# ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI WEST WICKHAM PARISH MAGAZINE



# August/September 2022 50 pence

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

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# **REGULAR SERVICES**

#### **SUNDAY**

8.00 am	Holy Communion 1st Sunday varies - See calendar for details 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Sundays at St Mary's Church, The Avenue 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays at St Francis' Church
10.45 am	<b>Parish Communion</b> Activities for younger children (aged 3+) and crèche facilities in church
10.45 am	<b>2nd Sunday – Worship for All Ages</b> (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 amMorning Prayer10.30 – 11.30amChurch open for quiet and prayer

# LETTER FROM RICHARD

Dear friends,

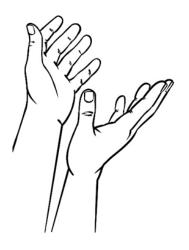
The months of August and September, particularly in relation to news broadcasting and the press, are sometimes referred to as the silly season. Parliament is in recess, people are on holiday, not much is happening and the media are desperate for news stories that will engage people's interest.

For many years that has to some extent been true of the church. Lent, Easter and Whitsun have been celebrated, we're into those innumerable Sunday's after Trinity, and it's a long time to Advent and Christmas.

More recently, however, the month of September has come to be known as Creation Season, when the Church invites us to focus on God as the Creator and the world as his Creation. The Church has identified as the theme for this coming Creation Season "Listen to the Voice of Creation." Covid, the war in Ukraine and increases in the cost of living have tended to sideline global warning and climate change. Yet climate change will almost certainly have much bigger long term impact on our planet and those inhabiting it than the other three put together. The Church of England describes "the Voices of Creation" as the "voices of those who suffer the impacts of climate change..., the voices of people who hold generational wisdom about how to live gratefully within the limits of the land..., the voices of a diminishing diversity of morethan-human species. It is the voice of the Earth." The burning bush has been chosen as a symbol for the Season of Creation 2022. Behind this is a reference to the devastating wild fires that are occurring with increasing regularity across the globe and which are having an horrendous impact on the most vulnerable people on our planet. In contrast, the fire which attracted Moses' attention neither consumed nor destroyed the bush. Rather the flame revealed God's presence, so this symbol of God's Spirit calls us to listen to the voice of creation.

We in this country are not immune from the impact of climate change. At the time of writing this letter, the Met. Office is promising us temperatures in the thirties, temperatures which many people find less than comfortable. And heat waves of this kind are becoming more and more common. So if you find yourself sweltering uncomfortably in the shade this summer, think of those in India and other places who are having to work in temperatures of 40 degrees or higher and offer up a prayer that leaders around the world will take global warming seriously and adhere to the pledges made at Cop26. And then ask God what you can do to play your part in combating climate change.

God bless, Richard



# **CALENDAR FOR AUGUST**

Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. Francis Hilary Fife
10.00 a.m.	Joint Service at St. Mary's (livestream) <i>Richard Ford</i>
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>	
3.45 p.m.	Messy Church at St. Mary's Messy Church Team
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. Francis <i>Hazel O'Sullivan</i>
9.15 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. Mary's (livestream) <i>Hazel O'Sullivan</i>
10.45 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. Francis (livestream)
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	10 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup></b> 8.00 a.m.	<b>10<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b> Holy Communion at St. Mary's <i>Richard Ford</i>
	Holy Communion at St. Mary's <i>Richard Ford</i> Holy Communion at St. Mary's (livestream)
8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. Mary's <i>Richard Ford</i>
8.00 a.m. 9.15 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. Mary's <i>Richard Ford</i> Holy Communion at St. Mary's (livestream) <i>Hazel O'Sullivan/Richard Ford</i> Holy Communion
8.00 a.m. 9.15 a.m. 10.45 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. Mary's <i>Richard Ford</i> Holy Communion at St. Mary's (livestream) <i>Hazel O'Sullivan/Richard Ford</i> Holy Communion <i>Richard Ford</i>
8.00 a.m. 9.15 a.m. 10.45 a.m. <b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	Holy Communion at St. Mary's <i>Richard Ford</i> Holy Communion at St. Mary's (livestream) <i>Hazel O'Sullivan/Richard Ford</i> Holy Communion <i>Richard Ford</i> <b>11<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b> Holy Communion at St. Francis

# CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER

<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup></b> 8.00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	<b>12<sup>тн</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b> Holy Communion at St. Mary's <i>Richard Ford</i> Joint Service at St. Francis (livestream) <i>Richard Ford</i>
<b>Friday 9</b> <sup>th</sup> 3.45 p.m.	Messy Church at St. Mary's Messy Church Team
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. Francis <i>Richard Ford</i>
9.15 a.m.	Morning Praise at St. Mary's (livestream) Hazel O'Sullivan/Richard Ford
10.45 a.m.	Worship all Ages at St. Francis Richard Ford/Brian Griffiths
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. Mary's Hazel O'Sullivan/Brian Griffiths
9.15 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. Mary's (livestream) Hazel O'Sullivan/Brian Griffiths
10.45 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. Francis (livestream) Hazel O'Sullivan/Brian Griffiths

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Written word weekend

#### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>

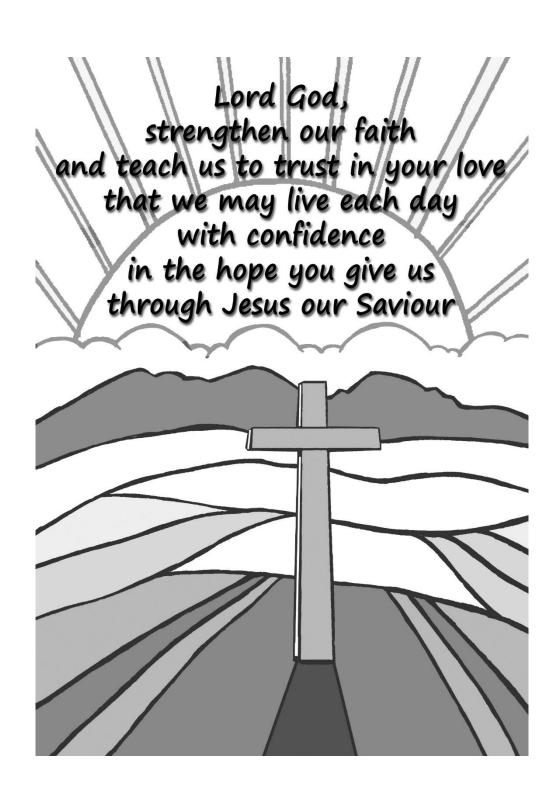
8.00 a.m.

9.15 a.m.

10.45 a.m.

### **15<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

Holy Communion at St. Francis *Hazel O'Sullivan/Ken Bryan* Holy Communion at St. Mary's (livestream) *Hazel O'Sullivan/Ken Bryan* Holy Communion at St. Francis *Hazel O'Sullivan/Ken Bryan* 



# **READINGS FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER**

Date	Reading	Reader
7 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Joint service at St Mary's	
14 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Jeremiah 23: 23-29 Hebrews 11: 29 – 12: 2 Luke 12: 49-56	David Wada Hazel O'Sullivan
21 <sup>st</sup> Aug	Isaiah 58: 9b - end Hebrews 12: 18- end Luke 13: 10-17	Valerie Hamilton Richard Ford
28 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Proverbs 25: 6-7 Hebrews 13: 1-8, 1-16 Luke 14: 1,7-14	Barbara Plummer Ken Bryan
4 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Deuteronomy 30:15-end Philemon 1-21 Luke 14:25-33	Rosemary Swatland Richard Ford
11 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Special reading for Education Sund	ay Alison Davies
18 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Amos 8: 4-7 1 Timothy 2: 1-7 Luke 16: 1-13	John Godfrey Brian Griffiths
25 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Amos 6: 1a, 4-7 1 Timothy 6: 6-19 Luke 16: 19-end	James Pitt-Payne Ken Bryan

# **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### August

### **Action Aid Coffee**

Our monthly coffee morning is on **Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup> from 10.30-11.30am** in the church. Do drop in with a friend for a chat and a cake.

### **Lunchtime Concert at St Francis**

In August, we welcome Felicity Cliffe, conductor of the Hayes Symphony orchestra who play regularly at St Francis. On the **18<sup>th</sup> August from 12:45pm – 1:30pm**, she is bringing a smaller group to play at our lunchtime concert, a varied programme of music for a summer afternoon.

### September

### **Action Aid Coffee**

Our monthly coffee morning is on **Saturday, September 3**<sup>rd</sup> **from 10.30-11.30am** in the church. Do drop in with a friend for a chat and a cake.

### Lunchtime Concert at St Francis

Our final lunchtime concert of this series will take place in St. Francis on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 12.45pm** when we will be welcoming back the ever-popular students of Langley Park School. They will present a varied programme of instrumental items, and possibly even a singer or two - it will be an enjoyable concert in which we can all marvel at the many skills of the youngsters, all supported by their popular Director of Music, Mr. David Bullen.

Admission is free, and you are welcome to bring your lunch, tea and coffee will be available. Do come along and bring a friend!

