

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI WEST WICKHAM PARISH MAGAZINE



October/November 2022

50 pence

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

Church Website: www.stfranciswestwickham.co.uk

 www.facebook.com/StFofA

Vicar:	The Revd Hazel O'Sullivan 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 Tim Shingler	8402 8286
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

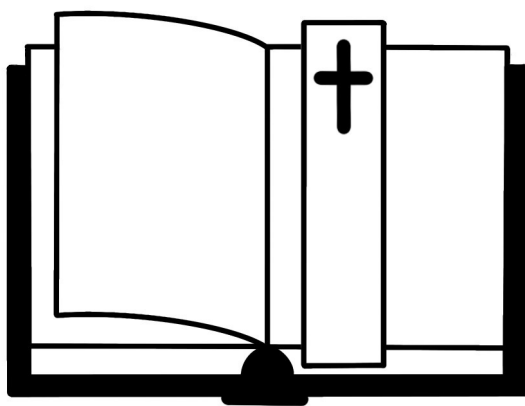
REGULAR SERVICES

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 – 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



LETTER FROM HAZEL

Dear friends,

Some of you will know that I am taking a sabbatical for six weeks from late October to early December. Sabbatical is defined as a period of leave (often for study or travel). It's derived from the word sabbath (a religious rest-day), and it is rest that I hope to gain from the time, as well as some wisdom for the next years ahead.

If you heard or read my sermon for Sunday 18th September, you'll recognise that word 'wisdom' as one of those things which I thought marked out who the late Queen Elizabeth was, and which she gained through the Bible. The Bible – the Word of God.

St Paul recognised this in his letter to Timothy:

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful ... so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

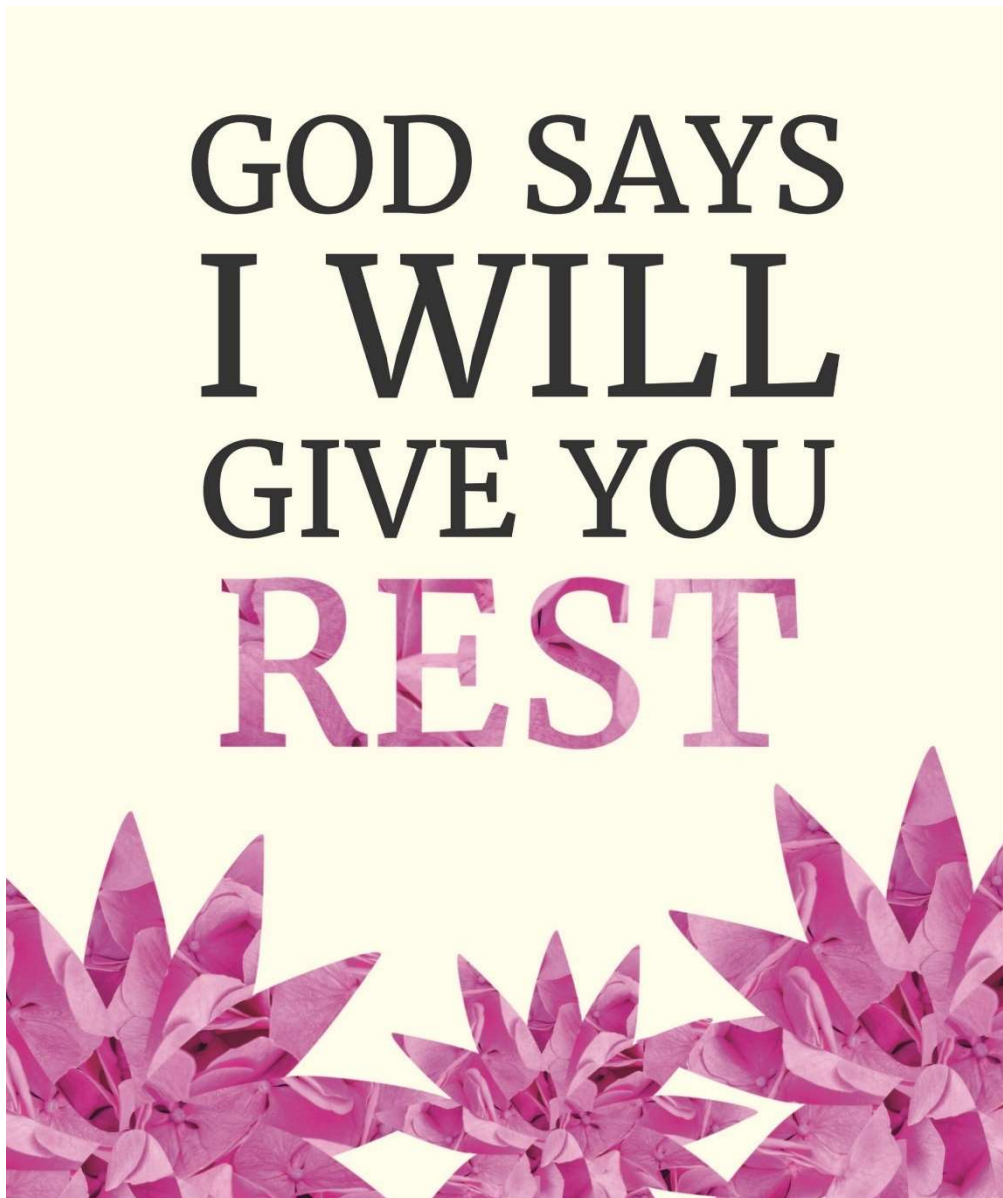
We're looking at the written word in our most recent events associated with our Festival of Art. Reading and writing, as well as being an important part of academia, can also contribute to our mental well-being as they are great ways to escape and rest, as well as to gain new insights, or what we might call wisdom.

