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



June/July 2021

50 pence

THE CHURCH OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSIST

RAVENSWOOD AVENUE WEST WICKHAM KENT BR4 0PW

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www.facebook.com/StFofA

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REGULAR SERVICES

ONCE RESUMED

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 June and July 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.

JUNE 2021

Planned Services as at 26 May

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	Talk	President/Lead		
Sun 6 June	1 Sam 8:4-11	Richard	Richard	8.00 am at St M	
1st Sunday	2 Cor 4:13-5:1			10.00 am at St F	
after Trinity	Mark 3:20-end				
Tues 8 June	9.00 a	am Morning F	Prayer at St M	lary's	
Wed 9 June	9.30-11.30 am Mo	rning Prayer	at St Francis	' & Private Prayer	
Fri 11 June		Messy Chur	ch at Home		
Sun 13 June	Non-Eucharistic	Hazel	Ken	8.00 am at St F	
2nd Sunday	Commissioning of			10.00 am at St M	
after Trinity	Church Wardens:				
	Parable of the Talents				
	Matthew 25:14-30				
Tues 15 June					
	9.00 am Morning Prayer at St Mary's 9.30-11.30 am Morning Prayer at St Francis' & Private Prayer				
Wed 16 June					
Sun 20 June	Job 38:1-11	Brian	Richard	8.00 am at St M	
3rd Sunday	2 Cor 6:1-13			10.00 am at St F	
after Trinity	Mark 4:35-end				
Fathers' Day					
Tues 22 June	9.00 am Morning Prayer at St Mary's				
Wed 23 June	9.30-11.30 am Morning Prayer at St Francis' & Private Prayer				
Sun 27 June	Wisdom of Solomon	Ken	Hazel	8.00 am at St F	
4th Sunday	1:13-15, 2:23-24			10.00 am at St M	
after Trinity	2 Cor 8:7-end				
_	Mark 5:21-end				
Tues 29 June	9am Morning Prayer at St Mary's				
Wed 30 June	9.30-11.30am Morning Prayer at St Francis' and Private Prayer				

JULY 2021

Planned Services as at 26 May

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	Talk	President/Lead		
Sun 4 July	Ezek 2:1-5	Brian	Rowena	8.00 am at St M	
5th Sunday	2 Cor 12:2-10		& Hazel	10.00 am at St F	
after Trinity:	Mark 6:1-13				
Service of	(readings may				
Lament	change)				
Tues 6 July		am Morning F			
Wed 7 July	9.30-11.30 am Mo			' & Private Prayer	
Fri 9 July		Messy Chur	ch at Home		
Sun 11 July	Non-Eucharistic:	Hazel	Brian	8.00 am at St F	
6th Sunday	Review of God with us in the pandemic –			10.00 am at St M	
after Trinity	sharing stories				
Tues 13 July	9.00 am Morning Prayer at St Mary's				
Wed 14 July	9.30-11.30am Morr	ning Prayer a	t St Francis'	and Private Prayer	
Sun 18 July	Jer 23:1-6	Rowena	Lesley &	8.00 am at St M	
7th Sunday	Eph 2:11-end		Hazel	10.00 am at St F	
after Trinity	Mark 6:3-34, 53-				
Healing	end				
Service					
Tues 20 July	9.00 am Morning Prayer at St Mary's				
Wed 21 July	9.30-11.30 am Morning Prayer at St Francis' & Private Prayer				
Sun 25 July	Acts 11:27-12:2	Richard	Richard	8.00 am at St F	
8 th Sunday	Matt 20:20-28			10.00 am at St M	
after					
Trinity/James					
the Apostle					
Tues 27 July	9.00 am Morning Prayer at St Mary's				
Wed 28 July	9.30-11.30 am Morning Prayer at St Francis' & Private Prayer				

Prayer Cycle

We pray for those who live in:

Duncan House, The Alders; Gable Lodge, Beckenham Road; The Glade; Glebe Way; Grosvenor Road; The Grove; Hardcourts Close; Hawes Lane; Hawkhurst Way; High Broom Crescent; High Street; Highbury Close; Highfield Drive; Kent Road.

