

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI WEST WICKHAM PARISH MAGAZINE



Dec 22 – Jan 23

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
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 RICHARD

Dear friends,

The primary school I went to was typical of the fifties, in that tradition was important. So each year we put on a Christmas concert, and each year the songs and carols were allocated to the same year group. So it was that I first heard the “Cowboy Carol” sung by what we now call Year 6. I don’t why it was – perhaps because, just like every other boy at the time, I was into Cowboys and Indians in a big way – but that was the carol I wanted to sing and was both envious of the year group that got to sing it and desperate for it to be my year group’s turn to do the honours.

Many, many years later I was delighted to become reacquainted with the carol when it was sung at The Big Christmas Sing (this isn’t a plug for The BCS, but it is on Saturday December 3rd, in case you weren’t aware!). What struck me then, but hadn’t when I was younger, is that the lyrics don’t actually mention Christmas, Christ or indeed any of the events associated with the Nativity. But they do encapsulate what lies at the centre of our Christmas celebrations, right from the opening line: “There’ll be a new world beginning from tonight.”

For that is what Christmas is all about – new beginnings. Of course, the birth of any child is a new beginning, but the birth of Jesus was a birth that changed the course of history in so many ways, but critically it meant that history was going somewhere and that each and every individual life was meaningful. History’s destination is no longer defined by our sun becoming just another burnt out star. Instead God has promised us at the end of time a new heaven and a new earth. And each of us no longer needs to

stare into the abyss of oblivion. Instead we can look forward to an eternity spent in the presence of the God who first created this finite universe.

One new beginning follows another as January dawns, so may I commend to you another line from the Cowboy Carol, "When I climb into the saddle, going to take Him to my heart." I appreciate that not many of us are horse riders, but all of us, I think, can subscribe to the second part of the sentence as one of our New Year resolutions.

May I be the first to wish you a blessed Christmas and a splendid 2023.

Richard



CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

Saturday 3rd

4.00 p.m. Big Christmas Sing at St. Francis

Sunday 4th

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Patronal Festival

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Francis

Richard Ford/Brian Griffiths (Audio)

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

Richard Ford/Brian Griffiths

Friday 9th

3.45 p.m. Messy Church at St. Marys

Messy Church Team

Saturday 10th

6.30 p.m. Scouts Carols at St. Francis

Hazel O'Sullivan/Ken Bryan

Sunday 11th

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Francis

Hazel O'Sullivan

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

Hazel O'Sullivan

10.45 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Francis

Hazel O'Sullivan

Sunday 18th

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Marys

Richard Ford

10.45 a.m. Carols at St. Francis (livestream)

Hazel O' Sullivan/Richard Ford

4.00 p.m. Carols at St. Marys (livestream)

Hazel O'Sullivan/Richard Ford

Saturday 24th

CHRISTMAS EVE

4.00 p.m. Christingle Service at St. Marys

Ken Bryan/Katrina Walsh

6.00 p.m. Lighting the Lamps at St. Francis

Hazel O'Sullivan/Lesley East

11.15 p.m. Holy Communion at St. Marys (livestream)

Hazel O'Sullivan

11.15 p.m. Holy Communion at St. Francis

Richard Ford

Sunday 25th

CHRISTMAS DAY

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Marys

Hazel O'Sullivan

10.00 a.m. Joint Service at St. Francis

Hazel O'Sullivan/Richard Ford



CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2023

Sunday 1ST

CHRISTMAS 2 –

Naming and Circumcision of Christ

8.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis

Richard Ford

10.00 a.m.

Joint service at St. Marys (livestream)

Richard Ford

Sunday 8th

Epiphany

8.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis

Hazel O’Sullivan

9.15 a.m.

Morning Praise at St. Marys (livestream)

Hazel O’Sullivan/Debbie Adams

10.45 a.m.

Worship all Ages

Hazel O’Sullivan/Brian Griffiths

Friday 13th

3.45 p.m.

Messy Church at St. Marys

Messy Church Team

Sunday 15th

EPIPHANY 2

8.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Marys

Hazel O’Sullivan/Ken Bryan

9.15 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Marys (livestream)

Hazel O’Sullivan/Ken Bryan

10.45 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis

Hazel O’Sullivan/Ken Bryan

Sunday 22nd

EPIPHANY 3

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Francis
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/Colin Potter

Sunday 29th

Candlemas or Presentation of Christ

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

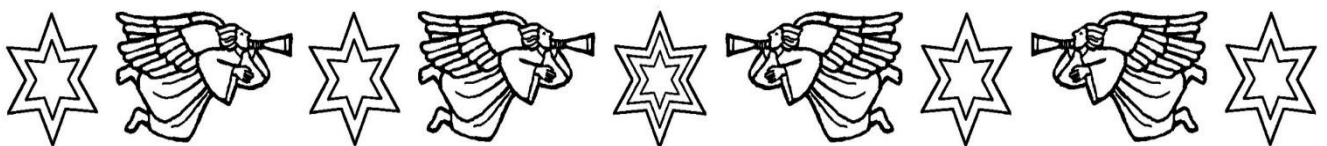
9.15 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Marys (livestream)
Hazel O'Sullivan/Brian Griffiths (video)