While I'm away, please do pray that I'll be able to continue with this search for wisdom in reading and writing. That prayer will be a great source of strength to me, just as prayer (her own or others' prayers for her) was a source of strength for Queen Elizabeth.

While I'm away, any clergy and ministry queries should go to Richard Ford and other church-related matters to one of the church wardens (see the front of this magazine for contact details).

Every blessing,

Hazel



CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

Saturday 1st

7.00 p.m. Harvest Supper at St. Mary's

Sunday 2nd

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Mary's

Hazel O'Sullivan

10.00 a.m. Joint Service at St. Francis (livestream)

Hazel O'Sullivan/Richard Ford

3.00 p.m. Pet Service

Hazel O'Sullivan/Lesley East

Saturday 8th

Festival of Arts written word week-end at
St. Mary's

7.45 p.m. Travis Baker Concert at St. Francis

Sunday 9th

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

Richard Ford

9.15 a.m. Morning Praise at St. Mary's (livestream)

Hazel O'Sullivan

10.45 a.m. Worship all Ages at St. Francis

Hazel O'Sullivan/Brian Griffiths

Friday 14th

3.45 p.m. Messy Church at St. Mary's

Messy Church Team

Sunday 16th

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Mary's

18th Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion at St. Mary's

9.15 a.m. *Hazel O'Sullivan/Brian Griffiths (video)*
Holy Communion at St. Marys (livestream)

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

Hazel O'Sullivan/Brian Griffiths

Saturday 22nd Cally Challenger-Francis & Joe Moore wedding
at St. Francis

Sunday 23rd **Last Sunday after Trinity – Bible Sunday**

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Francis

Hazel O'Sullivan/Ken Bryan

9.15 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Mary's (livestream)

Hazel O'Sullivan/Ken Bryan

10.45 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Francis

Hazel O'Sullivan/Ken Bryan

6.00 p.m. CTWW Service at West Wickham & Shirley
Baptist Church

Sunday 30th **All Saints Day**

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Mary's

Richard Ford

9.15 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Marys (livestream)

Richard Ford

10.45 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Francis

Richard Ford

3.00 p.m. Memorial Service at St. Francis

Lesley East/Ken Bryan

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER

Sunday 6th

8.00 a.m.

10.00 a.m.

3rd Sunday before Advent

Holy Communion at St. Francis

Richard Ford/ Ken Bryan

Joint Service at St. Mary's (livestream)

Richard Ford/Ken Bryan

Friday 11th

3.45 p.m.

Messy Church at St. Mary's

Messy Church Team

Sunday 13th

8.00 a.m.

Remembrance Sunday

Holy Communion at St. Francis

Richard Ford

9.15 a.m.

Morning Praise at St Mary's (livestream)

Richard Ford/Ken Bryan

10.45 a.m.

Worship all Ages

Brian Griffiths

Sunday 20th

8.00 a.m.

Christ the King

Holy Communion at St. Mary's

Nick Lang

9.15 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Mary's (livestream)

Nick Lang

10.45 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis

Hilary Fife/Nick Lang

Saturday 26th

10.30 a.m.

Christmas Market at St. Mary's

Sunday 27th

8.00 a.m.

Advent Sunday

Holy Communion at St. Francis

Hilary Fife
9.15 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Mary's (livestream)
Richard Ford/Hilary Fife
10.45 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Francis
Richard Ford/Hilary Fife



READINGS FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

Date	Reading	Reader
2nd Oct	1 Chron.29: 6-19 Eph. 2: 19-end John 2: 13-22	Gill Kehoe Hazel O'Sullivan
9th Oct	Morning Worship Harvest	David Wada
16th Oct	Gen. 32: 22-31 2 Tim. 3: 14 – 4: 5 Luke 18: 1-8	Rosemary Swatland TBA
23rd Oct	Jer.14: 7-10, 19-end 2 Tim. 4: 6-8, 16-18 Luke 18: 9-14	Joan Burford Ken Bryan
30th Oct	Dan: 1-3, 15-18 Eph.1: 11-end Luke 6: 20-31	Barbara Plummer Richard Ford
6th Nov	Job 19: 23-27a 2 Thess. 2: 1-5, 13-end Luke 20: 27-38	Joint service at St Mary's Ken Bryan
13th Nov	Morning Worship Remembrance	John Godfrey
20th Nov	Col.1: 11-20 Luke 23: 33-43	James Pitt-Payne Hilary Fife
27th Nov	Isaiah 2: 1-5 Rom.13: 11-end Matt. 24: 36-44	Valerie Hamilton Hilary Fife

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

October

Harvest Bring & Share Supper

The Harvest Supper is on **Saturday 1st October** in the hall **at 7:30pm**. The cost of the ticket is £5 to include a selection of desserts, teas, and coffees. Please contact Beryl Bolton on 0208 289 8097 for a ticket.

Pet service

This is an opportunity to give thanks for all the support our pets give to us. It will be at St Francis' Church on **Sunday 2nd October at 3pm**. Do bring your pet for a prayer of blessing and tell your friends and family that they are welcome to join us.

Parish Lunch

The Parish Lunch is on **Wednesday, 5th October at 1.00 p.m.** in the hall. If you would like to join us, or to advise you are unable to attend, please contact Beryl Bolton on 0208 289 8097.

Organ Recital

On **Saturday 8th October** there will be a celebrity organ recital in St. Francis church given by Travis Baker, who is well-known to us, both as an early Director of Music here and for his concerts with the Bromley Boy Singers.

