

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

WEST WICKHAM

PARISH MAGAZINE



October/November 2020

50 pence

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

Church Website: www.stfranciswestwickham.co.uk

 www.facebook.com/StFofA

Vicar: The Rev Hazel O'Sullivan 8777 5034
 The Vicarage, The Avenue, West Wickham, BR4 0DX
 email: hazelos58@gmail.com
Day off: Monday

Assistant Priest: The Rev Richard Ford 8289 2432
 email: richard.ford73@ntlworld.com

Reader: Brian Griffiths 8777 6112

SPA (Pastoral Auxiliaries): Lesley East 8289 1483
 Rowena Griffiths 8777 6112

Church Directory

Churchwardens: Barry Burford 8777 2034
 Mike East 8289 1483

Secretary: Nicky Nightingale 8916 9855
 email: nicholanightingale@hotmail.co.uk

Treasurer: David Wada 8777 6355
 email: stfranciswwtreasurer@gmail.com

Director of Music: Geoff Mussard 8650 8389

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Kim Teare .. kim_teare@hotmail.com

Sunday Notices Sheet: Elizabeth Bligh 8777 2009

Parish Magazine – Content: Margaret Green 07931 537888

Magazine – Distribution: Nicky Nightingale 8916 9855

Library: Sarah Coverdale 8777 0130

Bible Reading Fellowship: Lesley East 8289 1483

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 October and November 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.

OCTOBER 2020

Planned Services as at 27 September

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

Date	Readings	Video Material		In Person
		Talk	President/Lead	
Sun 4 Oct <i>St Francis' Dedication Festival</i>	1 Kings 8:22-30 Matt 21:12-16	Hazel	Richard	8 am: St M Richard 10 am: St F Hazel
Celebration of Pets	TBA	Hazel	Hazel	3pm: On Zoom
Wed 7 Oct	10.45 am at St Mary's			Richard
Fri 9 Oct	Messy Church at home – on line			
Sun 11 Oct <i>Harvest</i>	TBA	Brian	Ken (<i>Non-Eucharistic</i>)	8 am: St F Richard 10 am: St M Ken
Wed 14 Oct	10.45 am at St Francis'			Richard
Sun 18 Oct <i>St Luke</i>	Isaiah 35:3-6 2 Tim 4:5-17 Luke 10:1-9	Ken	Hazel	8 am: St M Hazel 10 am: St F Hazel
Wed 21 Oct	10.45 am at St Mary's			Hazel
Sun 25 Oct <i>Bible Sunday</i>	Neh 8:1-4a, 8-12 Col 3: 1-17 Matt 24:30-35	Hazel	Hazel	8 am: St F Hazel 10 am: St M Hazel
Wed 28 Oct	10.45 am at St Francis'			Hazel

NOVEMBER 2020

Planned Services as at 27 September

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

Date	Readings	Video Material		In Person
		Talk	President/Lead	
Sun 1 Nov <i>All Saints' Day</i>	Rev 7: 9-end 1 John 3:1-3 Matt 5: 1-12	Brian	Hazel	8 am: St M Hazel 10 am: St F Hazel
Memorial Service	TBA	Hazel	Lesley & Ken	3 pm: St F and on Zoom
Wed 4 Nov	10.45 am at St Mary's			Hazel
Sun 8 Nov <i>Remembrance Sunday</i>	TBA	Ken	Hazel (<i>Non-Eucharistic to video from home</i>)	8 am: St F Richard 9.15 am: St M Hazel 10.45am: St F Hazel
Wed 11 Nov	10.45 am at St Francis' (including 2 minutes silence at 11.00 am)			Hazel & Richard
Fri 13 Nov	Messy Church at home – on line			
Sun 15 Nov <i>2nd Sunday before Advent</i>	Zeph 1: 7-end 1 Thess 5: 1-11 Matt 25: 14-30	Richard	Richard	8 am: St M Richard 10 am: St F Richard
Wed 18 Nov	10.45 am at St Mary's			Richard
Sun 22 Nov <i>Christ the King</i>	Ezek 34: 11-16, 20-24 Eph 1: 15-end Matt 25: 31-end	Hazel	Hazel	8 am: St F Hazel 10 am: St M Hazel
Wed 25 Nov	10.45 am at St Mary's			Hazel
Sun 29 Nov <i>Advent Sunday</i>	Isaiah 64:1-9 1 Cor 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-end	Brian	Richard	8 am: St F Richard 10 am: St M Richard

Prayer Cycle

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 priest, Father Ray, and all the church family there.

