

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**

OCTOBER 2018

Sunday 7 October – Gift Day for St Francis

- 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 Pet Service – Lesley East
Preacher: Hazel O'Sullivan

Saturday 13 October

- Harvest Supper at St Mary's

Sunday 14 October – Harvest Celebrations

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

Sunday 21 October

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

Sunday 28 October

- 8.00 am Holy Communion** – Richard Ford
10.00 am Joint Service at St Mary's – Hazel O'Sullivan
Preacher: Phil Jenkins, CAP
6.30 pm Churches Together in West Wickham Service
West Wickham & Shirley Baptist Church

Every Wednesday

- 10.45 am Holy Communion**

NOVEMBER 2018

Sunday 4 November – All Saints’ Day

8.00 am Holy Communion at **St Mary’s** – Richard Ford
10.45 am Holy Communion – Richard Ford
Preacher: Brian Griffiths
3.00 pm Memorial Service – Rowena Griffiths
Preacher: Hazel O’Sullivan

Friday 9 November

8.00 pm Festival of Peace Reflection Service - Lesley East
Preacher: Rowena Griffiths

Sunday 11 November - Remembrance Sunday

8.00 am Holy Communion – Hazel O’Sullivan
10.45 am Worship for All Ages – Hazel O’Sullivan
Preacher: Brian Griffiths

Sunday 18 November

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

Saturday 24 November

Christmas Market at St Mary’s

Sunday 25 November – Christ the King

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

Every Wednesday

10.45 am Holy Communion

Parish Prayer Cycle for October & November

We pray for those who live in

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

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

We also pray for:

- Christians in North Korea where Christians who are discovered are deported to labour camps or killed on the spot, so meeting for worship is almost impossible and is done in utmost secrecy. Pray for God to comfort and strengthen his followers, especially those who suffer in prisons, labour camps and remote areas. Pray for all people in North Korea who are facing a food crisis due to continued UN sanctions and a smaller harvest forecast because of a serious drought this summer.
- Croydon Nightwatch, who, in over forty years of existence, have assisted thousands of homeless vulnerable people in turning around their lives, from being homeless and unemployed, to re-settling and providing them with a stable, enriched life. Pray that they may continue to be that point of contact which can identify and offer help to the newly homeless and deal with crises and new challenges in the lives of their clients.
- The work of Christians Against Poverty who work to release thousands of families from poverty through debt counselling and community groups. Pray for the people who feel lost and afraid because of their circumstances, that they would hear about CAP and find the support they desperately need.
- Our Festival of Peace in November, commemorating the end of World War One. Pray that this event will reach out to our community and show that our church is a place of welcome and peace.

Dear Friends

Autumn, the time celebrated so memorably by Samuel Coleridge as the “season of mists and mellow fruitfulness.” And his reference to fruitfulness reminds us, that it is also the time of harvest celebrations, which will be taking place in both our churches on October 14th.

Harvest festivals are traditionally held on or near the Sunday of the Harvest Moon. This is the full Moon that occurs closest to the autumn equinox (about September 23rd). In two years out of three, the Harvest Moon comes in September, but in some years it occurs in October. In this country harvest festivals go back to pagan times, to times when people were much more aware of the cycle of the seasons than we are today and much more vulnerable to the effect of the vagaries of climate on the harvest, although in the week in which I am writing this, there have been news reports that the very hot, dry weather we have experienced this year, much appreciated by holiday makers, has had a negative impact on the harvest, with the result that there is going to be an increase in food prices this autumn.

The same week also saw my daily paper carry the headline: “Four million UK children too poor to have a healthy diet.” The article went on to say that the poorest fifth of families in this country, that’s 20%, would have to set aside more than 40% of their total weekly income, after covering their housing costs, if they were to have a healthy diet. Imagine what it must be like for them when there is a significant hike in food prices such as expected following the hot dry summer.

So as we celebrate this year’s harvest, let’s be aware of those for whom putting food on the table for their family is a constant challenge and resolve to put a little extra in the Bromley Food Bank collection or make a donation to an organisation such as the Salvation Army, the Church Urban Fund (which is a Church of England charity combating poverty in deprived inner-city areas) or Christians Against Poverty (CAP), which provides advice and support to those in debt, the unemployed and those lacking life skills.

