

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI WEST WICKHAM PARISH MAGAZINE



June/July 2023

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 The Vicarage, The Avenue, West Wickham, BR4 0DX email: hazelos58@gmail.com <i>Day off: Monday</i>	8777 5034
Assistant Priest:	The Rev Richard Ford email: richard.ford73@ntlworld.com	8289 2432
Reader:	Brian Griffiths	8777 6112
SPA [Pastoral Auxiliaries]:	Lesley East Rowena Griffiths	8289 1483 8777 6112

Church Directory

Churchwardens:	Kate Dyer katedyer41@hotmail.com Valerie Hamilton email: vihamilton145@gmail.com	07902 114607
Secretary:	Nicky Nightingale email: nicholanightingale@hotmail.co.uk	8916 9855
Treasurer:	David Wada email: stfranciswwtreasurer@gmail.com	8777 6355
Director of Music:	Geoff Mussard	8650 8389
Parish Safeguarding Officer:	Kim Teare kim_teare@hotmail.com	
Parish Magazine: Content:	Vacant	
Magazine – Distribution:	Nicky Nightingale	8916 9855
Library:	Sarah Coverdale	8777 0130
Bible Reading Fellowship:	Lesley East	8289 1483

REGULAR SERVICES

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 – Morning Worship (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

LETTER FROM HAZEL

Dear friends,

Each week at the end of our service of communion, people are sent out with the words 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord'. Having listened to and worshipped God in the service, he is then sending us out into the world to carry out his work or mission. This model of firstly listening to God (or spending time with Jesus), and then being involved in mission, indicates what it is to be a Christian – you cannot do one without the other:

- Taking part in church and community-based activities without spending time with Jesus is good, but it's not Christ-like. Jesus himself spent time in prayer to give himself spiritual sustenance for the teaching and healing that he did. Without that time with God our activities will be what we want to do, rather than what God has in mind.
- Likewise, just coming to church on a Sunday and having one's own prayer time, without taking that faith into the community, your family or the workplace, is to be very insular and not Christ-like at all.

It's like breathing – you have to breathe in and breathe out to stay alive. You have to take in God's word and go out on God's mission to remain a Christian. In all his letters to the early churches St Paul never told them that their task was to increase their numbers, but they were told to live as Christians (i.e., be like Christ).

At our recent APCM meetings, I talked about how we might bring more of a balance to our Martha and Mary characteristics in life. If you remember, in the bible passage (Luke 10: 38-42), Martha rushes around to prepare food and possibly places for Jesus and his friends

to stay, while her sister, Mary, sits at Jesus' feet listening to what he has to say. Both the resting and the working are necessary in life, but it can be difficult to strike the right balance, as anyone who has struggled with finding an appropriate work/life balance will know.

I don't always get it right myself, but I am constantly trying to change the balance in what I do. I'd like to share with you something of my sabbatical to illustrate this. I gained much learning about living a contemplative life and have seen benefits arising from living in this way since that time. I have set a date to do this in early June – see page 18.

Living as a Christian is not easy - living a life of faith outside the church buildings is not something we talk about much. There needs to be a balance between time with those from the churches, time with God and time with other friends and family. Finding a greater connection between what happens on a Sunday morning and what happens during the rest of the week might help us in achieving our Vision to have an abundant life connected to Jesus through compassion, community, commerce and congregation.

I have started to speak of some of the connections between this vision and what is happening in our community and West Wickham in my pew sheet messages. I hope that this will give pointers about where we are partnering with God in his mission when we are sent out after the service on a Sunday morning, so making us a kingdom-centred culture rather than a church-centred one.

Hazel



CALENDAR FOR JUNE

Sunday 4th

8.00 a.m.

TRINITY SUNDAY

Holy Communion at St. Mary's

Hilary Fife

10.00 a.m.

Joint Service at St. Francis' with livestream

Hilary Fife/Brian Griffiths

Friday 9th

3.45 p.m.

Messy Church at St. Marys

Messy Church Team

Saturday 10th

Prayer Event at St Mary's 10 a.m. – 12 noon

Sunday 11th

1st SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY – St. Barnabas

8.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis'

Richard Ford

9.15 a.m.

Morning Praise at St. Mary's with livestream

Hazel O'Sullivan/Ken Bryan

10.45 a.m.

