

## 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**

## AUGUST 2018

### **Sunday 5 August – 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

- 8.00 am Holy Communion at St Mary's** – Hazel O'Sullivan  
**10.45 am Holy Communion** – Hazel O'Sullivan  
Leader: Brian Griffiths  
**3.30 pm Burrell Mead Prayer & Praise** – Hazel O'Sullivan

### **Sunday 12 August – 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

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

### **Sunday 19 August – 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

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

### **Sunday 26 August – 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

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

### **Every Wednesday**

- 10.45 am Holy Communion**

## SEPTEMBER 2018

### **Sunday 2 September – 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

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

### **Sunday 9 September – 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

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

### **Sunday 16 September – 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

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

### **Sunday 23 September – 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

8.00 am Holy Communion – Richard Ford  
10.45 am Holy Communion – Hazel O'Sullivan  
Preacher: Brian Griffiths  
6.30 pm CTWW Service at St Mark's Catholic Church

### **Sunday 30 September – 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

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

### *Dear Friends*

Some of you will know that I try to walk to places wherever possible, rather than driving or cycling. I recently spent three days walking on pilgrimage in the Derbyshire Dales. There is something about long-distance walking that enables a close-up exploration that's only possible by foot. Walking allows time for the landscape to soak into the soul, providing much material for prayer and reflection. I was challenged by long days on the road (maybe too many miles) and carrying a heavy pack (maybe too many books), but I was also inspired in prayer by the churches I visited and I was sustained on the way by many different forms of food and drink. In short, I was able to appreciate the diversity of God's kingdom in different places.

Pilgrimage is sometimes likened to life's journey, which is also an opportunity to appreciate the diversity of God's kingdom in the places we go to, the people we meet and the experiences we have. In life you experience your own highs and lows along the way, as well as periods of everyday life where nothing much seems to happen. This is rather like the heights of the dales (where there were great views to be had), the valleys (which felt like being hemmed in and restricted) and the hours spent walking on a disused railway (straight and flat, but a great opportunity for an extended time of reflection). Whatever the situation is in your current time of life, know that there are others on the same path (you are never alone) and that it will, in due course, change its nature to another type of terrain. I pray that you'll be able to find the nourishment you need to refresh and sustain you on your life's journey in the church community at St Francis' and St Mary's: there's a great diversity here with many paths enabling a closer walk with God.

***Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (Psalm 119:105)***

*Hazel*



## Prayer Cycle

We pray for those who live in:

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

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

We pray for our overseas mission partners:

- Mike and Liz Jeggo with OMF in Japan
- Andrew and Maria Leake with CMS in Argentina
- Mike and Fiona Smith with Ear Aid Nepal

We pray for the 7th West Wickham Scout Troop: for a successful camp in the summer and we look forward to hearing about their trip to Ypres at the Festival of Peace in November.

We give thanks for the National Health Service which recently celebrated a significant anniversary. We pray for all our local GP surgeries, the hospitals where we, and or our friends and family, stay or visit as out-patients and the London Ambulance Service.

We pray for countries which are stricken by poverty, including Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Liberia, Niger and Malawi.

## National Day of Prayer

On 4 August 1918 King George V called a National Day of Prayer. One hundred days later the war ended.

Remembrance 100 launches on 4 August 2018 with 100 Days of Peace and Hope and we will be following this initiative at St Francis' Church,

leading up to our Festival of Peace in November. On Saturday 4 August, the church will be open from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm for prayer. Associated resources will be available in church from then until 11 November. You can also download the resources at:

[www.remembrance100.co.uk](http://www.remembrance100.co.uk)

*Hazel*



## Parish Records

We pray for the family of Isaac Akadi baptised at St Francis' on 8 July.

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

- Martin Wickers & Michele Fox, who will be married on 1 September at St John's, West Wickham.
- Michael Lawrence & Rachel Martin, who will be married on 1 September at Holy Trinity Church, Coleman's Hatch.

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

- John Cowan, who died on 22 May.
- Gwyneth Griffiths, who died on 9 June.
- Joan Read, who died on 13 July.



## Being Part of a Home Group

I wonder if you ever find yourself agreeing with something in a sermon and then finding that it makes no difference to your life outside church. Making that link between what Jesus asks us to do as his disciples and the way in which we live our lives is really difficult without some kind of support from friends or family. This is something that home groups can offer and I'd like to encourage more people to be part of one of these this autumn.

