

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

WEST WICKHAM

PARISH MAGAZINE



December 2020/January 2021

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

Assistant Priest: The Revd 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
 Kate Dyer .. katedyer41@hotmail.com

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

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 December and January 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.

DECEMBER 2020

Planned Services as at 11 November

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	
Fri 4 Dec	3-7pm CTWW Advent Quiet Time at St John's, Layhams Road			
Sat 5 Dec	Not the Big Christmas Sing			N/A
Sun 6 Dec <i>Advent 2 Commissioning Church Wardens</i>	Isaiah 40:1-11 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8	Ken	Hazel	8 am: St M Hazel 10 am: St F Hazel
Fri 11 Dec	Messy Church at home			N/A
Sun 13 Dec <i>Advent 3</i>	Isaiah 61:1-4,8-end 1 Thess 5: 16-24 John 1: 6-8,19-28	Richard	Richard	8 am: St F Richard 10 am: St M Richard
	6.30pm CTWW Mini-Retreat on Zoom			N/A
Wed 16 Dec	10.45 am at St Francis'			
Sun 20 Dec <i>Advent 4 Carol Service</i>	TBA	Brian	Hazel/ Debbie	8 am: St M Richard 10 am: St F 4.00 pm at St M
Thurs 24 Dec <i>Christmas Eve</i>	Christingle Lighting the Lamps	Hazel Hazel	Ken Brian	4.00 pm at St M 6.00 pm at St F
	Isaiah 52: 7-10 Heb 1: 1-4 John 1: 1-14	Richard	Hazel	11.15 pm at St M - Hazel
Fri 25 Dec <i>Christmas Day</i>	Midnight Communion Texts	Richard	Hazel	10.00 am at St F - Hazel
Sun 27 Dec <i>Christmas 1</i>	Isa 61:10-62:3 Gal 4:4-7 Luke 2:15-21	Hazel	Hazel	8 am: St F Hazel 10 am: St M Hazel

JANUARY 2021

Planned Services as at 11 November

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 3 Jan <i>Epiphany</i>	Isaiah 60: 1-6 Eph 3: 1-12 Matt 2: 1-12	Richard	Richard	8 am: St M Richard 10 am: St F Richard
Sun 10 Jan <i>Baptism of Christ</i>	Gen 1: 1-5 Acts 19: 1-7 Mark 1: 4-11	Ken	Hazel	8 am: St F Hazel 10.45am: St F Hazel
Wed 13 Jan	10.45 am at St Francis'			Hazel
Fri 15 Jan	Messy Church at home			N/A
Sun 17 Jan <i>Epiphany 2</i>	1 Sam 3: 1-10 Rev 5: 1-10 John 1: 43-end	Brian	Richard	8 am: St M Richard 10 am: St F Richard
	6.30pm CTWW Mini-Retreat on Zoom			N/A
Sun 24 Jan <i>Epiphany 3</i>	Gen 14: 17-20 Rev 19: 6-10 John 2: 1-11	Hazel	Hazel	8 am: St F Hazel 10 am: St M Hazel
Wed 27 Jan	10.45 am at St Francis'			Hazel
Sun 31 Jan <i>Candlemas</i>	Mal 3: 1-5 Heb 2: 14-end Luke 2: 22-40	Richard	Brian – <i>Non- Eucharistic</i>	8 am: St M Richard 10 am: St F Brian

Prayer Cycle

We pray for those who live in:

Sherwood Way; Silver Lane; Southcroft Avenue; Springfield Gardens; Stanford House, High Street; Station Road; Surrey Road; Sussex Road; Tudor Gardens; White House, Dixon Place; Wickham Court Road; Wickham Crescent; Wilmar Gardens, Woodland Way.

In our cycle of prayer for other churches in West Wickham, we pray for Emmanuel Church: their new Minister, Revd David Pickering, and all the church family there.

