

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**

JUNE 2018

Sunday 3 June – 1st Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 10 June – 2nd Sunday after Trinity

- 8.00 am Holy Communion** – Hazel O'Sullivan
10.45 am Holy Communion – Hazel O'Sullivan
Preacher: Brian Griffiths

Sunday 17 June – 3rd Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 24 June – 4th Sunday after Trinity

- 8.00 am Holy Communion** – Hazel O'Sullivan
10.00 am Joint All Ages Service at St Mary's – Hazel O'Sullivan
Preacher: Ken Bryan
6.30 pm CTWW Service at Hawes Lane Methodist Church

Every Wednesday

- 10.45 am Holy Communion**

JULY 2018

Sunday 1 July – 5th Sunday after Trinity

- 8.00 am Holy Communion at **St Mary's** – Hazel O'Sullivan
10.45 am Holy Communion – Hazel O'Sullivan
Preacher: Brian Griffiths
3.00 pm Healing Service at **St Mary's**
Hazel O'Sullivan & Rowena Griffiths

Sunday 8 July – 6th Sunday after Trinity

- 8.00 pm Holy Communion – Hazel O'Sullivan
10.45 am Worship for All Ages with Baptism – Brian Griffiths
Preacher: Hazel O'Sullivan

Sunday 15 July – 7th Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 22 July – 8th Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 29 July – 9th Sunday after Trinity

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

Every Wednesday

- 10.45 am Holy Communion

Dear Friends

As I write this, the sun is at last shining outside, encouraging thoughts of escaping to the coast or holidaying in the country, although by the time you read this your thoughts may be more focussed on escaping from all the football on TV, as the World Cup dominates our television screens.

Until comparatively recently, for most people holidays were just that – holy days. Workers were given the day off in order to participate in the religious festival being observed on that particular day.

Today, for most people holidays have become almost entirely separated from religious observance, so it is the summer holiday, with its promise of hot sun and warm seas, or a sightseeing tour of places hitherto unvisited, that springs most to mind when winter gives way to spring and the sap begins to rise.

But if we turn to the gospels, we will find Jesus not infrequently went up into the hills to get away from the crowds and to spend time in prayer. Just like us he needed a break, a change of scenery, to recharge the batteries and prepare for the work ahead of him.

So this summer, if you're going away, don't necessarily take a holiday away from church – try worshipping in a different place and, maybe, in a different tradition or denomination. And whether you go away or not, why not revive the soul with a good spiritual read?

My favourite spiritual fiction is Helen Waddell's historical novel *Peter Abelard*, a novel based on the life of Peter Abelard, who lived in France from 1079 to 1142 and made his name as a biblical scholar, theologian and philosopher. However, his name has been forever linked with that of Heloise, a young girl whose tutor he became and with whom he fell in love.

The problem was that in the medieval period, to marry was to put an end to any hope of promotion within the church hierarchy. Ironically, the church was happy to turn a blind eye to a cleric who took a mistress, but would demote any who entered upon marriage. The dilemma which this attitude posed to both Abelard and Heloise led

to their relationship becoming one of the world's great love stories on a par with Anthony & Cleopatra, or, in our own more recent history, Edward VIII & Wallace Simpson, or even Harry & Megan.

How they resolved it and why I referred to it as a spiritual read, I leave you to find out.

God bless,

Richard

Prayer Cycle

We pray for those who live in:

Duncan House, The Alders; Gable Lodge, Beckenham Road; The Glade; Glebe Way; Grosvenor Road; The Grove; Hardcourts Close; Hawes Lane; Hawkhurst Way; High Broom Crescent; High Street; Highbury Close; Highfield Drive; Kent Road.

In our cycle of prayer for other churches in West Wickham, we pray for Emmanuel Church: the minister, Rev Bill Bowman, and all the church family there.

We pray for residents in local retirement housing, especially those at Burrell Mead where we visit regularly and for those who live in Ben Curtis Park, Glebe Court and Coloma Court, which are outside the parish, but with which we have a connection.

Following Mental Health Awareness Week in May, we pray for greater resources to be found to help those who suffer from mental illness. Pray that St Francis can be a place where it is safe to admit to feelings of depression and being trapped in our own thoughts and where others are there to support those who suffer in a sensitive way.