We have five groups who meet at the following times (mostly every other week):

- Monday evenings
- Tuesday afternoons
- Wednesday evenings
- Thursday mornings
- Friday mornings

If you think that this is really not your thing because you find groups difficult, please be assured that you'll find a great welcome and lots of encouragement in any of these groups. They can help in many ways, including:

- Increasing confidence in talking about faith, which many find difficult. You'll find that you are not alone in this and by getting involved you'll encourage others to do so as well.
- Learning about faith, by looking at real life situations and sharing views and reactions. Listening to others and responding with your opinion could open a whole new way of looking at something.
- It's a great place to be able to ask questions that you feel unable to ask anywhere else. As you get to know others in the group, you'll find that we all have knowledge and experience of different things.
- People in a home group are able to pray for you and support you. While this might sound odd at first, knowing that someone is praying for a particular situation makes it so much easier to face up to it. You may also find that others offer to come alongside you and support you in practical ways – not only in the group but outside it as well.

So do ask the leaders and anyone you know who is part of a home group about what's involved. Come along to a few sessions to see if it's something that you'd like to be a part of before making it a regular part of your life.

*Hazel*

## 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, will be on the following dates throughout the summer. Free tea and coffee will be provided. Please bring your own lunch.

**9 August**

Organ Recital by Peter De Croos

**20 September**

Langley Park Schools

*Come and enjoy great live music!*

*Anita Curtis*



## Timeless

Bulging bags, a half-eaten bun  
Scribbled postcards penned on the run  
Victoria station, just two stops away  
From the end of another short holiday  
Summer's over, time to return  
To cooking and cleaning, the list goes on and on  
Souvenirs a plenty; a mug of the queen  
Galleries and gardens, no sight left unseen  
Last hugs and kisses, watering eyes  
No time for tears, or long goodbyes  
Days we'll long remember, you and I  
Funny how quickly the time's flown by  
I'll write you; I promise, a letter each day  
Until it's your turn to come over and stay

*Joanna Davis*



## Mothers' Union

I don't have a lot to report. Due to ill-health, I missed the June meeting when Lesley James came and spoke to us about the need for exercise as one gets older. I understand that she demonstrated various exercises and encouraged those present to join in.

There was a "DIY" meeting on 3 July, where some of members brought books along with interesting items that they read to us; also we had poems, some of which were very amusing. Valerie and I bought cakes to have with a cup of tea and it gave us the opportunity to socialise.

During August we have our Annual Garden Party and it will be held in the garden behind the church hall (weather permitting, otherwise the hall). All our members are encouraged to bring along a friend, and of course St Francis' and St Mary's congregation are very welcome.

*Joan Burford, Leader of St Francis MU*



## Crazy Christians

*(Précis of sermon preached at St Francis' and St Mary in June)*

If you think about it, what Jesus did and said was crazy – certainly crazy to the religious people of the day. The ordinary people just couldn't get enough of him, but to everyone else he was a revolutionary – someone who refused to conform – someone who was completely counter-cultural – someone who preached and taught a different way – the way of love and forgiveness and grace – he was crazy enough to turn the world upside down. Just look at what Jesus said:

***'Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse, but repay with a blessing!'*** That's crazy – that's being a doormat – that's letting people walk all over you.

***'Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.'*** Crazy! That's completely counter to human nature.

***'The greatest amongst you will be your servant!'*** That's crazy. Try telling that to those in power in our world.

Even on the cross, Jesus says ***'Father forgive them for they don't know what they are doing!'*** That's completely crazy – forgive them for beating me up, for nailing me up here in the scorching heat of the day, for killing me?

Bishop Michael Curry (who preached the sermon at the recent Royal Wedding) has written a book entitled 'Crazy Christians'. In it he suggests that what the church needs now is disciples who are crazy for the gospel. Here's what he wrote:

***'What the church needs – what the world needs – are some Christians who are as crazy as the Lord. Crazy enough to love like Jesus, to give like Jesus, to forgive like Jesus, to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God like Jesus. Crazy enough to dare to change the world from the nightmare it often is to something closer to the dream that God dreams for it. It may come as a shock, but those who are called to that life are called to craziness too.'***

The majority of people describe our faith as 'pie in the sky' or a 'fairy story'. Remember the London bus adverts a few years ago – ***'There's probably no God. Now stop worrying and enjoy your life'***. To those outside the church, what we believe is just plain crazy. On the other hand, I wonder how crazy or enthusiastic we are for the good news that has changed our lives and can change the world. To quote Bishop Curry again:

***'The Christians who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do. Sane, sanitized Christianity is killing us. Comfortable, demure Christianity may have worked once upon a time, but it won't carry the gospel anymore. We need Christians who are crazy enough to follow Jesus in the work of helping God to realize his dream for all people and all creation.'***

Do we prefer sane, sanitized, comfortable, demure Christianity? Are we afraid to follow Jesus out of our comfort zone – beyond the walls of our churches – beyond the bounds of our familiar services – to be counter-cultural – to take our faith into the streets and market places, our workplaces and our homes? Or are we crazy enough to live the gospel day in, day out, to challenge our culture and turn the world upside-down?