In our cycle of prayer for other churches in West Wickham, we pray for Emmanuel Church and their new minister, David Pickering.

May we use the quieter time of summer to discern what it is that God is asking of us at this time. We know that the church across the world has been affected by the coronavirus pandemic and we ask that all Christians might be empowered by the Holy Spirit to seek justice, to defend the oppressed and take up the cause of those in need, whatever form that might take.

Pray for those areas in the world which are subject to conflict, especially the Gaza Strip and Jerusalem where air strikes and rockets fired from both Israeli and Palestinian sides have resulted in death and injury to innocent people. May the international calls for an end to the conflict meet with success through diplomatic talks that might take place.

We give thanks for the light emerging at the end of a long and deadly tunnel, as restrictions across the UK are eased. May God's warmth and care be brought to those whose hearts are feeling cold and empty and his blessing be on those who are present at such times to share his love with others



Dear Friends

As more parts of the economy open up, you are probably looking forward to being able to do some things just like we did before the pandemic started. Things like eating out in a restaurant with a large group of people, seeing a friend or family member in person rather than on a screen, or maybe even going overseas on holiday. However, before rushing into experiences such as this, it is important to take some time to look back, to recognise the depth of the troubles that we and others have experienced and how God has been with us throughout. It is only by giving proper recognition to these things that we will be able to move forward knowing that we have come through it all intact. If we don't spend this time, we may be hiding something inside that will make us revert to some of our pain, anxiety and being overwhelmed.

During July we will have three weeks of services that should help with this process. The first one will deal with lament – a cry to God about things which have been (and maybe still are) not right.

Is it not you, God, you who have now rejected us and no longer go out with our armies?

Give us aid against the enemy, for human help is worthless. Psalm 60:10-11

The second will be a time of sharing stories of how God has been with us during this time. We have another of these stories included in this magazine from Merri Womack. Do let me have any others which you are happy to share with others (anonymously if you'd prefer).

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!

Ephesians 3: 20-21

And the final one, will be an opportunity for healing, so that we can be assured that we have shared with God and with each other, those things which still concern us, and we have committed ourselves into his hands to bring about a greater sense of well-being, whatever that might mean.

This I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:21-23

Do spend some time this summer on this process so that we don't simply go back to the old ways of living, or even go into a new way of living, without reflecting on what we might have learnt through our experience. A recent Thought for the Day on Radio 4 quoted Henri Nouwen who said:

We don't think ourselves into a new way of living, but we live ourselves into a new way of thinking.

Maybe we will find ourselves thinking differently as a result of our lived experience, but let's be open to what this might mean for our shared life together, as it's still really too early to say what exactly this will look like in the future – we need to live in the new normal for a period before coming to any conclusion. PCCs and the ministry team will be giving this some thought over the next few months. Please do bear with us during this period. Keep in touch and let us know what it is that you'd really like to see, so that we can be sure that we are following God's will when we make any changes to what it is that we do.

In the meantime, and in order that time and space can be given to the ministry team, who have been providing support to both congregations without much of a break for over a year now, we will not be introducing any new activities or altering the pattern of services that are held until September at the earliest. We want to be sure about a way forward before making any changes, so that we are not putting effort into something that is not sustainable.

Every blessing

Hazel

God Lis Love

United in Giving

Our Annual Parochial Church Meetings at St Mary's and St Francis' this year took place both in the church buildings and on Zoom. These meetings came at either end of a stewardship campaign where we encouraged everyone to consider prayerfully the amount and method by which they gave financially to the churches. If you have not already done so, please do think about making a commitment to regular giving through the Parish Giving Scheme, which you can find out more about at www.parishgiving.org.uk or from either of the treasurers: Bob West at St Mary's (robandlinwest@tiscali.co.uk) or David Wada at St Francis' (stfranciswwtreasurer@gmail.com).

Commissioning Church Wardens

Just as in 2020 we were not able to go to a service where the Archdeacon commissioned all church wardens across the whole of the Croydon Archdeaconry, so in 2021, the restrictions have not been lifted sufficiently for us to be able to gather in large crowds in churches, so we have again been given permission to do this within the churches. Hazel will therefore be commissioning the church wardens for both St Mary's and St Francis' churches at the 10am service on Sunday 13th June. This will be held in St Mary's Church and will be livestreamed on YouTube.