We pray that all the violence that happens in the world might stop. We pray especially for the victims of school shootings in the US, victims of knife crime on London's streets and for all those civilians who continue to cope with living in Syria while an increasingly complex war continues on around them. We pray for all those affected by the conflict between Israel and Palestine which has flared up recently following the relocation of the US Embassy to Jerusalem.

Parish Records

We pray for the families of children recently baptised at St Francis':

- Albie Mitchell, baptised on 14 April
- Mia Taylor-Card, baptised on 13 May

Give thanks for those couples who have had Banns of Marriage read at St Francis':

- Timothy Cook & Sarah Avery, married on 7 April at Christ Church, Beckenham

We remember with thanks the lives of those from our congregation who have recently died:

- Patricia Williams, who died on 12 March
- Joyce Jolmers, who died on 4 May

Receiving Communion

Regularly sharing in Holy Communion is an important part of our identity as a Christian community. New Communion Assistants have recently been appointed at St Mary's and this has given an opportunity to consider best practice, which it's also important to share with the congregation. Everyone should receive communion as they feel most comfortable, but it is helpful to know that the Church of England recognises good practice to be sharing a common cup (sipping wine from the chalice) rather than intinction (dipping the wafer into the wine). The common cup witnesses to our unity in Christ and it fulfills the command to "eat this bread and drink the cup" (1 Corinthians 11:26). It is also clear that, at the Last Supper, Jesus gave the apostles the bread and wine separately, with individual instructions concerning each element. These are important spiritual aspects of communion. On a practical level, the common cup is more hygienic, since fingers carry a higher level of bacterial and viral infection than lips, and the high alcohol content of the wine and the semi-precious metal of the chalice reduce the danger of infection spreading via the cup.

The practice of intincting was introduced in 2009 with the outbreak of swine flu. An alternative (and preferred) option at this time was to receive the bread only. Previous practice was reinstated in most

churches, but in our two churches, intincting seems to have continued. While it is neither prohibited nor endorsed in scripture or by the church, it is always good to review these matters in the light of biblical and theological reflection, rather than blindly following local tradition or convenience.

If you do still choose to intinct, then best practice is to receive the wafer between your fore-finger and thumb and hold it there until dipping only the smallest amount of the wafer into the wine. If you choose to only receive a wafer, be assured that the full benefits of Christ's saving death and resurrection are offered when we receive either the bread or the wine.

If you have any questions or seek further clarification, please do speak to a member of the ministry team.

Hazel

Healing Service

We have a Healing Service on Sunday 1 July at 3.00 pm at St Mary's Church. An opportunity for a quiet, time with God to reflect and pray about any area of life that feels uncomfortable at the moment, whether that be health, grief, relationships, financial or any other kind of difficulty.

Hazel

Parade Services

This year we have two parade services where the whole of the 7th West Wickham Scout Troop join together. The first was at St Francis' church to celebrate St George, the patron saint of scouting. Our next joint parade service will be on Sunday 24th June at St Mary's church, with the theme 'Celebrating achievement'. The service will start at a later time, 10.30am and afterwards there will be a BBQ, which will offer the opportunity to make stronger links with parents, leaders, children and young people who are involved in the scout troop. Please do make this a priority for your diary.

Hazel

Burrell Mead Garden Party

All are welcome at the Annual Burrell Mead Garden Party, Station Road, on Saturday 23 June at 2.30 pm.

Hazel

Men's & Women's Event: Monday 9 July

St Francis will be holding a Festival of Peace during the Remembrance weekend this year: Friday 9 – Sunday 11 November. This will be 100 years since the end of World War 1 and an important time to remember all those who paid the ultimate sacrifice so that we are able to live a life today that is not marred by terror and tyranny.

Our event on 9 July (8.00 pm at St Francis' Church) will be an opportunity to explore the balance between recognising the value of the sacrifice made by those who were killed in WWI and other conflicts since, while not glorifying war. We will explore situations when military force is thought to be necessary and why some oppose all use of military force whatever the situation. We will see what the bible says about war and how forgiveness is an integral part of our belief system in this respect. We will also outline all the events that will be happening during the Festival of Peace in November, which promises to be a community event that you will not want to miss out on.

