

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



**April/May 2022**

**50 pence**

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

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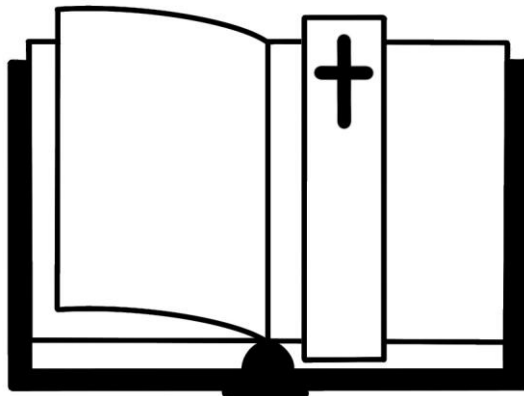
# REGULAR SERVICES

## 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 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**



# SERVICES FOR APRIL

## **Friday 1<sup>st</sup>**

3.45 p.m. Messy Church at St. Mary's  
*Led by Messy Church Team*

## **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

### **LENT 5 Passion Sunday**

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Mary's  
*Led by Hazel O'Sullivan*

10.00 a.m. Joint Holy Communion at St. Francis  
with reading of the Passion  
*Led by Richard Ford*

## **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>**

### **Palm Sunday**

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Francis  
*Led by Hazel O'Sullivan*

9.15 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Mary's  
*Led by Hazel/Preacher: Debbie Adams*

10.45 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Francis  
*Led by Richard Ford/Preacher: Debbie Adams*

## **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday**

7.30 p.m. Holy Communion at St. Francis  
*Led by Hazel O'Sullivan/Preacher: Ken Bryan*

## **Friday 15<sup>th</sup>**

### **Good Friday**

11.00 a.m. CTWW Service at St. Francis  
*Led by CTWW ministers*

2.00 p.m. An hour at the Cross at St. Mary's  
*Led by Richard Ford*

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday**

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Mary's  
*Led by Hazel O'Sullivan*

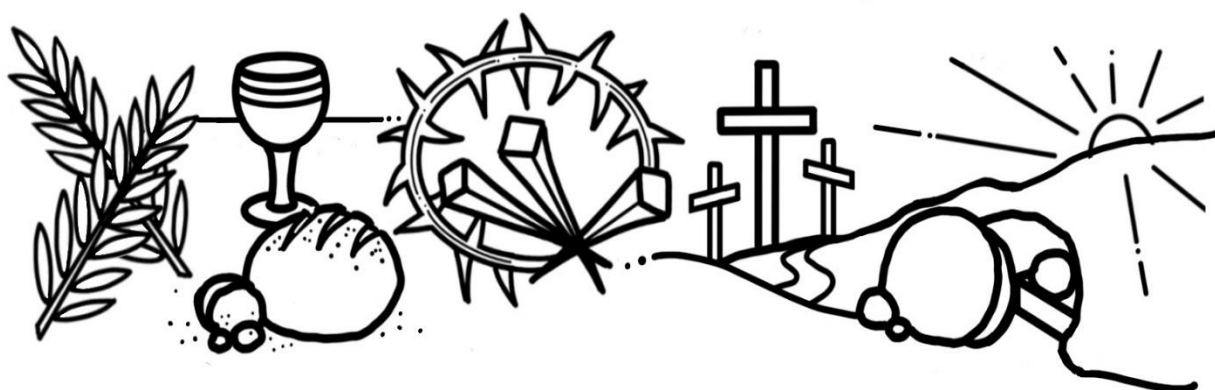
9.15 a.m. Family Communion at St. Mary's  
*Led by Richard Ford/Preacher: Hazel O'Sullivan*

10.45 a.m. Family Communion at St. Francis  
*Led by Hazel O'Sullivan*

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Easter 2 St. George**

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Francis  
*Led by Hazel O'Sullivan*

10.00 a.m. Joint All-age service at St. Mary's for  
St. George's Day  
*Led by Ken Bryan/Preacher: Hazel O'Sullivan*



# SERVICES FOR MAY

## **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>**

### **Easter 3**

8.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Mary's

*Led by Hazel O'Sullivan*

10.00 a.m.

Joint Service at St. Francis

*Led by Hazel O'Sullivan/Preacher CAP*

## **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>**

### **Easter 4**

8.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis

*Led by Richard Ford*

9.15 a.m.

Morning Praise at St. Mary's

*Led by Richard Ford*

10.45 a.m.

Worship for all Ages at St. Francis

*Led by Hazel O'Sullivan*

## **Friday 13<sup>th</sup>**

3.45 p.m.