- Pray for the work of Christian Aid in connection with climate justice, recognising that the effects of climate change have a greater adverse impact on the poorer countries of the world, despite their contribution to these changes being much less than the more developed countries of the world.
- Pray that during 2021, there will be a reduction in the inequalities highlighted by the coronavirus pandemic: educational, financial and health.
- Pray for the people of Yemen, where the world's largest humanitarian crisis continues to be suffered, with thousands of deaths resulting from a civil war, disease and starvation. Pray especially for parents who are forced to choose between food, medicine and schooling for their children.
- On Sunday 15 November we marked the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. Many people around the world are unable to gather in worship and it can be difficult to obtain printed Christian material in some countries, such as China, where printers and photocopying businesses are threatened with closure, large fines or imprisonment. Pray that beleaguered believers will remain steadfast in faith, knowing they are inheritors of their Saviour's heavenly country, despite growing pressures, scrutiny and interference from authorities that they encounter in their day-to-day Christian lives.



Dear Friends

Hope in a Christian sense is not waiting for a positive change in our circumstances (that's simply optimism). Hope in a Christian sense is waiting for God. God, who can do so much more by changing me and my attitudes, rather than changing things external to me. This kind of hope is a biblical theme that was used in both the Old and New Testaments, to make God's people find some comfort, or strength, and some joy, even in the most difficult times. Even when external circumstances are going to get worse before they get better.

Today we know that the difficulties associated with the pandemic will go away eventually, but some of these issues will get worse (unemployment, mental health difficulties, etc) before they get better. If we can look back at what God has done in the past, we can still gain hope for our own future. This is what is done often in the Old Testament (for example in Psalm 78). Much of the New Testament also refers back to passages from the Old Testament, as the writers remember what God has done in the past (for example in Hebrews, chapter 11 shows how characters from the Old Testament did things by faith and gained hope).

Today we can look back at what God has done in the past in communion, when we use the bread and wine as symbols to remind us of what God has done in Jesus. This reminds us of God's love and forgiveness for us and that promise of eternal life – and that gives us hope. Jesus is our living hope. And that's why Christmas is such a great celebration – because it's a reminder of God's love for us and it gives us hope for the future.

Looking back and remembering was the theme of a Churches Together on-line retreat in November and hope is the theme of the Advent instalment on Sunday 13 December. If you'd like to pick up on this theme of hope, there will also be a Quiet Time at St John's Church in Layhams Road from 3.00 pm-7.00 pm on Friday 4 December.

I pray that this Advent, we will be able to find those themes of hope, love, joy and peace that are represented in each of the four candles on the Advent wreath, which all culminate in the Christ candle lit on Christmas Day.

Every blessing to you all.

Hazel

Christmas Time

Christmas time is finally here.
It only comes but once a year,
And it's a time to spread good cheer
To those we love and hold so dear.

Christmas time is a time of glee,
A time when peace and love run free,
A time for those like you and me
To sit beneath the Christmas tree.

Christmas time is a time of joy,
A time to sit back and enjoy
The smile on each girl and boy,
As they play with a Christmas toy.

Christmas time is a time to share
The passing of another year.
Birth of Jesus, a joyful prayer,
To show loved ones how much we care.

Christmas time is a time for song,
A time for us to get along,
To make us feel Lord Jesus strong,
Forgive all those who did us wrong.

Christmas time is a time to pray,
Put love and kindness on display,
Show compassion along the way.
Christmas time should be every day.

Ronald Doe



At our Harvest Supper, we welcomed Amanda Stone, the project manager at Bromley Borough Foodbank, who told us about the extra demands currently being made on the Foodbank as they face increased demand for their services. Added to this, they will need to fund a warehouse site from early next year. Your ongoing support with donations of non-perishable food, household goods and toiletries is much appreciated. These items can be left in the box outside the main door at St Francis' Church at any time.

On Saturday 19 December, we will be acting as a distribution centre for **Bromley Borough Foodbank Christmas Hampers**. We will need a team of drivers to deliver these hampers. Ideally each driver will take a passenger with them to help, as parking at some of the homes might be difficult. We are going to have 150 hampers to distribute. If this is something you think you can help with please contact Kim Teare (kim_teare@hotmail.com), Cheryl Davies (bc14-dav@ntlworld.com) or Kate Dyer (katedyer41@hotmail.com).