Perhaps the earliest description of a harvest festival is to be found in the Book of Genesis, where we’re told that Cain and Abel brought their offerings to the Lord. Cain, “who worked the soil, brought some

of the fruits of the soil as an offering. . . .” But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favour on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favour.”

At first sight, this may seem a little unfair on Cain, but a more careful reading reveals that while Cain’s offering was a bit grudging and offhand (“some of the fruits of the soil”), Abel gave the best that he could (“fat portions,” the choicest parts).

Happy harvest home!

Richard



Parish Register

We remember with thanks the life of Cynthia Matthew who died on 31 August.

Prayers for Peace

You will probably already know that St Francis’ is holding a Festival of Peace in November to commemorate 100 years since the ending of World War One. There are more details elsewhere in this magazine.

As well as being a remembrance event, this is an opportunity to bring some peace through prayer before, during and after the festival. Our prayers for peace began on 4 August, mirroring the 100 days of prayer for peace that happened across this country in 1918, ending on 11 November 1918. There are some great resources available on the internet, in particular at www.remembrance100.co.uk. These show how God can bring peace in a wide variety of contexts:

- In a country or region where there is fighting.
- Where there are tensions between different groups of people.
- In situations of conflict within families or between neighbours.
- Where there are difficult relationships in workplaces.
- Anywhere where tension or anxiety abounds.

If you have a particular situation that you'd like to pray for, from early October it will be possible to add your own prayers to those that we have prayed from the resources above. Maybe you have family or friends in another country that you're worried about, or closer to home there may be a fragile situation that you cannot see being healed easily. Just come into to the church any time when it is open to join in with this initiative.

My prayer is that the end of the year 2018 might find peace, hope and reconciliation happening throughout our community.

Hazel

Harvest Thanksgiving

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service will be held on Sunday 14 October at 10.45 am. We will be collecting donations of non-perishable foods for the Croydon Refugee Day Centre, who provide food for asylum seekers moving to new homes each week and for Croydon Nightwatch, who provide food and toiletries to homeless people. Please come along and give thanks for our daily bread and bring some food for those who have less.



Gift Day

This year we will be having our Gift Day on Sunday 7 October. At the 10.45 am service, we will be remembering St Francis. In particular we will be remembering how he lived a life of austerity and poverty, dedicated to God and the service of the poor.

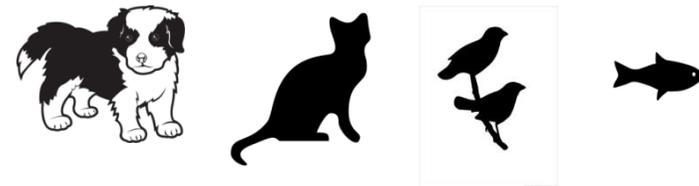
During the coming year we will be making substantial repairs to the fabric of our church, utilising funds from a very generous legacy from Pamela Pointer in addition to 50% of the amounts raised as a result of this Gift Day. The other 50% of the money raised will be donated to Croydon Nightwatch which provides food and other help to homeless and other vulnerable people in Croydon.

Hazel

Pet Service

St Francis' annual pet service will be held on Sunday 7 October at 3.00 pm. Please let all your family, friends and neighbours know about this opportunity to bring beloved animals to the church for a prayer of blessing.

Hazel



In Loving Memory

Our Annual Service to remember those who have died will be on Sunday 4 November at 3.00 pm in St Francis' Church. This is an opportunity for those who have faced bereavement to come and remember with thankfulness the lives of those that they have loved and lost.

If you would like the names of loved ones read out at this service, please complete the relevant sheet that will be in the church a few weeks beforehand. Also, do let others know who you feel might find this service helpful and offer to come along with them to provide support.