Messy Church at St. Mary's

*Led by Messy Church Team*

## **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>**

### **Easter 5 Christian Aid Week**

8.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Mary's

*Led by Hazel O'Sullivan/Preacher: Ken Bryan*

9.15 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Mary's

*Led by Hazel O'Sullivan/Preacher: Ken Bryan*

10.45 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis

*Led by Hazel O'Sullivan/Preacher: Ken Bryan*

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Easter 6**

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Francis  
*Led by Richard Ford*

9.15 a.m. Baptism with Holy Communion at St. Mary's  
*Led by Hazel O'Sullivan*

10.45 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Francis  
*Led by Richard Ford*

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>** Deanery Wide Ascension Day Service - venue  
TBC

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> Easter 7**

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Mary's  
*Led by Hilary Fife*

9.15 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Mary's  
*Led by Ken/Preacher & Celebrant: Hilary Fife*

10.45 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Francis  
*Led by Hilary Fife*

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*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, services are planned in the church building and on-line, but this is subject to change at short notice, dependent on local restrictions arising from the Coronavirus pandemic. Please check the weekly pew sheet for up-to-date information on times and location.*

# READINGS FOR APRIL

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Reader</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Isaiah 50: 4-9a	David Wada
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	Phil. 2: 5-11 Luke 19: 28-40	Gill Kehoe Debbie Adams
<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	Acts 10: 34-43 Luke 24: 1-12	Barbara Plummer Hazel O'Sullivan
<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	2 Tim. 2: 3-13 John 15: 18-21	TBC Hazel O'Sullivan

# READINGS FOR MAY

<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Special readings for Thanksgiving and CAP service</b>	
<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Special readings for Morning Praise</b>	
<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	Acts 11: 1-18 John 13: 31-35	John Godfrey Ken Bryan
<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b>	Acts 16: 9-15 John 14: 23-29	James Pitt-Payne Richard Ford
<b>29<sup>th</sup></b>	Acts 16: 16-34 John 17: 20-end	Joan Burford Hilary Fife



# LETTER FROM RICHARD

Dear friends,

"April is the cruellest month," writes T. S. Eliot in his opening to *The Waste Land*, a statement that will almost certainly be fulfilled this April, when we see the introduction of higher National Insurance payments and an increase in the energy price cap. And I am writing this when we have yet to see the impact on our economy of the economic sanctions being imposed on Russia. Another way of putting this is to say that April will see increasing numbers of people falling into poverty, with parents having to go without meals themselves in order to feed their children. What this feels like was vividly brought to life in the second film in our occasional series of film nights at St Mary's: "I, Daniel Blake".

Those familiar with the film will remember the scene in which a young mother is so hungry that she cannot help herself grabbing a can from a shelf in the food bank she has been referred to, opening it then and there and cramming the contents into her mouth. Shortly after this watching this film, while having a mini-retreat at a convent in Lewisham, I was moved to write the following poem:

Day after day,  
putting food on the table  
for others,  
but not yourself,  
doing the best you're able  
to hide from them the sacrifice.

But now,  
as you walk the stacks  
of food,  
something cracks.

Despite yourself you grab the can –  
no knife, nor fork,  
just hands to cram  
full your mouth,  
oblivious of those around  
turning at the sound  
of hunger satisfied.

And then the shame!  
But why?

How in a land of plenty  
are plenty left to choose  
to heat or eat,  
to feed the kids,  
deny themselves,  
then lift the lids and “feast”  
on food on food bank shelves?

It is to the credit of both St Mary’s and St Francis’ that we are actively involved in supporting the Bromley food bank, and you can read more about that elsewhere in this magazine.

This April, of course, also sees us celebrating Easter and the hope that Jesus’ resurrection from the dead brings to us all. We live in a broken world, as the need for food banks and the war in Ukraine testify, but God’s raising of Jesus from death also testifies that God is ultimately in control, whether it is immediately apparent or not. And that is a hope worth holding on to.

Have a hopeful and blessed Easter.

*Richard*

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## April

### **Cake and craft event for Ukraine**

St Francis' is hosting an event on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April from 2-5 p.m. & at 7.30pm** in the hall raising funds for the ***Link to Hope Ukraine Appeal***. Link to Hope is the organisation which is supported by the St John's Autumn Fair each year. They already have volunteers on the ground helping Ukrainian refugees in Romania, Moldova & Bulgaria, as well as in Ukraine. Book a workshop here: <https://fb.me/e/6jZILHyGn> or drop in for some tea and cake any time from 2-5pm.

