

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

WEST WICKHAM

PARISH MAGAZINE



August/September 2020

50 pence

THE CHURCH OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI
RAVENSWOOD AVENUE WEST WICKHAM KENT BR4 0PW

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 www.facebook.com/StFofA

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REGULAR SERVICES

ONCE RESUMED AFTER CURRENT SUSPENSION

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

WEDNESDAY

- 9.30 am Morning Prayer**
10.45 am Holy Communion

THURSDAY

- 9.00 am Morning Prayer**

SATURDAY

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

During August and September on-line and paper-based resources for worship at home will be circulated each week in addition to some services taking place in person. At the time of going to print, the following services are planned in church but this is subject to change at short notice, dependent on local restrictions arising from the Coronavirus pandemic.

AUGUST 2020

Sunday 2 August		
Is 55:1–5 Rom 9:1–5 Matt 14:13–21	On–line & 10.00 am at St Francis'	Richard Hazel
Friday 7 August – Messy Church at home – on–line		
Saturday 8 August – Baptism at St Mary's		
Sunday 9 August		
Luke 19:1–10	On–line & 8.00 am at St Francis' 10.00 am at St Mary's	Hazel Hazel Hazel – non–Eucharistic
Wednesday 12 August		
Midweek – 10.45 am at St Francis'		Richard
Sunday 16 August		
Is 56:1, 6–8 Rom 11:1–2a, 29–32 Matt 15:21–28	On–line & 8.00 am at St Mary's 10.00 am at St Francis'	Richard Richard Richard
Wednesday 19 August		
Midweek – 10.45 am at St Mary's		Richard
Sunday 23 August		
Is 51:1–6 Rom 12:1–8 Matt 16:13–20	On–line & 8.00 am at St Francis' 10.00 am at St Mary's	Hazel Hazel Hazel
Wednesday 26 August		
Midweek – 10.45 am at St Francis'		Hazel
Sunday 30 August (Bank Holiday Weekend)		
Jer 15:15–21 Rom 12:9–end Matt 16:21–end	On–line & 8.00 am at St Mary's 10.00 am at St Francis'	Richard Richard Richard

SEPTEMBER 2020

Wednesday 2 September		
Midweek – 10.45 am at St Mary's'		Richard
Sunday 6 September		
TBA – Climate Sunday	On–line & 8.00 am at St Francis' 10.00 am at St Mary's	Richard Richard Richard – non–Eucharistic
Wednesday 9 September		
Midweek – 10.45 am at St Francis'		Richard
Friday 11 September – Messy Church at home – on–line		
Sunday 13 September		
Gen 50:15–21 Rom 14:1–12 Matt 18:21–35	On–line & 8.00 am at St Mary's 10.00 am at St Francis'	Hazel Hazel Hazel
Wednesday 16 September		
Midweek – 10.45 am at St Mary's'		Hazel
Sunday 20 September		
Jonah 3:10–4:end Phil 1:21–end Matt 20:1–16	8am at St F 9.15am at St M 10.45am at St F	Hazel Richard Hazel
Followed by St Francis' APCM		
Wednesday 23 September		
Midweek – 10.45 am at St Francis'		Hazel
Sunday 27 September		
Ezek 18:1–4, 25–end Phil 2:1–13 Matt 21:23–32	8.00 am at St Mary's 10.00 am at St Francis'	Hazel Hazel
6.30pm: CTWW service & AGM at St F – Hazel		
Wednesday 30 September		
Midweek – 10.45 am at St Mary's'		Hazel

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, Rev Ian Hamlin, and all the church family there.

Pray for all the families associated with the St Francis’ Pre–school. May those children moving to primary school in September make a successful transition and may new families find it a caring environment where their children can flourish.

Governments across the world are having to make difficult decisions to deal with the Covid–19 pandemic. May the leaders of cities and countries still in lockdown find the appropriate moment to lift restrictions and may the people of cities and countries which have come out of lockdown continue to be mindful of the need to maintain social distancing and to keep everyone safe, especially the elderly and those with health conditions.

