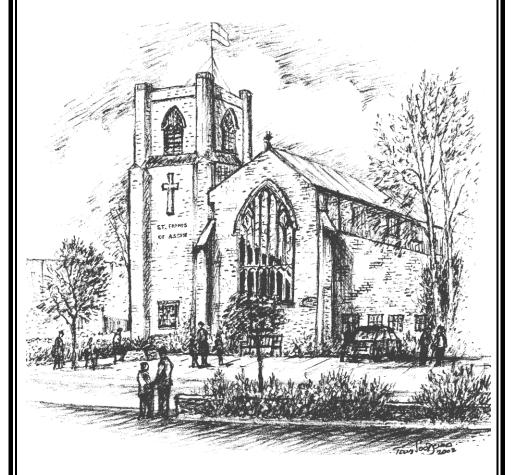
ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI **WEST WICKHAM** PARISH MAGAZINE



December 2021/January 2022

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

The Rev Richard Ford 8289 2432 Assistant

Priest: email: richard.ford73@ntlworld.com

Brian Griffiths 8777 6112 Reader:

SPA [Pastoral Lesley East 8289 1483 Rowena Griffiths 8777 6112 Auxiliaries]:

Church Directory

Churchwardens: Barry Burford 8777 2034

Kate Dyer.. katedyer41@hotmail.com Nicky Nightingale Secretary: 8916 9855

email: nicholanightingale@hotmail.co.uk

Treasurer: David Wada 8777 6355

email: stfranciswwtreasurer@gmail.com

Director of Music: Geoff Mussard 8650 8389 Kim Teare .. kim_teare@hotmail.com Parish Safeguarding Officer:

Parish Magazine – Content: Vacant

Magazine – Distribution: Nicky Nightingale 8916 9855

Sarah Coverdale 8777 0130 Library:

Bible Reading Fellowship: Lesley East 8289 1483

REGULAR SERVICES

ONCE RESUMED

SUNDAY

8.00 am Holy Communion

1st Sunday varies - See calendar for details 3rd & 5th Sundays at St Mary's Church, The Avenue 2nd & 4th Sundays at St Francis' Church

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 First Sunday – Joint Family Communion

with St Mary's, held alternately at each church

See calendar for details

WEDNESDAY

9.30 am Morning Prayer

10.30 – 11.30am Church open for quiet and 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 the 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 2021

St Francis and St Mary's churches in West Wickham: Planned services as at 27 November 2021

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 and on-line, but this is subject to change at short notice, dependent on local restrictions arising from the Coronavirus pandemic.

Date	Readings	Talk	Presiden	t/Lead			
Weds 1 Dec	St Francis' open for private prayer						
Sat 4 Dec	The Big Christmas Sing 4.00 pm						
Sun 5 Dec Advent 2	Mal 3:1-4 Phil 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6	Debbie/ Richard	Hazel	8.00 am at St M – Richard 9.15 am at St M – Hazel* 10.45 am at St F – Richard			
Weds 8 Dec	St Francis' Open fo	r Private P	raver	rtionard			
Fri 10 Dec	Messy Church at S						
Sat 11 Dec	6.30pm: 7 th WW Scout Troop Carol Service at St Mary's						
Sun 12 Dec Advent 3	Zeph 3:14-end Phil 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18	Ken	Hazel	8.00 am at St F – Hazel 10.00 am at St M – Hazel*			
Sun 19 Dec Advent 4	Mic 5:2-5a Heb 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45			8.00 am at St M – Richard			
	Carol Service Readings	Hazel	Richard	10.00am at St F – Richard 4.00 pm at St M – Ken			
Wed 22 Dec	St Francis' Open fo	r Private P	rayer				
Fri 24 Dec	Christingle	Katrina/ Hazel	Ken	4pm at St M *			

Fri 24 Dec Christmas Eve	Lighting the Lamps	Hazel	Hazel/ Lesley	6.00 pm at St F
Midnight Communion	ls 52:7-10 Heb 1:1-4	Hazel	Hazel	11.15 pm at St F
Communion	John 1:1-14	Richard	Richard	11.15pm at St M*
Sat 25 Dec Christmas Day	Use midnight communion readings	Hazel	Richard	10.00 am at St F – Hazel & Richard
Sun 26 Dec Christmas 1	1 Sam 2: 18-20, 26 Col 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-end	Hazel	Hazel	10.00 am at St M - Hazel*

Morning Prayer at St Mary's – 9.00 am on Tuesdays (possibly changing to Thurs). Morning Prayer at St Francis' - 9.30 am on Wednesdays. St Francis' open for private prayer every Wednesday from 10.30 am to 11.30 am.



