

## 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+) and crèche facilities in church
- 10.45 am 2nd Sunday – Worship for All Ages** (non-Eucharistic)
- 10.00 am Last Sunday – Joint Family Communion**  
with St Mary's, held alternately at each church  
*See calendar for details*
- 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

- 9.30 am Morning Prayer**  
**10.45 am Holy Communion**

### THURSDAY

- 9.00 am Morning Prayer**

### SATURDAY

- 9.00 am - 10.00 am Church open for quiet and prayer**

## FEBRUARY 2018

### **Sunday 4 February**

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

### **Sunday 11 February**

- 8.00 am Holy Communion** – Hazel O'Sullivan  
**10.45 am Worship for All Ages** – Brian Griffiths  
Preacher: Ken Bryan

### **Wednesday 14 February – Ash Wednesday**

- 10.45 am Parish Communion** – Hazel O'Sullivan  
**8.00 pm Churches Together in West Wickham at St Mary's**  
Hazel O'Sullivan  
Preacher: Bill Bowman

### **Sunday 18 February**

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

### **Sunday 25 February**

- 8.00 am Holy Communion** – Richard Ford  
**10.00 am Joint Service at St Mary's** – Hazel O'Sullivan  
Preacher: Richard Ford

### **Every Wednesday**

- 10.45 am Holy Communion**

## MARCH 2018

### **Sunday 4 March**

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

### **Sunday 11 March – Mothering Sunday**

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

### **Sunday 18 March**

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

### **Sunday 25 March – Palm Sunday**

8.00 am Holy Communion at **St Mary's** – Hazel O'Sullivan  
10.00 am Joint Service – Hazel O'Sullivan  
Leading & Preaching: Richard Ford & Ken Bryan

### **Tuesday 27 March**

8.00 pm Stations of the Cross

### **Thursday 29 March**

7.30 pm Prayer Stations & Holy Communion at **St Mary's**

### **Friday 30 March – Good Friday**

11.00 am Churches Together in West Wickham Service  
To be advised  
2.00pm An Hour at the Cross at **St Mary's**

### **Every Wednesday**

10.45 am Holy Communion

### *Dear Friends*

I'm writing this on the day following the black-dress protest on the red carpet for the Golden Globes award ceremony in Los Angeles. Hollywood's most well-known actresses and other celebrities donned black dresses in solidarity with victims of sexual harassment and in protest against those men in the movie industry, such as Harvey Weinstein, who use their power to exploit and sexually abuse women. On the same day, Carrie Gracie, the BBC's China editor, resigned because of the gender gap at the corporation, claiming, not unreasonably, that she was entitled to be paid the same as men doing the same job.

The equality of women and their empowerment is something that the Church generally - and Christians individually - need to take seriously, since all are valued equally in the eyes of God, and it is good to see the recent appointment of Sarah Mullally as the Bishop of London, the third most senior bishop in the country.

It may sometimes escape our notice that women were both highly valued and played a significant part in the early life of the Israeli nation, as recorded in the Old Testament. This including Deborah, a prophetess and one of the judges, or leaders, of Israel before the adoption of a monarchy (Judges 4. 4); Jael, who killed the Canaanite general (Judges 4. 21) and Ruth, the great-grandmother of King David and an ancestor of Jesus himself (Ruth 4. 13-22). But perhaps the most eloquent praise of women is to be found in the Book of Proverbs, where we read:

*A wife of noble character who can find?  
She is worth far more than rubies . . . She speaks with wisdom,  
and faithful instruction is on her tongue.  
She watches over the affairs of her household  
and does not eat the bread of idleness.  
Her children arise and call her blessed;  
her husband also, and he praises her:  
'Many women do noble things,  
but you surpass them all.'*

*Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;  
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.  
Honour her for all that her hands have done,  
and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.*

*(Proverbs 31. 10, 26-31)*

In more recent times, the Church has chosen the fourth Sunday in Lent to honour mothers, although in the sixteenth century, it was the Sunday when people returned to their 'mother church,' the church where they had been baptised, or the local parish church, or the nearest cathedral, the mother church of all the parish churches in a diocese.