Many have lost their jobs as businesses have closed or entered administration. We pray for those with families to support, who find it difficult to cope without employment. We hold before God those who work to help the unemployed, especially local work clubs, job centres and foodbanks.

Many have found that their minds have been hurt by the circumstances of lockdown. We pray that people with mental illness will find hope in Christ and gain support from family and friends who resist the temptation to try to “fix” their loved one, recognising the simple power of their loving presence. For those who have not been able to receive treatment, may they recognize their need, believe life can be better, and find compassionate people who can help.

Dear Friends

I wonder where you look for guidance? During the past few weeks, I have been referring constantly to guidance on safely coming out of lockdown. There is guidance from the Government, from the Church of England and from the Diocese of Southwark, which all needs to be referred to. The most unnerving thing about all this guidance is that it is constantly changing as more restrictions are lifted and more safeguards are suggested to keep everyone safe. There is also information that might be given by other organisations, experts in a specialist field and through the media. Sometimes it feels as though there is too much information, especially when it is contradictory.

It’s at times like this that it’s good to be reminded of God’s guidance, which is always there for us. Sometimes it can be difficult to know where exactly to go for that guidance, but there are two principles that apply:

1. We can always have hope in his love: the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end. (*Lamentations 3:22*)
2. The characteristics of that love, which, if we share it with others, will work well in any situation: love is patient; love is kind; love is not boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrong–doing, but rejoices in the truth. (*1 Corinthians 13: 4–6*)

Following these principles will always result in a good outcome. That’s not to say it’s easy to follow God’s path – being patient and kind in some of the situations that we find ourselves in as we come out of lockdown can be distinctly frustrating when others can’t recognise the benefit. However, God’s way is often different to the norms of this world – as the hymn: ‘O Lord, all the world belongs to you’ says, His way turns the world upside down. Maybe we need to get used to being different, being distinctive.

Hazel

**LUNCHTIME MUSIC AT ST FRANCIS' CHURCH
SUMMER 2020**

At the time of going to print, it is likely that none of the recitals will take place, with the possible exception of Students from Langley Park School for Boys, who are due to visit on 24 September.

The Festival of Arts has been postponed for a year to 2021. Dates will be set and communicated shortly.

St Francis' Pre-School

Children leaving to start primary school in September 2020 returned part-time to the pre-school in June after lockdown. For a four-year-old child, ten or eleven weeks' time is an eternity and they would have forgotten what had gone before if they had not returned. This time also enabled them to renew their friendships and on Friday 17 July they had a brief end of term presentation when they were each given a certificate confirming what a super-star each one of them is.

Hazel

**St Francis' Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) –
Sunday 20th September 2020 at 11.45am**

The APCM for St Francis will take place following the service on Sunday 20th September 2020 at 11.45am. This is an important meeting in the life of our church, so do please make a note of the date and try to join us. At this meeting we will elect Churchwardens, Deanery Synod Representatives and PCC members. Do give some consideration as to whether this is something you could do, or encourage someone else to do. If you are unsure of what is involved please speak to Hazel O'Sullivan, Barry Burford, Nicky Nightingale or any PCC member. If you wish to find out more about being a Deanery Synod Representative please talk to Hazel O'Sullivan.

Please note that in accordance with Church Representation Rules, a member of the laity must have been entered on the electoral roll of a parish for at least 6 months before qualifying to be elected to the PCC or Deanery Synod.

Nicky Nightingale

Update From Ear Aid Nepal – Mike & Fiona Smith

We hope you have all stayed well and are coping with the lockdown and isolation over these past months. Thank you for your prayers and for many generous gifts to Ear Aid Nepal.

We both came home together in late February to spend some time with the family and especially our mothers. It felt strange wearing facemasks on the plane but in Asia that is common anyway. By early March there were signs of the Corona virus spreading across Europe, but nothing too alarming. Mike returned to Nepal briefly, but returned to UK on one of the last scheduled flights out of Nepal on 22 March.