Morning Worship at St. Francis'

Richard Ford/Brian Griffiths

Saturday 17th

St. Mary's Garden Party 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Sunday 18th

2ND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Mary's

Hazel O'Sullivan/Ken Bryan

9.15 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Mary's with livestream

Hazel O'Sullivan/Ken Bryan

10.45 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis'

Richard Ford/Carol Coslett

Saturday 24th

1.00 p.m. Baptism at St. Mary's
Hazel O'Sullivan

Sunday 25th

3RD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Francis'
Hazel O'Sullivan/Brian Griffiths (by video)

9.15 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Mary's with livestream
Hazel/Ken Bryan/Brian Griffiths (by video)

10.45 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Francis'
Carol Coslett/Brian Griffiths

+++++

CALENDAR FOR JULY

Sunday 2nd

4TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Francis'
Richard Ford

10.00 a.m. Joint Service at St. Mary's with livestream
Hazel O'Sullivan/Richard Ford/Ken Bryan

Friday 7th

Comedy Night at St Francis' – 7.30 p.m.

Sunday 9th

5TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

9.15 a.m. Morning Praise with livestream
Hazel O'Sullivan/Richard Ford

10.45 a.m. Morning Worship at St. Francis'
Hazel O'Sullivan/Brian Griffiths

3.00 p.m. Healing service at St. Francis'

Richard Ford/Debbie Adams

Friday 14th

3.45 p.m.

Messy Church at St. Mary's
Messy Church Team

Saturday 15th

West Wickham Choir Performance at St. Francis

Sunday 16th

6TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Mary's
Hazel O'Sullivan

9.15 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Mary's with livestream
Hazel O'Sullivan

10.45 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis'
Hazel O'Sullivan/Richard Ford/Brian Griffiths

Sunday 23rd

7TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis'
Carol Coslett

9.15 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Mary's with livestream
Hazel O'Sullivan/Brian Griffiths (by video)

10.45 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis'
Carol Coslett/Brian Griffiths

Sunday 30th

8TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Mary's
Hazel O'Sullivan/Ken Bryan

9.15 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Mary's with livestream
Hazel O'Sullivan/Ken Bryan

10.45 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis'
Richard Ford/Mike Jeggo

READINGS FOR JUNE & JULY

Date	Reading	Reader
4th June	2 Corinthians 13: 11-end Matthew 28: 16-end	James Pitt-Payne Hilary Fife
11th June	Special readings for Morning Praise	David Wada
18th June	Exodus 19: 2-8a Romans 5: 1-8 Matthew 9: 35 – 10: 8	Valerie Hamilton Carol Coslett
25th June	Jeremiah 20: 7-13 Romans 6: 1b -11 Matthew 7: 6, 12-14	Gill Kehoe Brian Griffiths
2nd July	Jeremiah 28: 5-9 Romans 6: 12-end Matthew 10: 40-end	Miriam Richards Richard Ford
9th July	Special readings for Morning Praise	TBA
16th July	Isaiah 55: 10-13 Romans 8: 1-11 Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23	TBA Hazel O'Sullivan
23rd July	Isaiah 44: 6-8 Romans 8: 12-25 Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43	TBA Brian Griffiths
30th July	1 Kings 3: 5-12 Romans 8: 26-39 Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52	TBA Mike Jeggo

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

June

St. Mary's Garden Party

Our annual Garden Party/BBQ will be held on **Saturday 17th June from 11am – 3pm.** The BBQ will be served between 12 noon – 2pm. Enjoy your BBQ with a glass of chilled PIMMS, cold beer or a hot cup of tea/coffee. Join us for some homemade cakes, get your summer plants, browse through the book stall whilst the children delve into the toys stall or have fun on the bouncy castle and various games. Muddy Boots will be on site during the day.

Hayes Symphony Orchestra

The Hayes Symphony Orchestra have a concert at St Francis' on **Saturday 24th June** at 7.30 p.m. The theme of this concert is **British Sounds** with pieces by Coleridge-Taylor, the 'London' Symphony by Haydn and Vaughan Williams' 5th Symphony. You can get tickets here: <https://hayes.makingmusicplatform.com/Summer23> or on the door.

July

Community Lunch

The Community Lunch is on **Sunday 2nd July** at 12.30 p.m. in the hall. Please contact Barbara Goodchild on 020 8777 8782 or goodchild854@gmail.com if you wish to join us.

Comedy Night

This will be held at St Francis' Church on **Friday 7th July**. Doors open at 7pm with a bar available.

Trip to the National Gallery

The **National Gallery** in London is hosting the first major UK **art exhibition** to explore **Saint Francis of Assisi's** life and legacy. This free exhibition looks at why this saint is a figure of enormous relevance to our time due to his spiritual radicalism, commitment to the poor, and love of God and nature, as well as his powerful appeals for peace, and openness to dialogue with other religions.