JANUARY 2022

St Francis and St Mary's churches in West Wickham: Planned services as at 27 November 2021

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 and on-line, but this is subject to change at short notice, dependent on local restrictions arising from the Coronavirus pandemic.

Sunday 2 January – Epiphany

8.00 am Holy Communion at **St Mary's** – Richard Ford 10.00 am Joint Service at St Francis' – Richard Ford

Sunday 9 January - Epiphany 1

8.00 am Holy Communion – Richard Ford

10.45 am Worship for All Ages – Hazel O'Sullivan

Preacher: Richard Ford

Sunday 16 January – Epiphany 2

8.00 am Holy Communion at **St Mary's** – Hazel O'Sullivan

Preacher: Ken Bryan

10.45 am Holy Communion - Richard Ford

Preacher: Ken Bryan

Sunday 23 January – Epiphany 3 Week for Prayer for Christian Unity

8.00 am Holy Communion – Hazel O'Sullivan

10.00am Joint Service at St Francis' – Richard Ford

Preacher: David Pickering

Sunday 30 January – Candlemas or Presentation of Christ

8.00 am Holy Communion at **St Mary's** – Hazel O'Sullivan

10.45 am Holy Communion – Hazel O'Sullivan

Morning Prayer at St Francis' - 9.30 am on Wednesdays.

Morning Prayer at St Mary's – 9.00 am on Thursdays.

St Francis' open for private prayer every Wednesday from 10.30 am to 11.30 am.

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 and Woodland Way.

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

We give thanks for the work of Christian Aid who will be supported by the Big Christmas Sing. Their campaign work and the practical help they give to those who are affected by climate change are so beneficial in a world where the developing countries seem to have so few standing up for them.

Pray also for:

- fresh courage for all who work tirelessly for racial justice, and for all who challenge the status quo to urge change.
- the homeless and for the displaced peoples of the world and for all children who are victims of adult wars that they would find shelter and comfort.
- high standards in public life, so that it is clear how MPs serve the needs of their constituents.
- all who feel alone or in despair and for all who work in mental health, that they would have skill and tenderness as they seek to restore well-being.
- Elisha and Siena Watson (mother and daughter), baptised on Sunday 21st November.

In this time of climate crisis may God grant us clarity to

- hear the groaning of creation and the cries of the poor;
- challenge us to change our lifestyles;
- guide our leaders to take courageous action;
- enable the church to be a beacon of hope; and
- foster within us a renewed vision of God's purposes for the world.

Dear Friends

In her poem "Hard Faith," the poet Catherine Brennan imagines historians and archaeologists of the future assessing historical evidence from the high streets of today. From what they see, they conclude:

The shrines dominated the city, we think. Whole streets of temples competed for the adoration Of the devout. At certain times of the year pilgrims slept outside, waited to be the first to pay homage. We imagine it must have been auspicious for them to shiver through mid-winter's nights. Appointed guardians performed seasonal rituals, garlanded altars with durable, unfading flowers.

She concluded this description of the January sales with a reference to the mannequins in the shop windows:

Observe their glossed perfection, eternally smooth skin, smiles painted indifferent to hope and suffering. They lack human proportions: are immaculate mannequins. They must be gods.

Of course these historians and archaeologists were wrong in their conclusions, weren't they? Or were they?

As I write this, Marks and Spencer and John Lewis have just launched their Christmas TV advertisements with almost the same razzmatazz as a Hollywood blockbuster, and I see that Argos have just done the same.

And it wasn't so long ago that, as a consequence of Covid, the media were concerned that the Prime Minister might have to cancel Christmas.