Fiona attends monthly Zoom meetings to see how the expat team is managing with the difficult conditions of lockdown on top of escalating visa renewal issues caused by the government offices being closed and the difficulty of getting to Kathmandu. She also continues monthly language lessons on-line with her teacher, Sunita, whose husband is an elder of our church in Pokhara. This helps her keep up-to-date with what is happening, especially among the elderly and disadvantaged members.

Since leaving Nepal, things have moved on at Green Pastures Hospital. The team there rapidly turned the Ear Centre into an isolation area, started screening anyone who came to the gate, stopped all routine work and began training staff, so that the hospital could be used as an overflow facility. All of this led to a severe financial loss for the hospital as all patients other than the poorest pay for or make a significant contribution towards their care. Only in this way can we maintain a long-term, financially sustainable service.

As virus cases were very few in Nepal, some local patients started to find their way back to the hospital and some surgery was done, even though ENT is considered a high-risk specialty for Covid because all

the work is with the respiratory tract. People with hearing problems often rely on lip reading, so the Speech Therapy team developed face masks with see-through panels.

Then we started to hear that many Nepali migrant workers in India, were finding their way back into Nepal despite the closed borders. As we write, this has led to increasing virus cases in the country. We are worried that this many mean the hospital will close down again for routine work and that the Ear Centre may be needed as an isolation unit. This would be a valuable service, but that leaves the financial strain. We have been incredibly grateful for gifts we have received during this time and we should be able to cover necessary staff costs at least for a few more months. After training so many it would also be a huge loss if we had not been able to keep them on the team.

Despite being away from Nepal, Mike has kept busy coordinating links with two important international research trials for developing hearing aids for Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs). He has also joined an international committee of advocacy for hearing health, with an organisation called the Coalition for Global Hearing Health (CGHH). This has strong links with the WHO and World Hearing Forum. He has also been editing some of his surgical videos, which hopefully can be put on the educational pages of the Ear Aid Nepal website in due course. He is in regular touch with the hospital team and hopes to return to Nepal once the lockdown and travel re-open safely.

Lockdown has not been all bad, thanks to the wonderful weather. We have much enjoyed zoom church meetings with our local fellowship, while keeping in touch with friends and doing what we can to help our church in Naya Gaun. Many church members and their neighbours there usually survive on daily wages. The church has worked hard to help meet those needs and to maintain fellowship.

We have found comfort in the verses of Psalm 91, such as:

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

For further information, please go to the following websites:

<http://gphospital.org>
<https://www.inf.org.uk/>
<https://www.earaidnepal.org>

A Look At Our Attitude To Dying – Joyce Taylor

I did tell the staff here when they asked if I'd rather die here or in hospital, that the women in my family make a real meal about dying. They were about to die many times before reaching their goal! I've bobbed up again, though still weak and bedridden at present, but I've learned a lot and the staff have understood better the variety of things wrong with me, all due to old age, but not the common or garden things!

I am very happy to die. The first thing I said when my heart condition was diagnosed was "I do not wish to be resuscitated". My lovely daughter-in-law said, "Oh no, not you, Joyce, you're so full of life!" "That", I said, "is how I want you to remember me".

But when I speak about dying, I am told I mustn't talk like that – it will depress me. It's obvious that it depresses the carers to whom I speak, which must make their work harder for them. But surely death is a natural thing? I believe doctors nowadays keep the elderly alive far too long. Chest infection used to be called 'the poor man's friend' as it was usually a relatively gentle way to die. Now, no one is allowed to die that way. My poor mother, who had no quality of life and was very unhappy was constantly given antibiotics. When I asked the doctor if it was really necessary, he said it was. We are all living much longer and there are already too few carers for the old.

Our experiences with Coronavirus have revived some of the old neighbourliness we had in my youth. There is less pollution; we can hear the birds sing, even, I'm assured, in the middle of London. Is there anything more we can learn from it? Think, pray and enjoy the wonderful world we have nearly destroyed!

Joyce Taylor



Bishop Karowei writes . . .

As a nation, we have not seen anything like COVID–19 since the last Great War. The thought of having a worldwide situation so deadly is unthinkable. The Government says, STAY AT HOME – SAVE THE NHS – SAVE LIVES.