Not all women, of course, are mothers, and increasingly churches are recognising this, with the tradition of giving flowers to all the mothers present on Mothering Sunday being extended to including all the women in the congregation.

It is therefore right that we should do so, for we are all born in the image of God, irrespective of our gender.

God bless,

*Richard Ford*

### **A Prayer for Lent**

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations;

and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save.

Through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

*Amen*



### **Prayer Cycle**

Acacia Gardens; Alderbrook Court; The Alders; Arragon Gardens; Ash Grove; Barwood Avenue; Beckenham Road; Blakes Green; Bolderwood Way.

In our cycle of prayer for other churches in West Wickham, we pray for the people at Coney Hill Baptist Church and St John's Church.

Pray for those:

- Who work in the National Health Service: for doctors, nurses, those in administration and support roles. With winter weather and an increase in those affected by the flu, we pray that surgeries and hospitals will be able to provide the necessary care to the population.
- Who live in retirement properties in our community, especially those who have moved from some distance away. Pray that there might be provision for people to get together with others. Pray that our Place of Welcome and community lunches might also provide links into these communities.
- Who are our mission partners, Mike & Fiona Smith, in Pokhara, Nepal. Pray that the hospital there might have improved facilities for ear and other operations during this year and that plans for new staff and equipment will enable the ear camps to restart in the spring and summer.



Jesus Prays in the Garden  
John 17:1-28

## Lent: A Time to Strengthen Faith

Lent is a time for drawing closer to God. There are a variety of ways in which you might use this opportunity to grow spiritually.

We start Lent on Wednesday 14 February. Receive your cross of ashes and begin in the right spirit. Two communion services with (optional) ashing will be held:

- 10.45 am at St Francis', Ravenswood Avenue
- 8.00 pm at St Mary's, The Avenue

All of our home groups and an ecumenical group will meet five times during Lent and we'd love you to join up with one of these when we will follow a course that teases out different ways in which we can receive Christ. Discussion from four leading Christians, including Bishop Nick Baines, leads into an exploration of practical implications for our day-to-day lives. It raises big questions:

*Aren't we all children of God anyway?  
Just how can we receive Christ?  
What does it mean to have 'a relationship with God'?*

If you are not already part of a group, please sign up for one of the following weekly meetings on the sign-up sheet in church or by telephone or e-mail to Hazel:

- Monday evenings: 8.00 pm – 9.30 pm
- Tuesday afternoons: 2.00 pm – 3.30 pm
- Tuesday evenings: 7.30 pm – 9.00 pm
- Wednesday evenings: 8.00 pm – 9.30 pm
- Thursday mornings 10.00 am – 11.30 pm
- Friday mornings 10.00 am – 11.30 pm

During Lent the church encourages the spiritual Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. What are you going to give up, or 'take up' for these six weeks?

If you don't already pray at home, this would be a good time to start. We have a number of books in church that could help with this, or there are on-line and phone apps that can also help – do ask me or Richard if you would like advice. Alternatively, we have the following opportunities for prayer every week during Lent:

- **Morning Prayer at:**
  - 8.00 am on Tuesdays at St Mary's
  - 9.30 am on Wednesdays at St Francis'
  - 9.00 am on Thursdays at St Francis'
  - 9.00 am on Fridays at St Mary's
- **Communion at 10.45 am on Wednesdays at St Francis'**
- **Quiet Hour from 9.00 -10.00 am on Saturdays at St Francis'**

Perhaps you could support a charity through giving up certain things. Christian Aid produce a leaflet 'Count Your Blessings' that can help with this. It can be accessed online at:

[www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/lent](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/lent)

Hazel



### **Women's Event: Pancakes & Theology**

As preparation for Lent, we will be having a pancake party on Tuesday 13 February at 7.30 pm in the main hall at St Mary's Church. As well as making our pancakes, we will also be talking about the film 'The Shack' and some of the traditional images of God that it has challenged in us, including that of gender. You don't have to watch the film to join us and please do bring a friend.

