

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI WEST WICKHAM PARISH MAGAZINE



February-March 2025

50 pence

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

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 www.facebook.com/StFofA

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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
- 10.00 am First Sunday – Joint Family Communion**
with St Mary's, held alternately at each church
See calendar for details
- 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)

WEDNESDAY

- 9.30 am Morning Prayer**
10.30 – 11.30am Church open for quiet and prayer

Letter from Richard

Dear Friends,

February sees the feast day of someone who is probably the most popular of all saints, certainly as far as the secular world is concerned: St Valentine. For such a popular saint, not a great deal is really known about him, although he is the subject of a number of legends. I say “he,” but there are at least two saints answering to the name: St Valentine of Rome and St Valentine of Terni.

Whilst Catholic and Protestant churches celebrate Valentine on February 14th, in the Eastern Orthodox Church his day is July 6th. And to complicate matters further, the Eastern Orthodox Church also celebrates the feast of the second Valentine, the Bishop of Interamna, now known as Terni, a town in Italy, on July 30th, although in his hometown and elsewhere it is February 14th.

The most common version of events that led to Valentine becoming the patron saint of lovers runs as follows. Valentine was a priest or bishop living in Rome. The emperor at the time, Claudius II, had outlawed weddings as young men were using marriage as an excuse for not joining the army and existing soldiers were getting married in order to get out, with disastrous results for recruitment numbers.

However, Valentine began to marry couples secretly, but when this was found out, Claudius had him thrown in jail. Valentine used his time in jail to reach out to people with the love that he found in Jesus. His jailer, Asterious, was so impressed with Valentine’s teaching and wisdom, that as well as having all his household baptised, he also asked him to teach his daughter, Julia, who was blind. At the same time, Emperor Claudius, having heard of his wisdom, offered Valentine his freedom if he would give up his faith and worship the Roman deities. Valentine not only refused but also tried to convert Claudius to Christianity.

This so enraged Claudius that he ordered Valentine's execution. On the night before he died tradition has it that Valentine sent Julia a note encouraging her to remain faithful to Jesus and signed it "From your Valentine." Some versions of the story also claim that God miraculously restored Julia's sight, so that she could read this note for herself.

It is generally agreed that Valentine was beaten, stoned, and beheaded on February 14, 269 AD.

So, what does this story have to say to us? Even if we strip away much of what might be regarded as legend, we are left with the story of a man whose faith was so important to him that he was prepared to die rather than give it up. We in this country are blessed that we can practise our Christianity without risking our lives or livelihoods, but that's not the case in countries like Iran, Iraq, North Korea, China, Pakistan, India and elsewhere. Let's keep these fellow Christians in our prayers.

Secondly, Valentine's story reinforces the importance of marriage in the eyes of the Church. Moreover, Asterious' desire to have his daughter educated stands out in contrast to those regimes today, such as Afghanistan, where girls are being denied an education beyond the primary stage. Again, a subject for prayer.

And finally, let's not forget Valentine's Day, with the humble Valentine card as one way, but not the only one, of showing those close to us just how much they mean to us.

God Bless

Richard

Calendar for February

Sunday 2nd CANDLEMAS Presentation of Christ in the Temple

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

Richard Ford

10.00 a.m. Joint Service at St. Mary's with livestream

Richard Ford

Sunday 9th 4th SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

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

Richard Ford/Ken Bryan

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

Ken Bryan/Debbie Adams

10.45 a.m. Morning Worship at St. Francis'

Ken Bryan/Debbie Adams

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

Richard Ford/Debbie Adams

Friday 14th Messy Church at 3:45pm

Sunday 16th 3rd SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

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

Carol Coslett

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

Carol Coslett

10.45 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Francis'

Carol Coslett

Sunday 23rd 2nd SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

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

Carol Coslett/Debbie Adams

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

Carol Coslett/Ken Bryan/Debbie Adams

10.45 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Francis'

Carol Coslett/Ken Bryan/Debbie Adams

Calendar for March

Sunday 2nd

SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

8.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Mary's
Carol Coslett/Richard Ford

10.00 a.m.