We also pray for:

- Governments around the world having to make difficult decisions in relation to combatting the Coronavirus, especially those in countries where other issues make dealing with the virus so much more complicated, such as Greece where huge numbers of refugees are still housed in temporary accommodation and Syria and the Yemen where internal conflicts have existed for many years.
- Peace in our world, our communities and our homes. For all peacemakers and those who work to bring about reconciliation between opposing sides in a dispute.
- As we have more ability to travel, shop and return to leisure activities, may we make wise choices, so that the companies who survive the pandemic are those which are trading ethically and in a sustainable way, ensuring that our environment is cared for effectively.
- For our Vision Group as they begin to look at ways of engaging better with our local business, voluntary and residential communities.
- Give thanks for our local NHS healthcare professionals who are working to arrange tests and treatments for those who are ill in challenging circumstances.
- For care staff in residential homes and domestic settings who have continued to look after vulnerable people throughout the pandemic.

Dear Friends

Late October and early November is a time when remembrance comes to the fore in the life of both Church and country, with the more personal memorial services – perhaps even more poignant this year, if they are allowed to take place, for those who have lost loved ones during the Covid-19 Lockdown – and the national focus culminating in Remembrance Sunday.

As a teenager I used, along with other cubs, scouts, brownies and guides in our town, to assemble behind the British Legion and the Royal Marine Band every Remembrance Sunday and march to the War Memorial Hospital for a service. I don't think it was just having to face the November cold in shorts and a short-sleeved shirt that led me to find the whole experience somewhat dispiriting. It was probably more the idealism of youth that began objecting to what I perceived to be the triumphalism of the event and the glorification of war, so that a few years later I expressed my feelings in a poem that was first published in "Makaris", Durham University's poetry magazine.

Contrition?

*This poppy is a symbol
Of our fathers' and their fathers'
Madness –
A heliotrope
Facing where it feels least pain,*

*While the drum-major and the circus clown
In triumph march around the town.*

*"They shall not grow old
As we that are left grow old."
Age should bring wisdom
And recognition of past folly.
But this age brings neither,
And it is in the young –
The restless and discontented young –
That our hopes must rest,*

*While the drum-major and the circus clown
In triumph march around the town.*

*Oh God
Change this remembrance to oblivion
Lest our minds
Cracking beneath the burden of past guilt
We too run mad and*

*With the drum-major and the circus clown
In triumph march around the town.*

As I've grown older, my views have mellowed (and, perhaps, matured?) and I've come to recognise the importance of acknowledging what was the cost to those who served in the armed forces of all sides involved in both world wars: my grandfather was severely wounded in the First World War and my father served in Burma in the second, one was scarred physically, one mentally by their experiences. In both wars there were great acts of heroism and selflessness, but as T S Eliot says, in "The Waste Land":

*Unnatural vices are fathered by our heroism.
Virtues are forced upon us by our impudent crimes*

As Jesus makes clear when he says to Peter, "Put your sword back in its place, for all who draw the sword will die by the sword," (Matthew 26.52) warfare is not what God wants for his creation, a point made clear in Isaiah's vision of God's kingdom:

He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. (Isaiah 2.4).

So on Remembrance Sunday, it is right to pay tribute to those who fought for what they believed to be right and those who gave their lives on the battlefield, but it is also right that we should remember what Wilfred Owen called the "pity of war" and pray for an end to armed conflict now and peace in the future.

Richard

Welcoming & Including Everyone

Give a warm welcome to any brother or sister who wants to join you, even though their faith is weak. Don't criticize them for having different ideas from yours about what is right and wrong. (Romans 14: 1 - Living Bible Translation)

The focus of our services on 13th September was about being inclusive and accepting of everyone who is seeking Christ. Welcoming and inclusion are key to making any church work. Sadly there are many ways in which churches that should be including and welcoming turn out to be exactly the opposite. Our vision is to engage more fully with the local community here in West Wickham. The starting point for that vision has to be that we are a welcoming, accepting and inclusive congregation.