Morning Prayer

Throughout the past year a growing group of people have been receiving daily reflections on two readings from Morning Prayer from Hazel and Richard. We are now meeting in the church buildings twice a week: on a Tuesday at 9am in St Mary's and on a Wednesday at 9.30am in St Francis' to say Morning Prayer together and reflect on the bible readings in a discursive way. Anyone is welcome to join us.



How I know that God is with Me

On March 11th John was rushed to hospital with a heart attack - a terrible shock to us all. The ambulance team were brilliant and an amazing team at King's operated to put a stent into one artery and to flush through two others.

The following day knew that I had to keep to the usual routines, including taking the dog for a walk – normally John's responsibility. Recent stories of dog-knapping heightened my awareness of my surroundings and when two men approached me as I walked by the golf course, I was somewhat wary. I transferred the lead to my left hand and held something hard – my keys - in my right. I bade them 'Good morning', they returned the greeting, and we all continued on our way.

Suddenly it started to rain and soon it was pouring. Digby and I returned home soaking wet. As I turned into my road, panic set in as I realised that I had dropped my keys. Fortunately we have a key safe to the side of the house, so I was able to get in to dry the dog and change my clothes. All the time I was thinking about how I might find my keys. I made a notice to attach to the wire fence giving a telephone number in case someone had found them and, when it had stopped raining, I retraced my steps, searching all the time. After a while, I saw two ladies approaching, so I stopped them and told them about my keys. With great relief one of the ladies handed them over, telling me how she didn't really know what to do with them, so she was pleased that I'd come along when I did.

At that moment, I knew God was looking after me and I felt calm and safe. I have shared the story with a near neighbour, who has now become a great friend, having offered much support since.

The whole experience has helped me to be very mindful of people on their own and has made me more prayerful and thankful for my faith. God has clearly been at work in my life.

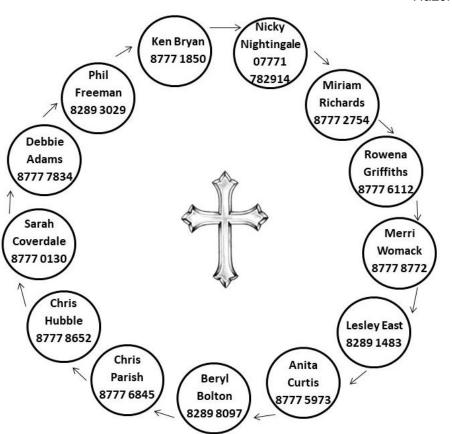
St Francis' & St Mary's Prayer Chain

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





Bishop Karowei writes . . .

My dearly beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, greetings to you, your loved ones and the family of God in the name of our risen Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

As we move forward out of lockdown, I look and see bulbs of light, life, and Christ's love shining around us despite having been through one of life's most devastating experiences with the pandemic. Lots of our loved ones, friends and extended human family have died alone, are no longer with us and we've been unable to say our goodbyes. May the Lord grant the souls of the faithful departed, rest, and may Christ's resurrection give us a real sense of a living hope as we build back better.

I wish to share two thoughts as we contemplate the way forward, hoping to build back stronger by God's grace.

After the crucifixion, the disciples were afraid of the Jews and went into "lockdown", they were spellbound in fear, windows and doors locked. Their Lord Jesus Christ appeared amongst them and said, "Shalom", meaning "Peace be with you." He breathed God's peace on them in a most challenging time of anxiety, fear and crisis. So, my friends, my first thought is, remember, Christ is with you, whatever you are going through, trust Him as He breathes God's peace on you. (Luke 23:36). Perfect Love casts out Fear.

In another scenario, Cleophas and his companion travelled the short journey to the village called Emmaus. As they journeyed, Christ joined them as they discussed the events of Good Friday.