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#### **Advance Notice**

### St. Mary's Harvest Supper

Please note this year's Harvest Supper will be on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October** in the hall. It will be a 'Bring & Share' supper and we look forward to sampling different dishes. Deserts, teas, and coffees will be provided. More details will be provided in the pew sheet nearer the time but make a note of the date now.

#### **Pet Service**

Our pet service is a great opportunity to give thanks for all the support our pets give to us. Celebrating our pets is a great thing to do, whatever age you and your pet are. Come and get your pet blessed, either by bringing them with you or bringing a photo of them to St Francis' Church on **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 3pm**. Do tell your friends and family that they are welcome to join us.

# PRAYER

## August

**6<sup>th</sup>** As God's glory is shown in the face of Jesus may we **Transfiguration** reflect his life in our words and deeds.

**15<sup>th</sup>**Strengthened by the Holy Spirit. May we, like Mary**Blessed**take the path of obedience, leading to holiness.Virgin MaryStrengthened by the Holy Spirit. May we, like Mary

24<sup>th</sup> Pray that by the power of the Holy Spirit, we may
 St. Bartholomew be strong in our witness of God's truth and goodness.

#### A Rainbow People

God of Hope, you have given the rainbow as a symbol of your faithfulness. In its Colours you have shown us the variety of human life and your call to unity. Its span between heaven and earth reminds us that our hopes for the future are Founded on your grace. You have turned your face from judgement to redemption and have called us to be peacemakers.

We pray for people whose humanity is denied by others – Those who suffer in warfare. Those persecuted or imprisoned because of their religion or politics. Those who try to oppress and manipulate others, and in so doing lose sight of their own humanity. And for those who work for peace and justice, whatever the cost.

Lord God, make us your rainbow people, glorying in our God – given variety, passionate for peace, and trusting in your grace. In the name of Jesus Christ, the hope of the world.

(Patterns and Prayers for Christian Worship)

# Focus

## September

14<sup>th</sup> Pray that we are able to bear with patience and courage any cross of suffering laid upon us.

21<sup>st</sup> Give us grace, Lord, to deny the selfish pursuit ofSt. Matthew gain and the possessive love of wealth.

29<sup>th</sup> Everlasting God, grant that as your angels always
St. Michael serve you in heaven, so at your command, they may help and defend us on earth.

#### We give thanks and pray for:-/

- ✤ Our Vicar, Hazel and Assistant Priest Richard and their families.
- ✤ Our Readers Ken and Brian; Debbie, called to become a Reader.
- ✤ Geoff, our Organist and Choirmaster; Our Churchwardens, Stephen, and David.
- ✤ Those who minister to us in many different ways, keeping our Church a beautiful place in which to worship God.

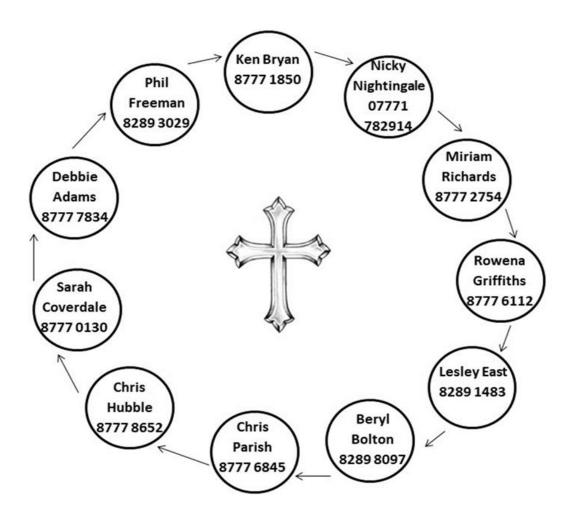
#### We pray too for:-

- ✤ Young families with children on holiday; little children starting school locally.
- Those going to Secondary Schools; those leaving home to begin new life in college.
- ✤ For teaching staff, those returning for a new term and those newly appointed, facing many challenges.

# St Francis and 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 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.



### **Tribute to Julie Bailey**

I shall always remember Julie as being the light and joy that embraced everyone she met. I first came to meet Julie through my wife Rowena and the Saturday Coffee Mornings at St Francis'. She readily volunteered for the Thursday Night Soup Run on the van to Central London organised by The Good Shepherd Mission to the Homeless. Julie was very dedicated to the Soup Run and hardly ever missed a Thursday night trip to meet the homeless at Lincoln's Inn and Waterloo. She laughed and joked the whole time and I think that this rubbed off on the homeless too. Julie had a strong Christian faith and she saw the homeless project as a working out of that faith. I well remember one night when the van broke down in Tulse Hill and Julie and I had to make our own way home by bus, tram, and my car. Thank goodness we had our bus passes!