### **Holy Week & Easter Services**

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on 25 March, when our joint service will be at St Francis' at 10.00 am. Services during the week will be as follows:

#### **Tuesday 27 March**

8.00 pm Stations of the Cross at St Francis'

#### **Thursday 29 March**

7.30 pm Prayer stations and Holy Communion for Maundy Thursday at **St Mary's**

#### **Friday 30 March**

10.00 am Good Friday Walk of Witness in West Wickham, starting at **St Mark's**

11.00 am Churches Together in West Wickham service at St Francis'

2.00 pm A Devotional Hour at the Cross at **St Mary's**

The week will finish with our Easter celebrations at the normal times on **Sunday 1 April.**

### **Women's World Day of Prayer**

The Women's World Day of Prayer is an opportunity to come together with others considering some of the challenges that women and girls face in different parts of the world. Finding out about another country through prayer is a great way to travel and meet people without needing to leave West Wickham. Please come to hear about the experiences of the women and girls of Suriname on Friday 2 March at 10.30 am at St Mary's – and it's not just for women, men are very welcome too!

### **Mothers' Union**

First and foremost, may I wish everyone a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

We did not hold a meeting in December as we were invited to the Emmanuel Church to join the Women's Fellowship Carol Service. Unfortunately I was unable to attend, but the ladies that were able to go very much enjoyed themselves.

We had a number of enjoyable services held at St Francis', including "The Big Christmas Sing" on 2 December and the Carol Service and the Lighting of the Lamps held before Christmas.

To start the New Year, we had our first meeting on Tuesday 9 January and Ken Bryan talked to us about "Refugees in Croydon". This was a very interesting meeting but made us feel so very grateful for having been born in this country.

Our February meeting will be our AGM and Hazel will chair the meeting and also give a talk after the AGM.

At the moment, the future of the St Francis' Mothers' Union is uncertain as Barbara is retiring from being the Secretary and Treasurer, which she has done for many, many years and we have no one prepared to take over the positions. If there is anyone who would like to join the committee and take over as Treasurer and/or Secretary, I would be delighted as I cannot run our branch on my own.

I look forward to seeing as many ladies (and gentlemen) as possible on 6 February and wish everyone the very best for 2018.

*Joan Burford*

*Leader of St Francis Mothers' Union.*

### **April/May Magazine**

Items for inclusion in the next magazine are needed by Sunday 11 March 2018 please, or contact Margaret Green to make alternative arrangements via:

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

## **St Francis' Electoral Roll 2018**

The annual revision of the Electoral Roll will start on Sunday 18 February and I should be glad to know of any changes of address, telephone numbers or email addresses of those already on the Roll from 2017 and any from new people. All notifications need to be made by Sunday 18 March in order for the new Roll to come into effect at the Annual Parochial Meeting on Sunday 15 April.

***Please note that this is not a year for completing new forms, only for adding and updating, so it is not necessary for those already on the Roll to complete new forms.***

If you have regularly attended St Francis' for the past six months and are not on the Electoral Roll and wish to be so, there are forms available from me and at the back of the church. When completed, they can be given to me or a Churchwarden, or to Hazel.

Please do consider this, as being on the Electoral Roll enables you to have a vote at the Annual Meeting and is a necessity for those on the Parochial Church Council. The new Electoral Roll will be available for viewing on Sunday 1 April. If you have any questions, please ask or telephone me or ask a Church Warden or Hazel.

*Barbara Goodchild  
8777 8782*

## **St Francis' Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)**

The APCM for St Francis' will take place following the service on Sunday 15 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 two 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.

*Nicky Nightingale*

## **Prayer Ministry at St Francis' Church**

St Paul advises us to pray without ceasing in 1 Thessalonians (5:17). Prayer is vital in both good times and bad, as it is our way of communicating with God. Many people appreciate the support of prayer from others when they are sick or in a difficult situation. At St Francis this support is offered in a number of ways.

### **Prayer requests from the Intercession Book.**

Personal prayer requests are read out as part of the intercessions at Holy Communion services at St Francis (except services held jointly with St Mary's).

Names remain on this list for 4 weeks if there is no update on the individual, but this time can be extended. Some individuals may also request prayer support from the Prayer Support Chain.

Guidelines for using the Intercession Book are at the front of the book, or ask any member of the Ministry Team and the Wardens.