Disciples' Lockdown

On Good Friday, the Disciples went into 'lockdown' because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. On Easter Sunday, their fear was heightened by news that Christ's body was not in the tomb. Then, Christ appeared to them and said "Shalom – Peace". So, they went from fear to faith. Christ was risen from the dead and was amongst them. He appeared a week later and said to Thomas: *"Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet believed."*

My Lockdown

Recently, I have been in personal 'lockdown' for health reasons, away from frontline ministry. Every time I took a 'me time', to pray, reflect or meditate on the scriptures, I was in personal 'lockdown'. This has contributed to my personal spiritual growth. I have learnt to listen to God, pray for others, read, reflect and meditate on the word of God more deeply. I have learnt some deep lessons of faith in my fellowship with God.

Apostle Paul, in the time of his 'complete lockdown' during house arrest said; ". . . even if I am bound . . . the gospel is not bound", indicating that there are no limits to what God can do. The Living Word of God is powerful and able to save anyone who turns to him in God's own way.

Concluding Thoughts

Jesus' incarnation, Gospel, death and resurrection is unprecedented in the history of human experience. Never before or after has humanity seen anything like it. The disciples emerged from their lockdown to faith and spiritual strength by the grace of God, having met with Christ after his resurrection. My lockdown also provided me a fresh opportunity to meet with my Lord and deepen my relationship.

In this post–Easter period, unsure of what the trajectory of COVID–19 would bring, I have chosen to trust in God and pray to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Following this choice:

- I open my heart to trust God afresh, holding on to God's love for me, my neighbour/friend and foe
- I reject fear, anxiety and despair, and turn each into a prayer (Phil. 4:6–8)
- I respect the principles of the guidelines to save lives, just as Christ sacrificed his life for me. "The innocent died for the guilty, to make us righteous in God"
- I share the message of hope through loving Jesus Christ with others
- I look after God's created world as a good steward.

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,

I confess my selfishness and self–centredness,
have mercy on me and forgive me.

Restore in me daily the lessons of my lockdown,
obedience of your Word and love for neighbour as self.

Help me to imitate the life of Jesus and follow him more nearly, day by day.

By your Holy Spirit, make me a channel of your love and peace,
living in the strength of the resurrection power of Jesus Christ. Amen.