Thank you in advance to anyone that can spare a few hours to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

Hazel



NOT the Big Christmas Sing

As a result of the coronavirus restrictions, it has not been possible to hold a *Big Christmas Sing* in support of Christian Aid this year. Instead we will be releasing a video, which will be premiered on YouTube at 4.00 pm on Saturday 5 December. This will include material from members of our congregations, as well as our friends from the Matchbox Theatre, songs from the London Concert Chorus and some information on Christian Aid's Climate Justice Campaign. The team organising this event do hope that you'll join us at this time.

Hazel

Christmas Services

We are planning to hold all our Christmas services in-person, as well as on-line, so that everyone can take part in different locations. Most of the in-person services will be seated on the basis of those who are there first. We hope to have enough space for everyone who would like to be there, but hope that you will understand that we cannot have any extras at the back at this time.

The one exception to this is the Lighting the Lamps service in St Francis' at 6.00 pm on Christmas Eve (as well as the Christingle at St Mary's), which will both be by ticket only. Assuming that the current lockdown is lifted, we will release the tickets for Lighting the Lamps to be allocated on Monday 7 December at 10.00 am. Please call 020-8777 6004 or email stfrancisboxoffice@gmail.com to reserve your tickets. Those who cannot get tickets are welcome to come to the church on Christmas Eve from 4.00 pm to pick up all that is necessary to enjoy the on-line service at home. This will be premiered on YouTube at 6.00 pm.

Hazel



Bishop Richard writes . . .

As we move into the autumn and winter seasons there is an inevitable feeling of weariness living with the huge impact of the pandemic and the likelihood of it being many months before its grip begins to be loosened. At the moment virtually every aspect of our lives, including how we run our churches and chaplaincies, is profoundly disrupted. So a vital practical and spiritual question is how we are to set ourselves to live well through this period. There are three particular approaches which may be of some help.

The first is a realistic recognition that we are in this for the long haul and therefore we need to try to build patterns of living which are genuinely sustainable. Many people, including clergy, have been working extraordinarily hard since the beginning of the pandemic and enter this autumn period, knowing that the fuel tank is fairly low. So we need to ensure that we do not simply respond with even more activism. Times of prayer waiting on God, and a proper reflection on how our Christian faith can sustain and resource us in times of crisis will be more essential than ever. And we will need to build in the obvious need for times of rest and recreation. Instead of being frustrated at what we cannot do, we can build these things into our lives in a very intentional way in the next few months. It may help to think about elements needed in a 'rule of life' which can shape us at this time.

The second is to develop a very strong sense that we are all in this together. Our Christian faith tells us that all humankind is made in the image of God, and even more that all creation is cared for and loved by God. We need to be praying for and engage with our sisters and brothers across the world, such as our link dioceses in Zimbabwe, and remember those living in places where healthcare and economic structures are nowhere near as robust as in the UK. And we need a strong sense of our connectedness with all creation. The pandemic, in part, is a result of humankind's abuse of creation.

The third is to pray and reflect as to what God is calling us and our world to be and to do as we move into the future. There is very serious thinking going on about reimagining our world and especially seizing this opportunity to work for a world in which environmental justice, economic justice, and racial justice are paramount in our systems and structures and the way we live. We have hit the buffers of rampant economic expansion and inequality. We have been living in unsustainable and deeply unfair ways. The Christian gospel brings real hope and vision to a fallen world, and it speaks powerfully to our current situation, especially through the big ideas of salvation and redemption. Central to this is how the love of God in Christ's death and resurrection can bring us into a right relationship with God, each other and all creation.

There has been recently very considerable thinking going on in the Church of England about how we are to proclaim the gospel effectively in our time. One central theme in this is having an expression of, in both word and action, all five of the Anglican marks of mission. These speak of the importance of individuals faith in God, of deepening that faith and then working in our world in lives of loving action to challenge unjust structures and inequalities and to care for all God's creation. All of these need to be intertwined in a holistic way. Colossians chapter 1 speaks of all things being reconciled in Christ. Perhaps part of our living in the next few months could be a deep reflection on what this means for how we live and how we try to shape both our Church and our world in the years to come.

