

## 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*

### TUESDAY

- 8.00 am Morning Prayer at St Mary's**

### WEDNESDAY

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

### THURSDAY

- 9.00 am Morning Prayer**

### FRIDAY

- 9.00 am Morning Prayer at St Mary's**

### SATURDAY

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

## APRIL 2018

### **Sunday 1 April – Easter Sunday**

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

### **Sunday 8 April**

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

### **Sunday 15 April**

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

### **Sunday 22 April – St George's Day**

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

### **Sunday 29 April**

- 8.00 am Holy Communion** – Hazel O'Sullivan  
**10.45 am Parish Communion** – Hazel O'Sullivan

### **Every Wednesday**

- 10.45 am Holy Communion**

## MAY 2018

### Sunday 6 May

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

### Every weekday: Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May Thy Kingdom Come

- 9.30am Churches Together Prayer Meeting at **Coney Hill Baptist Church**, Coney Hill Road

### Thursday 10 May – Ascension Day

- 8.00 pm Holy Communion - Hazel O'Sullivan  
Preacher: Brian Griffiths

### Sunday 13 May

- 8.00 pm Holy Communion – Hazel O'Sullivan  
10.00 am Joint Service at **St Mary's** – Hazel O'Sullivan  
Preacher: Christian Aid speaker

### Sunday 20 May - Pentecost

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

### Sunday 27 May – Trinity Sunday

- 8.00 am Holy Communion at **St Mary's** – Hazel O'Sullivan  
10.00 am Joint Service – Hazel O'Sullivan  
Leading: Brian Griffiths  
6.30pm Churches Together service at **Coney Hill Baptist Church**, Coney Hill Road

### Every Wednesday

- 10.45 am Holy Communion

### *Dear Friends*

Spring is a time when we see lots of new life and growth. It's a time that many say is full of hope and joy because it's the time of Easter when we celebrate the new creation we're offered through Christ's resurrection. But for some, God's message of hope and joy is difficult to associate with, even at Easter. If you've recently lost a loved one, the promise of new life can be little consolation. Or, when there are changes happening in your life, or other lives close to you (for example, neighbours starting some building work, or an illness in a relative) this can be unsettling as there's uncertainty attached to the future. And mental problems, such as anxiety and depression can make seeing anything in a positive light difficult.

Sometimes we confuse God's message of hope and joy with being happy and that's not always the case. Instead of happiness, we might think of God's message of hope and joy as making us all brave because, as Christians, we know that **God, who loves us, doesn't change**. If you're able to hold tight to this never-changing God, then letting go of everything else and allowing it to happen around you will be OK. It won't stop bad stuff happening, but it will make the situation OK because you know that God loves you and he's there no matter what. While you might be saying "Oh, this is the worst experience ever!" you'll still know that you have a totally trustworthy God who is looking out for you.

And, whilst God doesn't need a reminder that He has all this under control, you probably do. I definitely do. We all do. This is what regular contact with other Christians provides. It can make us brave and able to face up to our current circumstances, whatever these entail.

**Be brave this Easter.** That doesn't mean you'll be happy at every moment, but it does mean that you'll remain aware of God with you whatever it is that you're facing, bringing strength, comfort and peace.

**Every blessing,**

*Hazel*

## Prayer Cycle

We pray for those who live on:

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

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

We also pray that:

- *GraveTalk* will be a resource used by many in the community as a place where it's easy to talk about death, dying and funerals.
- *Thy Kingdom Come* will be a time of prayer for us and all in our Diocese, so that we gain new confidence and joy in sharing our life-transforming faith.
- Our Christian Aid Week this year will be a successful time when people give support to the world's poorest communities. Pray that life-saving new homes can be brought to poor communities at risk from disasters as a result of this year's campaign.
- Our links with the 7<sup>th</sup> West Wickham Scout troop will be strengthened, especially through the St George's Day parade and the Joint Service and BBQ to celebrate achievement in June.
- Albie Mitchell, being baptised on Saturday 14 April, will grow in faith as he gets older and his parents and Godparents support him throughout his life.
- Christians in positions of authority and responsibility will be prophetic, justice-seeking and hope-keeping voices of influence.