You may have heard about 'Inclusive Church'. It was mentioned during our 'Black Lives Matter' meeting and at the end of the sermon on 13th September. Inclusive Church was set up in 2003 and campaigns for the full inclusion of all people, regardless of ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation, in Christian churches (especially the Church of England) and seeks to raise awareness about the ways in which many people feel excluded by the church. It is exactly what Paul was writing about in the verse at the beginning of this article. Inclusive Church has published a series of books dealing with disability, mental health, sexuality, poverty, ethnicity, and gender and they hold an annual lecture – the first one was entitled 'Beyond Inclusion – Whose Church Is It Anyway'. Several churches in our Deanery and in our locality have joined Inclusive Church.

It is worthwhile considering how we can become more inclusive and welcoming in our two churches. So we intend to hold a series of meetings (probably via 'Zoom') to discuss various aspects of this theme in more detail. Do look out for more information in the weekly pew sheet and on our websites and make a point of joining a meeting to hear and share views on welcoming and including all.

Hazel and Brian

A New & Exciting Way of 'Being Church'

It's been a strange time since lockdown started at the end of March. Who would have thought that our churches would be completely closed for worship? As soon as that happened we were faced with a challenge – how do we keep in touch with the congregations of St Mary's and St Francis' - how do we sustain and nurture our faith – how do we keep worship going? We did what many churches in the UK did – we made the decision to provide online worship. None of us had any real experience of how to do this. We didn't even know at the outset whether it was possible to upload video to our websites. And so, we developed entirely new skills, recording audio and video, finding the best versions of hymns and songs on YouTube or other platforms and amending, updating and uploading to both church websites. We shall be eternally grateful for the skills of Olivia O'Sullivan who worked her magic stitching together the various pieces of video to provide an imaginative, stimulating and challenging online worship each week. This was not confined to just Sunday services but Messy Church as well, which was 'live streamed' on Facebook. A 'Quiet Day' was also arranged on 'Zoom' where several church members from West Wickham and further afield joined in. We are still learning and our next challenge is to record the service as it happens on a Sunday and put it on our websites later in the day. Watch this space.

We have had some fun producing the online worship. Recording the Maundy Thursday meditation in the Griffiths' family summerhouse with peaceful birdsong in the background was scuppered by the local parakeet population fighting on the summerhouse roof. A plaintive phone call from Hazel at 8.30 on a Saturday morning saw Brian robe up again to record the communion part of the service as she'd accidentally deleted it from her phone.

At the very outset of lockdown, we made a commitment to keep in touch with our congregations pastorally as well as through worship. One pew sheet for both churches now includes the sermon for the week and some prayer pointers. It is circulated by email and some very willing (and fit) volunteers deliver paper copies to those without access to the internet. Everybody who had a connection with St Francis' or St Mary's was allocated someone who would keep in touch with them throughout lockdown and beyond. This support is ongoing and huge thanks are due to those who have offered pastoral support by

email, telephone or in person. Some of the home groups have kept meeting on 'Zoom' and they have found this to be a great help. The Ministry Team has been a pivotal resource in planning and organising all this worship and pastoral activity and still meets every fortnight on 'Zoom' to plan and think about the future.

In July we were able to open our churches again for private prayer and then, a few weeks later, for worship on Sundays. This would not have been possible without the help of the churchwardens behind the scenes working out where people could sit in a socially distant fashion and how the services would actually work in practice. This has been challenging and it is appreciated that the new way of worship in a Covid-Safe environment has been uncomfortable and unsettling for some in our congregations.

Current restrictions mean that our joint 10am services will continue for some months to come. Let's use this as a great opportunity for us to get to know each other better. We are planning to hold some more social events remotely on 'Zoom' – keep an eye out for details on the weekly pew sheet. A 'Coffee and Chat' 'Zoom' social gathering happens every week on Thursday afternoons and this has proved an absolute lifeline to several members of our congregations who have been shielding or confined to their homes for other reasons. Do contact Rowena or Brian Griffiths for details of how you can join this meeting. There's no pre-set agenda, it's simply a very friendly space to meet up and enjoy fellowship together.

