All are welcome to come and join in with some of our favourite carols and hear some Christmas poems. Children are especially welcome, as we will be joined by a choir from a local primary school.

together for important celebrations, the school will be using St Francis' Church this year for Harvest, Christmas and Easter services. We look forward to welcoming children and parents for these key Christian festivals.

*Hazel*

## **Children's Society Boxes**

It is time, once again, to open The Children's Society Boxes, and I would be grateful, therefore, if they could be brought into Church or, if more convenient, I can arrange for them to be opened in your home. With many thanks, Christine Morton (Tel 8777 9213).



## **Remembrance**

Those we love don't go away,  
They walk beside us every day.  
Unseen, unheard, but always near,  
Still loved, still missed and very dear.



*Sunday 12 November 2017*

## **December/January Magazine**

Items for inclusion in the next edition are needed by Sunday 12 November 2017 please, or contact Margaret Green to make alternative arrangements via:

Tel: 8777 4450 or email: [maqletitiagreen@hotmail.com](mailto:maqletitiagreen@hotmail.com)