Sadly, it seems that each year Christmas becomes more detached from the religious festival that gives it its name and more the possession of big business, commerce and, if the Prime Minister really can cancel Christmas, politicians. But I don't think that that's really the case. The event that we shall be celebrating on the 25th December, the birth of a baby who will change the world forever, still has a strong hold on the popular imagination – witness the number of schools that will be mounting nativity plays, the number of people who will be attending candlelit Carol Services, the increasing numbers of unaccompanied adults attending Christingle services. Something is drawing them to the manger to worship the Christ Child.

Our calling as Christians is to build on this, to make them aware that Christmas is only the beginning of the journey, that the child born in a backwater of the Roman Empire grows up to become the saviour of the whole world, so that according to The Centre for the Study of Global Christianity (CSGC) in America, the number of Christians in the world in 2019 edged past 2.5 billion from 2.3 billion in 2015 - that is in excess of 30% of the world's population.

Numbers like this should give us the confidence to start claiming back Christmas from its secular "celebration" and proclaiming the real reason for the festival: Christmas begins with Christ, not with M&S, and He can be worshipped in the churches around the country.

I was talking to a senior leader in one of the Croydon schools today, and he told me that his recently widowed mother will be joining him and his wife for Christmas and she will be making sure that they all go to church on Christmas Day.

How about you? If you have people staying with you over Christmas or if you are going away, will you be inviting those with you to join you at church on Christmas morning? And will you, depending on your age, be sharing the real Christmas story with your children, grandchildren or great grandchildren. Christmas is just the time to share your faith with those around you.

God bless, have a great Christmas and enjoy the January sales – or not!

Richard

The Big Christmas Sing!

The West Wickham Choir, under the guidance of Geoff Mussard, will be holding the Big Christmas Sing at St Francis' Church on Saturday 4 December at 4.00 pm.

All are welcome to come and join in with some of our favourite carols and hear some Christmas poems. We will also hear some solo items from Jacqueline Turner.

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

David Wada, Events Co-ordinator



St Francis and St Mary's Arts events 2022: Supporting mental health.

As you may know, we cancelled plans for a Festival of Arts in 2020 due to the pandemic. Instead, we would like to have two arts weekends this year, linking these to how the Arts can have a positive influence on people's mental health, which will be so important in 2022:

- The first would be a Visual Arts weekend and might include a photography exhibition, film night and art exhibitions and will be 9-10th July 2022.
- Then a Written Word weekend will be 24-25th September 2022 and might include a book exhibition, poetry and other readings.

This is all in the very early planning stage and we would like many people to contribute ideas, plan and organise these events. If you would like to get involved please contact any of us:

Ken (kennethabryan@aol.com), Kay (kay@mussard.org.uk), Debbie (debadams64@icloud.com), Tim (tim.shingler@ntlworld.com), Nicky (nicholanightingale@hotmail.co.uk) and Kate (katedyer41@hotmail.com.

Hazel

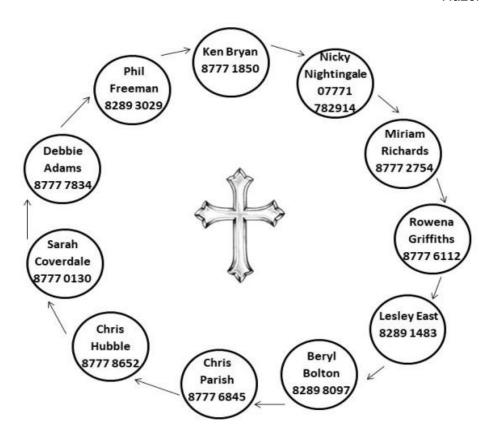
St Francis' & St Mary's Prayer Chain

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



Pilgrimage to Southwark Cathedral

The day dawned cool and bright as Hazel, Bo Polvsen and I set off at 7.40am from the Vicarage to walk to Southwark Cathedral where we would join others for a vigil for COP26. We were to follow a route that Hazel had planned out which would take in many green areas on the way. Firstly, a walk across Langley Park golf course and then through Kelsey Park passing the Kent Cricket ground in Worsley Bridge Road. At Southend Lane, we turned into Riverview Walk, which is a green space running alongside the railway line. It is a joy to walk along between the trees and along the banks of the River Pool, a tributary of the River Ravensbourne, in another world yet so close to railway and housing. We walked for a mile and a half where we stopped in Catford. It was here that Caroline took over from her husband Bo for the second half of our walk.