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



READINGS FOR DECEMBER 2022

Date	Reading	Reader
4 th Dec	Isaiah 11: 1-10 Romans 15: 4-13 Matthew 3: 1-12	John Womack Brian Griffiths
11 th Dec	Isaiah 35: 1-10 James 5: 7-10 Matthew 11: 2-11	Gill Kehoe Hazel O'Sullivan
18 th Dec	Special readings for Carol Services	
24 th Dec	Christmas Eve Hebrews 1: 1-4 John 1: 1-14	Hazel/Richard
25 th Dec	Christmas Day Isaiah 62: 6-end Luke 2: 8-20	James Pitt-Payne Hazel O'Sullivan



READINGS FOR JANUARY 23

Date	Reading	Reader
1 st Jan	Numbers 6: 22-end Galatians: 4-7 Luke 2: 15-21	Jean Pogose Richard Ford
8 th Jan	Isaiah 60: 1-6 Ephesians 3: 1-12 Matthew 2: 1-12	Alison Davies Hazel O'Sullivan
15 th Jan	Isaiah 49: 1-7 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9 John 1: 29-42	Barbara Plummer Ken Bryan
22 nd Jan	Isaiah 9: 1-4 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18 Matthew 4: 12-2	David Wada Richard Ford
29 th Jan	Malachi 3: 1-5 Hebrews 2: 14-end Luke 2: 22-40	John Godfrey Brian Griffiths



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December

Big Christmas Sing

Big Christmas Sing on **Saturday 3rd December at 4.00 p.m.** at St. Francis. All Proceeds to Christian Aid. Do try to come along and support this event.

Parish Lunch

The Christmas Parish Lunch is on **Wednesday 14th December 12.30 p.m.** in the hall. The cost is £10 to include full Christmas Lunch with wine and sherry. There will be a sing along of Christmas songs and carols after the lunch. Places must be booked by beginning of December with Beryl Bolton 0208 289 8097, and please advise if you are unable to come.

January 2023

Parish Lunch

The Parish Lunch is on **Wednesday 4th January at 1.00 p.m.** in the hall. If you would like to join us, or to let us know you are unable to attend, please contact Beryl Bolton on 0208 289 8097.

Advance Notice - Valentine's Lunch

Saturday 11th February at 12 noon in the hall. Keep the date free. Further updates in the pew sheet closer to the day.

The Food Bank

Thank you all for your generous and regular donations to the Food Bank. The need is always there but even more so during the winter months and at Christmas time. Please continue to leave donations in the box outside the Vicarage. Any “bags for life” you may have spare would be very useful for making up Christmas parcels. Thank you.



Magazine Subscriptions

This is a reminder that subscriptions for the magazine are due with the next edition of the magazine in February. The cost remains at £3 for the year. Postal subscriptions for 2023 are £7.10. If you prefer to pay with each two-monthly edition, the cost is 50p per copy. Electronic copies are sent to everyone on the church's email group. We are always pleased to receive any articles for the magazine.

RELIGIOUS AND SOCIAL EVENTS DATES

2023 DIARY

Jan	18 th – 25 th Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Feb	11 th Valentine's lunch at St Mary's –12.30pm 22 nd Ash Wednesday
Mar	3 rd – World Day of Prayer To be confirmed – Concert at St Francis' – 7.30pm 19th – All-age: Mothering Sunday services
Apr	1st – High Street Foodbank collection (10-3pm) 6 th – Maundy Thursday 7 th – Good Friday 9th – Easter Sunday 22 nd – St George's supper at St Mary's
May	1st – Bank Holiday – West Wickham Village Day 6th – Coronation Day 14 th – 20 th – Christian Aid Week 18 th – Ascension Day 19 th /20 th – Jazz Evening at St Mary's

	18 th – 28 th – Thy Kingdom Come 28 th - CTWW Pentecost service and AGM – 6pm
Jun	17th – St Mary's Garden Party
Jul	1 st & 2 nd – West Wickham Choir performances 6-8 th – Matchbox performances
Aug	
Sep	To be confirmed – Croydon Male Voice Choir Concert at St Francis'
Oct	1 st – Pet Service at St Francis' 7 th – Harvest Supper at St Mary's 8th – All-age: Harvest services 29 th – CTWW Bible Sunday service and meeting – 6pm
Nov	5th – Memorial Service at St Mary's 11th – High Street Foodbank collection (10-3pm) 12th – All-age: Remembrance Sunday 25th - St Mary's Christmas Market 30 th – 2 nd Dec – Matchbox performances

Dec	2nd – The Big Christmas Sing – 4pm at St Francis' 16th – Scouts' Carol service at St Mary's 17th - Carol Services 24th – Christingle(s), Lighting the Lamps, Midnight Communion

The information on the events with question marks will be updated over the next few months. Please update your diary with the above and your support at all events will be gratefully appreciated.