We are planning to travel up by train to Charing Cross on **Saturday 8th July** for this exhibition which will give an opportunity to see how Saint Francis has captured the imagination of artists through the centuries from some of the earliest medieval panels, relics and manuscripts to modern-day films and a Marvel comic. More information will follow, but if you are especially interested in joining the group, please speak with Richard Ford.

Healing Service

We will be holding a Healing Service on **Sunday 9th July at 3pm** in St Francis' Church. This will be an opportunity to come and rest in God's presence. Although this may help with physical healing, it can also help with finding peace in a complicated world and with emotional, spiritual and mental matters. It would be most unusual if you thought you needed no help at all in these areas.

Children's Society Cake and Coffee Morning

On **Saturday, 22nd July 2023** between 10.00-12.00 noon, the Children's Society Cake and Coffee Morning will be held in the Large Hall at St Francis. Delicious home-made cakes for sale. Coffee and biscuits, children's amusements, "Guess the weight of the Cake", raffle. Please come along and bring your friends. **All proceeds to The Children's Society.** *Donations of Home-made Cakes to sell at this event, would be very welcome.*

Lunchtime Concerts at St. Francis

Spring means a new season of lunchtime concerts to be held in St. Francis church, and as usual, we have a varied programme of music to be enjoyed; we will be welcoming pianists, a guitarist, a singer and a small orchestra. The dates to note in your diaries are all Thursdays: June 15th, July 13th, August 17th and either 21st or 28th September (which one is to be confirmed by Langley Park school). Let's make up a full audience for these talented musicians! The concerts commence at 12.45 pm, and as usual tea and coffee will be available before the concerts. Friends and colleagues are all welcome too!

Jean Mathers

West Wickham Choir Concert

The Summer West Wickham Choir concert is at 7.30 p.m. on **Saturday 15th July** at St. Francis Church. The programme will include "Hiawatha's Wedding Feast" and Songs from "Jesus Christ Superstar". Please watch the pew sheet for details of tickets.

PAST EVENTS

St. George's Supper - Saturday 22nd April

Dennis and I had never been to a St. George's Day Supper before, so we made enquiries about what to expect. We were told about a choice of Starter-prawn or melon. We were told about roast beef and Yorkshire pudding. We were told about trifle and coffee and choc mints but we were not told how good the meal would be. Everything was perfect.

We were not told that the hall and table would be decorated and how that would add to the pleasure of the evening. We were not told about the Quiz about St George which made us think. We were told that appropriate songs would be sung but we were not told how enjoyable that would be.

So, just in case you are thinking about attending next year, I am letting you know now!

With special thanks to Paul and Michelle Graydon for preparing and cooking the meal and to Rebecca Graydon and Matt Thompson for serving us so beautifully. Thanks also to Geoff for playing the piano for our sing-along and to those who set up the hall.

Jean Pogose

Coronation Weekend: 6th - 8th May

After many months of intense preparation, organisation discussions and rehearsing every detail the Coronation Day arrived. The Mall was packed with thousands of people from all walks of life, from several days beforehand, new friendships were formed, and old ones renewed. There was an air of excitement and anticipation of the imminent

parade. Eventually the procession started followed by the coach carrying the King and Queen and was greeted by loud cheers and applause.

Westminster Abbey was opened very early in order that the many guests could be seated in good time. They enjoyed some beautiful music and the choristers while they waited.

On arrival at The Abbey, the King was greeted by many dignitaries. He processed slowly along the aisle where he was greeted by a confident young choirboy. The Service was full of Pageantry and historical procedures dating back several centuries. Leaders from many Faiths took part in the Service, including a Gospel Choir. After the Crowning, Prince William, Prince of Wales, vowed allegiance to his father. During the Service the theme was that the King was coming to serve rather than be served.

The return journey to the Palace with Princess Anne, Gold Stick in Waiting, riding behind the King's coach, and the Royal Children waving enthusiastically to the crowds received rapturous cheers from the crowds in spite of the wet weather. The crowd surged down the Mall to see the 'Working Royals' on the balcony and waited for the Red Arrows fly past in perfect formation as usual.

Sunday was a beautiful day ideal for the Palace Lunch which was attended by invited guests. Some had tickets, but many were chosen for their Community Service. The evening Concert at Windsor contained something for everyone, music, drama, and ballet. It was delightful to see Prince George and Princess Charlotte enjoying the proceedings, while Prince William gave a moving tribute to his father.