## St Francis' Mission Action Planning Update

Our Vision Statement is to be: **A community of faith in touch with the wider community.**

In 2017, key aspects of this plan involved a deepening of faith through Faith Pictures materials in Home Groups during Lent and the formation of a new Home Group. We also became more community-centred by opening as a Place of Welcome every Friday morning and we held an afternoon tea one Saturday afternoon in the summer.

During 2018, we will start to use new bibles for our Sunday morning readings to be more secure in our faith. Our connections with the community will grow with the start of a youth club and a weekend Festival of Peace in November. Our website will also be reconfigured, so that access to information about St Francis' is easier.

Our APCM will provide an opportunity to reflect on these events and other aspects of our life together, including the installation of our new lighting. Please do come along to the meeting on Sunday 15 April after the 10.45 am service to find out more.

*Hazel*

### Albie Mitchell – Baptism

Albie Michael Brian Mitchell will be baptised at St Francis' Church on Saturday 14 April at 1.00 pm. It's good for the wider church to welcome children, such as Albie, into the church at their baptism, so all the congregation are invited to join Albie's family and friends at this service.

*Hazel*

### St Mary's Royal Wedding Garden Party

St Mary's will hold an afternoon tea on Saturday 19 May at 3.00 pm to celebrate the Royal Wedding which will have happened in the morning. Please sign up by 6<sup>th</sup> May to secure your place. Tickets priced at £8.

## GraveTalk Events

Death, dying and funerals are topics that are not normally discussed openly, but doing so can provide encouragement:

- Our bereavement support group gives help on the journey of grief and remembering.
- When planning a funeral, many have appreciated the opportunity to talk to someone outside the family about the one who has died.
- At a women's event last year, people liked being able to talk with others about what's involved in planning a funeral.

However, there are still very few opportunities where it's possible to talk about this subject in a relaxed and easy way. We will be holding two GraveTalk events in April and May to overcome this.

GraveTalk is an event for people to get together with friends and talk about death, dying and funerals. Our first date on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April will be a trial run, so that you can experience it for yourself and see if it's something you might like to invite others along to. The second date on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May will be more widely advertised in the community. Both events will be held at Corza Cafe, 111-113 High Street in West Wickham, starting at 7.30pm. A buffet will be provided free of charge and you will be able to buy your own drinks.

More details are available on our website: [www.gravetalkww.com](http://www.gravetalkww.com). Tickets for the first event can be booked by telephone on 020 8462 6571. You can use the telephone or the website to book for the second event. Do come along and try it out.

*Hazel*

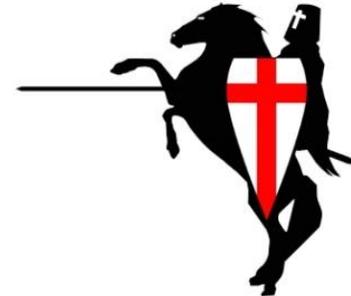
## Women's Event

Our next women's event will be on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May at 8pm at St Francis' church when we will have a speaker from Bromley & Croydon Women's Aid to raise awareness of domestic abuse, which is often a hidden issue that people don't want to talk about.

*Hazel*

## St George's Day

St George is often remembered for his courage and bravery. Bravery can really help in facing up to challenges in our lives and this will be the subject of our special joint service on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at St Francis' Church. St George is the patron saint of Scouting and the 7<sup>th</sup> West Wickham Scouts will be setting the tone for our service, thinking about some of their adventures when they needed to be brave.