✠Richard Kingston



Recognising The Value Of Prayer In A Combined Prayer Chain

As two congregations we have been working more closely together over the past months. Many of our services are now combined and we have a joint Vision Group which is discussing further projects that we might do together, including the Foodbank Christmas deliveries. So, to better support our ministry and mission, we are looking to combine some of our other activities.

From Tuesday 1 December we are combining the two prayer chains, which will mean that we'll have more people praying for those who need it and those on the chain will get to know more people from the other church. As part of this review of the prayer chains there are some who have chosen not to take part any longer.

Please do be assured that there is little change in how the chain will operate – the details of the prayer are kept confidential within the prayer circle and can be passed around the chain very quickly. You can call anyone on the chain to start off a prayer. This will probably be the person who you know the best, which means that it should be easy to share the information to be included in the prayer. This is also the contact who will pass on a name if you'd like the person being prayed for to be included in the intercessions on Sundays (by name only, with their permission), remembering that these would be broadcast in video form, as well as at the in-person services.

Hazel



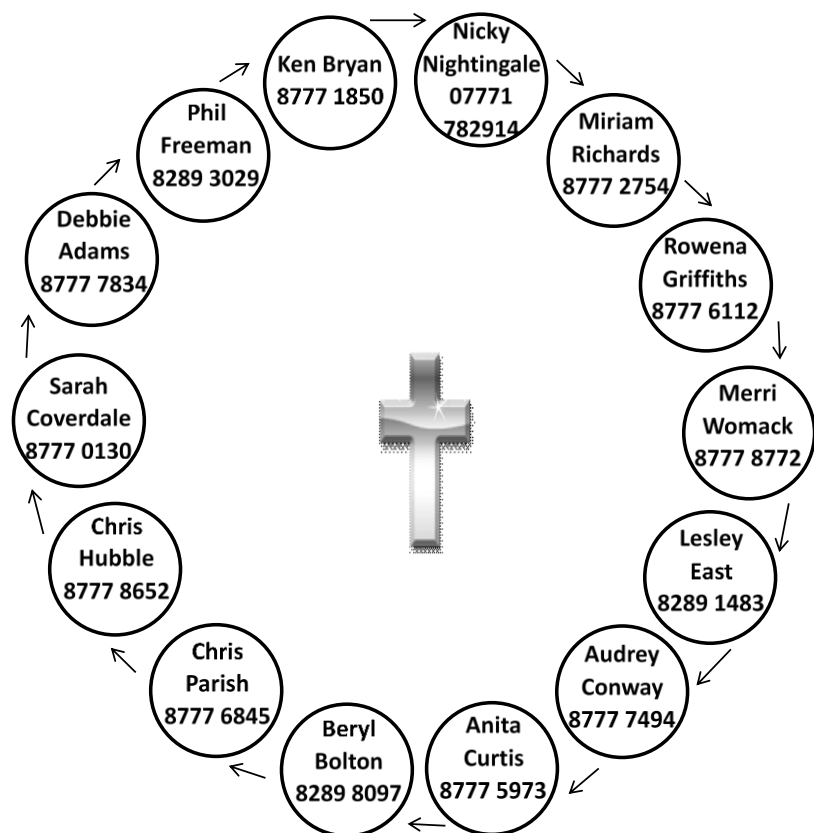
St Francis' & St Mary's Prayer Chain

Many people find they are given strength and peace of mind when they know that they, or their loved ones, are being prayed for – and the more people who are praying for someone, the better!

If you would like prayer for yourself, please call anyone on the chain below and they will pass a message on around the circle. If you would like prayer for someone you know, please get their permission first.

If you would like a name added to the intercessions list in our services (which will be on-line as well as in-person), please state this when you make contact.

Hazel



The Great Realisation

"Tell me the one about the virus again, then I'll go to bed.

'But my boy, you're growing weary, sleepy thoughts about your head.

'Please! That one's my favourite. I promise just once more.