### **Prayer Support Chain**

Members of the Prayer Support Chain will pray in private for those who have requested such support. Requests usually come to Lesley East, who then passes the message on to other members of the group with information kept confidentially. It helps to have some background to the situation, but this is not necessary and the request may come direct or can be made on behalf of someone else. Prayer Support is offered for as long as is needed. This is a confidential ministry even if the person's name is in the Intercession Book as well.

### **Prayer after a Service**

Members of the Ministry team (whose details are on the notice sheet) are always available to pray with someone after a service.

### **Healing Services**

At the end of the Service, members of the congregation are offered further prayer, giving an opportunity to talk in greater depth before receiving further ministry.

### **Saturday Morning Quiet Hour - the Church is usually open between 9.00 am and 10.00 am**

This provides a Quiet Space for anyone who wishes to pray, meditate or just to use the space for a time of quiet.

### Pastoral Care at Home

The Pastoral Care Team are available to visit anyone at home or in hospital and to pray with them. Home Communion is also available and Hazel or Richard can give anointing with oil for those who are sick and housebound. Rowena Griffiths acts as a coordinator for this group.

*Lesley East*



*Spring is on its way!*

St Francis' Prayer Circle

### **ORGAN RECITAL IN ST FRANCIS' CHURCH**

**BY**

**TRAVIS BAKER**

*(former Organist at St Francis)*

**Saturday 28 April 2018 at 7.45 pm**

Tickets £10 each - no charge for persons under 16 years of age - available from John Curtis: ☎ 8777 5973 and Beryl Bolton: ☎ 8289 8097 .

Come to an exciting and varied programme of organ music. We are delighted that Travis is returning to play again for us. He has given recitals nationally at St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey, in addition to cathedrals and churches around the world, notably at St John the Divine in New York, continental Europe, as well as in Australia and New Zealand.

***It will be a concert to be remembered!***



### **Bishop Christopher writes . . .**

As Lent becomes ever closer, I am pleased to be able to send to you materials for this year's Lent Call.

For many years, the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call has raised money for projects within our own Diocese and further afield. In 2016 we were able to give grants totalling over £80,000 to our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe, projects in the Holy Land - which we visited during the Diocesan Pilgrimage in Lent - and to projects that work with people in our own Diocese. As we spend time in prayer and contemplation this Lent, I hope that you will feel able to generously support the projects we are supporting in our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe and locally in the Diocese of Southwark.

The Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call has been offered to the parishes since 1986 and has raised nearly £1,000,000 for more than 150 projects since then. I am grateful to all our churches and schools for their generous gifts and fundraising. It is so important that we share what we have in this way. It is as important though that the Bishop's Lent Call helps each of us to keep a holy and prayerful Lent as we consider our lives and how we can show our love for God to the world.

Greetings cards produced for last year's Lent Call are available again and can be bought from Trinity House. They offer images from our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe and are blank for you to use in whatever way you wish. Please publicise these in your church and consider having some to sell there as all profits will go to the Lent Call.

It is possible to give to the Lent Call by text as well as online (<http://bit.ly/LentCall17>) and also by cheque, which should be sent to John Jackson at Trinity House. You will find worship sheets for use in schools or Sunday Schools and material for use in sermons. Do follow our twitter feed (@southwarkcofe) as we will be adding extra material about the projects each week. There will also be a Lent Call blog with photographs and interviews from the visit that I am making to our Link Dioceses in February with the Dean and the Archdeacon of Southwark.

I hope and pray that you will find them useful as you encourage those in your care to use Lent well and to give generously to the Bishop's Lent Call.

The theme for the 2018 Lent Call is 'I was hungry . . . I was thirsty'. We have selected projects from our Link Diocese in Zimbabwe which concentrate on food security. In the project sheets we speak of the effects of drought on the people of Zimbabwe and yet the news from there at the time of writing this letter is of heavy rains and floods in places. Water is a vital and precious gift but when it comes after a time of drought it can damage the fragile crops. That is what is happening in Zimbabwe now as the soil is so dry that it easily washes away, taking the crops with it. So, whilst welcome the torrential water that the country is experiencing at present is, it will not change the situation around food security at this time. So do please pray for our brothers and sisters there.

The projects in this Diocese seek to care for those in need of help with issues of homelessness and drugs education. Alongside our giving is also a call to pray for these projects and the needs they address, and the communities you lead and serve, frame your use of the Lent Call during this holy season.