Travis was recently appointed organ teacher at Battle Abbey School. He is developing an 'organ school' with a reputation for excellence in organ performance. In partnership with Battle Abbey School, the neighbouring church of St Mary's, and Chichester Cathedral, Travis has established a scholarship programme to help support young organists; and is constantly working to encourage young minds to take an interest in learning the organ.

The concert will commence at 7.45 pm on 8th October and tickets priced at £10 are available from <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-francis-of-assisi> or at the door. Wine and soft drinks will be available during the interval.

Croydon/Zimbabwe link Quiz Night

We have a link with St Andrew's in Gweru and on **Saturday 8th October** we have an opportunity to meet with other Croydon area churches who have links with churches in Zimbabwe. As well as being a social occasion, this will also be a quiz night, and it would be good to have a West Wickham team at the event. This will be at Christ Church, Purley and Hazel can give a lift to anyone wanting to join in. Tickets are £15 per person, which includes a fish/pie and chip supper.

Harvest Services

This year our Harvest Services will be held on **Sunday 9th October** at 9.15am in St Mary's Church and at 10.45am in St Francis' Church. We will be collecting donations of non-perishable

foods and toiletries to be split between the Shrublands and Bromley Food Banks, both of which are struggling to meet the demand at the current time with the cost-of-living crisis now beginning to bite even harder with colder weather.

Please do come along to give thanks for all we have and bring some donations for those in need. It is also possible to donate items by leaving them in the boxes outside St Francis' Church or the Vicarage at any time, or you can make a monetary donation to the Bromley Foodbank at

<https://bromleyborough.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money> or to 'The Shrublands Trust' via a cheque posted to 7

Broom Road, Shirley, Croydon CR0 8NG or email:

info@shrublandstrust.org and someone will get back to you on ways to donate.

Churches Together Service

On **Sunday 23rd October at 6pm** in West Wickham & Shirley Baptist Church all the Churches in West Wickham will be gathering to worship and to discuss plans to help our community with the cost-of-living crisis this winter. Come and find out how we can all work together at this time.

In Loving Memory

Our annual service to remember those who have died will be on **Sunday 30th October at 3pm** in St Francis' Church. This is an

opportunity to come and remember with thankfulness, the lives of those you have loved and lost.

If you would like the names of loved ones read out at this service, please complete a sheet that will be in the churches a few weeks beforehand or give your names by email or phone to Richard. Also, do let others who might find this service helpful know about it and offer to come along with them to provide support.

November

Parish Lunch

The Parish Lunch is on **Wednesday 2nd November** at **1.00 p.m.** in the hall. If you would like to join us, or to advise you are unable to attend, please contact Beryl Bolton on 0208 289 8097.

Christmas Market

Saturday 26th November 10.30am – 2.30pm

Please try to come along and support our Christmas Market which hopefully will be back to normal this year.

Advance Notice

Big Christmas Sing

Saturday 3rd December 4.00 p.m. at

St. Francis Church in aid of Christian Aid

St Mary's Christmas Market

Saturday 26th November 2022

10:30am - 2:30pm

BOTTLES TOMBOLA

CHOCOLATES & SWEETS TOMBOLA

HOMEMADE CAKES & PRESERVES • TOYS,
BRIC-A-BRAC • BOOKS • FOOD HAMPERS

CHRISTMAS CAKE RAFFLE

LUXURY HAMPER RAFFLE

REFRESHMENTS • FACE PAINTING

MAIN DRAW RAFFLE



St Mary's Church Hall, The Avenue, West Wickham BR4 0DX

PRAYER

October

**4th
St. Francis
of Assisi**

Pray for all who worship and minister at St. Francis Church and all who live and work in the parish.

**18th
St. Luke**

Give thanks and pray for all who work in the medical profession – those who seek to heal and care for the sick, In body, mind or spirit.

**28th
St. Simon
and St. Jude**

Give thanks for all who have suffered and laboured to establish the Church's foundation of faith.

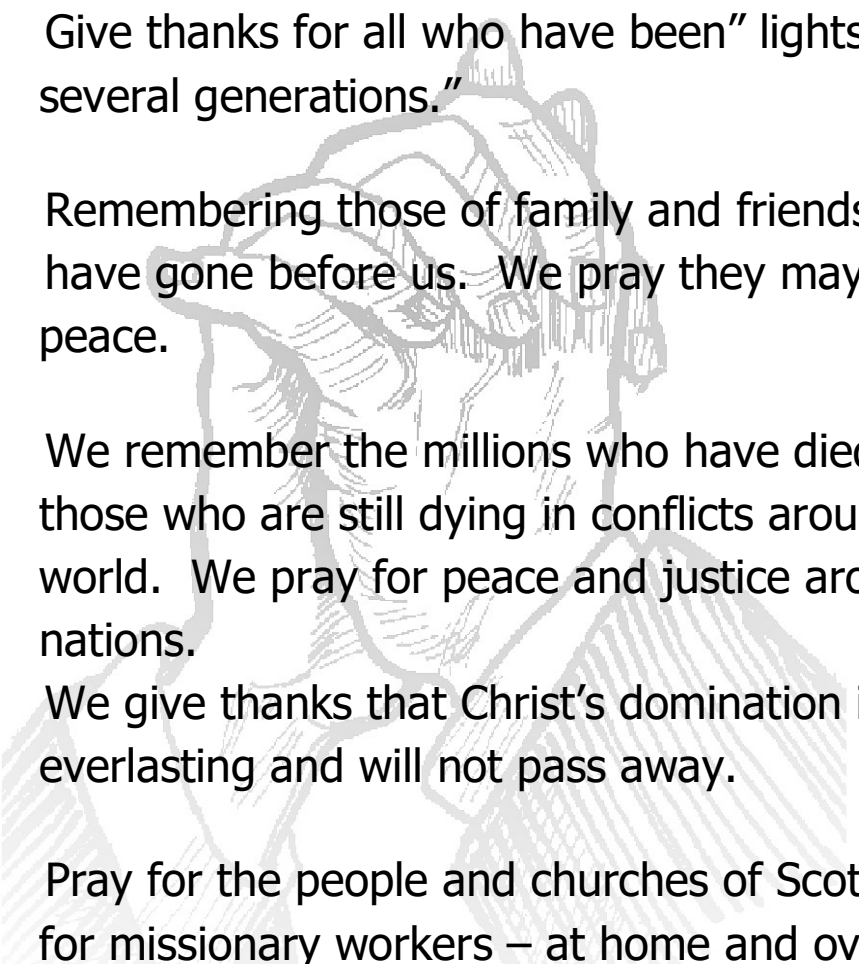
Remembering the Royal Family at this time...