The next six months will continue to be challenging for our benefice. We have realised just how important our online services are to those unable to join us in person on Sundays. Someone who is confined to a wheelchair posted an item on a website called 'Building Jerusalem' about how they have felt more included during lockdown than when church was operating normally. They said "Please, please, please don't just pack up the equipment when the pandemic is over. Don't switch off the streaming. Don't push me and the many in my position back into loneliness and isolation. Keep connected." Rest assured that our online services will continue. We will also maintain the distribution of weekly material and ensure that the pastoral support network will continue. Certainly it's been challenging for all of us and unsettling for many. However, this has been an exciting six months in our understanding of what it really means to 'be church'. Let us pray that

the Holy Spirit may continue to bless all that we do in St Francis' and St Mary's and that we may see this time of challenge and change as an opportunity to flourish in our worship and witness together.

In **Messy Peace** we thought about what the world would be like without any fighting going on. Here's a poem from that service:

Peace begins with saying sorry.
Peace begins with not hurting others.
Peace begins with honesty and trust.
Peace begins with showing co-operation and respect.
World peace begins with ME!

Haley Hall, Grade 3

DW Babcock Elementary School, Sacramento, California

Giving Thanks

Olivia O'Sullivan has now returned to school and is no longer editing our weekly videos. We wanted to give her something to say 'Thank You' for getting us through that initial time when we were unsure of how to deal with this technology. Rather than suggesting something for herself, she has requested that we make a donation to charity. Interestingly when asked about what charity to make a donation to, she put forward three that speak to issues that we would not normally support: maybe this is God questioning how inclusive we really are and whether others with different views to us would really feel welcome at St Mary's and St Francis'.

I have set up a JustGiving page at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/hazel-osullivan>

Any amounts donated to this page will be split between the following three charities:

- **AKT** supports lgbtq+ young people aged 16-25 in the UK who are facing or experiencing homelessness or living in a hostile environment. They help young people into safe homes and employment, education or training, a welcoming and open environment that celebrates lgbtq+ identities.
- **Project Hope.** Yemen is the world's worst humanitarian crisis, with 80% of the country's population requiring some form of assistance to survive. Project HOPE is helping to meet **the**

world's health challenges in Yemen, partnering with communities, health care workers and public health systems to ensure sustainable change. The UN has warned that deaths from Covid-19 could exceed wartime fatalities, while widespread cholera and malnutrition continue to put millions of lives at risk.

- **The Black Curriculum** is a social enterprise founded in 2019 by young people to address the lack of Black British History in the UK Curriculum. Their aim is to deliver arts-focused black history programmes for all young people aged 8-16, to provide teacher training and to campaign through mobilising young people, so as to change the National Curriculum and to facilitate social change.

Harvest Supper

We will be having a social gathering on Saturday 10 October via Zoom at 7.00 pm. Amanda from the Bromley Foodbank will tell us about the past, present and future news of the organisation. Bring your own food and drink and we'll also share some stories of things we want to give thanks for. You can show us a photo, a link to a film or piece of music on YouTube (or similar internet platform), or you could read out a poem or prayer that you particularly like. It will be great to share our blessings and get to know others better.

Harvest Service

This year our Harvest Service will be held on Sunday 11 October at 10.00 am in St Mary's Church. We will be collecting donations of non-perishable foods and toiletries for the Bromley Foodbank, who will be speaking at the Harvest Supper on the previous evening. Please come along, or watch on-line, to give thanks for all we have and bring some donations for those who have less. It is also possible to donate items by leaving them in the box outside the Vicarage at any time.

Pet Service

Sadly, this cannot happen in person this year (animals are too unpredictable), so we're taking it on-line. This will be on Zoom on Sunday 4 October at 3pm. Do bring your pet in front of the camera for a prayer of blessing and tell your friends and family that they are welcome to join us.

In Loving Memory

Our annual service to remember those who have died will be on Sunday 1 November at 3.00 pm in St Francis' Church. There will also be the opportunity to join the service on-line by Zoom. This is an opportunity to come and remember with thankfulness, the lives of those you have loved and lost.