Joint Service at St. Francis'
Carol Coslett/Richard Ford

Wednesday 5th

ASH WEDNESDAY

10.45 a.m.

Holy Communion with ashing at St. Francis'
Carol Coslett/Richard Ford

Sunday 9th

LENT 1

8.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis'
Richard Ford/Debbie Adams

9.15 a.m.

Morning Praise at St. Mary's with livestream
Ken Bryan/Debbie Adams

10.45 a.m.

Morning Worship at St. Francis'
Ken Bryan/Debbie Adams

Friday 14th

Messy Church at 3:45pm

Sunday 16th

LENT 2

8.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Mary's
Richard Ford/Julia Cernoch

9.15 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Mary's with livestream
Richard Ford/Julia Cernoch/Debbie Adams

10.45 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis'
Richard Ford/Julia Cernoch/Debbie Adams

Sunday 23rd

LENT 3

8.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis'
Carol Coslett/Ken Bryan

9.15 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Mary's with livestream
Carol Coslett/Ken Bryan

10.45 a.m.

Holy Communion at St., Francis'
Carol Coslett/Ken Bryan

Sunday 30th

LENT 4 Mothering Sunday

8.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Marys

Richard Ford

9.15 a.m.

Morning Praise at St. Mary's with livestream

Richard Ford/Ken Bryan

10.45 a.m.

Morning Worship at St. Francis

Richard Ford/Ken Bryan

Bible Readings

Date	Reading	Reader
February		
2nd	Malachi 3: 1-5 Hebrews 2: 14-18 Luke 2: 22-40	Malcolm Hubbard Richard Ford
9th	Morning Worship	Sam Hand
16th	Jeremiah 17: 5-10 1 Corinthians 15: 12-20 Luke 6: 7-26	Valerie Hamilton Carol Coslett
23rd	Genesis 2: 4b-9, 15 -25 Revelation 4: 1-11 Luke 8: 22-25	Lesley East Debbie Adams
March		
2nd	Exodus 34: 29-35 2 Corinthians 3: 12 – 4: 2 Luke 9: 28-36, 37-43a	David Wada Carol Coslett
5th	Ash Wednesday At St. Francis Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21	Isaiah 58: 1-12 Carol Coslett
9th	Morning Worship	James Pitt-Payne
16th	Genesis 13: 1-12, 17-18 Philippians 3: 17-4:	Gill Kehoe Julia Cernoch
23rd	Isaiah 55: 1-9 1 Corinthians 10: 1-13 Luke 13: 1-9	Sam Hand Ken Bryan
30th	Special readings	Valerie Hamilton

Dates for your Diary

February

Parish Lunch

The Parish Lunch is on **Wednesday 5th February** at 1.00 p.m. in the hall. Please contact Beryl Bolton 0208 289 8097 or berylbolton@hotmail.com if you are unable to attend.

Valentine's Lunch

The Valentine's Lunch will take place in the hall at 12.30 p.m. on **Saturday 15th February**. Please book your place through Beryl Bolton on 0208 289 8097 or berylbolton@hotmail.com. You can also sign the list in the vestibule at St. Mary's. When booking, you need to specify if you require cheese, ham or pate and whether you would like mushroom or tomato soup. Numbers will be limited to 40 so book early to avoid disappointment. The cost is £12 per person and there will be a raffle. All profits for church funds. Once again, this event will be organised by the men at St. Mary's.

Community Lunch at St Francis

The next Community Lunch for Senior Citizens and those living on their own will be on Sunday 23rd February at 12.30pm at St Francis of Assisi Church Hall, Ravenswood Avenue, West Wickham. Tickets £10.00 – 2 courses plus glass of wine and a raffle to raise funds for Zimbabwe. For tickets (in advance only) please contact Barbara Goodchild on 0208 777 8782.