St Mary's hosted a most appetising Buffet Lunch for about fifty people. Ann, Gifty, and their team did a wonderful job of decorating the Hall and organising the food, various sandwiches, cold meats, quiches, coleslaw and crisp salad followed by delicious desserts and fresh fruit. There was a very happy & friendly atmosphere. Thank you to all concerned.

On Monday, The Royals and their children were out in the Community painting, digging, and generally helping by volunteering and serving as they promised, a wonderful example to us all.

Merri Womack



PRAYER

June

**4th
Trinity** Praise the Lord, who has revealed himself as Father,
Son and Holy Spirit.

**11th
St. Barnabas** Pray for all who travel the world to spread the
Christian faith.

**15th
Corpus Christi** We give thanks today for Jesus' gift to us of
Holy Communion.

**24th
St. John, Baptist** Lord, help us, like John, to bear witness to you
and the coming of your Kingdom.

**29th
SS Peter and Paul** Pray that we may have same qualities of faith,
courage and devotion as we serve God.

The Free Forgiveness of God

LET US GIVE THANKS to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! For in our union with Christ he has blessed us by giving us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly world. Even before the world was made, God had already chosen us to be his, through our union with Christ, so that we would be holy and without fault before him.

Because of his love, God had already decided that through Jesus Christ, he would make us his children. This was his pleasure and purpose. Let us praise God for his glorious grace; for the free gift he gave us in his dear Son! For by the blood of Christ we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven. How great is the grace of God, which he gave to us in such large measure.

Ephesians 1: 3-8a

FOCUS

July

3rd When we are unsure, help us to trust – when we
St. Thomas can't see ahead, help us to keep going.

22nd May we also proclaim the Good News that JESUS IS
St. Mary Magdalene ALIVE!

25th Pray that we both listen and are obedient to Christ's
St. James calling to us.

29th Let us be as quick to spend time at the feet of Jesus
SS Martha & Mary as we are to actively serve him.

Peace for a Suffering World

God's love and compassion never fails; we bring before him in prayer the people of war-torn countries especially thinking of Sudan, Yemen, Somalia and Ukraine: - Lord, may you bless the work of all who are seeking to help bring peace and healing to our world; all who are working to restore unity and harmony among nations.

We pray for all who are homeless, thinking of those who have been made refugees by war and oppression. We think of and pray for those who sleep rough and who sleep out in our towns and cities. Please give them your comfort, Lord.

Grant that we who live secure in this insecure world, may be generous in caring for our displaced brothers and sisters.

We ask in the name of Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

RELIGIOUS AND SOCIAL EVENTS DATES

2023 DIARY

June

- 4th Joint service at St Francis' (Trinity Sunday) – 10am
- 8th – 10th Matchbox performances
- 10th Prayer Event at St Mary's – 10am
- 11th Non-eucharistic: St Barnabas
- 15th Lunchtime Concert at St Francis – 12:45pm
- 17th St Mary's Garden Party

July

- 2nd Joint service at St Mary's – 10am
- 2nd St Francis' Community Lunch – 12:30pm
- 7th Comedy night at St Francis'
- 8th Trip to the National Gallery – St Francis' exhibition
- 9th Healing Service at St Francis – 3pm
- 13th Lunchtime concert at St Francis – 12:45pm
- 15th West Wickham Choir performance at St Francis
- 22nd Coffee & Cake for Children's Society at St Francis – 10am
- 30th Mike & Liz Jeggo at St Francis

August

- 6th Joint Service at St Francis' (Transfiguration) – 10am
- 17th Lunchtime Concert at St Francis – 12:45pm

September

- 3rd Joint service at St Mary's – 10am
- 10th Non-eucharistic: Creation Sunday
- 21st Lunchtime concert at St Francis – 12:45pm
- 24th St Francis' Community Lunch – 12:30pm
- 30th Harvest Supper at St Mary's – 7pm

October

- 1st Joint service at St Francis – 10am: St Francis' Patronal Sunday (Gift Day)
- 1st Pet Service at St Francis
- 7th London Concert Chorus concert at St Francis – 7:30pm
- 8th All Age Harvest Services
- 8th Debbie's licensing Service at Southwark Cathedral 6pm
- 15th Joint service at St Mary's – 10am: Celebrating Debbie's Licensing, followed by breakfast
- 29th CTWW Bible Sunday service and meeting - 6pm

November

- 5th Joint service at St Mary's (All Saints') – 10am
- 5th Memorial Service at St Mary's
- 11th (TBC) High Street Foodbank collection 10am to 3pm
- 12th All-age Remembrance Sunday services
- 24th High Street Christmas Lights event at St Francis'
- 25th St Mary's Christmas Market
- 30th – 2nd Dec Matchbox performances