We walked up to see the impressive wide view of London from Blythe Hill before stopping at a lovely little café for a coffee. Then on refreshed to walk up One Tree Hill by St Augustine's Church. Another fine view of London at a place where Queen Elizabeth I was said to have picnicked beneath an oak a predecessor to the one we see today. It was not long before we were crossing Peckham Rye Park and Common then onto the bustling and diverse Peckham Rye. We were soon into the Surrey Canal Walk which had been a thriving canal in the 19th century and is now a green path. Glengall Wharf Garden with its large well used community garden led us into Burgess Park where we stopped for a break at the café for a wonderful bowl of homemade soup to sustain us.

We continued past the enormous Aylesbury Estate which is looking very tired and is slowly being replaced with smaller blocks of flats and houses with total regeneration for the whole area. Not far away we stopped to see a beautiful public space called Elephant Park Springs in the heart of the Elephant and Castle redevelopment. A few roads away we had to take a picture by the street sign for Pilgrimage Street. Through Borough Market and we were at Southwark Cathedral. It was 1.30pm and just time for a 19 quick drink in the Mudlark pub before joining many others in the Cathedral.

We were greeted by the sound of a choir singing songs from around the world. There were displays and prayerful activities that we could participate in before the Vigil service of hymns, readings and prayers all focussing on our fragile world and the forthcoming COP 26 conference. We returned by train with tired legs but having seen so much of South London that we hadn't seen before and with a hope that the world would do the right things at the conference to protect and save our world from the disastrous effects of climate change.

I must end by saying on behalf of Bo, Caroline and myself many thanks to Hazel for choosing such a green and interesting route for our pilgrimage.

Ken Bryan



Bishop Richard writes

In many ways we are living in very anxious and uncertain times at every level of our lives. On a global level, we are still firmly in the grip of the Covid pandemic with its huge impact on all our lives. Many of our vital systems from healthcare to economics are looking very fragile. The pandemic has had major implications for our church life and raised many questions about how this will continue to flourish into the future. In addition, the even greater challenges of climate change and the environment are very much in our minds and especially with the major international COP26 conference in Glasgow in the first half of November. Whether or not that will produce the level of political and economic agreement which will seriously impact on the tremendous challenges of climate change remains to be seen.

If we add into these global issues all the stresses and strains of our own individual lives, whether those are to do with our relationships, our livelihoods, or our spiritual, mental and physical well-being, then we have a major challenge in getting the right mind-set and approach to living our lives as Christians at this stage of the 21st century. Having had in recent

weeks the personal challenge of complications following ankle surgery in August (thankfully now resolving), which resulted in some time off, I have been able to reflect a little on these matters.

It seems to me very important that we are clear about our theological understanding of the events of our lives, and indeed all the goes on not only on planet Earth, but across the universe. This means, of course, seeing everything in the light of the God, who is our Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier, our beginning and our end, in whom we live and move and have our being. The month of November gives us plenty of opportunity to reflect on this, both personally and in our regular worship. At the beginning of the month we celebrate All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, which remind us of the importance of seeing our life on Earth in the light of our mortality and the whole company of Earth and Heaven.

At the end of November, we remember Christ the King and Advent Sunday, which emphasise the saving work of God in Christ through all time. In particular, the belief that God was in Christ, reconciling all things and that this saving love of God will triumph in the end.

In our worship and prayer we seek to let this faith in God's saving work shape the way we think and live. In a time of so much fear and anxiety this is more important than ever. It is very easy to respond to the challenges of our times with either despair or crippling fear. We certainly do not want a facile optimism which trivialises the scale of the problems we face, but we do need a profound theological and spiritual hope for the future. This involves careful balance between diligence (doing all that is within our powers to shape our own lives and our world for good), and detachment, in the sense of the great spiritual writers, that is a deep sense that God is at work in all things, no matter how difficult our situation may seem.