We give thanks for the life and service of our late Queen, Elizabeth. We pray now for her family – that in their grief and sadness they may know God's love and comfort. We pray that the Royal Family may be brought closer together in their time of mourning, and past difficulties may be healed.

We pray for our new King, Charles as he begins to serve our country; that he may be given wisdom and encouragement in all he undertakes. We pray too that he may always possess the strong faith of his mother and know the help of the Holy Spirit to guide him at difficult times throughout the coming years. Amen.

FOCUS

November

- 
- 1st**
All Saints Give thanks for all who have been "lights in their several generations."
- 2nd**
All Souls Remembering those of family and friends who have gone before us. We pray they may rest in peace.
- 11th**
Remembrance We remember the millions who have died and those who are still dying in conflicts around the world. We pray for peace and justice around the nations.
- 24th**
Christ the King We give thanks that Christ's domination is everlasting and will not pass away.
- 30th**
St. Andrew Pray for the people and churches of Scotland and for missionary workers – at home and overseas.

Bereavement

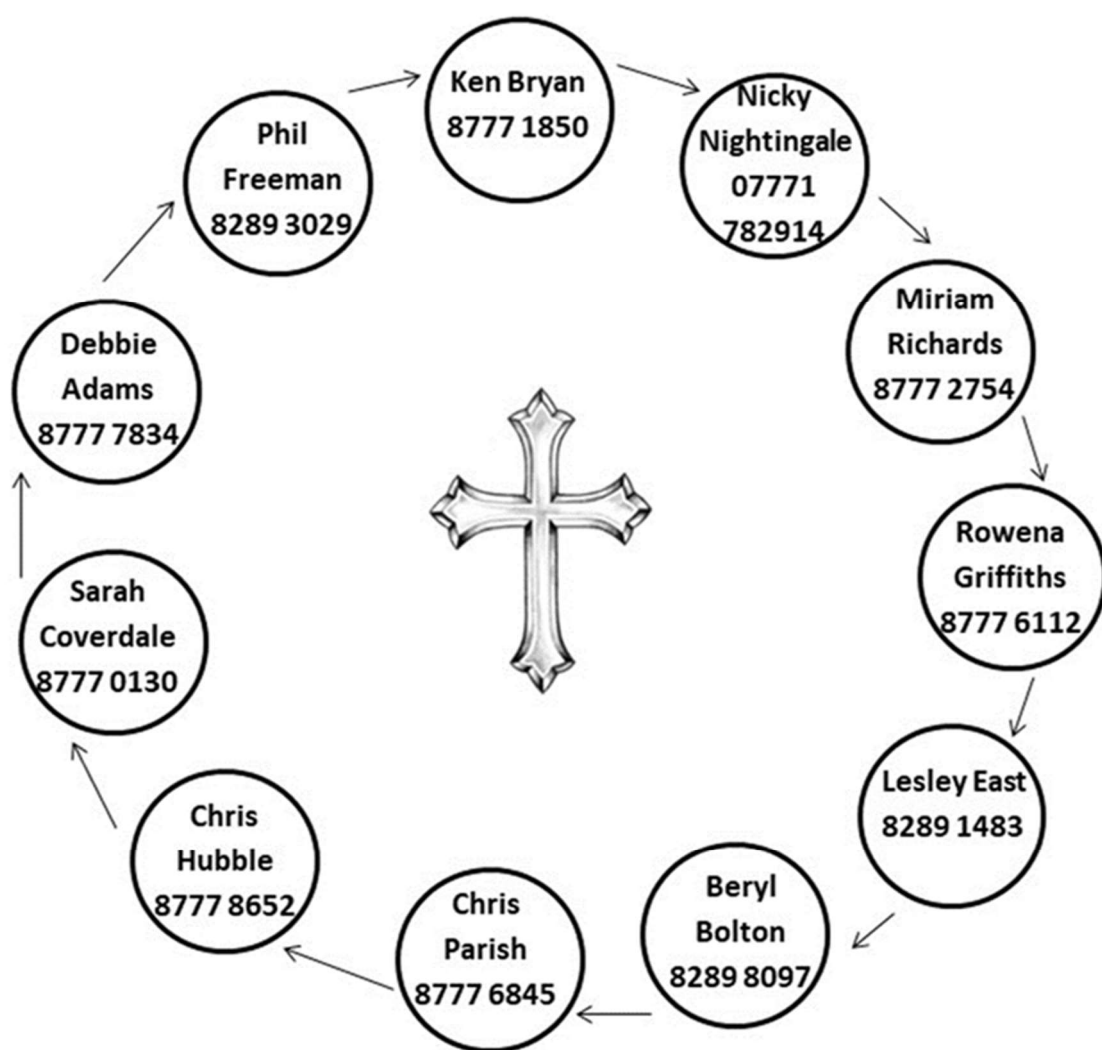
We remember, Lord, the slenderness of the thread which separates life from death, and the suddenness with which it can be broken. Help us also to remember that on both sides of that division we are surrounded by your love. Persuade our hearts that when those dear to us die neither we nor they are parted from you.