Jesus expounded the Holy Scriptures to them and what the events meant. After the journey, as they sat down to eat, He took the bread, gave thanks and broke it, then their eyes were opened and they recognised the resurrected Christ. Alas! They returned to Jerusalem to tell the disciples how their hearts burned with fire within them as He

expounded the Holy Scriptures. He is Risen! (Luke 24:13-33). So, my second thought is this, remember, Christ is travelling with you in your journey of faith and Christian discipleship. He is your travelling companion and friend, who supports and gives strength as you go through life's challenges and upheavals and especially now as we return to a new post-pandemic norm.

We give thanks to God for making His grace available to us through Christ, who has given us a new hope and peace in the midst of turmoil and promise of His abiding presence through the Holy Spirit.

Finally, "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:4-7 KJV).

Therefore, hold on, beloved brothers and sisters, fellow travellers and disciples of Christ with the assurance of God's promises which are confirmed in Christ Jesus. Shalom!



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.

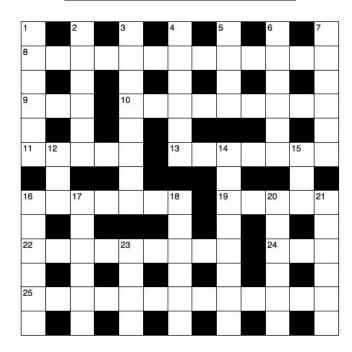
August/September Magazine

Items for inclusion in the next magazine are needed by Sunday 2 July Please email them to Margaret Green or telephone her to make alternative arrangements.

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



Bible Crossword for June/July



<u>Clues</u>

Across

- 1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)
- 4 Place of learning (6)
- 8 'When Moses' hands grew —, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it' (Exodus 17:12) (5)
- 9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)
- 10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)
- 11 Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)
- 12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)
- 17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)
- 19 So clear (anag) (7)

- 21 'I have just got , so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7)
- 22 Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5) 23 Musical beat (6)
- 24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first Passover (Exodus 12:22) (6)

Down

- 1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)
- 2 Art bite (anag.) (7)
- 3 'The people of the city were divided; some with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)
- 5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)
- 6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)
- 7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)
- 9 'You love evil rather than good, rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)
- 13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)
- 14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)
- 15 'A went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)
- 16 How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)
- 18 The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)
- 20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)



Crossword Solutions for April/May



Sudoku for June/July

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

Sudoku Solutions for April/May

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

Word Search Clues for June/July

ST ALBAN - THE FIRST BRITISH MARTYR

Persecution of Christians worldwide is rising fast, so it is worth remembering St Alban, the first British martyr. Alban was a Roman citizen living in England when the Roman Emperor, Diocletian, began a fierce persecution. Soon Alban found a desperate priest on his doorstep, hunted by local soldiers. Alban gave the priest shelter and within days was converted. When the soldiers arrived, Alban took the priest's place, refused to offer sacrifice to the Roman gods and was condemned to death. Alban went to his execution on 22 June 250AD with such serenity that one of the executioners was converted. He died on the site of the Hertfordshire town that now bears his name.

Words to Find					
ALBAN CONDEMNED CONVERTED DEATH DIED DIOCLETIAN DOORSTEP	EMPEROR EXECUTION GODS MARTYR NAME PERSECUTION PRIEST	ROMAN SACRIFICE SERENITY SITE SOLDIERS TOWN			

Word Search for June/July



Word Search Solutions for April/May



Summer Wind

Sometimes

It's just a summer wind

Blowing hard and strong,

Warm and dry.

Just hold on.

Brace yourself.

Ĭťil lie down

When the sun sets.

It'll pass.

Don't let it overpower you.

It can't sway you.

Appbor it ipstead.

Set your sails.

Steady your course.

Go with it.

Let it move you

Closer and closer.

Ontil you reach your destination.

Then you'll see

dust how great

A summer wind can be.

Kiesha Shepard



ST FRANCIS' PRE-SCHOOL HELD IN THE CHURCH HALL

Our pre-school is registered for 24 children between 2 and 5 years

Contact: Gillian Smith

Tel: 07582 518529 & 020 8464 3062 Email: stfrancispreschool@aol.com URL: http://stfrancispreschool.uk.com



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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 Details to be advised.

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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

Sugar Craft & Cake Decorating

Thursdays at 8.00 pm (Six meetings a year)

At the moment the markets are not due to resume until September but in light of current circumstances this may change.

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