If you would like the names of loved ones read out at this service, please complete a sheet that will be in the churches a few weeks beforehand or give your names by email or phone to me. Also, do let others who might find this service helpful know about it and offer to come along with them to provide support. This will be especially important this year when so many have lost loved ones but have been unable to say 'goodbye' to them properly as numbers at their funeral were restricted.

Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday is on 8 November this year. This is the one Sunday when there will be an exception to our new pattern of services and we will have in-person services in St Mary's at 9.15 am and in St Francis' at 10.45 am, in addition to a service of Holy Communion at St Francis' at 8.00 am and an on-line service available from 9.00 am.

On Wednesday 11 November there will also be a service of Holy Communion in St Francis' Church at 10.45 am with a two-minute silence at 11.00 am.

Hazel and Brian

Leu Gardens

Luscious palms that have enormous leaves
Elegant fronds that I can tap as I please
Unbelievably tall bamboo trunks thrusting up to the sky
Great wonders of nature that make me not want to die
Almost every plant imaginable created by God
Realms of the miraculous, others just odd
Delicate roses pleasant to sniff and to stroke
Each one scented uniquely, giving me hope
Now I realise we weren't meant to all be the same
Surely there must be some place for me in life's game?

Morten Cernoch

Morten worships at St John's, West Wickham and this poem was used in the sermon for the services on 13 September when we thought about 'Inclusion not Exclusion'. He is autistic, but writes the most wonderful poetry. This is an acrostic poem – the first letters of every line spell out the name of the poem. Morten is 17 years old and he wrote this poem when he was 9 – amazing!

Brian

St Mary's Christmas Market 2020

A meeting was held after the Sunday service on 13 September to discuss the Christmas Market in November 2020 in light of the Covid 19 pandemic. The Market would be required to comply with social distancing rules, as well as health and safety guidelines to ensure stallholders, volunteers, and visitors are fully protected and kept Covid-safe. In order to achieve this, there would need to be fewer stalls operating in three different locations: the main hall, scout hut and outside marquees in the gardens.

The practicalities that needed to be considered for going ahead were outlined:

- Marquees: cost of hiring, needing a team of helpers to put them up on the morning of the event to avoid theft/vandalism.
- Heating and lighting for the marquees: cost and health and safety issues.
- Duration of event: being outside it would need to be shorter.
- Bad weather: would the market attract sufficient visitors? Any further increases in infections would deter visitors and may lead to the market being cancelled.
- 'Track & Trace' Register: it is now a legal requirement to take contact details of visitors. Marshalls would be required to monitor numbers and ensure social distancing.
- Tables and chairs in the hall would need to be sanitised after each use.

It was agreed that the Christmas Market could not take place under such guidelines and the extra cost would not make it financially viable. However, it was acknowledged that the Christmas Market is an important part of St Mary's annual fundraising and so alternative ways of raising funds should be explored.

In place of a physical market, the following will be explored:

- Food hampers and festive floral arrangements to be sold on line in addition to orders received from members of the congregations.
- Christmas Draw with prizes to go ahead and £20 books of raffle tickets to be distributed.

It was suggested that we could open the hall on a specified date for people to return the draw tickets and collect their online orders. The draw may be live-streamed through the audio-visual equipment with a photographic history of previous Christmas markets.

Please email office@stmarywestwickham.co.uk or contact the following people if you would like to purchase or place orders for any of the following:

Christmas Market Raffle tickets – Bob West
Christmas wreaths and table decorations – Merri Womack
Food Hampers – Debbie Adams & Gifty Nortey
Raffle tickets for the Christmas cake – Beryl Bolton
Raffle tickets for a food hamper – Beryl Bolton

The food hampers, raffle tickets for the Christmas cake and food hamper will be available from November onwards.

Debbie Adams & Gifty Nortey



December 2020-January 2021 Magazine

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

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



Bishop Richard writes . . .