### **High Street Foodbank collection & concert**

We are holding another collection on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April for money and non-perishable food and household goods on the corner of The High Street and Ravenswood Avenue. If you would like to volunteer some time at our stall, from 10 am to 3 pm please contact Tim Shingler on 07785 772649 or email [tim.shingler@ntlworld.com](mailto:tim.shingler@ntlworld.com).

Later in the day there is a concert for fuel vouchers in St Francis' at 7.30pm. There will be a bar before the performance and during the interval. Tickets (adults - £10; u18s - £5) can be booked via <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-francis-of-assisi>



## Holy Week and Easter

We can now look forward to our Holy Week and Easter with some certainty about what will and will not be possible. We will be keeping our services to those which are familiar:

- *Palm Sunday* (10<sup>th</sup> April): Holy Communion at 8am in St Francis', 9.15am in St Mary's, 10.45am in St Francis'.
- *Maundy Thursday* (14<sup>th</sup> April): Holy Communion at 7.30pm in St Francis'.
- *Good Friday* (15<sup>th</sup> April): Churches Together service at 11am in St Francis'; An Hour at the Cross at 2pm in St Mary's.
- *Easter Sunday* (17<sup>th</sup> April): Family Communion at 8am in St Francis', 9.15am in St Mary's, 10.45am in St Francis'.

## Celebrating Scouting

Before the pandemic hit, we had a good relationship with the 7<sup>th</sup> West Wickham Scouts and contributed to and supported their Gang Show in March 2020. Since then both we and they have been meeting on-line and it has been difficult to maintain this relationship, so we are looking forward to gathering together again for a service on **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April at 10am** in St Mary's to celebrate St George, the Patron Saint of Scouting. Do come to support the 7<sup>th</sup> West Wickham and hear about what they have been doing during the past two years and how they hope to return to things like camp later this year.

# May

## Community Lunch

Our next Community Lunch is on **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May at 12.30 p.m.** in the hall and the cost is £6. Please contact Barbara Goodchild (0208 777 8782) if you would like a ticket.

## West Wickham Village Day

The West Wickham Village Day last took place in Blake Park in 2019. This year they are returning, and Churches Together in West Wickham are looking to be a blessing to our community at this event with some hospitality and family spaces being provided. Please do put the date in your diary – **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May** – and be prepared to sign up for some cake baking, prayer, and volunteering on the day.

## Christian Aid Week

This year Christian Aid Week is from **15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> May 2022**. The theme for the week is fighting hunger and the materials focus on Zimbabwe, a country where the impact of climate change is keenly felt and where drought leads to widespread hunger. In rural Zimbabwe, seven out of ten women rely on farming to earn a living. With no rain, women can't grow enough food and they struggle to provide for their children.

Every gift. Every action.  
Every Prayer. Everyone  
of us can change lives.

## **Support for Ukraine**

On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May we will have a coffee morning at St Mary's, with additional support from the WI and the Brownies to provide craft and other activities. We hope for lots of cakes to be baked. More details to follow.

## **St Francis' Pre-school**

You may be aware that we have a new owner and manager for St Francis' Pre-school who are open in the rear hall beside the church building every weekday during term-time. Her name is Kelly Fiander and we are looking forward to working closely with her to build up that compassion and sense of community which she has a real heart for, as demonstrated in the following piece that she has written for us:

*St Francis' Pre-school are taking great pride in serving the local community.*

*We are almost at full capacity on our morning sessions and running at 55% capacity on our afternoon sessions.*

*The children are all happy and learning new things every day.*

*I am a strong believer in giving each and every child a positive early years' experience and I am especially passionate about supporting children who have not had the best start in life and those children who have additional needs.*

*Since taking over the nursery in September we have supported two children who have financial hardship. We have enriched their learning with experiences they may never have had the chance of before. The pre-school is providing healthy lunches for them to ensure they have at least 1 decent meal throughout the day and we are also providing healthy snacks such as fruit, breadsticks, crackers etc.*

*We now have 3 children who have additional needs. We are financially supporting 2 of these and we are receiving additional funding from Bromley council for the other. This enables us to provide a 1-1 specialist teacher for each of these children to enable them to join in with all of the activities that are set for the other children. Without this specialist support these children would not be able to have complete access to the curriculum offered. One of the children we care for was excluded from their previous setting as they could not deal with their behaviour. He has settled well into St Francis Pre School and is going from strength to strength.*