In you may we find our peace and in you be united with them in the glorious body of Christ, who has burst the bonds of death and is alive for evermore, our Saviour and theirs for ever and ever. Amen.

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.



PARISH MATTERS

Festival of Art

It was great meeting with two authors and reflecting on the books that shaped the 20th century when we had a day focussing on the written word in September. There are two follow up events planned;

- On Saturday 8th October there will be a presentation of some poems and stories from children in a local school and other local writers at St Mary's, followed by tea and cake with a professional story-teller.
The early part of the afternoon from 2.30pm is free, with a charge of £5 if you would like to hear the story-teller. Advance tickets are available on-line from <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-francis-of-assisi>.
- We are hosting a meeting with another local author, Clare Chambers, on Tuesday 15th November. This event will be at St Mary's Church Hall at 8pm. The event will be free, but please do bring some money for donations for Mind and Bethlem Gallery and/or to buy one or more of Clare's books which she will bring along.

We are also thinking about a film night during the next couple of months, so please do look out for details in the pew sheet.

Cost of Living Crisis - A Christian Response

Birkenhead food bank says some users 'not eaten for days': I avoid meals so my daughter can eat: Student nurse down to her last pound: One in three London children living in poverty, charity warns.

These are just a small sample of the headlines on the BBC News website covering the cost-of-living crisis. Sixteen million people in Britain have been forced to cut back on food and other essentials. Some 24 million people also reduced energy use in their homes between March and June 2022 as the price of gas and electricity reached record highs. The cost of gas and electricity is predicted to rise even further in the autumn.

Local Foodbanks are struggling to keep up with demand. As an example, donations to Bromley Foodbank have dropped almost 75% since 2020. Their Chief Operating Officer, Amanda Stone, said "Donations have dropped significantly because everyone is trying to save their pennies because of the cost-of-living crisis." The foodbank has seen many people visiting recently who have never used a foodbank before, including nurses and teachers who work full-time and often are unaware of how the process works to claim benefits (often referred to as "The Working Poor"). The manager added: "May and June are usually our quietest months because it's warmer so people are spending less on their energy bills. The cost-of-living crisis means that's not been the case this year. My real fear is if it's like this now, what's it going to be like

in winter when it's really cold and people need to heat their homes?"

How can we, as Christians, with a real concern for the welfare of our communities, respond to this growing crisis? You may remember that at our joint service in St Francis on 1st May, we had a speaker from Christians Against Poverty (CAP). One of the CAP initiatives that is very relevant to the current cost-of-living crisis is their 'Money Course'. This is a free 3 session course that is designed to be run by local churches and helps people to budget, save and prevent debt. The system uses three accounts, so participants can make sure money is going towards the things planned for in an individual's budget. It is not just for people who are in debt, but is for anyone, whatever their income, who would like to get better control of their money.

CAP also offer free debt advice and practical assistance for those already struggling with the burden of debt. Here's a quote from someone who has really benefitted from this CAP service:

"I was owing well over £20,000. I hid it from anyone else, from everyone else, I didn't even want to open my doors. So, I shut my door, I shut my mind to everything else. It was that part of me that I just thought, "No, nobody needs to know. To be debt-free is very, very peaceful. It feels like heaven. It feels very, very liberating knowing that I have a second chance. I'm excited even talking about it."

We at St Francis' and St Mary's would like to run the Money Course and Bo Povlsen from St Francis' is already trained as a coach. However, we need more volunteers to be trained by CAP to assist Bo in delivering the sessions. The training is just one session, and this is frequently offered on 'Zoom' where you can take part from the comfort of your home. You don't have to be a financial wizard to understand the training material – it's all very much common sense. If you would like to help in this way, visit the CAP website at <https://capuk.org/> for more information or email Bo at bo@manusmedical.com

Brian Griffiths

ACROSS: 1, Lawyer. 4, Balsam. 8, Caleb. 9, Jehoram. 10, Sparrow. 11, Exile. 12, Excellent. 17, Act in. 19, Endemic. 21, Slavery. 22, Galal. 23, Silent. 24, Tarsus.

DOWN: 1, Locust. 2, Welfare. 3, Ember. 5, Athlete. 6, Sarai. 7, Member. 9, Jewellery. 13, Condemn. 14, Temples. 15, Causes. 16, Scales. 18, Trail. 20, Dogma.

Rehema Trust: a charity supported by St Mary's

Rehema Trust was set up six years ago in memory of Jan Mason's sister, Barbara Leighton, to support the work of Barbara Academy, a primary school based in a very poor community in rural Western Kenya.

After a difficult period dominated by Covid-19, life has returned to something much more normal, but global issues continue to have a significant impact on the Kenyan economy:

- The war in Ukraine has resulted in increased costs of farming fertiliser and basic food items such as maize.
- Climate change results in unpredictable rainfall, putting at risk Kenya's capacity to provide home-grown food until the next harvest.

The wider cost of living agenda directly affects the running costs of Barbara Academy, where food is a vital contribution to the health and wellbeing of the pupils, and a bus is operated to transport those pupils who have been attracted from further afield by the growing reputation of Barbara Academy.