There is growing awareness of the huge and damaging impact of human activity on both our climate and biodiversity across planet Earth. The effects of this are becoming more and more obvious in our own country and dramatically more so in other parts of the world. There have been some encouraging responses to this, such as the Paris Agreement in 2015 and the recent UK Government commitment to be carbon neutral by 2050. There are many arguments about the best approaches to achieve effective action. Some are very supportive of the approach of Extinction Rebellion, whilst others see it as a step too far. Some argue that we should divest immediately from fossil fuels, others that we should stay invested in the large energy companies and influence policy from within. In the UK at the moment this also takes place in the midst of our political chaos in dealing with the issue of Brexit with all the underlying questions about the identity, values and direction of our country in the 21st century. The pressing issues around Brexit, important as they are, can mean that even bigger challenges which face us can fade into the background.

We are in urgent need of the values which help us navigate these complex policy and lifestyle issues in a way that leads genuinely to the common good of all God's creation. For Christians, our response to this is not simply a moral one, but it springs out of our whole understanding of how we see our place in the universe – our relatedness to God, the world, each other, and all of God's creation. It is central to the primary themes of the Gospel – creation, redemption, salvation, and the resurrection order. As such, it needs to be properly expressed in worship, which both expresses our Christian faith and shapes our hearts and minds and the way we live. Also, it needs to be lived out in our daily lives and actions. Looking at the central elements of the Gospel through the lens of the environment and all God's creation can deepen and enlarge our understanding of the Good News of God's love in Christ.

In church life there have been some important developments, such as the establishment of a Church of England National Environment Working Group, on which I and others from our Diocese sit, and the crucial Eco-Church and Eco-Diocese programme run by A Rocha. Liturgically, some very good material has been produced especially for the Creationtide season, which runs from 1 September – 4 October, embracing themes from Franciscan spirituality and the harvest festival season. This is a good start, but it needs to go far deeper.

In our own Diocese there have been many excellent initiatives (supported by our Diocesan Environment Officer and Working Group, and by the Board of Education) in both parishes and schools with a growing number signing up to the Eco-Church process. If parishes are not already signed up Creationtide is a good time to ask why not? Importantly, the Diocesan Synod at its meeting in July supported unanimously the move to registering as an Eco-Diocese. This excellent initiative provides a strong and deeply Christian framework for engaging with all the challenges that the environment crisis raises. In the next few crucial years it will help us to think through at every level of our institutional life what our Christian response should be. As with the Eco-Church framework this will mean reflecting on our deep theology of creation and salvation, expressing this in our worship and prayer, and living it out in our daily actions. I hope and pray we will all engage with this process as fully as we can.