December

- 2nd The Big Christmas Sing at St Francis' 4pm
- 3rd Joint service at St Francis' (Advent Sunday) – 10am
- 4th – 10th Christmas Tree Festival at St Francis'
- 16th Scouts' Carols service at St Mary's
- 17th Carol Services
- 17th St Francis' Community Lunch – 12:30pm
- 24th Christingle service at St Mary's 4pm
- 24th Lighting the Lamps service at St Francis' 6pm
- 24th Midnight Communion at both churches 11:15pm
- 25th Joint service at St Francis – 10am
- 31st Joint service at St Mary's – 10am



**This is the greatest thing that we can do:
form a relationship with God,
the creator of the universe.**

Prayer event with a difference

Saturday 10th June from 10am to 12noon

**At St Mary's Church, The Avenue,
West Wickham**

There are many ways to pray. This is an opportunity to try out different things.

If you feel in need of encouragement in prayer, or want to try out something different, this morning is for you. Hazel will also share some of her experiences from her sabbatical.

All are welcome.

*St. Francis
West Wickham Concerts
presents*



COMEDY EVENING

Friday 7th July 2023



Hosted by

Carly Smallman

'A bundle of energy' - The Sun

Starring



Stefano Paoloni

Star of Britain's Got Talent.
'The best voice merchant on
the live circuit, destined for
wider exposure' - The Evening
Standard

And



Alyssa Kyria

'Sensational' - The Mirror

Doors: 7.00 pm

Performance: 7.30 pm

Bar available

Advance Tickets: £10 (On the Door: £10)

.St. Francis Church Hall, Ravenswood Avenue, West Wickham BR4 0PW

Ample free car parking

Purchase your tickets using debit/credit card at:

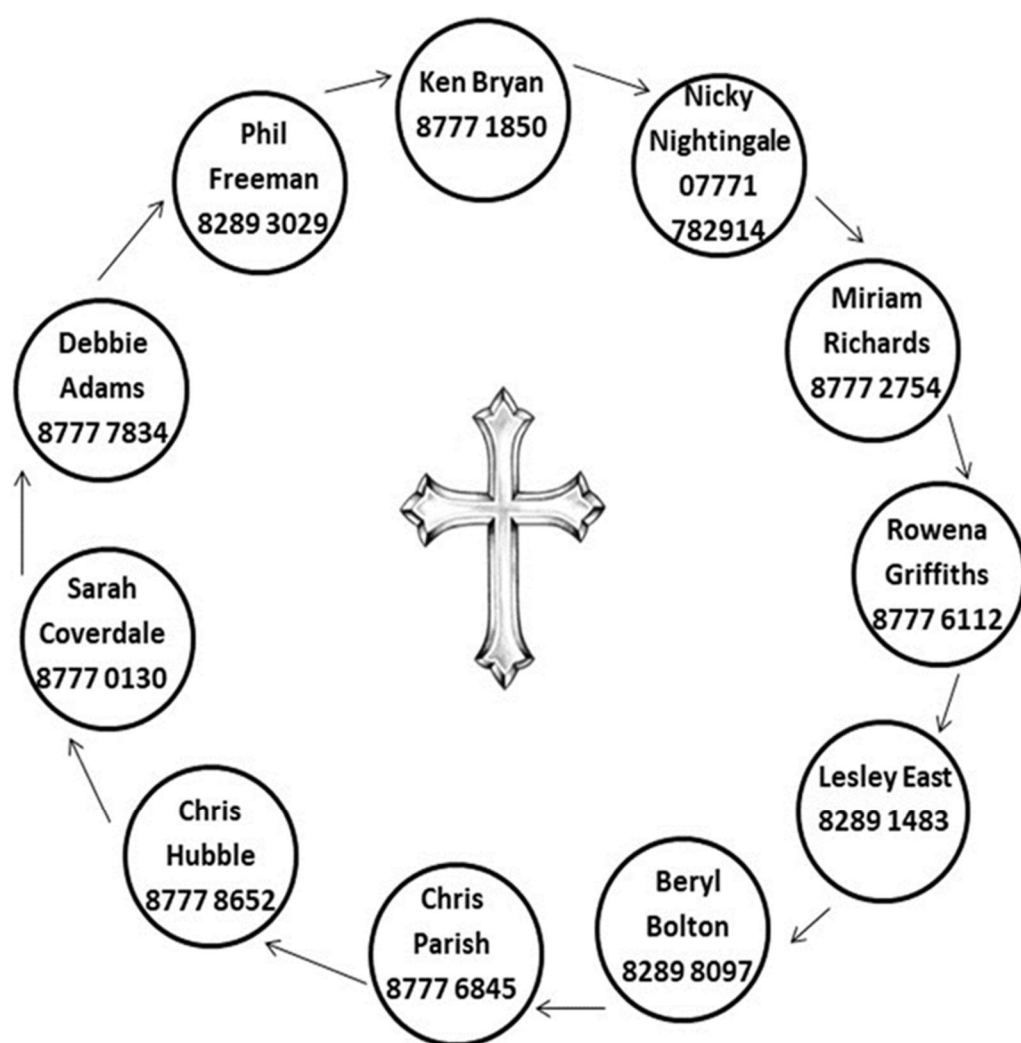
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-francis-of-assisi>