Observations on Love...

When you routinely build little kindnesses into your marriage, they build the bond of trust and love between you. And your marriage partner is not a mind reader! So, whenever you think something nice about them, tell them.
Anon.

March

Parish Lunch

The Parish Lunch will be on **Wednesday 5th March** at 1.00 p.m. in the hall. If you are unable to attend, please let Beryl know on 0208 289 8097 or berylbolton@hotmail.com. Thank you. Please note one week later than usual.

Lent 2025

This year we shall once again be running three Lent Groups:

- Mondays 8pm at 35 Oakfield Gardens from March 10th
- Wednesdays 8pm at St Francis' choir vestry from March 12th
- Wednesdays 10.30am at St Francis' choir vestry from March 17th

We shall be rerunning the course that we started in 2020, but were unable to complete because of Lockdown, looking at the events of Holy Week through the lens of the BBC serialisation "The Passion," first seen in Holy Week 2008, starring amongst others James Nesbitt, Joseph Mawle and Penelope Wilton. The course will run for five weeks. There are signing sheets available in both churches if you are interested in joining one of the groups.

Advance Notices

Our annual **St. George's Supper** will take place on **Saturday 26th April** at 7.00 p.m. in the hall. Keep the date free. Watch the pew sheets for more details nearer the time.

Looking ahead – Are you growing bedding plants, tomatoes or chillies from seed? If so, can you plant an extra tray for the plant stall at the Garden Party/BBQ on 14th June. Any other spare plants that can be donated would be greatly appreciated by Chris Fitzgerald. Thank you.

Observations on Love...

Our love for God is the root; our love for others is the fruit, expressed through patience, kindness, courtesy, humility, unselfishness, good temper, gentleness and sincerity. - UCB Word for Today

Parish Matters

Christmas Market at St Mary's

The Christmas Market was once again a happy and enjoyable day with a continuous stream of people coming through the doors at St Mary's. Many thanks to everyone who helped to make the day a success, raising £4,900.70 for the Church.

St Mary's Christmas Market Prize Winners 2024

Grand Draw	Ticket No.	Name
£200	1239	Annabel Stone
6 Bottles of wine	0281	Annette Cordery
Lindt Lindor Advent Calendar	0635	James Hubbard
Bottle Bearfoot Shiraz	0760	John Edgley
Ferrero Rocher Chocs	1319	Merri Womack
Box of Celebration Chocs	0637	James Hubbard
Two Bottles Wine	0556	Stephen Howe
Christmas Cake	198(yellow)	Katrina Walsh
Christmas Hamper	268(white)	Bill Howell

St Francis of Assisi Christmas Tree Festival 2024

We want to say a big thank you to everyone who supported our second Christmas Tree Festival between 14th – 21st December 2024, to all the local



businesses, organisations, community and church groups who contributed a tree and those who volunteered their time to welcome people and help with refreshments and to everyone who came along to see all the Christmas trees while the festival was on.

We had over 35 trees this year which was amazing and have been able to send £448.64 in donations to Welcare Bromley, a charity that provides practical and emotional support and advice to families in need. We also had

support from West Wickham Rotary Club and their Business Partners who also raised £300 for Welcare Bromley on West Wickham High Street when the Christmas Tree Festival was on.



Kate Dyer, Nicky Nightingale, Caroline Povlsen, Gill Kehoe

Christmas at St Francis

In the weeks before Christmas we hosted the Carol Services for the 7th West Wickham Scout Group and also for 2 local schools. All were well attended, and it was lovely to see so many young people in the church.

Our own Carol Service featured the traditional lessons and beautiful carols, and it was enhanced by the Squirrels Nativity, a musical premiere and Youth Club coffee and cakes.



The Lighting the Lamps service on Christmas Eve was packed and magical as usual and the church was looking its beautiful best.