During our chatting on the homeless bus, I discovered that her favourite music artist was Freddie Mercury. Julie loved the theatre and the movies. Her favourite film star was Richard Gere especially in 'An Officer and a Gentleman'. She also loved going out on bus trips and would often tell me how the coach would pick her up from Bromley to go to the seaside for a lovely day out.

Julie started a gardening group here at St Francis' to continue what her late husband Peter used to do. They both looked after the plants around the outside of the church. Julie loved 'bling'. She loved shiny rings and other jewellery – anything that sparkled and shone. Even her shoes were sparkly. I can only assume that this was part of Julie's character – the sparkle of her life. She really was the life and soul of any party she was at. I remember her being at an Elton John Tribute Night before she became ill. Boy, could she dance – I don't know where she got the energy from! Little did I know that in the autumn of last year Julie and I would be fellow cancer travellers. She was a great source of comfort to me, and I recall one morning before I had surgery, we met for coffee and cake. Julie gave me a big hug and said, "You'll be all right - You'll be all right". I was amazed how positive and resilient she was even when the going got tough. I used to ring her to ask for advice about side effects of the treatment and we would always end up having a joke and a good laugh.

I shall miss Julie - her smile, her laughter, and her optimistic outlook on life. Most of all I shall miss the way that she brightened up so many lives with her kindness and sheer zest for life. Rest in peace Julie and rise in glory.

Brian Griffiths





ACROSS: 8, Prince of Peace. 9, INF. 10, Unmarried. 11, Gulag. 13, Treason. 16, In aid of. 19, Arena. 22, Calvinist. 24, Pad. 25, Moses and Aaron.
DOWN: 1, Spring. 2, Sinful. 3, Scourged. 4, Commit. 5, Spur. 6, Matins. 7, Feed on. 12, Urn. 14, Erastian, 15, Own. 16, Income. 17, At last. 18, Friend. 20, Empire. 21, Adding. 23, Inst.

# **REPORTS ON EVENTS**

### **Ukraine Coffee Morning**

Thanks to the help of so many from St Mary's and St Francis and the beautifully warm weather, the coffee morning and plant sale held in the Church Hall and Garden on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May was a great



success.

It was good to have so many people from both Churches and the community taking part. The Brownies ran a Treasure Hunt, members of the local horticultural

society donated plants, local companies donated raffle prizes and as well as services for our silent auction, to name just a few supporters. It was a very happy morning. It was also a tremendous financial success and over £2,000 was raised for the DEC Ukraine Appeal.

This was only possible due to the hard work of many people. If I tried to name everyone, I would be sure to leave someone out so thank you to everyone who helped make the



morning so enjoyable and to the people who came for refreshments and to buy goods.

Many thanks to Ann for organising another successful event!!!

Ann Herbert

### **Garden Party**

This year's St Mary's Summer Garden Party 2022 was a great success. We raised an amazing £800 for St Mary's and brought the community together!

God looked out for us all and we were blessed with beautiful weather. Rain was initially predicted but there was not a cloud in the sky throughout the day! Parents and children enjoyed the sunshine in the garden whilst tucking into their meals. They had time to relax at lunchtime whilst their children enjoyed the bouncy castle.

This year the BBQ menu consisted of the traditional sausages and burgers in a bun, but we also added chicken kebabs and a Caribbean vegan stew and rice. We were inundated with orders!

This year's attendance was up on previous years. Muddy's Boots, an outdoor children's play group that uses our facilities was invited to run a session during the Garden Party. This encouraged parents to bring their children and stay at the event for longer. Also, the Jubilee Street Party, which was partly held on the church grounds, encouraged more families to attend. This added a community feel to the Garden Party.

Thank you to the organisers, everyone that helped and attended on the day. We look forward to hosting next year's party! Finger's crossed the weather will be just as good!

Tony Ivey



### **Festival of Arts**

What a great weekend we had in July: St Francis was packed full of visual art from the children of Hawes Down School and many other local art organisations and individuals and St Mary's had an oasis of calm with photos being shown in the church as well as in the hall.