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.



God on Mute – Lent 2023

Many people in our congregations have been going through really tough times coping with, amongst other issues, bereavement and illness. It led me to explore how we cope with those difficult situations when God seems far away – when our prayers seem to go unanswered. I did an internet search for the phrase ‘unanswered prayer’ and the first site listed was ‘Prayer Course 2 – Unanswered Prayer’ and the accompanying book ‘God on Mute’ by Pete Greig. He is the founder of the organisation ‘Prayer 24/7’ and, with his wife Sammy, is the pastor of Emmaus Road, a large church with congregations in Guildford, Woking and Aldershot. He wrote ‘God on Mute’ after a particularly traumatic time in his life when his wife was seriously ill. The course and the book seemed to answer many of my questions about unanswered prayer and so the Ministry Team decided that we would use the course for our Lent Groups and a complementary series of sermons.

We began by looking generally at prayer and why God sometimes seems absent or silent during the storms in our lives. In this introduction it was acknowledged that life is messy – it isn’t all plain sailing – even for those with a strong faith. It’s OK to have doubts. Indeed, the opposite of faith is not doubt, but certainty. Certainty is missing the point entirely. Faith includes noticing the mess, the emptiness and discomfort, and letting it be there until some light returns.

The other sermons followed Jesus to the cross, embracing themes around Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Day.

Maundy Thursday (How I am going to get through this?)

Jesus must have struggled with this thought when he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. Yet, he didn't try to avoid it, but surrendered to His Father's will. Jesus wept in the garden and Pete Greig writes that often tears are the best form of prayer.

Good Friday (Why have you forsaken me?)

When Jesus uttered his cry of desperation from the cross, there seemed to be no answer, there was no immediate miracle. In this moment Jesus made it plain for all time the need we have for explanation. 'Why is this happening to me? Why does it appear that you have distanced yourself from me? Why have you abandoned me?' Pain, disappointment, confusion or a sense of abandonment cause us to ask God the ultimate question - 'Why?' It is perfectly right that we should ask that most fundamental question 'Why.' 'Why, when I try to do good do bad things happen to me? And often there's no answer to that question, except that God's world is complicated. It's impossible to answer everyone's prayer and his will might be different to ours (often it's much better in the long run). And sometimes our pain might be because we are having to fight with God against the evil one.

Holy Saturday (Where is God when Heaven is silent?)

Sometimes, silence is part of God's plan for us. However, in the silence there is still room for prayer. God is still there beside us.

Easter Sunday (When will my prayers be answered?)

There are three ways in which our living hope (an answer to unanswered prayer) can come through Christ's resurrection: the understanding that the greater our suffering, the greater our joy; finding something to be thankful for at all times; and using our