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God our Shield (Psalm 18: 30-33)

This God – how perfect are his deeds!

How dependable are his words! He is like a shield for all who seek his protection. The Lord alone is God! God alone is our defence.

He is the God who makes me strong. He makes my pathway safe.

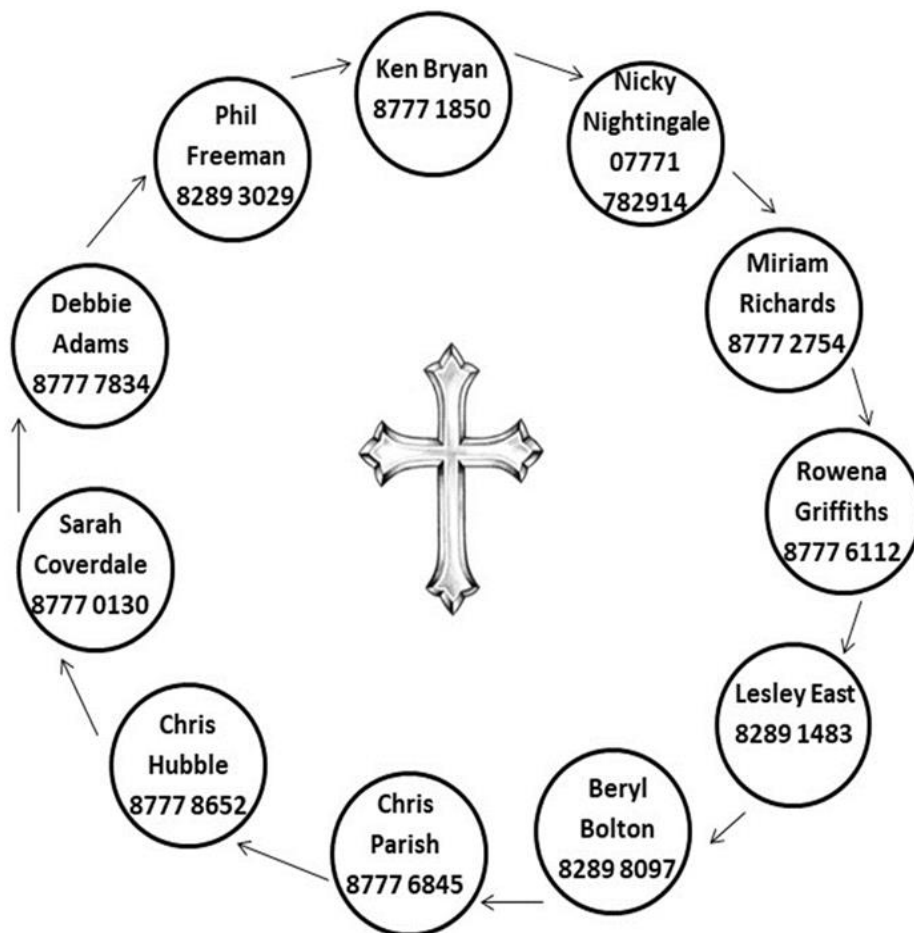
He makes me surefooted as a deer; he keeps me safe on the mountains.

Alleluia!

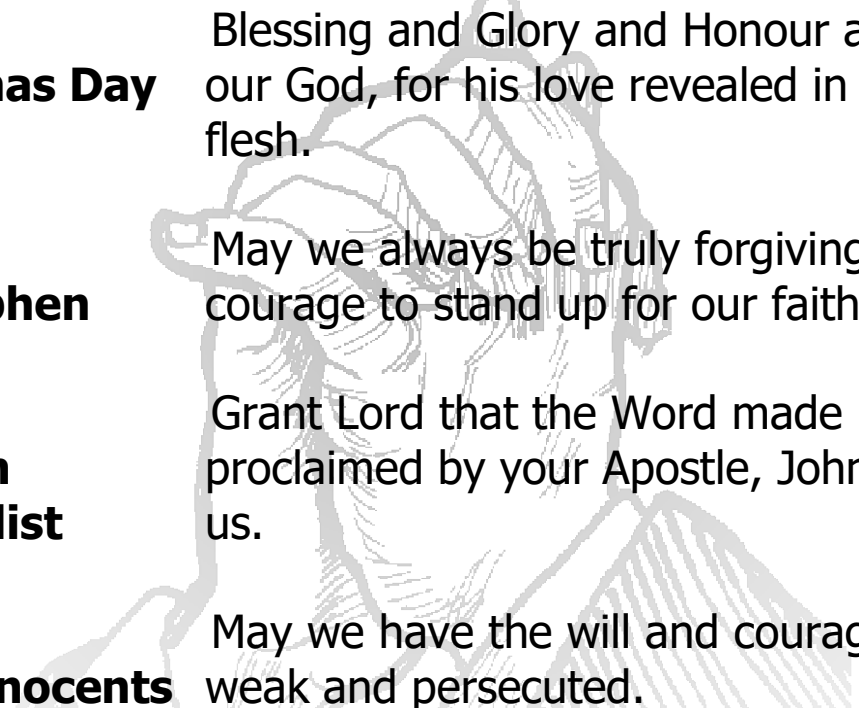
St Francis and St Mary's Prayer Chain

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.