Hazel

Bromley Community Christmas Lunch

Each year a number of people gather at Bromley United Reform Church to cook and serve a Christmas Lunch to elderly people and others who would otherwise be alone on Christmas Day. If you are able to volunteer with them this year, they'd love to hear from you, in particular if you are able to drive guests to the venue (arriving by 12 noon) and then take them back home (pick up at 3.30 pm). If you are able to do this, or to volunteer in other ways, please e-mail Ian at ianrutherford@ntlworld.com.

Hazel

Children's Society Boxes

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

**PIANO & FLUTE RECITAL
Sunday 21 October 2018 at
St James' Church, St James' Road, Elmers End**

Pam Harvey-Fackrell, formerly an organist at
St Francis' Church, along with her friend,
Inger Dawson (flautist),
invite you to an afternoon recital
at St James' Church.

Tea and Cake will be provided and voluntary donations can be
made towards the church funds.



Bishop Richard writes

So many issues in life focus around our sense of identity, meaning and purpose. And there is plenty going on at the moment which brings all that into very sharp relief.

In the world of sport, whether you love or loathe the saturation coverage of the World Cup, it is difficult to avoid the profound and passionate identification of supporters with their particular national team. Whilst the tournament is running there seems to be relatively little comment on the underlying and complex political framework within which the World Cup is taking place. It may be that people simply want a bit of light relief from the many deep and anxiety-producing political issues we now face.

Many of those political issues also focus around our sense of identity, meaning and purpose, whether expressed through the interminable debates over Brexit, convoluted immigration policies, or the rise of nationalist, populist governments in many parts of the world - not least in America with the "America first" approach. It is sometimes said we divide into being "somewhere people" whose identity is clearly linked to a particular place or "anywhere people" who are at ease in many different contexts. I suspect most of us are a bit of both in varying degrees.

Many ethical issues also contain big questions about human identity, meaning and purpose - ranging from the debates over the impact of artificial intelligence and trans-humanism to the long-running and deeply divisive question of attitudes to human sexuality concerning which the current teaching document being developed in the Church of England has the title "Living in faith and love."

Underlying all of these is our understanding of what it means to be human and our place in the world and the cosmos. Dr Yuval Harari, professor of history at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, has written

two bestselling books entitled Sapiens and Homo Deus. His basic approach is that any meaning we might attribute to our human existence is simply a product of the human imagination. As the 21st century progresses, developments in the biological sciences and computer science will place more and more emphasis on the development of homo sapiens into what he calls homo deus via an upgrading through biological, cyborg and non-organic engineering. However fanciful that might sound, it does present a challenge to those of the Christian faith who have a very different understanding of human identity, meaning and purpose.

Bishop Michael Curry's recent sermon for the Royal wedding, which focused on the transformative power of love, spoke in many ways of that Christian understanding. In the 17th century, the French philosopher Descartes famously said, "I think therefore I am". The Christian way of expressing the heart of human identity, meaning and purpose would be to say "I love therefore I am", or even better, "God loves me, therefore I am". In short, we are created by Love, and for love, and it is this which sits at the heart of the Christian view of our identity, meaning and purpose.

Over the summer months, in the midst of so many anxiety-inducing headlines, it is well worth reflecting on and praying about how we both articulate and live out that deep and rich Christian understanding of our identity, meaning, and purpose at every level of our lives. As Jesus said of his disciples, "I have come that they may have life, and may have it in all its fullness". Or, in the Bible's most famous verse, "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish, but have eternal life."

 *Richard Kingston*



Mothers' Union

We had an excellent "Garden Party" on 7 August; although to be honest it was so hot we held it in the hall. We set out the tables and chairs and opened all the doors and windows to try and keep it as cool as possible. There weren't any complaints about the heat which was good. The savoury food items, together with cakes were very popular. We had orange and apple juice to start with, and then we progressed to tea when the cakes were handed round. It was Mavis' 95th birthday so we gave her a birthday card and sang Happy Birthday to her. We had a collection for "The Chartwell Cancer Trust" on behalf of our well loved member Joan Read who passed away on 13th July. Finally we held the raffle and there were a lot of lovely prizes.