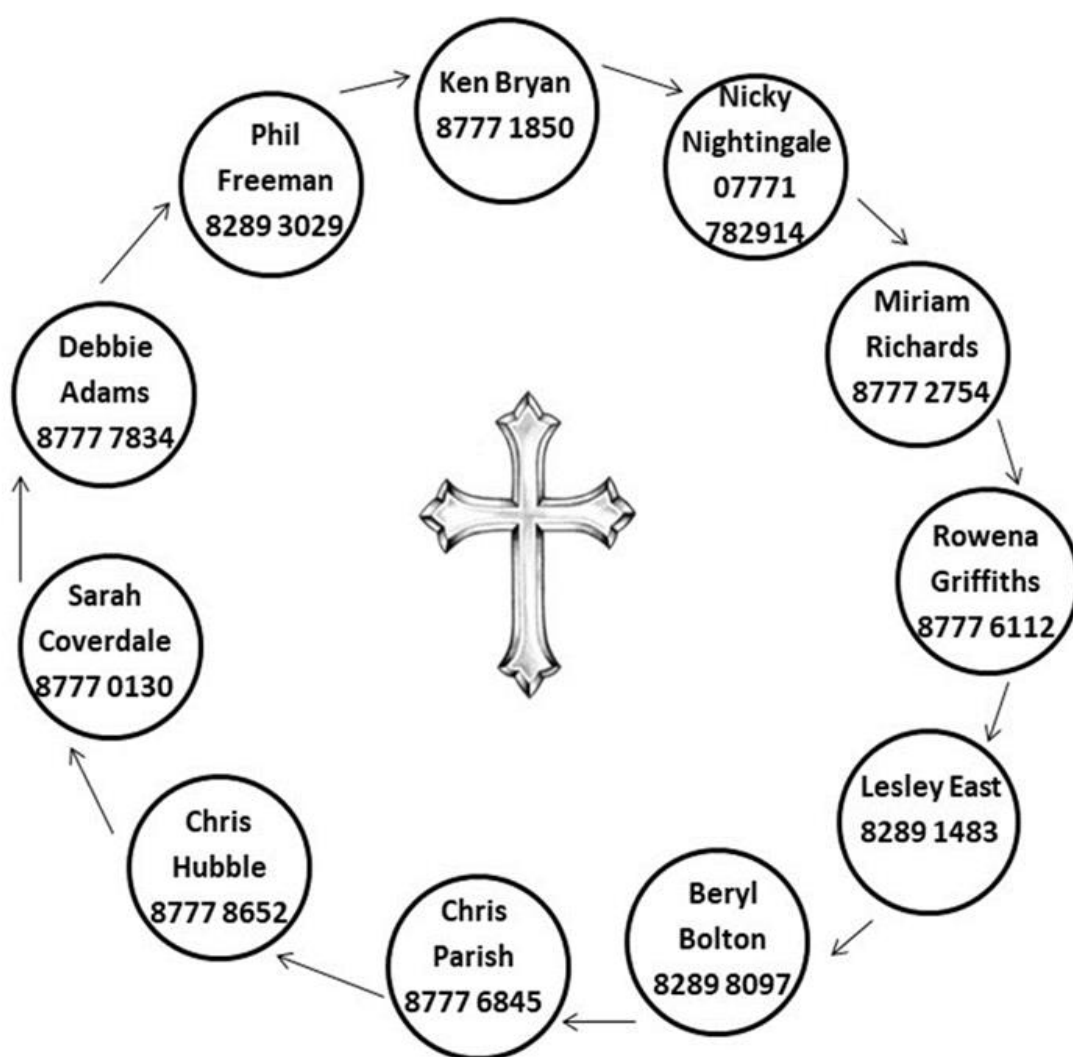
*The SEN (Special Educational Needs) advisor that comes from Bromley council is so pleased with the way we are teaching the SEN children that she has asked if we would take referrals from the council when there is nowhere else to place the child.*

*We are really looking forward to providing care and education for many more years to come and I want to thank all of you at St Francis' for allowing me to continue doing this.*

# 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.





# PRAYER

## April

**10<sup>th</sup>** As Jesus entered Jerusalem, let him enter our life  
**Palm Sunday** that he may rule in our heart always.

**14<sup>th</sup>** Father, we thank you for inviting us to share in the  
**Maundy** supper which your son gave to his church to be a  
**Thursday** memorial of his Death and passion.  
May we be strengthened by his Presence and united in  
his love.

**15<sup>th</sup>** As our Saviour Christ suffered death upon the cross  
**Good Friday** for our sake, may we follow the example of his life on  
earth and be sharers in his resurrection.

**17<sup>th</sup>** Alleluia! Blessed be the Lord Jesus, who has risen  
**Easter Day** from the tomb and opened the gate for us to eternal life.

**23<sup>rd</sup>** Pray that we may be wisely governed and that we  
**St. George** may serve our community and country to the best of  
our ability.