December

- 
- 25th
Christmas Day** Blessing and Glory and Honour and Power be to our God, for his love revealed in the Word made flesh.
- 26th
St. Stephen** May we always be truly forgiving and have the courage to stand up for our faith.
- 27th
St. John
Evangelist** Grant Lord that the Word made Flesh, proclaimed by your Apostle, John may live within us.
- 28th
Holy Innocents** May we have the will and courage to defend the weak and persecuted.

At Christmas:-

Lord, born at Bethlehem, we pray for our families, for all with whom we will share this Christmas time: we rejoice in their love and your love for us all. We remember absent friends and loved ones, all who will be alone this Christmas time. We pray for all who are in care or hospital, we remember those who have no home and sleep rough. We pray especially for friends and loved ones who are ill.

We thank you Lord, for our many blessings and for the message of peace that Christmas brings to our distracted world. Give peace in our land, peace in our homes and peace in our hearts, as we remember your birth at Bethlehem, Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

FOCUS

January 2023

1st Pray for parents that they may be able to bring
Naming of Jesus up their children to know God.

6th May our gift to God be love of Him and love of
Epiphany our neighbours.

18th Let us not occupy ourselves with the things that
Christian Unity divide us but focus more on the things we hold
in common and the love that enfolds us all.

25th Pray that God's light may shine in our lives.
Conversion of St. Paul.

Victims of War

We pray O Lord for all those who have died and suffered in wars; thinking especially of Ukraine – soldiers who perished in the horror of battle, families buried beneath rubble or slaughtered in their villages. We ask your healing for those with terrible injuries and for the many mentally traumatised. We pray for your comfort for the bereaved. Have mercy Lord, may peace come quickly. Bless and strengthen those striving to bring this about.

Church Costs

As we head towards Christmas and our celebrations of the arrival of Jesus, the PCC of your Church, St. Francis of Assisi, also has to look forward at the costs of looking after the place where we come to meet him and keeping it open for our congregation.

At the PCC meeting on 18th October, it was decided that we must replace the two doors on the Hall side of the Church, install CCTV cameras all around the Church to protect the Church and our congregation, and to have spikes put on our beautiful main window to protect it and us from pigeons. The total cost is likely to exceed £10,000, which we will have to find.

For those of you that make a monthly contribution towards these costs, can I ask you to review the amount that you pay to help us keep up with the rising costs that we are all experiencing, and the additional cost of the improvements mentioned above. Your review could also help the Diocese in our contribution to them to meet the costs of our Pastoral Team, Hazel and Richard.

Feel free to chat with me if you wish.

Many thanks

David Wada, Hon. Church Treasurer

Warm Space Initiative

Churches Together in West Wickham launched the 'Warm Spaces' initiative in November and St Francis' is open on a Wednesday between 9am to 5pm, offering hospitality and light refreshments to anyone, whether or not church members, looking for somewhere to keep warm and a friendly face or two. If you know anyone who would benefit from this, do tell them about it.

St Francis will be open over the winter months and if you would like to help for a couple of hours on a Wednesday on a rota basis please contact:

Kate Dyer – katedyer41@hotmail.com or 07808 468591

Nicky Nightingale – nicholanightingale@hotmail.co.uk or 07771 782914

Thank you to all from St Francis, St Mary's and St John's who have volunteered to help with this initiative.

A Reflection on Black History Month

Black History Month has been celebrated in the UK every October since 1987, in museums, schools and workplaces. The event was officially recognised by the U.S.A government in 1976 and is celebrated there in February. It is an opportunity to look back through our shared history, and to honour and celebrate the contributions black people have made in the past and to reflect on their achievements.

Remembering particular periods of our history can be painful and challenging. We can think of the inhumane brutality of slavery when black people were taken from their homeland against their will and transported to foreign shores. We can imagine the challenges, struggles and hardships they encountered including rejection, racism, and the feeling of their voices not being heard. They are commended for their courage and desire to move forward shaping a new vision for the future.

Much of the Old Testament charts the movement of the people of Israel en masse from Egypt. This was a momentous event by all those embarking on this unique and perilous journey. In the Book of Joshua, Joshua is commissioned by God to continue what Moses has started because the journey is not yet completed, and they have not reached their destination. The weight of responsibility on the shoulders of Joshua must have been immense as he reflected on what Moses had achieved.