Midnight Communion and our joint Christmas morning service provided regular church attenders, and those who rarely come, the opportunity to celebrate Christmas together.

Kate Dyer

Christmas Services at St Mary's

Once again, our church was beautifully decorated for Christmas with flowers, the lights, the tree and the crib. Thanks to all who contributed to this.

The **Messy Christmas celebration** was attended by 11 children and their families and was a very happy occasion with the usual activities in the hall, followed by a short service in church then back to the hall for a meal.

The **Carol Service** was attended by 65 people, who enjoyed singing both new and traditional carols and listening to choir performances. The highlight of the service was a new carol composed by Martin Coslett, beautifully sung by Clara and Carol Coslett with Martin accompanying them

on guitar. The service was followed by tea in the hall, and the collection taken at the service was in aid of CRISIS.



The **Midnight service** was attended by 27 people and a further collection was taken for CRISIS. The amount sent to CRISIS from the two services was £239.

A lot of work and preparation went into the **Christingle Service** and the church was fairly full with 178 people attending. It was lovely to see all the excited children as the candles were lit and the lights switched off whilst *Away in a Manger* and *Light a little candle* was sung. Thanks to Katrina and Ken for taking the service, and due to the generosity of the church members who paid all the expenses involved, we were able to send a cheque for £303.97 to The Children's Society.

A happy Christmas time of celebration at St. Mary's and thanks must go to Carol, Richard, Ken, Debbie, Geoff and the choir, our two Churchwardens and all who work so hard, particularly at these special times of the year.

Beryl Bolton

Answers to Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS:

8, *Cross-examined.* 9, *Ash.* 10, *Apocrypha.* 11, *Sci-fi.* 13, *Typical.* 16, *Visited.* 19, *Offer.* 22, *No account.* 24, *RAC.* 25, *Sovereign Lord.*

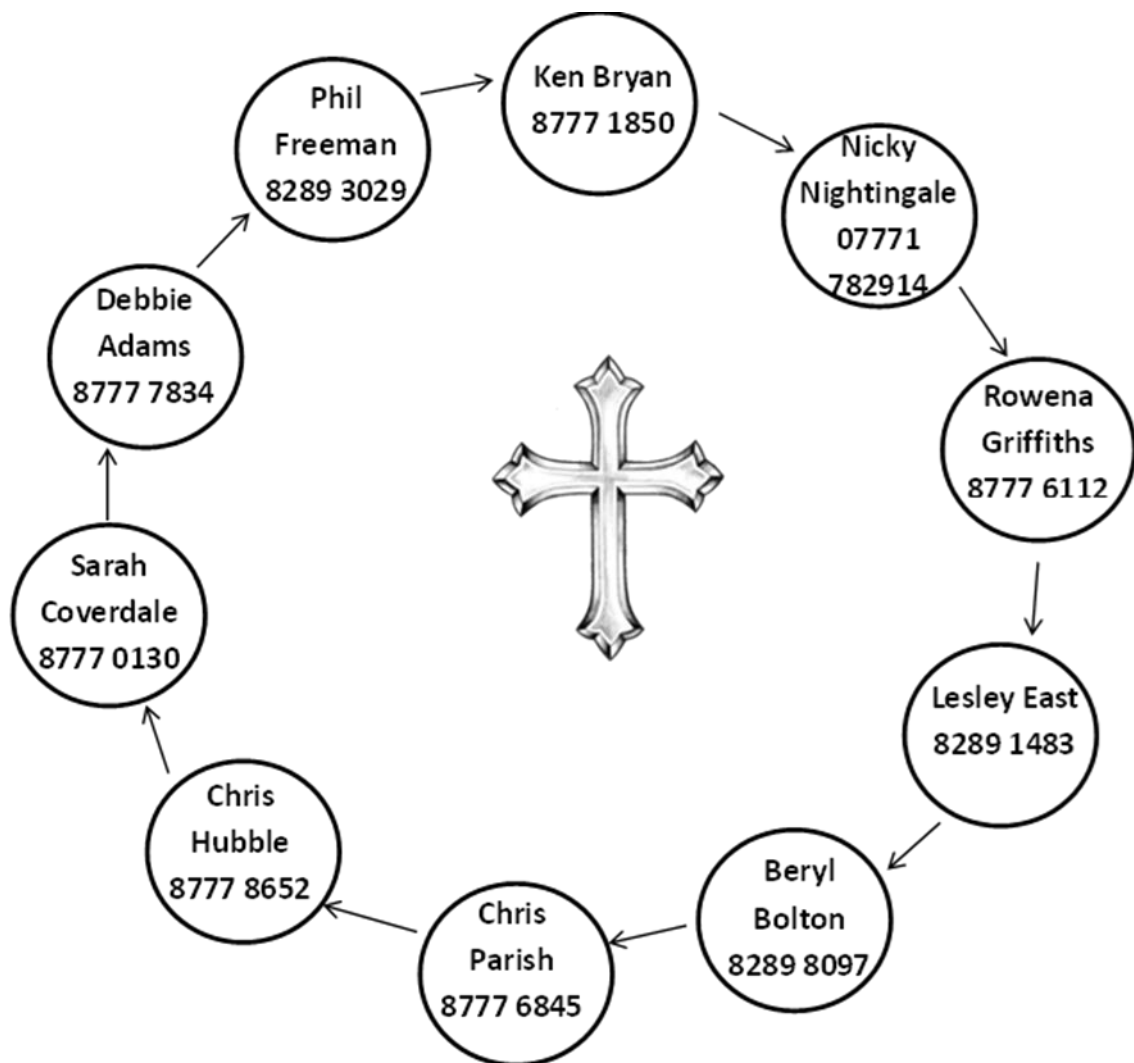
DOWN:

1, *Oceans.* 2, *Hophni.* 3, *Islamist.* 4, *Exhort.* 5, *Omar.* 6, *On spec.* 7, *Add all.* 12, *CBI.* 14, *Plotting.* 15, *Awe.* 16, *Vanish.* 17, *Starve.* 18, *Daub it.* 20, *Furrow.* 21, *Recede.* 23, *Cure.*

St Francis and St Mary's Prayer Chain

Many people find they are given strength and peace of mind when they know that they, or their loved ones, are being prayed for. And the more people who are praying for someone, the better!

If you would like prayer for yourself, please call anyone on the chain below and they will pass a message on around the circle. If you like a name added to the intercessions list in our services, (which will be on-line as well as in-person) please state this when you make contact.



Prayer Focus

February

2nd Candlemas - Presentation of Christ in the Temple – Luke 2: 20-40

We remember that, at Christmas time, God presented his only Son to the world.

At Candlemas we remember that Joseph and Mary presented Jesus to God in the Temple as was the custom for the first-born child. We remember that Simeon was present at that time. He took the child in his arms and praised God. The prophet Anna was also present. She never left the Temple so that she was always available to God.

Father, we pray about the people we meet in our lives. Help us to be aware when an apparent coincidence is truly God incidence with a purpose that you have ordained. Help us to be available to you and your spirit that we may use the opportunities that you present to us.

March

1st St David's Day

17th St Patrick's Day

19th St Joseph of Nazareth

26th The Annunciation

30th Mothering Sunday

We pray for all mothers who are worried about their children; how to feed them; how to protect their health, and how to lead them in righteous ways.

The Anunciation Luke 1: 26-38

The visit of the Angel Gabriel with a message for Mary. What a message! A bolt from the blue! Mary was told that she had found favour with God. The heavenly Father knew her well and he knew that he could trust her.