Our September meeting was quite different; our speaker was an MU member Mandy Campbell. Her talk was entitled "Silence of the Lambs" a twist on the title of a well-known film. She spoke to us about hearing loss, both slight hearing impediment and total deafness. She is competent in British Sign Language and gave us each a sheet with the letters of the alphabet signed with fingers and hands. Mandy explained how there are many items available for deaf people, including alarm clocks, door bells, baby alarms and much more. Her talk was very interesting and most informative. I took the order for 2019 Diaries and ordered a couple of MU Parker pens for our members.

Our next meeting on the 2 October I hope will be very informative. Ann and Norma our Vice-Presidents are coming to advise us what we need to do to close the St Francis' MU down. Our last meeting will be in December 2018.

James Pitt-Payne will be our speaker in the November meeting!

Joan Burford



The Big Christmas Sing!

The West Wickham Choir, under the guidance of Geoff Mussard, will be holding the Big Christmas Sing at St Francis' Church on Saturday 1 December at 4.00 pm.

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

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

David Wada, Events Co-ordinator



Website : easyfundraising.org.uk

Now that we are thinking about buying Christmas presents for our family and friends, if you buy on-line, please consider buying via 'easyfundraising'. By using the website, easyfundraising, to make any on-line purchases, our Church will get a commission on your purchases without you paying any more than you would have by going direct to the supplier.

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

The procedure is:

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

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

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



*David Wada
Hon Treasurer*

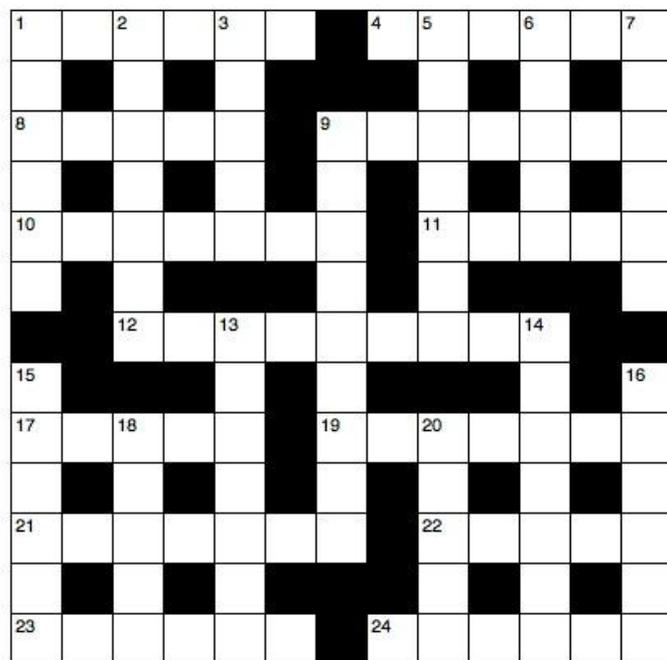
ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS MARKET **SATURDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2018**

If any member of St Francis' Church is able to – and would like to – help in any way we would welcome you!

If you are interested, please contact
Jan Mason on 8777 1762
or Beryl Bolton on 8289 8097



Bible Crossword for October/November



Clues

Across

- 1 Tertullus, who presented the high priest's case against Paul in his trial before Felix, was one (Acts 24:1) (6)
- 4 As balm (anag) (6)
- 8 Having explored Canaan, he and Joshua urged the Israelites to take possession of it (Numbers 13:30) (5)
- 9 On becoming King of Judah, he had all six of his brothers killed. (2 Chronicles 21:4) (7)
- 10 'Even the — has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself' (Psalm 84:3) (7)
- 11 Banishment (Jeremiah29:1) (5)
- 12 'And now I will show you the most — way' (1Corinthians12:31) (9)
- 17 'Titus did not exploit you, did he? Did we not — the same spirit and follow the same course?' (2 Corinthians 12:18) (3,2)
- 19 Mice den (anag) (7)
- 21 How Egypt is often described in the Old Testament: 'the land of —' (Exodus 13:3) (7)

22 One of the first Levites to resettle in Jerusalem after the exile in Babylon (1 Chronicles 9:15) (5)

23 'As a sheep before her shearers is —,so he did not open his mouth' (Isaiah 53:7) (6)