Hazel

New Groups Starting

In October 2016 groups from both St Francis' and St Mary's Churches met to formulate Mission Action Plans for both churches. These plans both emphasise how we want to make links with others in the wider community. During the time since this meeting, we have been considering how to connect in particular with groups that are under-represented in our churches. We have now three new groups who have a connection with St Francis' and St Mary's Churches and the scout troop is expanding further:

- A new WI at St Mary's, which meets on the first Thursday of each month. The launch of this group in April was very successful and consequently the group has no spaces for new members at the moment.

- A baby, toddler and carer group, is meeting every Wednesday afternoon between 1.30 pm and 3.00 pm at St Francis' Church until the end of June, when its continuation will be reviewed.
- A youth group will start on 10 June, meeting every Sunday evening at St Francis' Church at 6.30 pm and 8.30 pm.
- In June the 7th West Wickham Scout Troop will open up a second Beaver colony (for boys and girls aged 5-7), meeting on a Wednesday evening at St Mary's Youth Hall. This group has been filled by those who were on a waiting list and there are no spaces for new members at the moment.

While not all of these groups have a direct connection with the churches, the interest in community groups such as these, is indicative of a benefit that people find in making personal contact with others. As churches, we recognise this as showing God's love to another and this is the basis for our support for such groups.

Hazel

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.

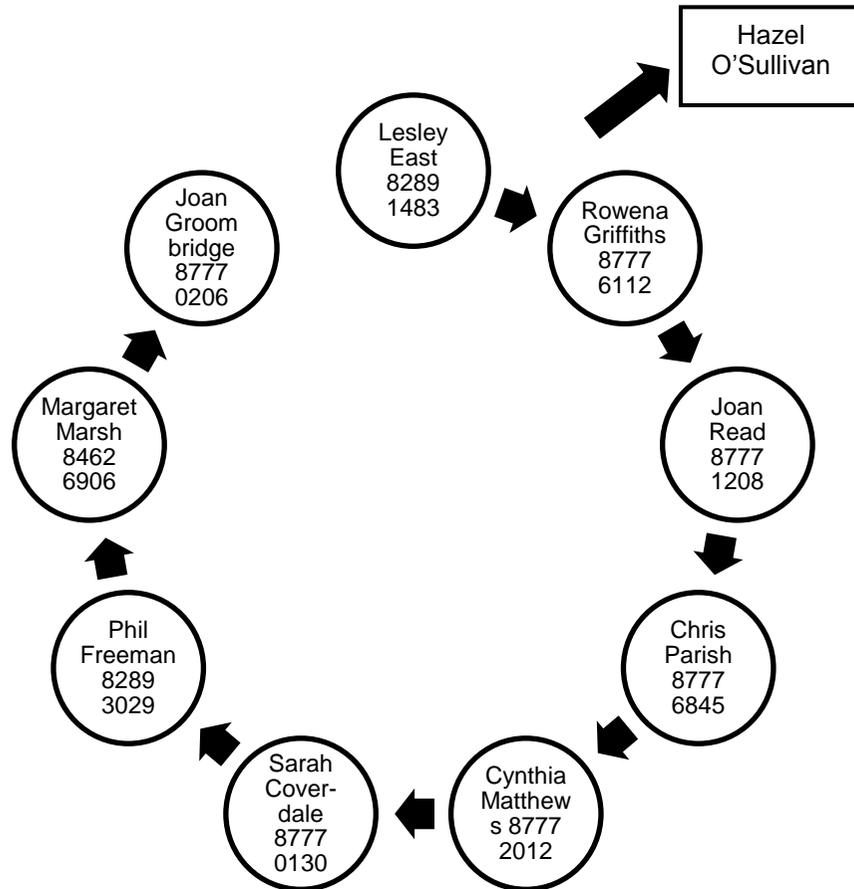
Pastoral Care at Home

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



**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

As our Mothers' Union is gradually closing down, we have not been very active. On 1 May we joined the Emmanuel Women's Fellowship to listen to Carol Seet telling us about the London Air Ambulance. This was very interesting and the ladies at Emmanuel Church made us feel very welcome and we have been invited to join them at any time.