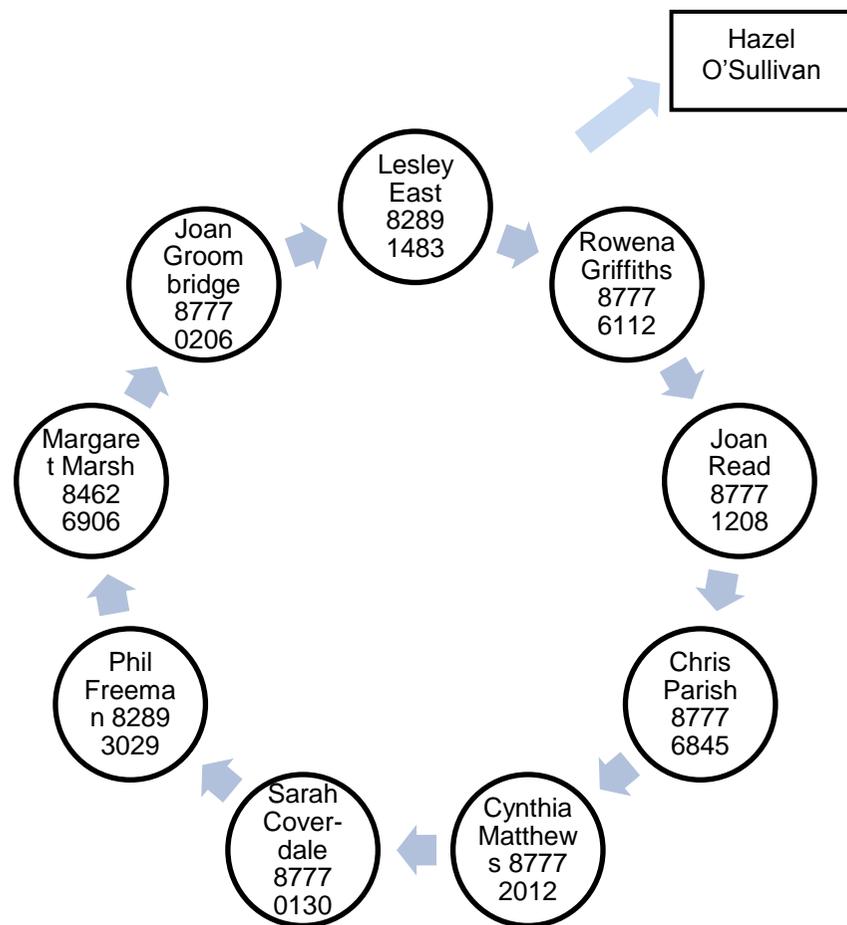
### SUMMER MUSIC AT ST FRANCIS – 2018

This year our season of free summertime lunch recitals held at St Francis' Church extends from May unto September. As usual, each monthly recital will take place on a Thursday between 12.45 pm and 1.30 pm on the following dates:

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>24 May:</b>       | William Fu, piano  |
| <b>14 June:</b>      | Peter-Joe Bennett, guitar<br>Yuko Yagishita, piano   |
| <b>19 July:</b>      | Tamara Ravenhill, soprano, accompanied<br>by Martin Sharpe, piano<br>Andrew Gallacher, piano |
| <b>9 August:</b>     | Peter De Croos, organ  |
| <b>20 September:</b> | Students from Langley Park Boys' School  |

***All are welcome. Please bring your own lunch;  
free tea and coffee will be available.***

**ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI  
PRAYER SUPPORT CHAIN**



**WOULD YOU LIKE PRAYER SUPPORT? IF SO, PLEASE CONTACT LESLEY AND SHE WILL PASS THE MESSAGE ON**

**Mothers' Union**

On Tuesday 6 February we held our AGM, which Hazel kindly chaired for us. Unfortunately, we discussed the future of our branch and it appears that we have no-one to take over when Barbara and I retire next February. In fact, two of our Committee Members retired and we could not replace them. We intend to hold our usual meetings and see what we would like to do in the future.

We held a "Bring and Share" lunch on 6 March, which proved to be very popular. Considering we didn't know what other members would be bringing, it worked out very well, with a varied assortment of sweet and savouries. This is something we can repeat in the next few months.

We agreed to meet next month on 3 April, which is the day after Easter Monday. We are hoping to bring along any knitting or sewing, or maybe an interesting article we have read recently. We will also discuss what we would like to do in May as there is a possibility of joining the Women's Fellowship on Tuesday 1 May. This is something I need to look into.

We are looking for ideas for the future, if you have any, please come along on 3 April, when you will be made very welcome.