*'Okay, snuggle down my boy, though I know you know full well
The story starts before then, in a world I once dwelled.*

*'It was a world of waste and wonder, of poverty and plenty
Back before we understood why hindsight's 2020*

*'You see the people came up with companies to trade across all lands.
But they swelled and got bigger than we could ever have planned*

*'We'd always had our wants, but now it got so quick.
You could have everything you dreamed of in a day and with a click.*

*'We noticed families had stopped talking. That's not to say they never spoke.
But the meaning must have melted and the work life balance broke.*

*'And the children's eyes got squarer and every toddler had a phone.
They filtered out the imperfections but amidst the noise, they felt alone.*

*'And every day the sky grew thicker, till we couldn't see the stars.
So we flew in planes to find them while down below we filled our cars.*

*'We'd drive around all day in circles. We'd forgotten how to run.
We swapped the grass for tarmac, shrunk the parks till there were none.*

*'We filled the sea with plastic 'cause our waste was never capped.
Until each day when you went fishing, you'd pull them out already wrapped.*

*'And while we drank and smoked and gambled, our leaders taught us why,
It's best to not upset the lobbies, more convenient to die.*

*'But then in 2020, a new virus came our way.
The government reacted and told us all to hide away.*

*'But while we were all hidden, amidst the fear and all the while,
The people dusted off their instincts, they remembered how to smile.*

'They started clapping to say thank you, and calling up their mums.

*'And while the cars keys were gathering dust, they would look forward to
their runs.*

*'And with the sky less full of planes, the earth began to breathe.
And the beaches brought new wildlife that scattered off into the seas.*

'Some people started dancing, some were singing, some were baking.
We'd grown so used to bad news but some good news was in the making.

'And so when we found the cure and were allowed to go outside,
We all preferred the world we found to the one we'd left behind.

'Old habits became extinct, and they made way for the new.
And every simple act of kindness was now given its due.

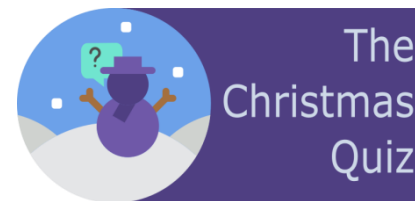
'But why did it take a virus to bring the people back together?'
Well, sometimes, you got to get sick, my boy, before you start feeling better.

'Now lie down, and dream of tomorrow, and all the things that we can do.
And who knows, maybe if you dream strong enough, make some of them will
come true.

'We now call it the Great Realisation, and yes, since then there have been many.

'But that's the story of how it started, and why hindsight's 2020.'

Tom Roberts



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.

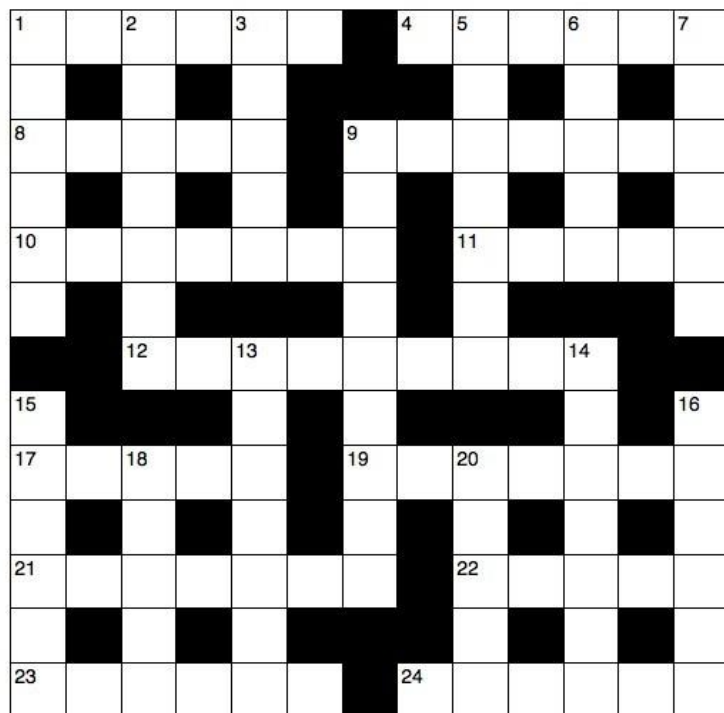
Loving God,
Source of healing and comfort,
Fill us with your grace,
That the sick may be made whole,
That those who care for us may be strengthened,
That the anxious may be calmed,
And those most vulnerable be protected
In the power of Spirit
In the faith of
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