On 5 June we have Lesley James coming to talk to us about "Keeping Active in Your 80s". She will not only explain about various exercises, but will demonstrate them and encourage us to join in. I hope we have lots of ladies (**AND GENTLEMEN**) as Lesley is adamant that men need to keep active as well.

As yet we do not have a speaker for July; August is our garden party in the garden at the back of the hall (weather permitting). Looking ahead, James Pitt-Payne will be our speaker in November so that gives us something to look forward to.

Once again I invite everyone who is free on the first Tuesday in the month at 2.00pm to join us.

*Joan Burford
Leader of St Francis' Mothers' Union (☎ 8777 2034)*

Summer in the South

The Oriole sings in the greening grove
As if he were half-way waiting,
The rosebuds peep from their hoods of green,
Timid, and hesitating.
The rain comes down in a torrent sweep
And the nights smell warm and piney,
The garden thrives, but the tender shoots
Are yellow-green and tiny.
Then a flash of sun on a waiting hill,
Streams laugh that erst were quiet,
The sky smiles down with a dazzling blue
And the woods run mad with riot.

Paul Laurence Dunbar



Bishop Karowei writes . . .

In the hours after the crucifixion, the Disciples of Jesus Christ, aware of the devious nature of the opposition, gathered together in hiding behind firmly locked doors. They had seen the itinerant ministry of the Messiah come to an abrupt end in the climatic events of that holy week during the Jewish Passover.

Their thoughts, expectations and vision of justice and equality and the realisation of the new Kingdom he spoke about had not come to fruition. There was indeed great confusion, anxiety and uncertainty amongst them about the future of this new ideology and new religious movement and its followers. Their leader, Jesus Christ had been cruelty taken from them by the combined actions of the Romans, who were aided and abetted by the Jewish religious leaders.

The Jewish leaders went before the Roman Governor and stage-managed the trial of Christ, who was sentenced to die though innocent and they ensured the release of Barabbas, who was guilty of insurrection against Rome and deserved to die. He was sentenced to die by crucifixion by Pontus Pilatus, the Roman Governor of Judea. The prophecies of the suffering Messiah were taking place in front of their eyes and they did not realise it at the time. The crucified Christ was laid in a borrowed tomb, belonging to a Joseph from Arimathea, in fulfilment of Holy Scriptures.

Against this backdrop, after the crucifixion, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome brought spices to the tomb of Jesus (Mark 16:1-9). It was very early in the morning, they set out at sunrise. The women were clearly very purposeful, intentional and proactive. They were determined and with a mission.

“Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance?” they asked themselves. As they got closer they found the stone rolled back and the tomb empty. A young man told them, ‘He is not here, He is Risen’.

They returned to tell the other disciples about what they had seen and heard.

As the shell-shocked and scared disciples thought about what they had heard, the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to them and said ‘Shalom’ which means ‘Peace be with you’. Christ pronounced peace on them in their troubled state of mind and being.

There are a few concluding thoughts I would like to reflect on:

- Christ spoke peace to them and His peace ruled over their anxiety, worry and fears. The situation is like the ones we face in our lives every day, when things are beyond our control and we become stressed, naturally so, and the panic button is hit consciously or unconsciously. In those times we can turn our worries, anxieties, fears, stresses into prayer and give God an opportunity to support, collaborate with us, assist us, in dealing with the situation at hand and his peace will be in our hearts. (Philippians 4:6-8)
- Christ showed that he loved them so deeply and unconditionally despite their shortcomings and lapses in faith. He came alongside the disciples and stood amongst them and breathed peace on them. He also travelled with the two disciples - Cleopas and his friend, who were on their way to Emmaus. As pilgrims and fellow travellers on our journey of faith, it is heart warming and reassuring to know that Christ unconditionally loves us and died for our sins, he travels with us in our journey and is with us as promised. (Matthew 28:20b)
- Christ then commissioned them to be agents of God’s mission. “You are witnesses of these events spoken of in Holy Scriptures, you must go and tell”. (Luke 24:45-48; Acts 1:8f)

However, it goes to show that the post-Easter story talks of two main kinds of faith. Faith that needs to touch, feel and grow through a relationship with Jesus Christ and Faith that believes without seeing and is confident to follow Jesus Christ without all the answers to their questions (avoid the risk of being misled by false teachers as often happens today – Acts 17:11).