**25<sup>th</sup>** As we are firmly grounded in the gospels may we be  
**St. Mark** faithful to their teaching, both in word and deed.

### **The Wonder of Easter**

Living God, we praise you for the wonder of Easter - this day that changed the world for ever! We rejoice in the victory of Jesus: his triumph over evil, hatred, despair and even death itself. Living God, we praise you for the victory you have won, and for the assurance it brings that nothing in life or death can ever separate us from your love. To you be praise and glory. Amen.

# FOCUS

## May

**1<sup>st</sup>** Let our words and actions draw people to you,  
**St. Philip &** Lord Jesus.  
**St. James**

**14<sup>th</sup>** Like the apostles, may we stay faithful, united in  
**St. Mathias** prayer and the breaking of bread.

**26<sup>th</sup>** We give thanks that the risen and ascended Lord  
**Ascension** Jesus has promised to be with us for ever

### **Our Suffering World**

In sorrow Lord, we pray for all those many whose lives have been maimed, murdered or traumatised by the brutality of others – All those many who have suffered bereavement of loved ones. Comfort all who have lost their homes through deliberate destruction. Give courage and strength to those who must flee their country in search of refuge and help. Lord, we pray for their safety and that they may find a secure place to live and neighbours who will welcome them.

We pray for world leaders and all in positions of authority, that they do not misuse their powers but rule with wisdom, justice and integrity. We pray for our own government as they face many challenges in the months ahead.

We give thanks that we are able to come to you, Lord, in prayer, knowing that you hear us always.

Amen.

# Vision Feedback

Last year we set out a vision for the united benefice of those activities that we might develop together as we come out of the restrictions imposed in response to the pandemic. Much of our early work has been in strengthening our work of compassion and in February and March we fed back on two aspects of this which are summarised below:

## **Foodbank support**

The involvement of our two churches in food bank support goes back about ten years, when a home group started a food donation point at St Mary's and Pam Sear agreed to be the contact person, as well as to deliver the donated food to the warehouse. When Covid started the collection point moved to the vicarage doorstep which has resulted in a considerable increase in the amount of food donated and a recognition by local people of both of our churches' support for the Bromley Food Bank, since St Francis' is also a donation collection point.

During Covid, our donations were delivered first to SJ's, St John's community centre in Coney Hall, by Hazel and then Ken Bryan took on delivery to the Bromley Food Bank warehouse in Downham. When the warehouse was forced to close for a short period, Ken took the collection to the Shrublands Food Bank, who were extremely grateful, as they had supplied sixty families over the Christmas period and were very low on stocks.

An important addition to the way in which we collect food was instigated in the run-up to Christmas 2019, when Tim Shingler organised a High Street collection on Crofts' Corner. Initially the Men's

Group supported him, but now others are involved, and we also collect at Easter and in the summer. The next collection will be on April 9<sup>th</sup>, followed in the evening by a concert being organised at St Francis' by Tim and Roger Dyer to raise funds for the Fuel Bank, an offshoot of food banks, to help those struggling to keep their pre-payment meters topped up. It is ironic that those in greatest financial difficulty are often those who are most reliant on the most expensive source of energy.

Our collection of food and its delivery to the warehouse is only the tip of the iceberg. Other work is undertaken by volunteers, both at the warehouse and at the food bank centres, where clients collect their food. What follows is a description by one of our volunteers who works at one of the centres.

The volunteers arrive and unload supplies that have been delivered from the main warehouse. They stop briefly for an update on the situation, and one of the group may say a prayer. Unpacking the warehouse delivery takes some time, and everyone works together to get this organized as soon as possible, checking dates and stacking boxes in sections.

Food bank clients arrive with a voucher for the number of dependents in the home, issued to them by one of over two hundred organizations, such as Citizens Advice, job centres, schools, care professionals and doctors' surgeries – Kate Dyer tells me that she has been involved providing vouchers to patients of hers who are in need.

A food voucher is valid for one visit to the food bank and entitles the client to non-perishable food for 7 days. The vouchers are for

emergency food supplies to support people in a crisis situation; they are not intended for long-term use.

Because of Covid restrictions and the small premises, clients have to wait in a corridor. When it is their turn to come in, they are welcomed and offered a chair by a volunteer who checks the voucher, enquires about any dietary requirements, if additional support is necessary and provides contact details for this additional support, if appropriate. If that is the case, an email will be sent to the referee outlining the help the client might need. Every client is offered a selection of non-food items such as washing powder, shower gel and sanitary items. While the manager is talking to the client, other volunteers pack the food into bags. If a client is ill, disabled or for some reason unable to come to the food bank, it is possible to arrange for the food to be delivered to them.