Thanks to your generous and faithful support, we have been able to expand both the facilities and the range of activities at Barbara Academy, including:-

- Recruiting 120 pupils to complete the development of the Primary School;
- Constructing and fitting out another classroom, accommodating the most senior pupils;

- Extending electricity to all classrooms and giving IT access to all pupils through additional computers and Wi-Fi equipment.

We have also been able to construct some new pupil latrines and to maintain the access road, which regularly suffers from the effects of increasingly extreme weather conditions.

We want to continue educating local children (whose families are unable to pay even the modest fees in place), but we face the challenge of matching monthly operating costs with the same level of regular giving – made that little bit more difficult by the exchange rate moving against us. Our income shortfall is something like £150 per month, which has to come from our modest reserves – if you are able to contribute towards bridging this gap by considering even a small increase in your current support, it would make such a difference.

Looking ahead we hope to improve the ratio of textbooks to pupils (currently one textbook is typically shared between four pupils). Our Grade 6 pupils will complete their primary education at Barbara Academy in December and then face the challenge of moving to secondary schools, where even state day schools require fees that are a challenge for some families to afford.

If you would like to know how to help meet these challenges, please do contact Malcolm Leighton for more information at 01372 815082 (Home) or 07766 051576 (Mobile) m.leighton@rehematrust.com More than six years on since Barbara died, Malcolm never tires of thanking donors, including St Mary's, for their support, which continues to encourage the staff at Barbara Academy and all the trustees, who are helping children achieve their full potential. We already know that we are making a real difference to many young lives.

The parable of the Shrewd Manager



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE JESUS TOLD A STORY ABOUT A RICH MAN...

...AND HIS SERVANT, WHO MANAGED THE RICH MAN'S PROPERTY.

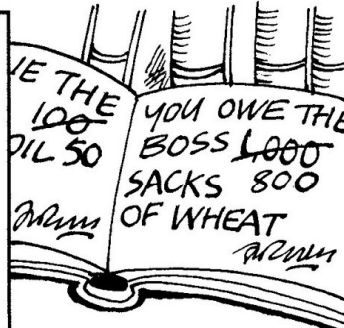


THE RICH MAN HAD HEARD THAT THE MANAGER HAS BEEN WASTING MONEY.

SO HE CALLED THE MANGER TO ACCOUNT FOR HIMSELF!



OH NO! I AM GOING TO GET THE SACK!!

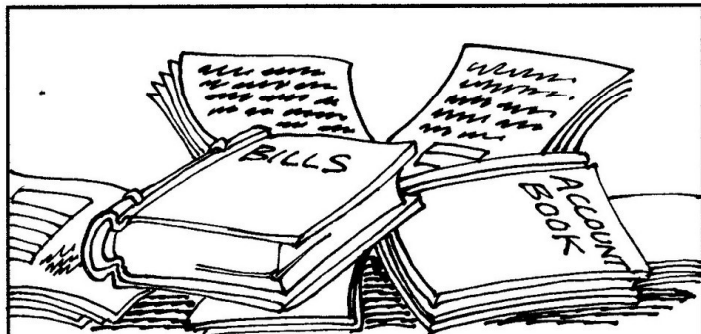
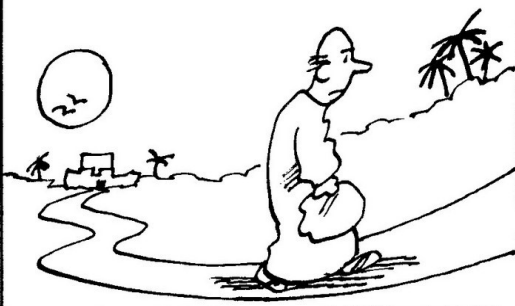


THE MANAGER AGREED TO LET THE RICH MAN'S TRADERS FIDDLE THEIR BOOKS!

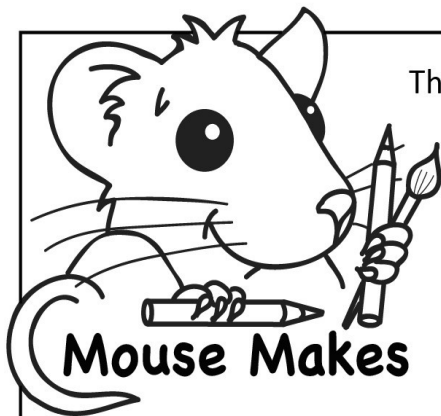


SO THEY ALTERED THEIR DEBTS - AND STAYED FRIENDS WITH THE MANAGER.

JESUS EXPLAINED THAT THE MANAGER HAD BEEN WISE IN MANAGING HIS FUTURE... EVEN THOUGH HE WAS BEING DISHONEST.



JESUS WAS TRYING TO ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE TO THINK ABOUT THEIR OWN FUTURES TOO. BUT IT'S A HARD PARABLE TO UNDERSTAND!



The New Testament has **four gospels**, **twenty one epistles** and the book of *Revelation*.

The **epistles** are a collection of **letters** that were written by the apostles to the early Christians, they contain teaching, instruction, advice and encouragement.

The Apostle **Paul** is thought to have written **thirteen** of the *epistles*...



Look in your Bible to see who wrote the other eight and who they were written to.

How many people does Paul send greetings to at the end of his letter to the Romans?

.....

The word **epistle** comes from the Greek word **epistolé** which means *letter or message*

Which are the longest epistles?

.....

How many chapters do they have?

.....

DID YOU KNOW...?

At the time of the New Testament letters were written on scrolls

Which is the shortest epistle?

.....

How many chapters does it have?