We need to listen to his word in Holy Scriptures, follow the leading of the Holy Spirit and develop a real friendship and personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

We are People of the Easter Faith, a resurrection people who have passed from death to life, with Hearts on Fire, Walking Closely with Jesus Christ, Welcoming All and Growing in faith and numbers.

✠ *Karowei Woolwich*

Summer Time Lunchtime Recitals at St Francis' 2018

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

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| 15 June | Students of Trinity-Laban Conservatoire. |
| 20 July | Bromley Music Makers |
| 10 August | Organ Recital by Peter De Croos |
| 21 September | Langley Park Schools |

Come and enjoy great live music!

Anita Curtis

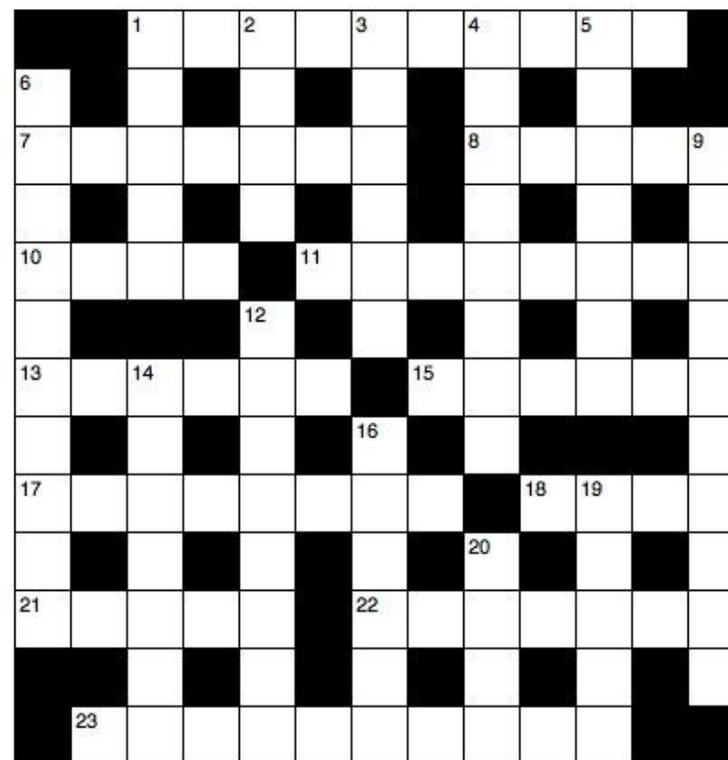
**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WEST WICKHAM
FUN AND GAMES AFTERNOON**

on
Wednesday 8 August 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm
at
Sparrows Den (Corkscrew Hill entrance)

No unaccompanied children under 6 years.
If you wish to leave older children, please ensure
that they are registered with one of the helpers
who will be wearing CTWW badges.

The event will not take place if it rains.
Contact: Barbara Plummer (8289 3846)
This is a Children's Link Event

Crossword Puzzle for June/July



Clues

Across

- 1 Evil (Genesis 6:5) (10)
- 7 Musician called for by Elisha when he met the kings of Israel, Judah and Edom (2 Kings 3:15) (7)
- 8 The request that led to the institution of the Lord's Prayer: 'Lord, — us to pray' (Luke 11:1) (5)
- 10 'We are hard pressed on every—' (2Corinthians4:8) (4)
- 11 Fraud (2 Corinthians 6:8) (8)
- 13 'His troops advance in force; they build a siege ramp against me and — around my tent' (Job 19:12) (6)
- 15 Where Rachel hid Laban's household gods when he searched his daughter's tent (Genesis 31:34) (6)

- 17 'Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be —'
(1 Corinthians 12:1) (8)
- 18 Nomadic dwelling (Genesis 26:25) (4)
- 21 'As for man, his days are like —, he flourishes like a flower of the field' (Psalm 103:15) (5)
- 22 Or I live (anag) (7)
- 23 Those guilty of 1 Across (Romans 13:4) (10)