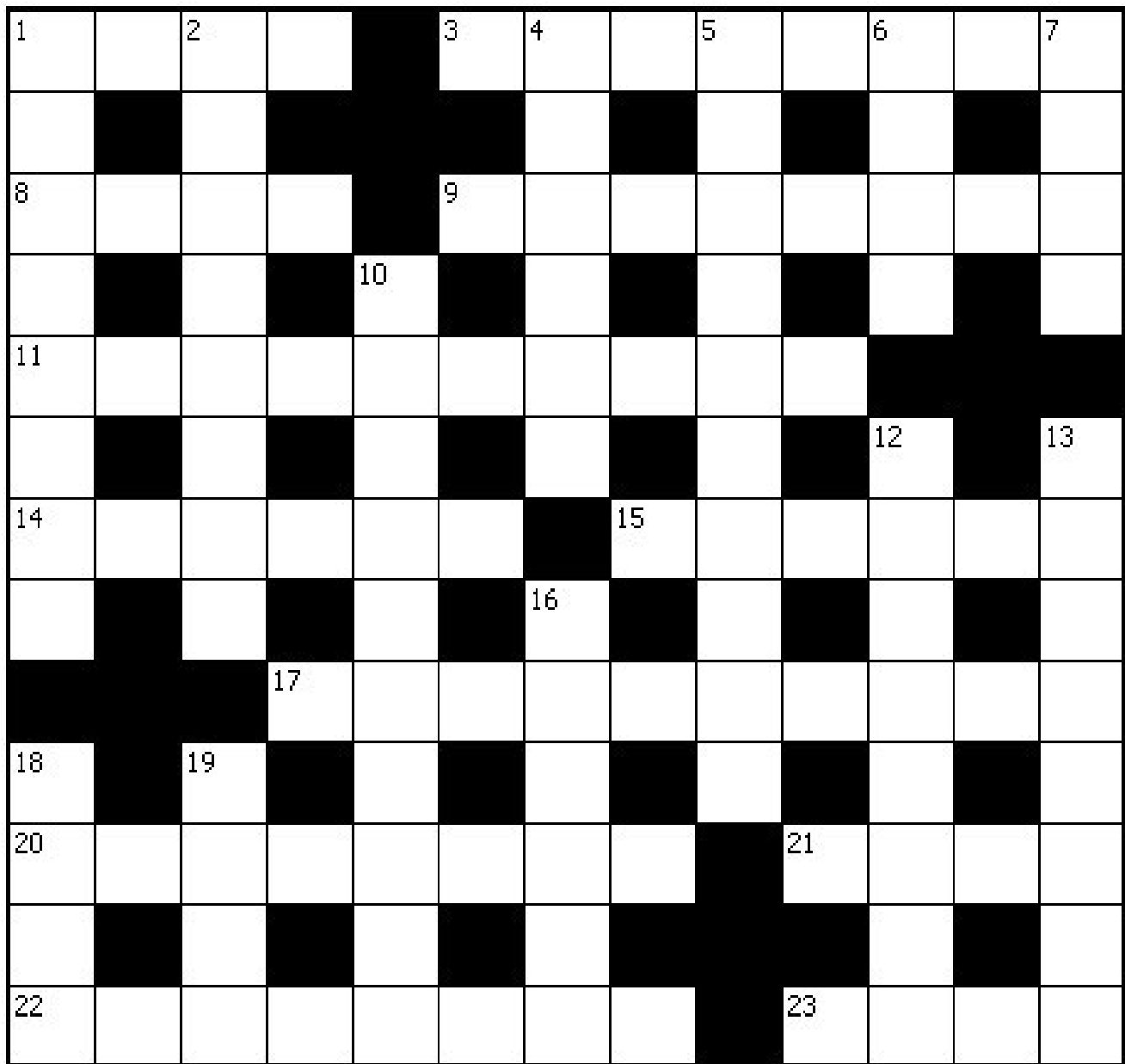
experience to help others and serve God. Seeing unanswered prayer as an opportunity to experience God with us, or to understand him better, or to gain other blessings through helping others or being supported ourselves through difficult times can reveal an answer to prayer, even if the answer is not the one that we've been praying for.

There's a lovely prayer entitled Silent God by Edwina Gateley that expresses how God doesn't abandon us, but is always near even though we may not be aware of his presence:

This is my prayer — That, though I may not see, I be aware
Of the Silent God who stands by me.
That, though I may not feel, I be aware
Of the Mighty Love which doggedly follows me.
That, though I may not respond, I be aware
That God—my Silent, Mighty God, waits each day.
Quietly, hopefully, persistently.
Waits each day and through each night for me.
For me—alone.

Brian Griffiths

CROSS WORD GRID



Across

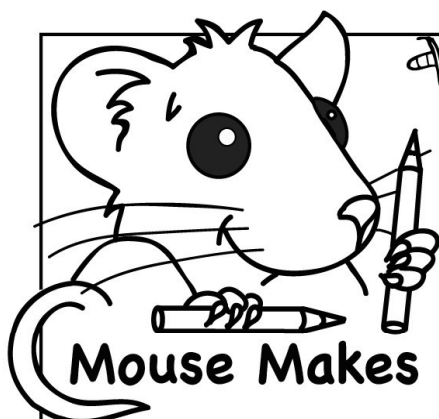
- 1 See 23 Across
- 3 Where the thief on the cross was told he would be, with Jesus (Luke 23:43) (8)
- 8 Invalid (4)
- 9 Blasphemed (Ezekiel 36:20) (8)
- 11 Adhering to the letter of the law rather than its spirit (Philippians 3:6) (10)