Joshua certainly had big shoes to fill. Would they arrive safely? Could he carry out the huge undertaking that had been given to him? He is comforted and reassured by God that he will be with him, and he does not need to rely on his own strength, abilities and

knowledge. He can rely on God to lead the Israelites and protect them. Indeed, God repeated three times that Joshua must be strong and courageous, and also be obedient to the law that Moses taught him. It is through relying on that strength from God that Joshua was able to respond to God's call and take up the enormous challenge presented to him and see it through to the end.

Black History Month recognises the bravery, strength and courage of Black people throughout history. It is a history that connects strongly with the movement of the Israelites because of the migration of people to another land. In this case it was from the Caribbean and Africa to Britain, and how it shaped and changed the landscape of British history.

It is important to remember that Black history in Britain can be traced back many centuries, and there is evidence that African people were present in Roman Britain as far back as the 4th Century AD. During the Tudor period in the 1500s there were hundreds of black migrants living in Britain, for example John Blanke, an established African trumpeter who was employed by Henry VIII. John Blanke is featured on a sixty-foot roll with other trumpeters holding the Royal Standard, depicting the prestigious Westminster Tournament of 1511, celebrating the birth of Henry VIII's son.

It is of course not possible to cover all the prominent black people in British history. However, as examples I want to consider one person and one event that influenced Black British history - the life and achievements of Mary Seacole, and the arrival of the Empire Windrush passenger ship.

Mary Seacole was born, as Mary Grant, in Jamaica in 1805, the daughter of a Scottish lieutenant in the British Army and his Caribbean wife. In 1821, she began to travel the world and gained advanced medical knowledge and much sought-after nursing skills. In the 1850s she applied to the war office to become an army nurse to the wounded soldiers in the Crimea (now part of Ukraine), but she was refused. However, Seacole's determination to nurse the wounded soldiers regardless of the barriers and challenges she faced, led her to set up the British Hotel for the wounded, a respite for sick soldiers, and she also nursed the wounded on the battlefield. Mary Seacole was affectionally known as 'Mother Seacole'. In recognition of her enormous courage and contribution a statue was erected in her honour (the first statue of a named black woman in Britain) at St. Thomas' Hospital in London, on the 30th June 2016. After a remarkably rich and colourful life, she died in London in 1881.

The Empire Windrush was a passenger ship which carried Caribbean migrants to Britain during the period 1945-1960, on the invitation of the British Government, for employment opportunities in the transport system, Postal service and the National Health Service. They were British citizens with the right to work, enter and settle in Britain. Some who came were servicemen returning from the Second World War, recruited from British colonies. In 1944, West Indian women served in the women's auxiliary air force and Auxiliary Territorial service of Britain. From 1944 to 1945, nearly 5,500 West Indian RAF servicemen came to Britain. Between 1947 and 1970 over half a million people left the Caribbean to live in Britain. The huge contribution made by migrants to Britain helped re-build many industries and services,

and they brought with them a rich culture which changed the historical landscape of Britain.

Reflecting on the achievements of black people throughout history is a way of recognising the bravery and courage they needed in order to overcome the many barriers to success, so that their stories become our stories.

Let us continue to build on their legacy, and to respond by thanking God for it, because Black history is everyone's history.

Debbie Adams

Answers to Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS: 1, Hide. 3, Disgrace. 9, Sonship. 10, Oaths. 11, Tutti. 12, Ignore. 14, Foreknowledge. 17, Ashram. 19, Men or. 22, Aroma. 23, Nineveh. 24, Amethyst. 25, Trod.

DOWN: 1, His staff. 2, Do not. 4, Imprisonments. 5, Groan. 6, Altered. 7, Easy. 8, Shrink. 13, Searched. 15, Restore. 16, Lament. 18, Reach. 20, Never. 21, Jada.

When Things Fall Apart

I am writing this article the day after Liz Truss resigned as Prime Minister. She will go down in history as the shortest-serving prime minister – only in office for just 46 days. The prime minister is humiliated, and the country is in turmoil. A leadership election will be completed quickly, and the UK will have its fifth Prime Minister in just six years. The last month has been a turbulent one. Days after Truss became PM, Queen Elizabeth II died after 70 years on the throne. Chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng then started a financial crisis with his mini-budget and resigned closely followed by the Home Secretary. Things politically and nationally have fallen apart.

Sometimes, things fall apart in our own lives too. It can be anything from bereavement, a diagnosis of serious illness, suddenly being made redundant, an eviction, a breakdown of a relationship, being a victim of a crime or a myriad of other issues. As Christians, what is our response when things fall apart? Does the Bible have any answers? How do we pray at these times and how do we cope when our prayers don't seem to be answered – when God seems 'on mute'? How do we support each other when we go through hard times?