✠ Karowei Woolwich



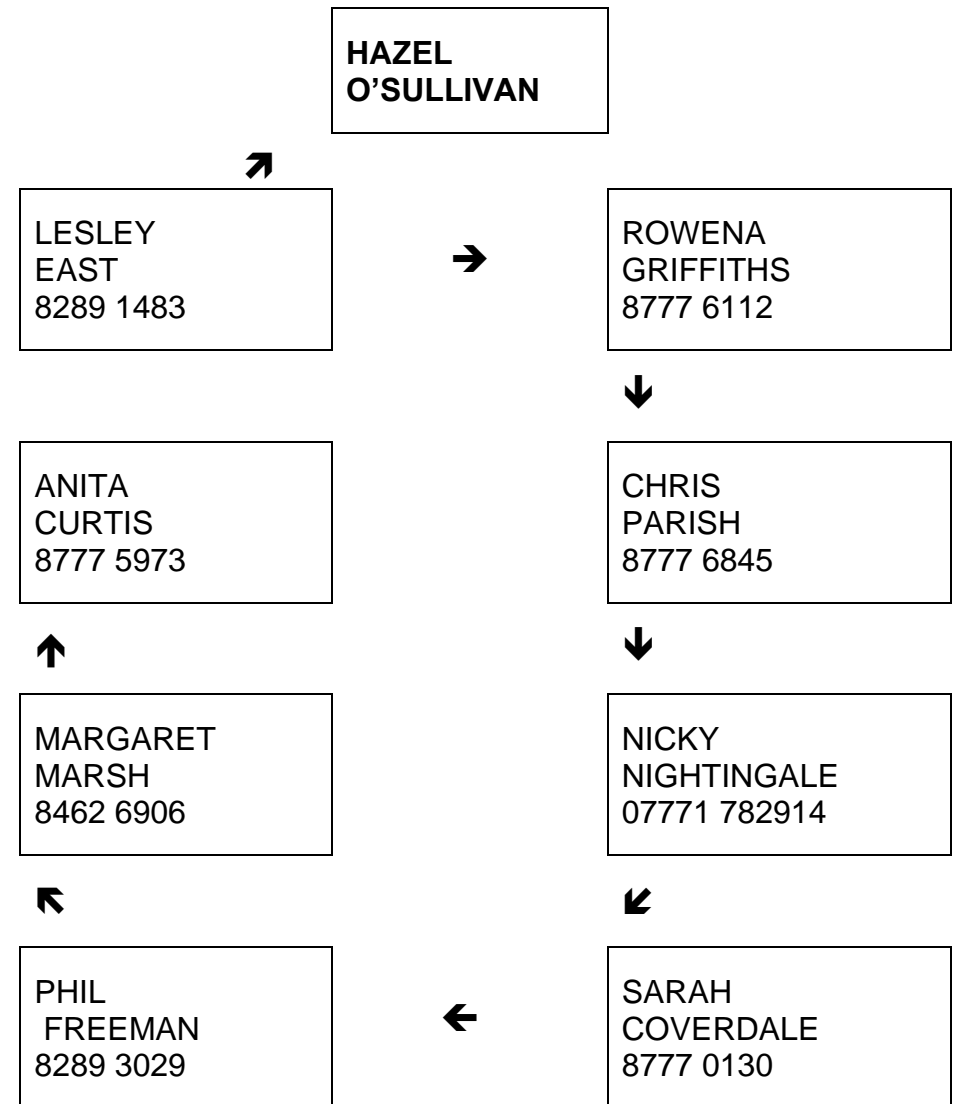
The Dean of Southwark has written the following prayer
which you may wish to use:

Please pray for all who are involved in the response to this crisis worldwide.

Loving God,
source of healing and comfort,
fill us with your grace,
that the sick may be made whole,
that those who care for us may be strengthened,
that the anxious may be calmed,
and those most vulnerable be protected
in the power of Spirit
in the faith of
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

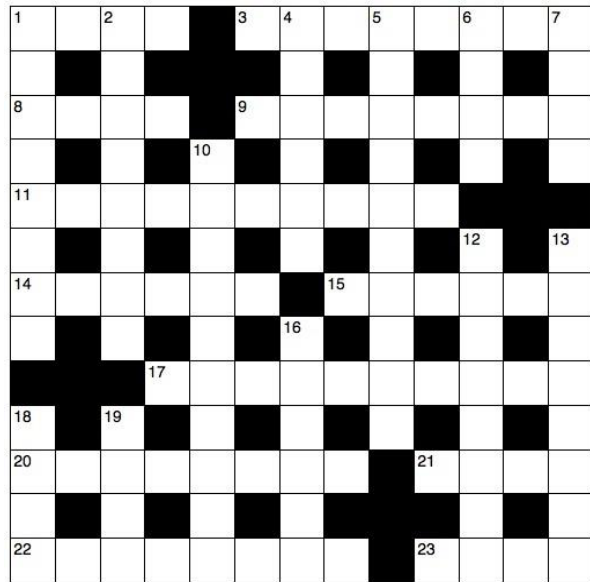


**ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI
PRAYER SUPPORT CHAIN**



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

Bible Crossword for August–September



Clues

Across

- 1 and 3 Two of the disciples who witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus (Luke 9:28) (4,3,5)
- 3 See 1 Across
- 8 'Let us draw — to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith' (Hebrews 10:22) (4)
- 9 O Simon is (anag) (8)
- 11 Form of government under the direct rule of God or his agents (10)
- 14 How Jesus found his disciples when he returned to them after praying in Gethsemane (Luke 22:45) (6)
- 15 In The Pilgrim's Progress, the name of the meadow into which Christian strayed, which led to Doubting Castle (2–4)
- 17 Glad sin rat (anag) (10)
- 20 Spinal column (Leviticus 3:9) (8)
- 21 Valley of the Balsam Tree with a reputation of being a waterless place (Psalm 84:6) (4)
- 22 'The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the oracle of one — — sees clearly' (Numbers 24:3) (5,3)
- 23 Adam and Eve's third son (Genesis 4:25) (4)