1. When was the first Christmas card printed?
2. Which country donates the Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square?
3. Which monarch made the first royal Christmas broadcast?
4. What birds are popular on Christmas cards?
5. Shakespeare wrote a play for Elizabeth I as a Christmas present. Which one is it?
6. Where did Joseph, Mary and Jesus travel after leaving Bethlehem?
7. What gifts did the Three Wise Men give Jesus on his birthday?
8. In what country was egnog invented?
9. Where does the name *Boxing Day* come from?
10. When was Christmas first celebrated in the UK?
11. What colour are mistletoe berries?
12. How many tips do traditional snowflakes have?
13. Apart from white, red and green, what other colours are really popular at Christmas?
14. What are the names of the first eight reindeers?
15. Which Hans Christian Anderson story inspired *Frozen*?
16. What is the most popular Christmas tree ornament for the tip?
17. What is Santa called in France?
18. What is the name of Ebenezer Scrooge's partner in *A Christmas Carol*?
19. What is 'wassailing'?
20. Which saint introduced singing carols in churches?

Answers are on page 23



Bible Crossword for December/January



Clues

Across

- 1 'The Lord Jesus . . . took bread, and when He had given — , He broke it' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (6)
- 4 'He has taken me to the banquet hall, and His — over me is love (Song of Songs 2:4) (6)
- 8 Surrey town that hosts the National Christian Resources Exhibition (5)
- 9 Also known as Abednego (Daniel 1:7) (7)
- 10 Liken (Isaiah 40:18) (7)
- 11 A son of Etam, descendant of Judah (1 Chronicles 4:3) (5)
- 12 A part of the temple where the blood of a young bull was to be smeared (Ezekiel 45:19) (9)
- 17 'They make many promises, take false — and make agreements' (Hosea 10:4) (5)

- 19 Roman province to which Paul returned after evangelizing it on his first missionary journey (Acts 16:6) (7)
- 21 Material used to make baby Moses' basket (Exodus 2:3) (7)
- 22 'And feeble as — , in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail' (5)
- 23 'The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep — to his voice' (John 10:3) (6)
- 24 Stalk carrying the sponge of wine vinegar given to Christ on the cross (John 19:29) (6)

Down

- 1 Elijah dug one round the altar he built on Mount Carmel and filled it with water (1 Kings 18:32) (6)
- 2 'I am not — of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes' (Romans 1:16) (7)
- 3 Buddhist term relating to belief in reincarnation (5)
- 5 Damascus disciple who, at God's command, restored the sight of the blinded Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:12) (7)
- 6 and 16 Horses: their sound (Jeremiah 50:11) (5) and their gait (Joel 2:4) (6)
- 7 A three (anag.) (6)
- 9 Athenian council addressed memorably by Paul (Acts 17:22) (9)
- 13 Abide by (Galatians 3:5) (7)
- 14 Persian princes (Daniel 3:2) (7)
- 15 Force (Galatians 6:12) (6)
- 16 See 6 Down (6)
- 18 Paste (anag.) (5)
- 20 How the cedars of Lebanon are described (Isaiah 2:13) (5)