I suppose that the classic book in the Bible about someone whose world falls apart is the Book of Job. In essence, the book is about a good, upstanding, God-fearing man who suffers serious illness, the death of his children and servants, and his wife leaves him. He's forced to live in the ashpit. Things couldn't get much worse. Yet, Job doesn't blame God for his predicament. When his wife tells him to 'curse God and die', Job replies 'shall we receive good from God and shall we not receive evil?' Even when Job's friends try to explain away his misfortune saying that it's payback for his sin, Job refuses to believe God would punish him so harshly. Job is patient in his suffering – he

perseveres. It's where we get the expression 'the patience of Job'. He gets no definitive answers from God – indeed, at the end of the book God gives Job a lecture. Job is weak compared to God's omnipotent power. Eventually, Job is healed and his wealth and fortune is restored. Job sees that his vision of God is really very limited. So, no real answers there.

There are many instances in the Bible, especially in the Old Testament, where God strikes at those who sin. So, is God vengeful? When our world falls apart, is that payback for our sin – our mistakes? I don't know about you, but I simply can't believe in a God who makes bad things happen to good people (or bad people either). That's just not compatible with the God who loves us without limit even sending his Son, Jesus, to suffer for us on the cross. When hard times happen in the Bible, we often see the response as a lament. You may remember we had a sermon on lament when we returned to church after the pandemic. Lament is our cry to God – sometimes a rage at Him. Here's part of a lament written by Jane Smith who some of you from St Francis may know. It is based on Psalm 34. These words and feelings, I am sure, will echo our own experiences when our worlds fall apart:

You promise to heal the broken-hearted and save the crushed in spirit,

So why have You departed and left me feeling wretched?

You promise to protect us from all harm so none of our bones are broken,

So where were Your loving arms when I needed them?

You promise to listen when we cry to You in agony,

So why have You not replied to my questioning?

*You promise to rescue and deliver us from our fears,
So why aren't You coming quicker to wipe away my tears?
You promise that those who trust in You will lack no good thing,
So why are You oblivious to my suffering?*

Jane's words sum up our frustration and searching for meaning and answers – especially when our prayers don't seem to be answered and 'God is on Mute'. There are no easy answers. However, there is hope. We know that we don't go through hard times alone. Jesus has suffered on the cross and he knows what suffering is – he suffers with us.

Someone said to me, when I was facing surgery last year, "just slightly shuffle over on the hospital bed so that Jesus has space to lie alongside you." Those words were a great comfort to me. Often, Jesus comes to us through other people – the kindness of medical staff and carers for example and especially other Christians being alongside us - the 'paraclesis' that we discussed a few years back. For Jesus to 'lie alongside us' in our hard times, we need to make ourselves vulnerable – both in our prayers and with other people. This is not easy. All we can do is to give Jesus space to lie or stand alongside us, because that's how he supports, loves and cares for us when our worlds fall apart.

Brian Griffiths

I heard the Bells on Christmas Day

*I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.*

*I thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th'unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.*

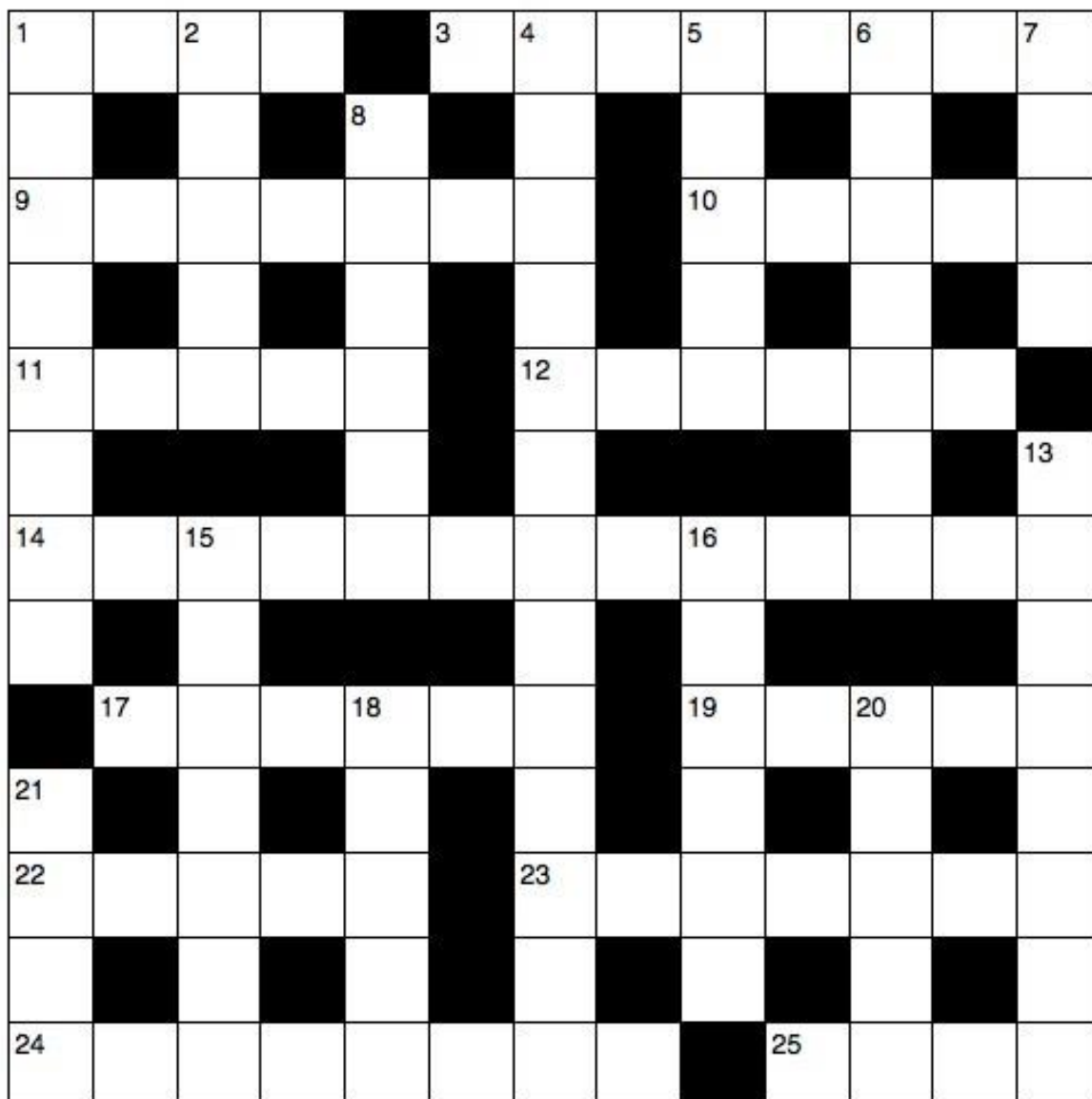
*And in despair I bowed my head:
'There is no peace on earth,' I said
'For hate is strong, and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.'*