.....

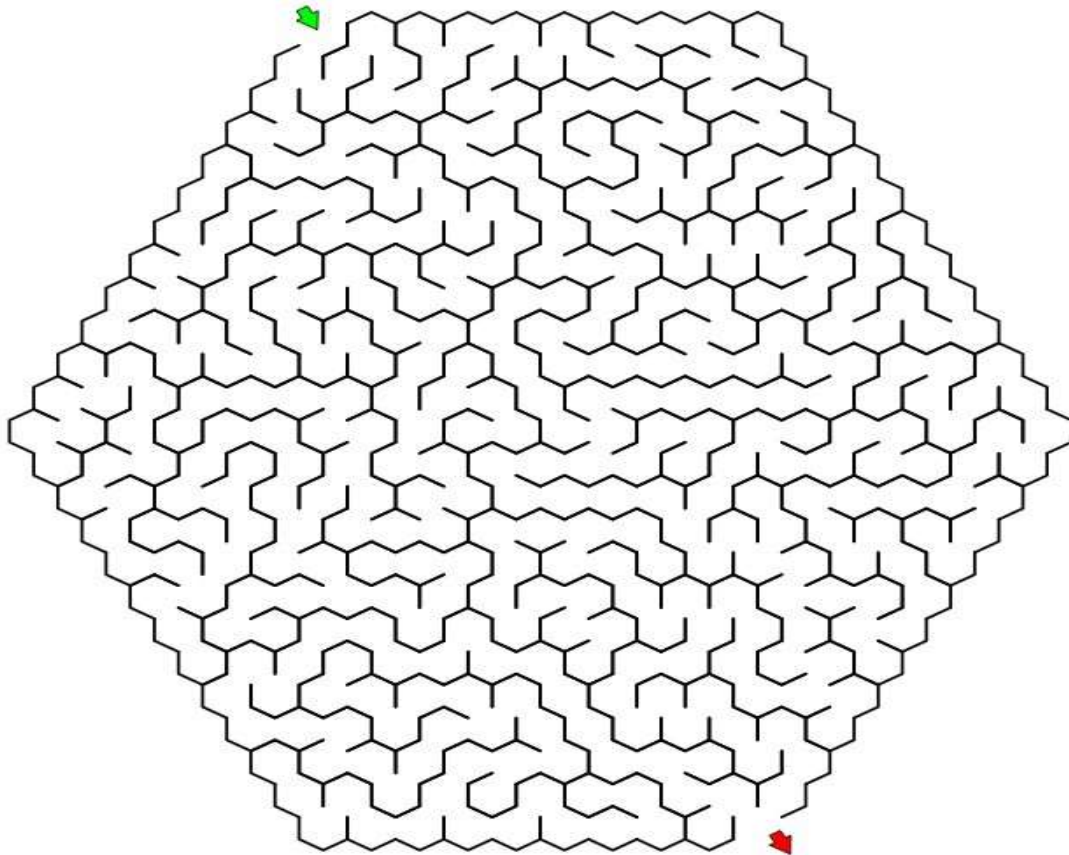
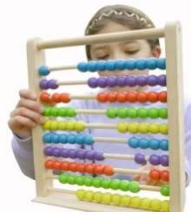
G A L A T I A N S J A M E S E J S
W A E D I S P E T E R A P T L O C
R O T E T B A W R I T E H I R H R
I P T M U O U S P H I L E M O N O
T H E S S A L O N I A N S O M D L
C O R I N T H I A N S N I T A J L
S P H I L I P P I A N S A H N U S
M C O L O S S I A N S A N Y S D P
H E B R E W S H W E P I S T L E O

EPISTLE • LETTER • ROMANS • CORINTHIANS • GALATIANS • EPHESIANS
PHILIPPIANS • COLOSSIANS • THESSALONIANS • TIMOTHY • TITUS • PHILEMON
HEBREWS • JAMES • PETER • JOHN • JUDE • PAUL • SCROLL • WRITE