Down

- 1 David's great friend (1 Samuel 20:17) (8)
- 2 'The Lord... will bring me safely to his — kingdom' (2 Timothy 4:18) (8)
- 4 'I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; — — or wine touched my lips' (Daniel 10:3) (2,4)
- 5 Seeking to vindicate (Job 32:2) (10)
- 6 Female servant (Isaiah 24:2) (4)
- 7 'For Christ died for — once for all' (1 Peter 3:18) (4)
- 10 'Offering spiritual sacrifices — to God through Jesus Christ' (1 Peter 2:5) (10)
- 12 Jesus said that some people had renounced this 'because of the kingdom of heaven' (Matthew 19:12) (8)
- 13 One of the three men thrown into the furnace for refusing to worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden image (Daniel 3:20) (8)
- 16 'You have — of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry' (Luke 12:19) (6)
- 18 'There before me was a white horse! Its rider held — — , and he was given a crown' (Revelation 6:2) (1,3)
- 19 Equipment to Charity Hospitals Overseas (1,1,1,1)

Answers for June–July Crossword

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

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

October/November Edition

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

Tel: 01793 537888 or email: magletitiagreen@hotmail.com



Wordsearch Solutions for June/July

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

**GROUPS & ACTIVITIES AT
ST FRANCIS' CHURCH**

On Saturday mornings the church is open from 9.00 am to 10.00 am for quiet and prayer. From 10.30 am to 11.30 am refreshments are served and this raises money for Action Aid.

Contact Barbara Goodchild 8777 8782

The Church Halls. There are two halls available for hire – a large hall suitable for 30 people upwards and a small hall for up to 25 people.
Bookings Secretary: Katie Rees 8289 3846

Church Choir. The choir helps to lead the singing at Sunday services. It regularly sings anthems and there are special musical services at festivals. Rehearsals: 7.15 pm – 8.15 pm on Thursdays.
Contact Geoff Mussard 8650 8389

Men's Group. This meets on the second Monday evening of the month, alternately at St Francis' and St Mary's.
Contact Tim Shingler 8402 8286

Reading Group. This meets on the second Thursday morning of the month.
Contact Barbara Plummer 8289 3846

Matchbox Theatre. A well-established amateur dramatic society which includes members of St Francis' Church and performs in the church hall, usually three times a year.
Contact Mike Downing 8776 2732

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES IN THE CHURCH HALL

Cubs

Tuesdays from 6.15 pm to 7.45 pm
Contact Yvonne Bulman: yvonne.bulman@gmail.com

Scouts

Fridays from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm
Contact Hilary Moy, Group Scout Leader 07961 826814

Ravenswood Women's Institute

Fourth Thursday of the month from 7.45 pm
Contact Barbara Goodchild 8777 8782

West Wickham Market [Stalls & Refreshments]

Fridays from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm 8776 1603

Wednesday Market [supporting South East Cancer Help Centre]
From 9.00 am to 1.00 pm 8777 3005

Fitness Through Movement, Exercise & Dance

Tuesdays from 8.00 pm to 9.00 pm 8771 7896

Weight Watchers

Mondays at 6.30 pm and Tuesdays at 10.00 am

Sugar Craft & Cake Decorating

Thursdays at 8.00 pm (Six meetings a year)

Articles and items for the magazine are always welcome.

Any contributions can be left in the envelope at the back of the church [on the notice board] by the second Sunday of the month for inclusion in the next bi-monthly magazine [editions for Dec/Jan, Feb/March, etc]. Otherwise contact the Editor, Margaret Green, on 08931 537888 or by emailing her at magletitiagreen@hotmail.com.