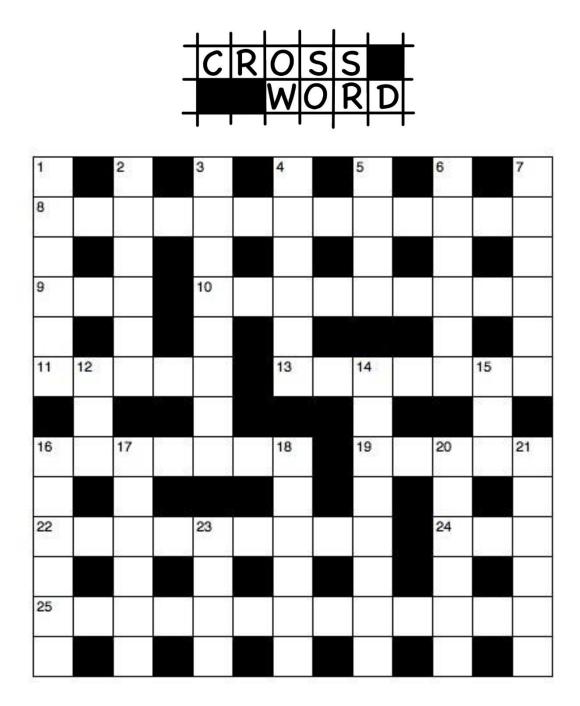
Our next weekend will focus on the written word and will be held on **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September**. Do keep your diaries free on these dates, so that you can be involved in another opportunity to reflect on the benefits of the arts to mental health issues while raising money for MIND and Bethlem Gallery.

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#### A Blessing Comes

It's good to get away from noise From chaos and from din, To seek in solitude and peace The beauty that's within To go into a quiet place Where all is fresh and green, And contemplate in silent calm Great truths and things unseen.

The mysteries of the universe The wisdom of the sage, Or take some old and lovely thought From a bygone age, And meditate upon the good The honest and the true, This calms the mind and you will find A blessing comes to you. By Kathleen Gillum



#### Across

- 8 One of the titles given to the Messiah in Isaiah's prediction (Isaiah 9:6) (6,2,5)
- 9 International Nepal Fellowship (1,1,1)
- 10 Single(1Corinthians7:27)(9)
- 11 Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's seminal book about Soviet prison camps, The Archipelago (5)
- 13 Treachery(2Kings11:14) (7)
- 16 Of India (anag.) (2,3,2)
- 19 'God has put us apostles on display at the end of the

procession, like men condemned to die in the -' (1 Corinthians 4:9) (5)

- 22 Follower of a theological system characterized by a strong belief in predestination (9)
- 24 'Put these old rags and worn-out clothes under your arms to— the ropes' (Jeremiah 38:12) (3)
- 25 They brought together all the elders of the Israelites in Egypt (Exodus 4:29) (5,3,5)

#### Down

- 1 The season when kings 'go off to war' (2 Samuel 11:1) (6)
- 2 Simon Peter's response to Jesus by the Sea of Galilee: 'Go away from me, Lord; I am a man' (Luke 5:8) (6)
- 3 Beaten with whips (1 Kings12:11) (8)
- 4 'You shall not adultery' (Exodus 20:14) (6)
- 5 Encourage (Hebrews 10:24) (4)
- 6 Service of morning prayer in the Church of England (6)
- 7 'Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and — — him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving' (4,2)
- 12 Run(anag.) (3)
- 14 Member of 17th-century party that denied the right of autonomy to the Church (8)
- 15 'We will triumph with our tongues; we—our lips' (Psalm12:4) (3)
- 16 Earnings(1Corinthians16:2) (6)
- 17 'I rejoice greatly in the Lord that—you have renewed your concern for me' (Philippians 4:10) (2,4)
- 18 How Paul described Philemon (Philemon 1) (6)
- 20 Multiple territories under the rule of a single State (Daniel11:4) (6)
- 21 'You have been unfaithful; you have married foreign women,—to Israel's guilt' (Ezra 10:10) (6)
- 23 This month(abbrev.) (4)

#### The NIV bible was used to set the crossword.

Answers on page 15

# 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**. Our main large hall is available for hire. There is also a small hall which can be used in conjunction with the main hall at weekends and during school holidays. *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 ofthe month, alternately at St Francis' and St Mary's.Contact: Tim Shingler8402 8286

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

Matchbox Theatre. A well–established amateur dramaticsociety which includes members of St Francis' Church andperforms in the church hall, usually three times a year.Contact Annie Norris8651 1775

# **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES IN THE CHURCH HALL**

Cubs Tuesdays from 6.15 pm to 7.45 pm Contact Kat Hardman
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
West Wickham Market [Stalls & Refreshments] Fridays from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm 07712 492854
<b>Wednesday Market</b> From 9.00 am to 1.00 pm 07956 580467
<b>Debbie's Dance</b> Thursdays from 9.00 am to 10.00 am <u>debbiesdanceschool@yahoo.com</u>
Sugar Craft & Cake Decorating

Thursdays at 8.00 pm (Six meetings a year)

Articles and items for the magazine are always welcome.

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 our vicar, Hazel

by the second Sunday of the month