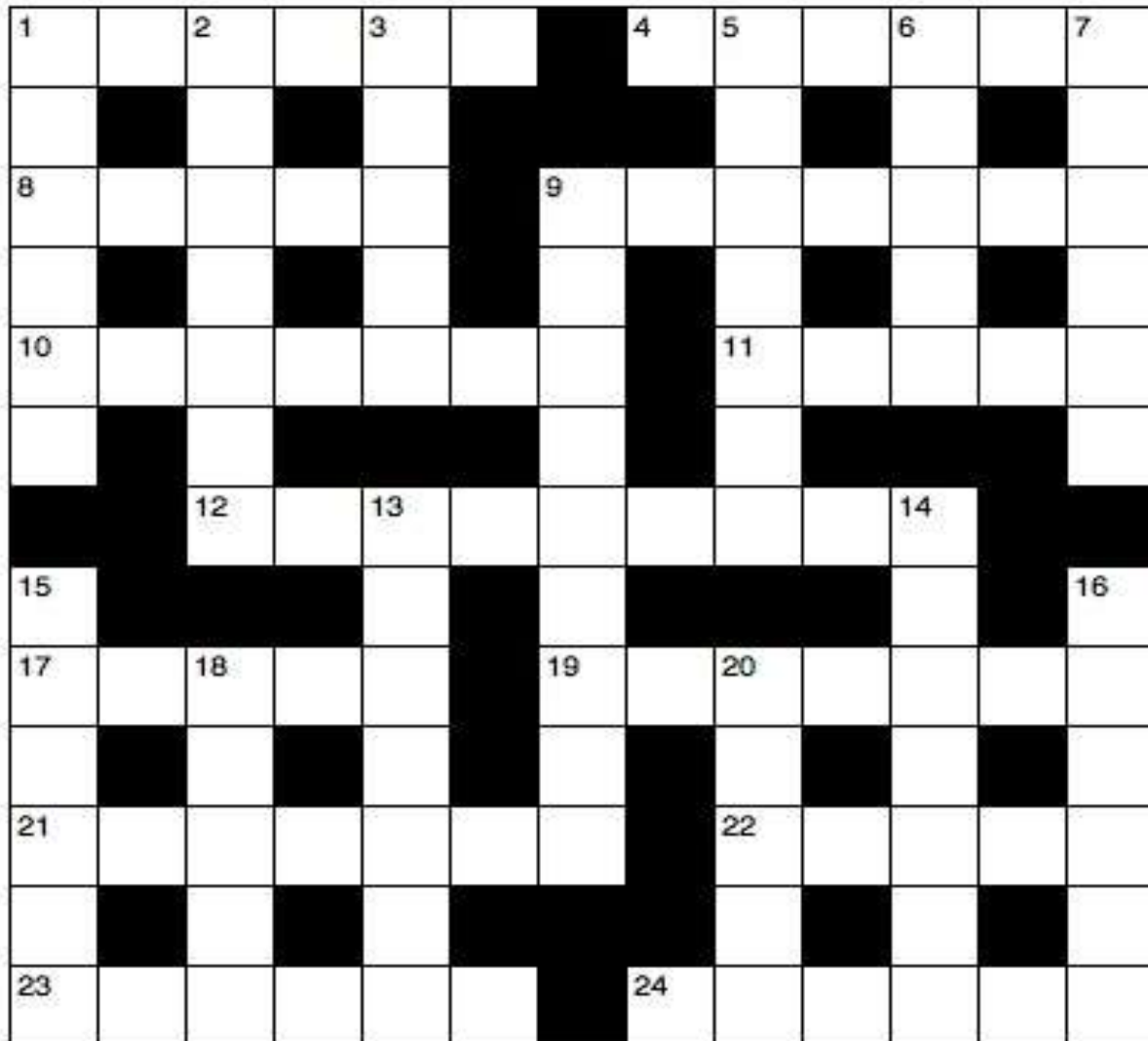
ST FRANCIS' PRE-SCHOOL HELD IN THE CHURCH HALL

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>



CROSS WORD



Across

- 1 Tertullus, who presented the high priest's case against Paul in his trial before Felix, was one (Acts 24:1) (6)
- 4 As balm (anag.) (6)
- 8 Having explored Canaan, he and Joshua urged the Israelites to take possession of it (Numbers 13:30) (5)
- 9 On becoming king of Judah, he had all six of his brothers killed (2 Chronicles 21:4) (7)
- 10 'Even the — has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself' (Psalm 84:3) (7)

- 11 Banishment (Jeremiah29:1) (5)
- 12 'And now I will show you the most — way'
(1Corinthians12:31) (9)
- 17 'Titus did not exploit you, did he? Did we not — the same
spirit and follow the same course?' (2 Corinthians 12:18) (3,2)
- 19 Mice den(anag.) (7)
- 21 How Egypt is often described in the Old Testament: 'the land
of — ' (Exodus 13:3) (7)
- 22 One of the first Levites to resettle in Jerusalem after the exile
in Babylon (1 Chronicles 9:15) (5)
- 23 'As a sheep before her shearers is —, so he did not open his
mouth' (Isaiah 53:7) (6)
- 24 Paul's birthplace (Acts22:3) (6)

Down

- 1 Ravenous insect inflicted on Egypt in vast numbers as the
eighth plague (Exodus 10:14) (6)
- 2 Well-being (Philippians 2:20) (7)
- 3 Small piece of live coal or wood in a dying fire
(Psalm 102:3) (5)
- 5 Sportsman or woman (2 Timothy 2:5) (7)
- 6 The original name of Abraham's wife (Genesis 17:15) (5)
- 7 'So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each —
belongs to all the others' (Romans 12:5) (6)
- 9 According to Peter, a wife's beauty should not come from
wearing this (1 Peter 3:3) (9)
- 13 'For God did not send his Son into the world to — the world'
(John 3:17) (7)
- 14 'The Lord of heaven and earth...does not live in — built by
hands' (Acts 17:24) (7)
- 15 'If your hand — you to sin, cut it off'(Mark9:43)(6)
- 16 Something like these fell from Saul's eyes as soon as Ananias
placed his hands on him (Acts 9:18) (6)
- 18 Track (Job41:30) (5)
- 20 Religious doctrine (5)

The NIV bible was used to set the crossword.

Answers on page 20

SMILE -LINES

Miscellaneous observations on life:

- A lot of people want to serve God, but only in an advisory capacity.
- It is easy to do any amount of work - provided it isn't the work you are supposed to be doing.

Some real-life extracts from church announcements that didn't come out quite right...

- Announcement in the church bulletin for a National PRAYER & FASTING Conference: The cost for attending the Prayer & Fasting conference includes meals.
- From a pew-sheet: Ladies, don't forget the jumble sale. Now's your chance to get rid of all those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.

Hearing is not believing

A wise schoolteacher sent this note to all parents on the first day of school: "If you promise not to believe everything your child says happens at school, I'll promise not to believe everything he or she says happens at home."

Hymns for People Over 50

- Give Me the Old Timers' Religion
- Precious Lord, Take My Hand, And Help Me Up
- Go Tell It on the Mountain, But Speak Up
- Nobody Knows the Trouble I Have Seeing
- Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah, I've Forgotten Where I've Parked The Car

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 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, 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