With my thanks and prayers for your work in the service of the Kingdom,

*✠Christopher Southwark*

### **A Prayer for Ash Wednesday**

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent:

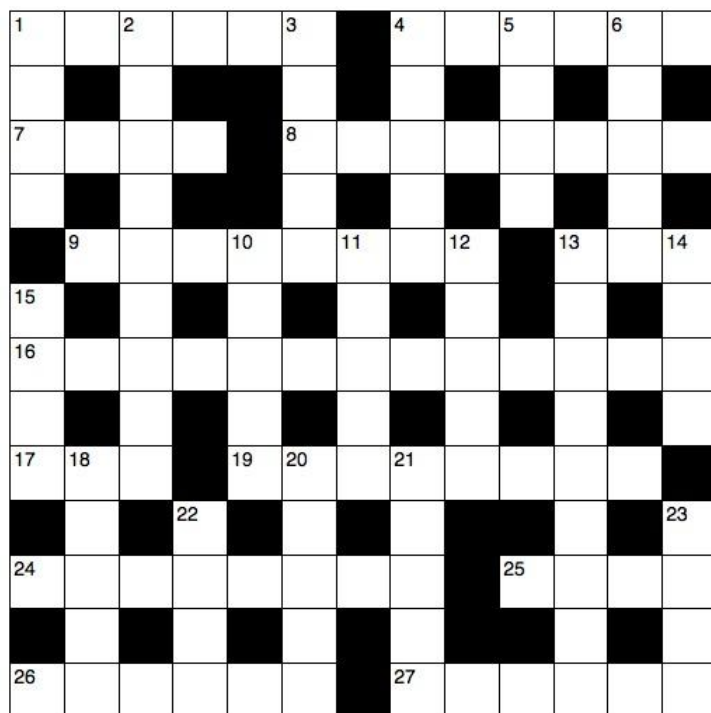
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

*Amen*



## Bible Crossword for February/March



### Clues

#### Across

- 1 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6)  
 4 'They threw the ship's — overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)  
 7 The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)  
 8 He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)  
 9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)  
 13 Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3)  
 16 What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)  
 17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)  
 19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — — I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1-2) (5,3)

- 24 Simon had (anag.) (8)  
 25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)  
 26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)  
 27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

#### Down

- 1 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)  
 2 Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)  
 3 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5)  
 4 Belief (5)  
 5 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant — ' (Exodus 30:23) (4)  
 6 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)  
 10 A seer (anag.) (5)  
 11 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)  
 12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)  
 13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)  
 14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of  
 16 Across, — and Dolls (4)  
 15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)  
 18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)  
 20 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)  
 21 The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5)  
 22 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13) (4)  
 23 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end' (Daniel 5:26) (4)

### Answers for December/January Crossword

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

### Spring

Spring, spring is coming soon,  
 Grass is green and flowers bloom.  
 Birds returning from the south,  
 Bees are buzzing all about.  
 Leaves are budding everywhere  
 Spring, spring is finally here!

*Author Unknown*



### CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WEST WICKHAM CHILDREN'S LINK

on **TUESDAY 13 FEBRUARY** from 12 noon to 2.30 pm  
 for children under 8 and their carers

***Children MUST be accompanied***

VENUE: St John's Church, Layhams Road, West Wickham  
 Lunch will be served after the first activity/story session  
 (approximately 12.45 pm/1.00pm)

While adults are welcome to just sit, we hope they  
 will feel like joining in

DONATIONS towards costs would be appreciated

Contact Barbara Plummer (☎ 020 8289 3846)

Email: [krandbp@ntlworld.com](mailto:krandbp@ntlworld.com)

In the event of snow, which might make access difficult,  
 check at: [www.stjohnsww.com](http://www.stjohnsww.com)

### GOOD FRIDAY FOR CHILDREN 30 MARCH

Activities and Worship at St Francis' Church Hall  
 11.00 am to 12 noon (or until the end of the  
 service in church) for children aged 4 –11 years  
 with crèche corner for under-4's.

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

Craft activities, puppets  
 Hot cross buns and cold drinks