- 14 Shut (Ecclesiastes 12:4) (6)
- 15 'This is how it will be with anyone who — up things for himself but is not rich towards God' (Luke 12:21) (6)
- 17 Mary on Isis (anag.) (10)
- 20 Agreement (Hebrews 9:15) (8)
- 21 Native of, say, Bangkok (4)
- 22 Deaf fort (anag.) (5-3)
- 23 and 1 Across 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of — to work it and take — of it' (Genesis 2:15) (4,4)

Down

- 1 Struggle between opposing forces (Habakkuk 1:3) (8)
- 2 James defined this as 'looking after orphans and widows in their distress and keeping oneself from being polluted by the world' (James 1:27) (8)
- 4 'The one I kiss is the man; — him' (Matthew 26:48) (6)
- 5 'Be joyful in hope, patient in — , faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (10)
- 6 St Columba's burial place (4)
- 7 Swirling current of water (4)
- 10 Loyalty (Isaiah 19:18) (10)
- 12 'God was pleased through the foolishness of what was — , to save those who believe' (1 Corinthians 1:21) (8)
- 13 Camp where the angel of the Lord slew 185,000 men one night (2 Kings 19:35) (8)
- 16 'There is still — — — Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet' (2 Samuel 9:3) (1,3,2)
- 18 David Livingstone was one (4)
- 19 Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (1,1,1,1)

The NIV bible was used to set the crossword. Answers on page 28



The Lord said to Moses,
 "Your brother Aaron shall tell Pharaoh
 to let the people of Israel go out of his land...
 The Egyptians shall know that I AM the Lord
 when I stretch out my hand against Egypt..."



As Pharaoh's heart was hardened against the
 Israelites, God sent ten plagues upon him...



1
Water turns to Blood
 Which water turned
 to blood?
Read - Exodus 7:19

2
A Swarm of Frogs
 In which
 places were the
 frogs found?
Read - Exodus 8:3-4



3
A Plague of Gnats
 When Aaron struck his
 staff on the ground
 what became Gnats?
Read - Exodus 8:16-17



4
Swarms of Flies
 In which land were the
 flies not be found?
Read - Exodus 8:22



5
Death of Animals
 Which animals that belonged
 to the Egyptians died?
Read - Exodus 9:2



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

GOD • PLAGUES • MOSES • AARON
 WATER • BLOOD • STAFF • RIVER • NILE • FISH
 FROGS • SWARM • GNATS • DUST • FLIES
 GROUND • DEATH • ANIMALS • SOOT
 BOILS • PEOPLE • HAIL • THUNDER • FIRE
 MAN • BEAST • LOCUSTS • WIND • LAND
 DARKNESS • FIRSTBORN • MIDNIGHT

6
A Break out of Boils
 What did Moses throw into
 the air before boils appeared
 on people and animals?
Read - Exodus 9:10



7
A Rain of Hail
 What also rained
 down with the hail?
 Where did it not hail?
Read - Exodus 9:24-26



8
A Swarm of Locusts
 Where did the wind
 come from that brought
 the locusts to the land?
Read - Exodus 10:13



9
Darkness over the Land
 How many days did
 it remain dark?
Read - Exodus 10:21-22

10
Death of the Firstborn
 At what time would the
 firstborn in the land die?
Read - Exodus 11:4-6



Bereavement Support Group



This group meets to share bereavement experiences and to support each other through the grief process, in whatever form might be needed, for however long might be necessary.

Every 2nd Wednesday of the month - 2.30 to 4pm

**The Hewitt Room, Emmanuel Church,
The Grove, West Wickham. BR4 9LL**

For more information, or if you're interested, but can't make the next meeting, please call Hazel on 020-8777-5034

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>



Answers to Crossword Puzzle

Across:

1 care; 3 paradise; 8 null; 9 profaned; 11 legalistic;
14 closed; 15 stores; 17 missionary;
20 covenant; 21 Thai; 22 trade-off; 23 Eden

Down:

1 conflict; 2 religion; 4 arrest; 5 affliction; 6 Iona;
7 Eddy; 10 allegiance; 12 preached; 13 Assyrian;
16 a son of; 18 Scot; 19 DVLA

GROUPS & ACTIVITIES AT ST FRANCIS

CHURCH

On the first Saturday of every month the church is open from 10.30 am to 11.30 am when 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 Rosemary Swatland 8777 7369

Matchbox Theatre. A well-established amateur dramatic society which includes members of St Francis' Church and performs in the church hall, two or 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