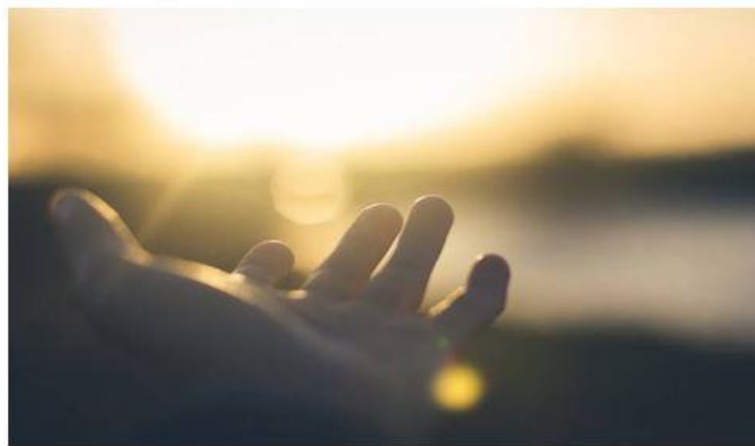
Father, we thank you that Mary was brave and obedient. Help us to recognise our calling and rejoice in it. Help us to be obedient to the Holy Spirit so that, we too, can say, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord." We know that we are all servants of the Lord. Help us to fulfil whatever you have ordained for our lives. We may feel that we are not special but you Lord, have included each one of us in your plan for the Kingdom of God.

A verse from a hymn by Charles Wesley: -

To serve the present age, my calling to fulfil:

O may it all my powers engage, to do my master's will.

A service of
Wholeness & healing



Sunday 9th February

at 3pm

St Francis of Assisi Church,
West Wickham
BR4 0PW

A short service with prayer and anointing for illness,
anxiety, relationship difficulties, loneliness
or any other kind of healing.

St Francis & St Mary's Joint, All-Age, Other Special Services and Events Calendar

February

- 2nd Joint service at St Mary's Candlemas – 10am
- 5th St Mary's Community Lunch - 1pm
- 9th Healing Service at St Francis' – 3pm
- 14th Messy Church - 3.45pm
- 15th Valentine's lunch at St Mary's – 12.30pm
- 23rd St Francis Community Lunch

March

- 2nd Joint service at St Francis' – 10am
- 5th Ash Wednesday at St Francis' – 10.45am
- 5th St Mary's Community Lunch – 1pm
- 7th World Day of Prayer at Emmanuel URC 10:30am?
- 9th Non-Eucharistic – Lent season as theme?
- 14th Messy Church – 3.45pm
- 11th Women's Event
- 16th St Mary's APCM
- 30th All-age: Mothering Sunday services – Scouts at St Marys

April

- 2nd St Mary's Community Lunch – 1pm
- 6th Passion Sunday Joint service at St Mary's – 10am
- **TBC High Street Foodbank collection – 10am -1pm**
- 11th Messy Church at 3:45pm
- **13th Palm Sunday**
- 17th Maundy Thursday – Holy Communion – 7.30pm
- 18th Good Friday: CTWW service at St Francis' – 11am
- Hour at the Cross at St Mary's – 2pm
- **20th Easter Sunday**

- 26th St George's supper at St Mary's – 7:30pm
- 27th St George's service - Scouts at St Mary's
- 27th St Francis' APCM

May

- 4th Joint service at St Francis' – 10am
- 7th St Mary's Community Lunch – 1pm
- 9th Messy Church – 3.45pm
- 10th St Francis VE Day afternoon tea and music
- 11th -17th Christian Aid Week
- 13th Women's Event - venue TBC
- 22nd Lunch time concert TBC
- 29th Ascension Day – Deanery wide Holy Communion at TBC – 7:30pm

June

- 1st Joint service at St Mary's – 10am
- 4th St Mary's Community Lunch - 1pm
- 5th -7th – Matchbox performances
- 8th Pentecost Sunday CTWW Pentecost service & AGM TBC – 6pm
- 13th Messy Church – 3.45pm
- 14th St Mary's Garden Party
- 15th Trinity Sunday
- 19th Lunch time concert TBC
- 29th St Francis' Community Lunch – 12.30pm