As we live and pray for our world in these challenging times, I hope and pray that we will all have time to reflect on the deep themes that All Saints, All Souls, Christ the King and Advent Sunday remind us of this month, and that we will find an approach to life in which we are not overwhelmed by fear and despair, but have a genuine realistic hope, which is grounded in the saving love of God in Christ.

Richard Kingston

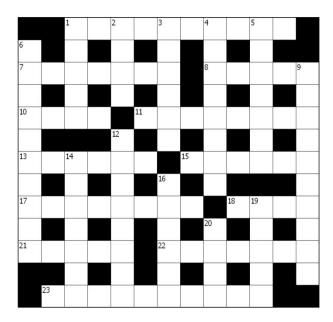
The Dean of Southwark has written the following prayer which you may wish to use

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.



Bible Crossword for December/January



Clues

Across

- 1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)
- 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during
- a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14&15) (7)
- 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)
- 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
- 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)
- 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)
- 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith (6)
- 17 Stormy (8)
- 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone 'unclean' (Numbers 9:11) (4)
- 21 Arson (anag.) (5)
- 22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)
- 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

Down

- '____ and see that the Lord is good' (Psalm 34:8) (5)
- 2 'The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as a sa lion' (Proverbs 28:1) (4)
- 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)
- 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19ñ20) (8)
- 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)
- 6 'Offer your bodies as living _____, holy and pleasing to God' (Romans 12:1) (10)
- 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)
- 12 One who accepts government by God (8)
- 14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7)
- 16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6)
- 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)
- 20 'You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will ____ his people

from their sins' (Matthew 1:21) (4)



Crossword Solutions for October/November

D	Α	R	E		С	Н	Е	R	U	В	I	М
Е		U		J		0		0		L		I
S	0	N	Т	0	Н	U		Υ	Ι	Е	L	D
С		Ι		S		S		Α		S		Ι
R	Α	N	С	Н		Е	Ν	L	Ι	S	T	
Ι				J		Η				Е		C
В	Α	Α	L	Α	Н	0	F	J	U	D	Α	Н
E		ם				L		Α				I
	Е	D	W	Α	R	D		S	Н	Е	0	L
Υ		ш		W		G		Р		Χ		D
М	Е	D	I	Α		0	Р	Е	N	Α	Ι	R
С		Т		Ι		D		R		L		Е
Α	Р	0	S	T	Α	S	Υ	8 0	Е	T	0	N

Sudoku for December/January

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

© 2014 KrazyDad.com

Sudoku Solutions for October/November

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

Word Search Clues for December/January

Christmas is nearly here! Two thousand years ago the Jews were longing for the coming of their Messiah. The Old Testament had promised that when He came, He would preach good news to the poor, bind up the broken hearted, proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, comfort all who mourn and to bestow on His people a crown of beauty instead of ashes. Jesus did all those things. He was and is the Son of God, and whoever has seen Him has seen the Father. Whoever believes in Him will have the best gift of all – His Spirit within them, which gives them eternal life.

Words to Find		
Ashes Beauty Bestow Broken Comfort Crown Darkness	Father Favour Freedom God Heart Jesus Longing	Messiah Mourn Prisoners Seen Son Thousand Whoever



Word Search Solutions for October/November



ST FRANCIS' PRE-SCHOOL HELD IN THE CHURCH HALL

We are a small, friendly Pre-School and we take children aged between 2 to 5 years.

Contact: Kelly Fiander Tel: 07719-397637

Email: stfrancispreschool21@gmail.com URL: https://stfrancispreschool.co.uk



GROUPS & ACTIVITIES AT ST FRANCIS' CHURCH

Not yet returned after Coronavirus restrictions: 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
Contact Coon Maddard
Mania Craum. This mosts on the second Manday systing of the
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 Annie Norris 8651 1775

(380)

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**

Articles and items for the magazine are always welcome.

Thursdays at 8.00 pm (Six meetings a year)

We are currently looking for a new editor, but if you have any contributions for the next bi—monthly magazine [editions for Dec/Jan, Feb/March, etc], please contact Margaret Green, on 07931 537888 or by emailing her at magletitiagreen@hotmail.com by the second Sunday of the month