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men.'*

*Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, good will to men.*

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

CROSS WORD



Across

- 1 'How long will you — your face from me?' (Psalm 13:1) (4)
- 3 'Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the — he bore'(Hebrews 13:13) (8)
- 9 Posh sin (anag.) (Romans 8:15) (7)
- 10 Solemn pledges (Matthew 5:33) (5)
- 11 Italian term for full orchestra (5)
- 12 'For he who avenges blood remembers; he does not — the cry

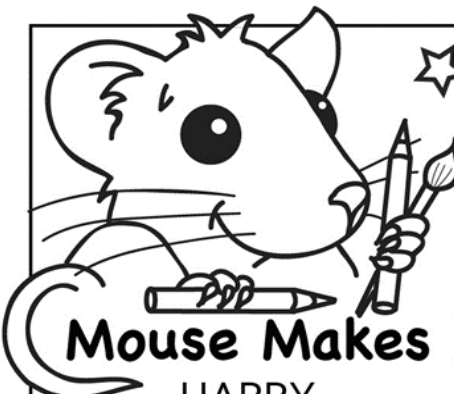
- of the afflicted' (Psalm 9:12) (6)
- 14 Prescience (1 Peter 1:2) (13)
- 17 Where a Hindu holy man lives (6)
- 19 'If he found any... who belonged to the Way, whether — — women, he might take them as prisoners' (Acts 9:3) (3,2)
- 22 Fragrance (2 Corinthians 2:15) (5)
- 23 Vine hen (anag.) (Jonah 1:2) (7)
- 24 Precious stone decorating the twelfth foundation of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (8)
- 25 'Will you keep to the old path that evil men have — ?' (Job 22:15) (4)

Down

- 1 'Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with — — ' (Numbers 20:11) (3,5)
- 2 'You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, " — — murder"' (Matthew 5:21) (2,3)
- 4 One of Paul's many hardships endured as a servant of God (2 Corinthians 6:5) (13)
- 5 'We ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, — inwardly' (Romans 8:23) (5)
- 6 Changed (Daniel 6:8) (7)
- 7 'My yoke is — and my burden is light' (Matthew 11:30) (4)
- 8 Recoil (Revelation 12:11) (6)
- 13 'O Lord, you have — me and you know me' (Psalm 139:1) (8)
- 15 ' — to me the joy of your salvation' (Psalm 51:12) (7)
- 16 Express sorrow (Isaiah 16:7) (6)
- 18 'Then he said to Thomas, " — out your hand and put it into my side"' (John 20:27) (5)
- 20 'God has said, " — will I leave you; — will I forsake you"' (Hebrews 13:5) (5)
- 21 Son of Onam and brother of Shammai (1 Chronicles 2:28) (4)

The NIV bible was used to set the crossword.

Answers on page 23



Mouse Makes

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Read the Christmas story in **Luke 2:1-21**.

Answer the questions, colour the picture and colour one star each day until Christmas.

Where was Mary's baby born?
Why were Joseph and Mary there?

What did Mary dress her baby in?

Where did Mary lay her baby and why?

Why were the shepherds afraid?

What good news did the angel tell?

Who appeared praising God, what did they say?