*Joan Burford  
Leader of St Francis Mother's Union*

**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.

**CHILDREN'S SOCIETY COFFEE AND CAKE MORNING**  
**Saturday 12 May 2018: 10.00 am to 12.00 noon**  
**in the Large Hall.**

Once again, we are having our coffee and cake sale with the usual delicious homemade cakes as well as tea, coffee and biscuits for sale; children's amusements; "Guess the Weight of the Cake" and a raffle.

Everyone is welcome. Meet your friends for a coffee and treat yourself to a homemade cake! Donations of homemade cakes would be most appreciated.

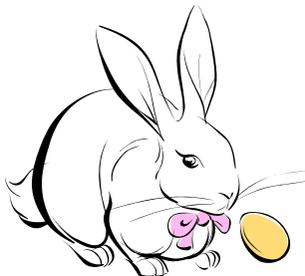
*Christine Morton*



**June/July Magazine**

Items for inclusion in the next magazine are needed by Sunday 13 May 2018 please, or contact Margaret Green to make alternative arrangements via:

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



**Summary of Sermon on Homelessness Sunday**

The latest statistics on homelessness in the UK make disturbing reading. The number of rough sleepers on the streets in London has almost tripled since 2010 (1137 street homeless across London in October 2017). Other towns and cities have also seen a marked increase (Croydon – 31: Camden – 127: Brighton – 178: Westminster – 217). It should be stressed that these figures simply represent rough sleepers. They certainly don't represent the whole picture of homelessness. People can have a roof over their head but still be classed as homeless. Examples include – staying in accommodation on a very temporary basis (sometimes called 'sofa surfing'), someone's home is unfit for human habitation because of disrepair, dampness or lack of usable facilities for cooking or washing, it's unsafe to live at home because of domestic abuse or violence, people living in squats or hostels.

Just considering rough sleepers, there may be many reasons why people end up on the streets. Many have mental health issues – it's estimated that 47% of rough sleepers have some form of mental health challenge. A lot of homeless people also have addiction issues – typically these are alcohol or drug related. As you can imagine, sleeping on the streets is completely unsafe. Rough sleepers are 47 times more likely to be a victim of theft and 13 times more likely to be a victim of violent crime. They are 35 times more likely to commit suicide.

You may well ask – where is God in all of this? God is present in the faces of the homeless, in the faces of the addicts, the mentally ill and those with broken relationships. We as Christians can be Jesus to them. It's all about putting our faith into action. The letter of James puts it squarely in these words ***“Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it? For instance, you come upon an old friend dressed in rags and half-starved and say, “Good morning, friend! Be clothed in Christ! Be filled with the Holy Spirit!” and walk off without providing so much as a coat or a cup of soup—where does that get you? Isn't it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense?”*** (from The Message version).

In the parable of the sheep and goats in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus gives us a promise and yet challenges us too: ***"Take what's coming to you in this kingdom. It's been ready for you since the world's foundation. And here's why: I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was homeless and you gave me a room, I was shivering and you gave me clothes, I was sick and you stopped to visit, I was in prison and you came to me. I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me."***  
(from The Message version)

Many members of St Mary's and St Francis' congregations are committed to providing very practical care for the rough sleepers. As part of the Good Shepherd Mission to The Homeless based in New Addington they travel to Central London every Thursday night to take hot soup, tea, sandwiches, clothes and toiletries to the homeless gathered at Lincoln's Inn Fields and outside St John's Church, Waterloo. More volunteers are always welcome as are donations of clothing and toiletries (there are boxes for donations in both churches). Members of St Mary's have even helped out with a homeless project called 'Rosies', in Brisbane, Australia. Rosies has a rather lovely prayer which seems to sum up the reason why we care for the homeless. Why not make this prayer part of your intercessions for the overlooked, the ignored and the marginalised in our world?

***O Jesus, Make our hearts so human, that others may feel at home with us,  
So like Yours, that others may feel at home with you; So forgetful of self that we might simply become the place where You and they meet. In the power of Your Love and the joy of your friendship.  
Amen***

Brian Griffiths



Bishop Christopher writes . . .

As we move on through Epiphanytide, when we are giving thanks for the many gifts that God has given to us and our parishes and for the generosity of the parishes through the Parish Support Fund, I am pleased to be able to send to you materials for this year's Lent Call. Lent begins quite early this year and I hope that you will be fully prepared for this important time in the Church's calendar and that you will find this material a useful aid to keeping a holy and prayerful Lent.