July

- 2nd St Mary's Community Lunch – 1pm
- 5th Allegri Singers – St Francis Church – 7.30pm
- 6th Joint service at St Francis' - 10am
- 6th Healing service at St Francis' – 3pm
- 8th Joint PCC meeting at St Francis

- 11th Messy Church
- 15th Women's Event
- 17th Lunch time concert TBC

August

- 2nd Thank you to Volunteers Coffee Morning at St Francis' – 10:30am
- 3rd Joint service at St Mary's – 10am
- 6th St Mary's Community Lunch – 1pm
- 8th Messy Church – 3pm
- 10th Baptism at St Francis'
- 14th Lunch time concert TBC

September

- 3rd St Mary's Community Lunch – 1pm
- 7th Joint service at St Francis' – 10am
- 12th Messy Church – 3:45pm
- 13th Family Day at St Mary's
- 14th Non-eucharistic: Education or Creation Sunday
- 16th Women's event
- 18th Lunch time concert TBC
- 28th St Michael & All Angels

October

- 1st St Mary's Community Lunch – 1pm
- 5th Joint Service at St Francis': St Francis' Patronal Service (Gift Day) – 10am
- 5th St Francis' Community Lunch – 12:30pm
- 5th Pet service at St Francis' – 3pm
- 10th Messy Church – 3:45pm
- 11th Harvest Supper at St Mary's – 7pm
- 12th Harvest Festival All Age – Scouts at St Francis'
- 26th Bible Study

November

- 2nd Joint service at St Mary's (All Saints) – 10am
- 2nd Memorial Service at St Mary's – 3pm
- 5th St Mary's Community Lunch – 1pm
- 9th Non-eucharistic: Remembrance Sunday Scouts at St Francis'
- 11th Women's event at St Mary's – 8pm
- 14th Messy Church – 3:45pm
- 21st High Street Christmas Lights event at St Francis'
- 22nd St Mary's Christmas Market – 10:30am to 2:30pm
- 30th Advent Sunday

December

- 4th – 6th Matchbox performances
- 6th The Big Christmas Sing at St Francis' – 4pm
- 7th Joint service St Mary's Patronal Sunday – 10am
- 10th St Mary's Christmas Community Lunch – 12:30pm
- 12th Messy Church – 3:45pm
- 13th Scouts' Carol service at St Mary's – 6:30pm
- 13th–20th Christmas Tree Festival at St Francis'
- 14th St Francis' Christmas Community Lunch – 12:30pm
- 21st Carol services: 10:45am at St Francis' and 4pm at St Mary's
- 24th Christingle at St Mary's – 4:30pm and Lighting the Lamps at St Francis' – 6pm
- 24th Midnight Communion Services at both churches – 11:15pm
- 25th Joint service at St Francis' – 10am

THE BISHOP OF SOUTHWARK'S LENT CALL 2025



Jesus said; Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.

Matthew 19:14

The Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call for 2025 asks you to pray for and raise money to support projects that help children and young people recover from trauma and which encourage their mental wellbeing. We are supporting this type of work in the Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East, in our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe and here in our own diocese. Visit our website to find out how you can become involved and help:

southwark.anglican.org/lentcall



HOW TO
DONATE

What do Lay Ministers do?

There are three types of lay ministry in the Diocese of Southwark:

Licensed: People recommended by the parish, selected and trained by the diocese. Their ministry is nationally recognised and transferable to another diocese should they move.

Commissioned: People recommended by the parish and selected and trained by the diocese. Their ministries are recognised across the whole diocese should they move parishes, and increasingly in other dioceses too.