In the last couple of years, both churches have been involved in delivering the food bank Christmas hampers to those nominated by a variety of organizations as being in particular need. This work is done by those whom Kim Teare, our coordinator, describes as “all the lovely people from St Francis’ and St Mary’s,” who last Christmas delivered some fifty hampers to families in West Wickham and the surrounding area. The “hampers” contain the extras that the families would otherwise have to go without at what for families on low income can be a very stressful time of the year.

Many members of our churches get involved in the food bank, and I’m not going to give their names to spare their blushes. Their reasons for becoming involved, do illustrate the point that James, the brother of Jesus, makes in his New Testament letter: “faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.” (James 2.17)

- Being a person who can't stop myself from volunteering, when something needs to be done, I....
- I became involved ... as I wanted to assist people who were in a less privileged position than me. I had read about the increasing pressures of people struggling to afford the essentials and the problems with obtaining benefits, to which they were entitled. I am a practical person and wanted to .... offer some help.
- I felt as there was a need on our doorstep, I couldn't ignore it. It had been on my mind for quite a while.... My support is small so I would not want it played up in an article. Some people did the Soup Run for years without many people knowing who went each week.

And finally, an anecdote from Pam Sear that shows how easy it is to find oneself in need of the services of a food bank: I was delivering some food to the church in Bromley. There was a well-dressed lady waiting in the vestibule with a small suitcase. I thought to myself, "I wonder where she is going on holiday." At that moment she was called into the food bank room, and I realized what she was there for. It taught me not to make assumptions about the sort of people who need help!

*Richard Ford*

### **Telephone befriending: using the power of love wisely**

When Jesus is in the wilderness for 40 days, he sees the devil's three temptations for what they are:

- Creating some bread from a stone would give him a benefit in meeting his own hunger ... but that would be of no benefit to others.

- He was offered partnership with the devil, giving him a shortcut to status and power ... but that wouldn't show anything of God's kingdom.
- Finally, he's given the chance to become a celebrity ... but that would result in cutting himself off from many ordinary people who'd be unable to relate to him as a result.

All of the options offered by the devil are about using power in a worldly sense. We are open to the same temptations every single day: our own benefit over others; following the ways of this world, rather than God's kingdom; or gaining approval from others rather than from God. Jesus faces up to the justice issues associated with these temptations, but he meets them with love rather than an impressive show of strength. Although it might be more impressive to heal a whole neighbourhood all at once, Jesus chooses to have a deeper relationship with individuals to understand their issues first, before helping them in some way. This is how God's kingdom is formed - by coming alongside individuals to find out what it is that they need and then providing for that need.

In practice this coming alongside others might mean supporting a neighbour who's recently lost a loved one or cooking a meal for someone who struggles with doing their own. However, you might feel difficult doing this kind of thing for people that you know, and this is where our telephone befriending service comes in.

The service starts with a referral from NHS social prescribing, which is where a link person in the local GP surgery puts someone in touch with local people and activities that might help them to feel better, including the community befriending team who are part of St John's church in West Wickham. Having received the referral, the St John's team

matches the person with a volunteer telephone befriender, who will telephone for a chat on a weekly basis, helping them to gain confidence in making social connections, or just raising their mood on a regular basis. The St John's team also supports the volunteers. Currently there are 25 people supported, with the team of volunteers, including six from St Francis' and St Mary's.

As well as being in contact on the telephone, the scheme is also looking at meeting face to face. Now that all restrictions have been lifted, we'll be looking at having our own opportunities for face-to-face social interactions and promoting this and other befriending schemes.

This befriending service has been a blessing, both to those doing the befriending and to those being befriended. One of those involved from our churches talked to me about how her befriended partner was reticent to start with, but over time, little bits of information came out about her childhood, which gave an interesting background. The conversations were very rewarding, and the befriender left these feeling very upbeat and optimistic about the progress being made.

Another person explained how the woman she's in contact with never gets out of her house and so is glad of the phone calls that are made.

And someone else values the calls that she makes because they can take her mind off some of the difficulties in her own life, by focussing on another and allowing them to talk about their family, their medical needs, and the support that they get from friends and neighbours.

God has given us the power of love. Can we use this wisely and resist the temptation to solely meet our own needs or for the gain of our



own group over another and get on with building God's kingdom one conversation at a time?

If you've got any questions about our befriending or want to be involved in a one-to-one befriending relationship, please talk to Kate Dyer ([katedyer41@hotmail.com](mailto:katedyer41@hotmail.com)).