GLORY

JOY

M R C

S A Y G P

O N V O J

G B A B Y N G O O D A B L F

V O S H E P H E R D S A V I O U R

D A Y T M A R Y N E N F R R O

S C H R I S T E P G L T D

A L A I D R W H E O H

E P R A I S E L C

H E I V A L L S K


E E A N I G H T O L D


S M C N D E C R E E B


E A E I S I G N

E T D E

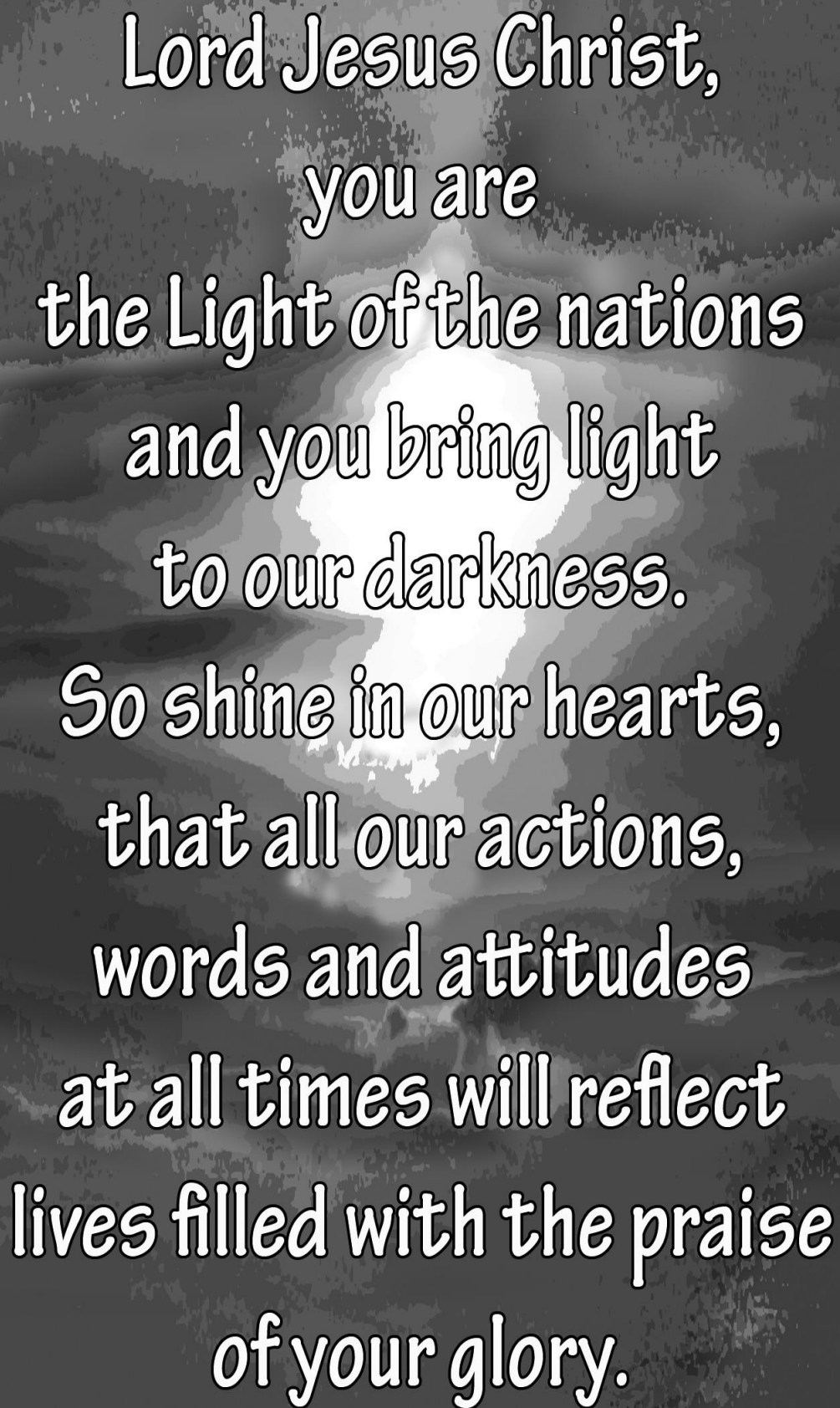
What did the shepherds do after they had seen the baby?







ALL • DECREE • JOSEPH • DAVID • BETHLEHEM • MARY • BIRTH • SON • LAID • MANGER
INN • SHEPHERDS • FLOCK • NIGHT • LORD • GLORY • GOOD NEWS • JOY • DAY
SAVIOUR • CHRIST • SIGN • BABY • GOD • PEACE • ANGELS • GO • SEE • TOLD • PRAISE



Lord Jesus Christ,
you are
the Light of the nations
and you bring light
to our darkness.
So shine in our hearts,
that all our actions,
words and attitudes
at all times will reflect
lives filled with the praise
of your glory.

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>



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