Down

- 1 'God so loved the — that he gave his one and only Son'
(John 3:16) (5)
- 2 'Away in a manger, no — for a bed' (4)
- 3 Mob ten (anag) (6)
- 4 'Each — group made its own gods in several towns where they settled' (2 Kings 17:29) (8)
- 5 Began (Luke 9:46) (7)
- 6 Speaking very softly (John 7:32) (10)
- 9 Workers Ruth joined when she arrived in Bethlehem with her mother-in-law Naomi (Ruth 2:3) (10) 12 Put in jail (Acts 22:19) (8)
- 14 Aceturn (anag) (7)
- 16 Discharge (Acts 21:3) (6)
- 19 'All these—come from inside and make a man "unclean"'
(Mark 7:23) (5)
- 20 'Let us rejoice and be glad and — him glory!' (Revelation 19:7) (4)

Answers to April/May Crossword

ACROSS: 1, Womb. 3, Agnostic. 9, Long ago. 10, Fleet. 11, Horeb. 12, Yellow. 14, Deceitfulness. 17, Banish. 19, Towel. 22, Boils. 23, Inferno. 24, Eternity. 25, Defy.

DOWN: 1, Will hide. 2, Minor. 4, Glory of Christ. 5, Offal. 6, The Robe. 7, City. 8, Zabbai. 13, Psalmody. 15, Chalice. 16, Let off. 18, If son. 20, Worse. 21, Able.

7th West Wickham Scouts Table Top Sale

The scout troop will be holding a table top sale on Saturday 16 June at 10.00 am in St Francis' Church Hall. Sellers can have a table from 8am for £20. Please contact Hilary Moy by email - moywoman@gmail.com or mobile - 07961 826814. Please do come along to see what goodies they have to buy.

August/September Magazine

Items for inclusion in the next magazine are needed by Sunday 15 July 2018 please, or contact Margaret Green to make alternative arrangements via:

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



**** PILATES CLASSES ****

- Strengthens the core, tones and stabilizes your body
- Suitable for men and women of all ages
- Beginners and Intermediate classes held at St Mary's Church Youth Hall, The Avenue, West Wickham
- Monday mornings 9.30 am - 10.30 am
- Private 1:1 or 1:2 sessions also available
- Classes also held near Sevenoaks
- For details & to book contact: Lesley James
07702 307149 or email: lesleyjames@btinternet.com

Summer

Come we to the summer, to the summer we will come,
For the woods are full of bluebells and the hedges full of bloom,
And the crow is on the oak a-building of her nest,
And love is burning diamonds in my true lover's breast;
She sits beneath the whitethorn a-plaiting of her hair,
And I will to my true lover with a fond request repair;
I will look upon her face, I will in her beauty rest,
And lay my aching weariness upon her lovely breast.

The clock-a-clay is creeping on the open bloom of May,
The merry bee is trampling the pinky threads all day,
And the chaffinch it is brooding on its grey mossy nest
In the whitethorn bush where I will lean upon my lover's breast;
I'll lean upon her breast and I'll whisper in her ear
That I cannot get a wink o'sleep for thinking of my dear;
I hunger at my meat and I daily fade away
Like the hedge rose that is broken in the heat of the day.

John Clare



St Francis of Assisi Church Presents a Community Event



MUSIC FROM THE MUSICALS CONCERT

(INCLUDING PHANTOM, LES MIS, JOSEPH, FAME, WICKED PLUS SONGS FROM MUSICALS BY RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN)

Saturday 7 July 2018 at 7.45 pm

at

St Francis of Assisi Church

Ravenswood Avenue, West Wickham

presents

The London Concert Chorus

after performances at The Royal Albert Hall
and Churchill Theatre

Under the direction of Georg Tormann

A judge on the BBC Talent Show

All Together Now

with guest soloists

Tickets are £10 including refreshments

available at the door or from

David Wada (☎ 020 8777 6355}

This concert is raising funds for the 'Festival of Peace'

From 9 — 11 November 2018 at St Francis' Church

In recognition of 100 years since the
end of the First World War