February/March Magazine

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

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

Answers for October/November Crossword

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

Answers for Sudoku October/November

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

Sudoku for December/January

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

© 2013 KrazyDad.com

Word Search Clues for December/January

Silent Night

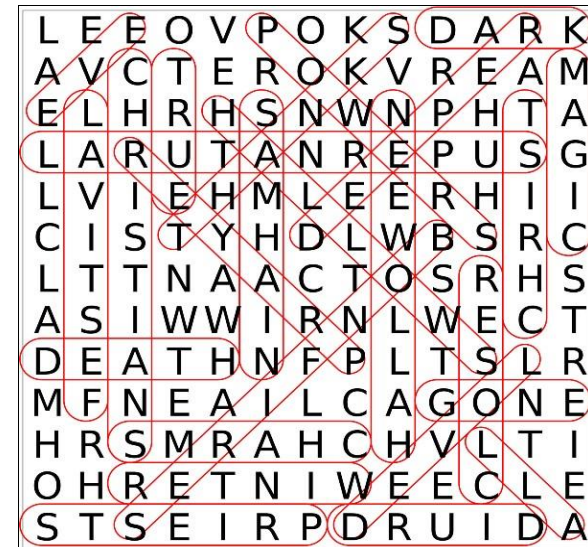
This much-loved carol comes from Austria, where it was first sung as *Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht* on Christmas Eve, 1818. It was written by Father Joseph Mohr, a young priest at St Nicholas parish church, in the village of Oberndorf bei Salzburg. As Christmas 1818 approached, he asked the local schoolmaster, Franz Xaver Gruber, to compose a melody for his carol. Gruber was organist in the nearby village of Arnsdorf, and so was happy to oblige. On Christmas Eve they presented the carol to the church during the midnight mass. The carol went on to become loved world-wide; and the version sung by Bing Crosby is the third best-selling single of all time.

WORDS TO FIND	
Austria	Nacht
Bing	Night
Carol	Organist
Christmas	Priest
Eve	Silent
Father	Single
First	Stille
Heilige	Sung
Loved	Third
Mass	Version
Melody	Young
Midnight	

Wordsearch for October/November



Wordsearch Solutions for October/November



Winter

I love winter! Winter is cold.
 It's Christmas with sleds.
 It's warm, snuggly beds.
 It's silver snowflakes.
 It's skating on lakes.
 It's snowmen that stand
 In a snowy, white land.
 It's blue jays that feed
 On sunflower seed.
 It's angels that pose
 In wintertime clothes.
 It's a polka-dot sky.
 It's winter. That's why...
 I love winter!

- Author unknown -

Answers to The Christmas Quiz

1. 1843 - A man called John Calcott Horsley printed the first Christmas card for the friend that gave him the idea, Sir Henry Cole. 2. Norway - the city of Oslo has donated the Trafalgar Square Christmas tree to the people of Britain each year since 1947. 3. It was started by the Queen's grandfather, King George V, in 1932. 4. Robins. 5. *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. 6. Egypt. 7. Gold, Myrrh and Frankincense. 8. England. 9. Back in the days, Boxing Day was a traditional day off for servants in which they received a 'Christmas Box' from their master. They would also go home on Boxing Day to give presents to their families. 10. The 6th Century. 11. White. 12. Six. 13. Silver and gold. 14. Blitzen, Comet, Cupid, Dasher, Prancer, Vixen, Dancer and Donner. 15. *The Snow Queen*. 16. An angel. 17. Pere Noel. 18. Jacob Marley. 19. The tradition of wishing neighbours a long life. 20. St Francis of Assisi.



Stop Press!

Virtual Event for St Mary's & St Francis' – Friday 3 December

Brighten your Evening with Art!

Lockdown may have dampened our spirits, but art can help to lift them. At a virtual open meeting on Thursday 3 December from 8.00 pm to 9.00 pm Sam Curtis, Curator of Bethlem Gallery will talk about the gallery and introduce the work of some of its artists.

Please join us, either:

- ❖ On computer:
 - **Using Zoom –**
Meeting ID: 874 4983 8461; Password: 567602
 - **With one-click to the Internet –**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87449838461?pwd=WS9wd3dNT05BdGdPM0pJOUJMa2ZVdz09>
- ❖ By telephone:
 - **Dial –**
0203 901 7895 and enter the following to gain access:
874 4983 8461 for meeting ID; # instead of participant ID;
567602 for password.

The meeting space will be open from 7.45 pm for those who'd like to arrive early.

The Bethlem Gallery, established 1997, is situated on the grounds of The Bethlem Royal Hospital. Managed by a small, artist-led team, the gallery provides a professional space for high-quality artwork and fosters a supportive artist-focused environment.

"Pills are ok, counselling is ok and it will get you back on the streets, but what keeps your mind alive is what you learn here. That's what it's about – keeping your spirit alive." -

Lee, Bethlem artist

Please do share this with your friends and neighbours and I look forward to seeing you there.

Contact Kate Dyer (katedyer41@hotmail.com) for further information.

Hazel

**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: Liz Raper 8777 2745

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.