**Heavenly Father,  
We want to know your way, to follow your way.  
Help us to love like Jesus, to give like Jesus, to forgive like Jesus,  
to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with you like Jesus.  
And through all of this, help us to be crazy enough to change your world.**

**Amen.**

*Brian Griffiths*

### **Message in a Bottle** . . . .

is a free, national scheme run and funded by local Lions Clubs. These bottles are kept in your fridge and contain a form which you fill in with valuable information for all emergency services should they need to access your home.

All emergency personnel are aware of this scheme – paramedics and ambulance drivers, police, fire services, doctors etc. They are particularly helpful if you or a relative live alone, have a medical condition, or take regular medication.

The form lists your personal details, medical information, next of kin, and emergency contact numbers. Inside the bottle there are also two stickers – one goes on your fridge door and the other on the wall at eye level next to your front door so it is visible to anyone on entry to your home and alerts them to the bottle in your fridge.

We have a number of these bottles available in both our churches at St Francis' and St Mary's. Please do take one if you think it will be useful.

If you need any help filling in the form please speak in confidence to any members of our Pastoral Care Teams at either church who will be happy to help you.

You can gain further information on the Scheme via the following link:

<http://www.lions105sw.org.uk/district-projects/message-in-a-bottle/>

*Rowena Griffiths  
Pastoral Care Team Co-ordinator*

### **Festival of Peace – A Community Event**

Sunday 11 November 2018 will mark the 100th time when a two-minute silence has been observed on this date as an act of remembrance in honour of members of the armed forces who have died in the line of duty.

During this weekend, St Francis of Assisi Church, Ravenswood Avenue, West Wickham, will be hosting a Festival of Peace, commemorating 100 years since the end of World War I.

This community event will be opened on Friday 9 November at 10.30 am by Councillor Kim Botting, Mayor of Bromley, and Col Bob Stewart, MP for Beckenham. Refreshments will be available and music will be provided by Langley Park School for Boys. The church will be open all weekend with floral displays, photographs of West Wickham from the period; poems and reading by the Matchbox Theatre, as well as opportunities for people to have quiet moments of reflection.

On Saturday 10 November, there will be an Afternoon Cream Tea served from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm and in the evening, Croydon Male Voice Choir will give a concert from 7.30 pm.

On Friday 9 November, there will be a reflective service in the evening and on Sunday 11 November, St Francis' Church will hold a Remembrance Day Service at 10.45 am with members of uniformed organisations attending.

All are welcome and any money in excess of costs will go to the Royal British Legion and Help for Heroes.

Further details will be publicised nearer the time, but information can currently be found on the St Francis of Assisi website:

[www.stfranciswestwickham.co.uk](http://www.stfranciswestwickham.co.uk)

*Hazel*





### **Bishop Jonathan writes . . . .**

I am about to do the one thing which I think brings more benefit to my ministry than anything else I do – and I hope benefits the Diocese and especially my area of it. I'm about to go away – for my annual retreat. There may be some for whom just my going away would be enough, of course, but setting that aside . . . for me the few days each year I spend on retreat are absolutely essential. It's a time specifically given over to prayer and reflection; definitely not a holiday by another name! I go to a monastery, but that's not compulsory. Wherever you can find time to be with God and reflect on your life of prayer and discipleship is the place to go.

Then, in a few weeks time I'll be doing what may well be the second most important thing, going to see my spiritual director. That's a title that some people love and some don't get at all. At heart it's about spending time with someone: a) who's there to focus on you – it's not just ordinary conversation; b) who knows how to listen deeply and c) who has the spiritual wisdom to ask the right questions and to give you the challenge or reassurance you need.

I'm sure you're interested, but I'm not just telling you this to reassure you that I'm looking after my own spiritual health. Nor do I want to make you jealous. I'm well aware that not everyone can get away on retreat, or find a spiritual director, who would like to do so. But there is one group of people who mostly can, and really should, but far too often don't.

As a College of Bishops, we have as one of our primary tasks, caring for the clergy of the Diocese. We are well aware of the pressures the clergy face in their care for the parishes and communities of Southwark. I'm also increasingly aware that very many clergy are not

taking a retreat, and have no-one (whatever they might be called) to do the job of a spiritual director. Both of those things should be opportunities for refreshment and renewal in ministry. Instead, many clergy seem to have them tacked on at the end of their "guilt list" – 'When I've done all the other things I feel I should have done, maybe I'll get round to it). In the meantime, I'll keep on feeling guilty that I haven't'. Also in the meantime, I fear their own life of prayer and discipleship can be forgotten in the needs of others.