*Hazel O'Sullivan*

Finally, we'd like to thank all those, named and unnamed, who responded to Richard and Hazel's request for help in providing information for this article to demonstrate some of the ways in which members of our churches are involved in our local community.

#### **Answers to this month's crossword**

**ACROSS:** 1, Womb. 3, Agnostic. 9, Long ago. 10, Fleet. 11, Horeb. 12, Yellow. 14, Deceitfulness. 17, Banish. 19, Towel. 22, Boils. 23, Inferno. 24, Eternity. 25, Defy.

**DOWN:** 1, Will hide. 2, Minor. 4, Glory of Christ. 5, Offal. 6, The Robe. 7, City. 8, Zabbai. 13, Psalmody. 15, Chalice. 16, Let off. 18, If son. 20, Worse. 21, Able

## **Report from Str Abba Ghana Eye Hospital**

Thank you for letting me share in the news of this past year, made more difficult at the clinic because of Covid. Covid in Africa presents even more difficulties than in the UK, but the Ministry of Health rightly

imposed challenging regulations on our work so that we helped contain the pandemic and not make it worse. At times we felt we were drowning, but donations from St Francis' helped us stay afloat and our work carried on.

We managed to provide PPE for both staff and patients, free masks for those who had none, buckets for basic hand washing and hand gel for those entering the clinic. A second washroom was built too.

By doing this we have been able to continue our work. We perform eye surgery in our theatre on our one (but soon two) operating table. Patients are seen for eye diseases, injuries, and conditions common in equatorial Africa, and many are young children as well as adults. In addition, we provide an ophthalmic service and dispense glasses for those needing them.



The team have been wonderful. I must mention Dacosta who has been upgraded to our theatre team who spends time not only cleaning, as does his wife, in the main clinic, but also sitting and reassuring anxious patients before surgery.



Whilst our work has grown and become more medically sophisticated and skilful, it remains an expression of our love and faith. Without your support none of this would be possible, so ... from the bottom of my heart and from all the Jackie Team and patients, I give you my heartfelt thanks.

Thank you, Abba.

## ***Dem Bones, dem bones***

*It has been said that the body of any organisation is made up of four types of bones....*

*There are the **Wishbones** – who spend their time wishing someone else would do something about the problem under discussion....*

*There are the **Jawbones** – who spend their time talking about the problem.*

*There are the **Knucklebones** – who spend their time knocking everything that everyone has already done or would like to do.*

*Finally, there are the **Backbones** who quietly come along, get under the load and carry it!*