The monies raised through the Bishop Lent Call each year go to support work in other parts of the Anglican Communion and projects in our own Diocese. In 2017 we were able to give grants totalling over £80,000 to our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe and to projects that work with people in our Diocese. As we spend time in prayer and contemplation this Lent, I hope that you will feel able to generously support the projects we have chosen this year in the Holy Land, locally in the Diocese of Southwark and our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe. I am glad that this year the 90+ pilgrims that I will lead to the Holy Land with the Dean will be able to visit two of the projects we have chosen to support in the Holy Land.

Successive Bishops of Southwark have called the parishes to a time of prayer and contemplation during Lent, through the Lent Call since 1986 and over the years, this has raised nearly £1,000,000 which has been shared with more than 150 projects. I am grateful to all our Churches and Schools for their generous gifts and fundraising. It is good 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 the 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 in your church as all profits will go to the Lent Call. There is an order form enclosed with this pack.

It is possible to give to the Lent Call by text and online (<http://bit.ly/LentCall18>) as well as by cheque, which should be sent to John Jackson at Trinity House. As well as information concerning the projects we are supporting you will find worship sheets for use in schools or Sunday Schools. 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 which will include photographs and information from the Pilgrimage that I leading with the Dean of Southwark to the Holy Land in February as well as more information about the other projects. 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 Bishops' Lent Call. (Do look out for the Pilgrimage blog too!)

This year we have used the wonderful words from Isaiah read by Jesus in the Temple and recorded in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 4, verses 18 -19:

*'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'*

We are each called to tell others about the Good News of Jesus Christ and to make it known in our lives as we seek to live in the way that God would have us so. We are to be bearers of Good News and of Christ, wherever we are.

The projects we are supporting seek to bring help to those who are in need in the Holy Land as a result of the years of conflict; to offer help to our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe as they work at this time of national transition for a better tomorrow there and to care for those in need of help across a wide spectrum of issues such as homelessness, mental health and domestic violence here in our own Diocese. Alongside giving to these projects I hope that you will which to pray for the people concerned and the needs these projects address. The projects we are assisting this year are listed below to help you, and the communities you lead and serve, frame your use of the Lent Call during this holy season.

The Lent Call materials can be found on the Diocesan website at: [www.southwark.anglican.org/lentcall](http://www.southwark.anglican.org/lentcall) where you will also find the extra material.

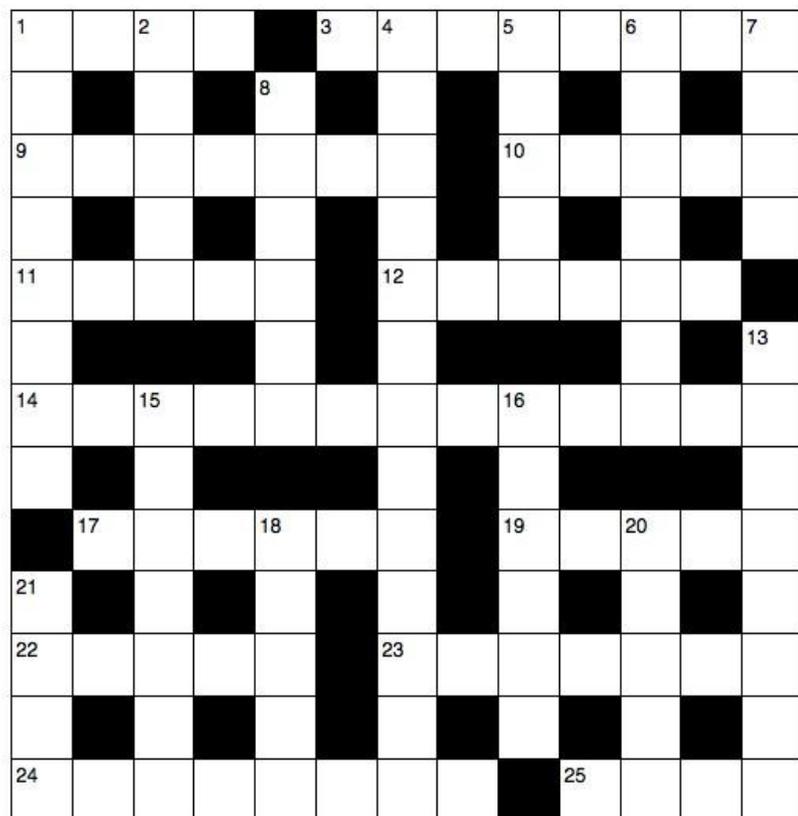
With my thanks and prayers for our partnership in the service of the Kingdom,