I go on retreat, and see my spiritual director, because without doing those things I wouldn't be able to follow my calling even as imperfectly as I do. In whatever way you can, and in whatever ministry, can I encourage you to think about how you can take some time out for prayer, and find that space for holy conversation? Also, to encourage one another to do the same?

*✠ Jonathan Croydon*



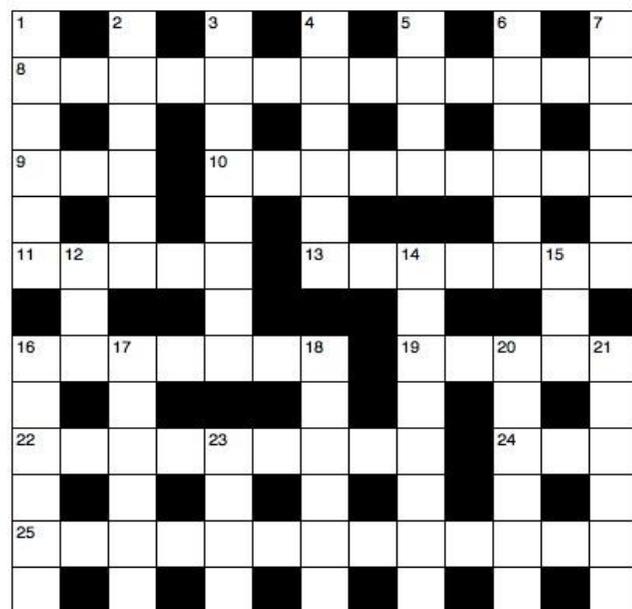
### **The Seaside**

Waves from the sea  
Splash on my toes,  
Swirl round my knees  
And tickle my nose.  
Sand from the beach  
Slips through my toes,  
Sticks to my knees  
And hides in my clothes.

*Brenda Williams*



## Bible Crossword for August/September



### Clues

#### **Across**

- 8 One of the titles given to the Messiah in Isaiah's prediction (Isaiah 9:6) (6,2,5)  
 9 International Nepal Fellowship (1,1,1)  
 10 Single (1Corinthians 7:27) (9)  
 11 Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's seminal book about Soviet prison camps, The — Archipelago (5)  
 13 Treachery (2Kings 11:14) (7)  
 16 Of India (anag) (2,3,2)  
 19 'God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the — ' (1 Corinthians 4:9) (5)  
 22 Follower of a theological system characterised by a strong belief in predestination (9)  
 24 'Put these old rags and worn-out clothes under your arms to — the ropes' (Jeremiah 38:12) (3)  
 25 They brought together all the elders of the Israelites in Egypt (Exodus 4:29) (5,3,5)

#### **Down**

- 1 The season when kings 'go off to war' (2 Samuel 11:1) (6)  
 2 Simon Peter's response to Jesus by the Sea of Galilee: 'Go away from me, Lord; I am a — man' (Luke 5:8) (6)  
 3 Beaten with whips (1 Kings 12:11) (8)  
 4 'You shall not — adultery' (Exodus 20:14) (6)  
 5 Encourage (Hebrews 10:24) (4)  
 6 Service of morning prayer in the Church of England (6)  
 7 'Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and — — him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving' (4,2)  
 12 Run (anag) (3)  
 14 Member of 17th-century party that denied the right of autonomy to the Church (8)  
 15 'We will triumph with our tongues; we — our lips' (Psalm 12:4) (3)  
 16 Earnings (1Corinthians 16:2) (6)  
 17 'I rejoice greatly in the Lord that — — you have renewed your Concern for me' (Philippians 4:10) (2,4)  
 18 How Paul described Philemon (Philemon 1) (6)  
 20 Multiple territories under the rule of a single state (Daniel 11:4) (6)  
 21 'You have been unfaithful; you have married foreign women, — to Israel's guilt' (Ezra 10:10) (6)  
 23 This month (abbrev) (4)

### Solutions to June/July Crossword

**ACROSS:** 1, Wickedness. 7, Harpist. 8, Teach. 10, Side. 11, Impostor. 13, Encamp. 15, Saddle. 17, Ignorant. 18, Tent. 21, Grass. 22, Olivier. 23, Wrongdoers.

**DOWN:** 1, World. 2, Crib. 3, Entomb. 4, National. 5, Started. 6, Whispering. 9, Harvesters. 12, Imprison. 14, Centaur. 16, Unload. 19, Evils. 20, Give.

### October/November Magazine

Items for inclusion in the next magazine are needed by Sunday 9 September please, or contact Margaret Green to make alternative arrangements via:

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