24 Paul's birthplace (Acts 22:3) (6)

Down

- 1 Ravenous insect-inflicted on Egypt in vast numbers as the eighth plague (Exodus 10:14) (6)
- 2 Well-being (Philippians 2:20) (7)
- 3 Small piece of live coal or wood in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (5)
- 5 Sportsman or woman (2 Timothy 2:5) (7)
- 6 The original name of Abraham's wife (Genesis 17:15) (5)
- 7 'So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each — belongs to all the others' (Romans 12:5) (6)
- 9 According to Peter, a wife's beauty should not come from wearing this (1 Peter 3:3) (9)
- 13 'For God did not send his Son into the world to — the world' (John 3:17) (7)
- 14 'The Lord of heaven and earth . . . does not live in — built by hands' (Acts 17:24) (7)
- 15 'If your hand — you to sin, cut it off' (Mark9:43) (6)
- 16 Something like these fell from Saul's eyes as soon as Ananias placed his hands on him (Acts 9:18) (6)
- 18 Track (Job41:30) (5)
- 20 Religious doctrine (5)

December/January Magazine

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

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



Solutions to August/September Crossword

S		S		S		C		S		M		F
P	R	I	N	C	E	O	F	P	E	A	C	E
R		N		O		M		U		T		E
I	N	F		U	N	M	A	R	R	I	E	D
N		U		R		I					N	O
G	U	L	A	G		T	R	E	A	S	O	N
	R			E				R				W
I	N	A	I	D	O	F		A	R	E	N	A
N		T				R		S		M		D
C	A	L	V	I	N	I	S	T		P	A	D
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M	O	S	E	S	A	N	D	A	A	R	O	N
E		T		T		D		N		E		G

Autumn Fires

In the other gardens
And all up the vale,
From the autumn bonfires
See the smoke trail!

Pleasant summer over
And all the summer flowers,
The red fire blazes,
The grey smoke towers.

Sing a song of seasons!
Something bright in all!
Flowers in the summer,
Fires in the fall!

Robert Louis Stevenson



ST JOHN'S THE EVANGELIST CHURCH PRESENTS

The Shirley Christmas Tree Festival

at St John's Church, Shirley Church Road,
Shirley, CR0 5EF

from 23 -25 November 2018

Friday 23 November: 1.00 pm – 7.00 pm
Saturday 24 November: 11.00 am – 5.00 pm
Sunday 25 November: 12 noon – 4.00 pm

Entrance tickets £3 (accompanied children free)
Includes wristband for unlimited entrance
Christmas Market – Festival Tea Room
Live music every hour during the festival



TREE-FEST CONCERT

Saturday 24 November at 7.00 pm
Tickets £8 in advance £10 on the door
Includes refreshments

Trefest2018@gmail.com

Blow, Blow Thou Winter Wind

Blow, blow, thou winter wind
Thou art not so unkind
As man's ingratitude;
Thy tooth is not so keen,
Because thou art not seen,
Although thy breath be rude.

Heigh-ho! sing, heigh-ho! unto the green holly:
Most friendship if feigning, most loving mere folly:
Then heigh-ho, the holly!
This life is most jolly.

Freeze, freeze thou bitter sky,
That does not bite so nigh
As benefits forgot:
Though thou the waters warp,
Thy sting is not so sharp.
As a friend remembered not.

Heigh-ho! sing, heigh-ho! unto the green holly:
Most friendship is feigning, most loving mere folly:
Then heigh-ho, the holly!
This life is most jolly.

William Shakespeare



A Christmas Carol

The Christ-child lay on Mary's lap,
His hair was like a light.
(O, weary, weary is the world,
But here is all aright.)

The Christ-child lay on Mary's breast,
His hair was like a star.
(O, stern and cunning are the kings,
But here the true hearts are.)

The Christ-child lay on Mary's heart
His hair was like a fire.
(O, weary, weary is the world
But here the world's desire.)

The Christ-child stood at Mary's knee,
His hair was like a crown,
And all the flowers looked up at Him,
And all the stars looked down.

G K Chesterton