***Which type of bone are you?***

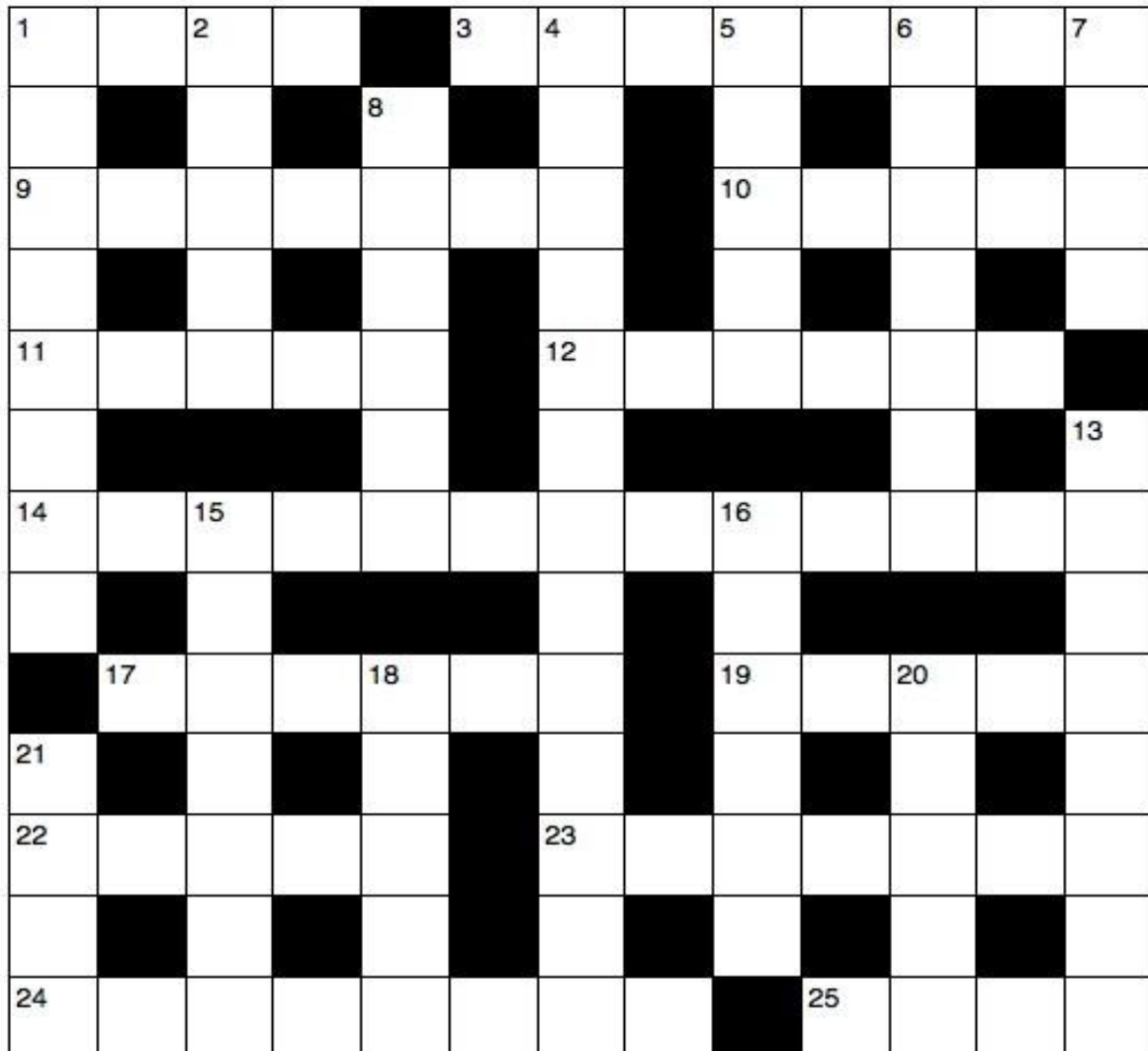
## **ROOFING & Maintenance**

**All types of work undertaken  
Also Flat pack assembly  
No job too small**

**Harry Allen 138 Queen Anne Avenue, Bromley BR2 OSF**

**020 8402 0156**

CROSS  
WORD



**Across**

- 1 'The baby in my — leaped for joy' (Luke 1:44) (4)
- 3 A 'don't know' in matters of faith (8)
- 9 In the distant past (Jeremiah 2:20) (4,3)
- 10 Armada (1 Kings 10:22) (5)
- 11 Where Moses was confronted with the burning bush (Exodus 3:1) (5)
- 12 Hair colour indicative of skin infection (Leviticus 13:30) (6)
- 14 'The worries of this life and the — of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful' (Matthew 13:22) (13)

- 17 Expel (2 Kings 13:23) (6)  
 19 What Jesus wrapped round his waist when he washed his disciples' feet (John 13:4) (5)  
 22 The sixth plague to afflict the Egyptians (Exodus 9:9) (5)  
 23 For nine (anag.) (7)  
 24 Where there is no time (Psalm 93:2) (8)  
 25 Goliath's challenge to the Israelite army in the Valley of Elah: 'This day I — the ranks of Israel!' (1 Samuel 17:10) (4)

### ***Down***

- 1 'I will become angry with them and forsake them; I — — my face from them' (Deuteronomy 31:17) (4,4)  
 2 Usual description of prophets such as Amos, Hosea, Micah, and so on (5)  
 4 'They cannot see the light of the gospel of the — — — , who is the image of God' (2 Corinthians 4:4) (5,2,6)  
 5 An animal's internal edible parts (Leviticus 4:11) (5)  
 6 Popular 20th-century religious novel by Lloyd C. Douglas, which became a 1953 film starring Richard Burton (3,4)  
 7 'A — on a hill cannot be hidden' (Matthew 5:14) (4)  
 8 One of the exiles, a descendant of Bebai, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:28) (6)  
 13 Old Testament hymn-singing (8)  
 15 'And O what transport of delight from thy pure — floweth' (7)  
 16 Of felt (anag.) (3,3)  
 18 'So — the — sets you free, you will be free indeed' (John 8:36) (2,3)  
 20 Comes between 'bad' and 'worst' (John 5:14) (5)  
 21 'Neither height nor depth... will be — to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (4)

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

Answers on page 23

## **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 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*

# **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES IN THE CHURCH HALL**

## **Cubs**

Tuesdays from 6.15 pm to 7.45 pm

Contact Kat Hardman .. .. . katkahardman@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 .. .. . 07712 492854

## **Wednesday Market**

From 9.00 am to 1.00 pm .. .. . 07956 580467

## **Debbie's Dance**

Thursdays from 9.00 am to 10.00 am .. debbiesdanceschool@yahoo.com

## **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*