✠ Christopher Southwark

**Answers for February/March Crossword**

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## Bible Crossword for April/May



### Clues

#### Across

- 1 'The baby in my — leaped for joy' (Luke 1:44) (4) 3 A 'don't know' in matters of faith (8)  
 9 In the distant past (Jeremiah 2:20) (4,3)  
 10 Armada (1 Kings 10:22) (5)  
 11 Where Moses was confronted with the burning bush (Exodus 3:1) (5)  
 12 Hair colour indicative of skin infection (Leviticus 13:30) (6)  
 14 'The worries of this life and the — of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful' (Matthew 13:22) (13)

- 17 Expel (2 Kings 13:23) (6)  
 19 What Jesus wrapped round his waist when he washed his disciples' feet (John 13:4) (5)  
 22 The sixth plague to afflict the Egyptians (Exodus 9:9) (5)  
 23 For nine (anag.) (7)  
 24 Where there is no time (Psalm 93:2) (8)  
 25 Goliath's challenge to the Israelite army in the Valley of Elah: 'This day I — the ranks of Israel!' (1 Samuel 17:10) (4)

#### Down

- 1 'I will become angry with them and forsake them; I — — my face from them' (Deuteronomy 31:17) (4,4)  
 2 Usual description of prophets such as Amos, Hosea, Micah, and so on (5)  
 4 'They cannot see the light of the gospel of the — — — , who is the image of God' (2 Corinthians 4:4) (5,2,6)  
 5 An animal's internal edible parts (Leviticus 4:11) (5)  
 6 Popular 20th-century religious novel by Lloyd C. Douglas, which became a 1953 film starring Richard Burton (3,4)  
 7 'A — on a hill cannot be hidden' (Matthew 5:14) (4)  
 8 One of the exiles, a descendant of Bebai, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:28) (6)  
 13 Old Testament hymn-singing (8)  
 15 'And O what transport of delight from thy pure — floweth' (7)  
 16 Of felt (anag.) (3,3)  
 18 'So — the — sets you free, you will be free indeed' (John 8:36) (2,3)  
 20 Comes between 'bad' and 'worst' (John 5:14) (5)  
 21 'Neither height nor depth... will be — to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (4)

## Easter Joy

Jesus came to earth,  
To show us how to live,  
How to put others first,  
How to love and how to give.

Then He set about His work,  
That God sent Him to do;  
He took our punishment on Himself;  
He made us clean and new.

He could have saved Himself,  
Calling angels from above,  
But He chose to pay our price for sin;  
He paid it out of love.

He could have saved Himself,  
Calling angels from above,  
But He chose to pay our price for sin;  
He paid it out of love.

Our Lord died on Good Friday,  
But the cross did not destroy  
His resurrection on Easter morn  
That fills our hearts with joy.

Now we know our earthly death,  
Like His, is just a rest.  
We'll be forever with Him  
In heaven, where life is best.

So we live our lives for Jesus,  
Think of Him in all we do.  
Thank you Saviour; Thank you Lord.  
Help us love like you!



Joanna Fuchs

## Subscription for the Parish Magazine in 2018

During 2018 there will be six editions of the magazine, each covering two calendar months, costing 50p each. It helps us if you are able to subscribe for the year, at a cost of £3.00 (or £6.30 for a postal subscription). Please complete the form below and return it with a cheque or cash to your magazine distributor or Nicky Nightingale or David Wada (Church Treasurer).

### MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2018

Name .....

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\*I enclose £3,00 as my subscription to the magazine for 2018

\*I enclose £6,30 for a postal subscription.

\* Please delete as applicable

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