✠Richard Kingston

**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**

**HAZEL
O'SULLIVAN**



**LESLEY
EAST
8289 1483**



**ROWENA
GRIFFITHS
8777 6112**



**ANITA
CURTIS
8777 5973**

**CHRIS
PARISH
8777 6845**



**MARGHARET
MARSH
8462 6906**

**NICKY
NIGHTINGALE
07771 782914**



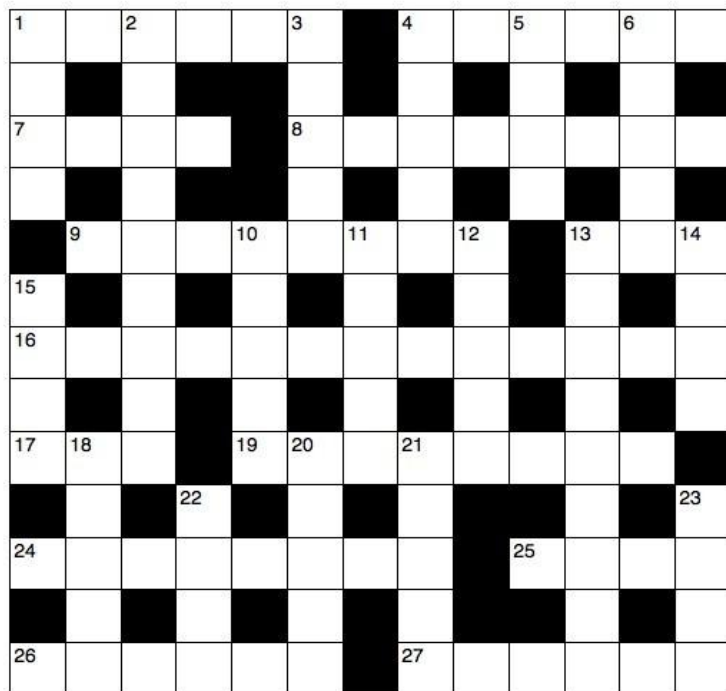
**PHIL
FREEMAN
8289 3029**



**SARAH
COVERDALE
8777 0130**

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

Bible Crossword for October/November



Clues

Across

- 1 He must be 'the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well' (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)
- 4 'For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6)
- 7 'They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their — end' (Psalm 107:27) (4)
- 8 See 19 Across
- 9 It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest (Luke 9:46) (8)
- 13 Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)
- 16 'He has sent me to bind up the — ' (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)

- 17 Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)
- 19 and 8 ' — a great company of the — host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8)
- 24 Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)
- 25 Comes between Luke and Acts (4)
- 26 Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)
- 27 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a — !' (John 2:16) (6)

Down

- 1 Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4)
- 2 The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesarean centurion had a vision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)
- 3 He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5)
- 4 'No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born — ' (John 3:3) (5)
- 5 Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25) (4)
- 6 'He encouraged them — — remain true to the Lord' (Acts 11:23) (3,2)
- 10 Ruses (anag) (5)
- 11 Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)
- 12 Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)
- 13 This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul 'a great deal of harm' (2 Timothy 4:14) (9)
- 14 'This is my — , which is for you; do this in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (4)
- 15 One of Noah's great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)
- 18 Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)
- 20 Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5)
- 21 Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)
- 22 Bats (anag) (4)
- 23 'You strain out a — but swallow a camel' (Matthew 23:24) (4)

Answers for August/September Crossword

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

Answers for Sudoku August/September

5	7	1	4	9	2	3	6	8
2	8	3	1	6	5	9	7	4
9	4	6	8	7	3	1	5	2
4	2	7	9	5	1	6	8	3
3	6	9	7	4	8	5	2	1
8	1	5	2	3	6	7	4	9
7	9	2	5	1	4	8	3	6
6	5	4	3	8	9	2	1	7
1	3	8	6	2	7	4	9	5

Sudoku for October/November

		9		6	5			
6			3		4		5	
5	7					1		3
		3			6		1	7
		6	9		7	3		
1	2		5			9		
9		8					2	5
	4		6		3			8
			8	9		4		

© 2008 KrazyDad.com

Word Search Clues for October/November

All Hallows Eve – or Holy Evening

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots in pre-Christian times. In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Druid priests celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. They lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off the dark supernatural powers of oncoming winter. Today, Christians turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.

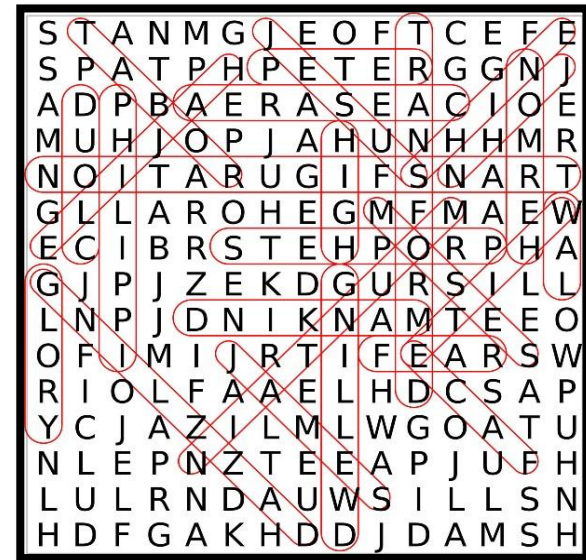
WORDS TO FIND	
All	Halloween
Bonfires	Hallows
Charms	Loved
Christ	Magic
Christians	Powers
Closer	Prayer
Dark	Priests
Death	Samhain
Deeper	Supernatural
Druid	Thanks
Eve	True
Festival	Winter
Gone	



I am sorry that in the last edition there was not a list of words to find. Unfortunately they were not included with the grid.

Margaret

Wordsearch Solutions for August/September



**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 07931 537888 or by emailing her at

magletitiagreen@hotmail.com.