Affirmed: People selected and trained within the local context, which is usually the parish. Affirmation is about publicly acknowledging and blessing the ministries people undertake within the parish – for example as communion assistants, welcomers, Sunday School leaders, or as part of a pastoral team. The diocese has also produced a resource, *Affirmed Ministry Training*, which provides details on affirmed ministry and suggestions for training.

There are so many different expressions of lay ministry. Some people serve in more traditional roles, such as Reader – someone who preaches and helps to lead worship at their church, as well as undertaking some pastoral work.

Then there are Commissioned Pastoral Lay Ministers (CPLMs) – formerly known as Southwark Pastoral Auxiliaries (SPAs). CPLMs work together with others in their congregation to offer care and support for those around them. Some give their time to local care home for the elderly or to assist hospital chaplains. Others help to lead the pastoral team in their church. The opportunities are many.

We also have three Licensed Pastoral Lay Ministers (LPLMs) who offer pastoral support to as well as preaching and helping to lead services. Wendy Stephens, our Diocesan Lead for Pastoral Ministry, is a prison chaplain. We are really hoping to add to the number of LPLMs in the near future, so do be in contact with the team if you are interested in this. There is so much to be done.

There are also Commissioned and Licensed Pioneer Ministers who work in the community with those who are not traditional church-goers and with church communities where English is not their first language.

We very much want more people to join those who are working as affirmed, Commissioned and Licensed Lay Ministers in the diocese and to celebrate all those who are already working as lay ministers.

For further information on any of these ministries please contact Carol Coslett: carol.coslett@southwark.anglican.org

Information taken from The Bridge Newspaper Dec24/Jan25 edition.

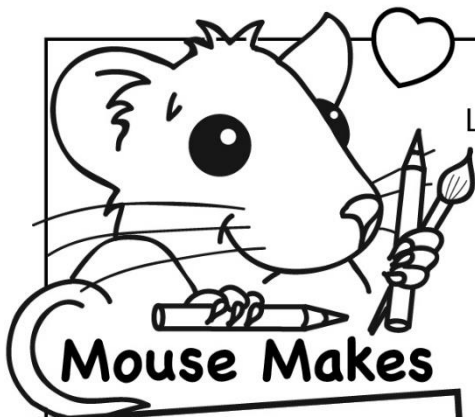
St Francis Parish Magazine Subscription for 2025

It has been several years since we have increased the subscription for those who receive the St Francis Parish Magazine by post and with the increase in postage the new price for postal subscriptions will be £10.00. Please can you send a cheque for £10.00 payable to St Francis Church to St Francis of Assisi Church, Ravenswood Avenue, West Wickham BR4 0PW.

For members of St Francis who receive a hand delivered magazine or pick up a copy from St Francis Church the price of a magazine will remain at 50p but we would appreciate it if a voluntary additional donation of 50p could also be given to cover printing costs.

Many thanks

St Francis PCC



Mouse Makes

“Love is

_____ love is _____.
It does not, _____
it does not _____
it is not _____
it does not _____

_____ others, it is not self-

_____ it is not easily

_____ it keeps no record of

_____ Love delights in

_____ it always

_____ from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

The steadfast **love** of the Lord never _____;
His _____ never come to an end;
they are new every

_____ Lamentations 3:20-23



I pray... you will understand...
the greatness of Christ's **love**,
how _____
and how _____
and how _____
that **love** is.

_____ Ephesians 3:18-19

God is **love**.

_____ whoever _____
in **love** _____
in God, and God _____
in them.

_____ 1 John 4:16



Give _____
to the Lord, for He is _____,
his steadfast **love**
endures _____

_____ Psalm 136:1

HOW DOES
GOD LOVE ME?

God sent me a saviour:

He sent His one and only
Son into the world so
that we might have
eternal life through Him.

_____ 1 John 4:9

God gave me His spirit:

He has given you the
Holy Spirit to fill our hearts
with His **love**.

_____ Romans 5:5

God called me His child:

See what great **love** the
Father has for us that He
would call us His children.

_____ 1 John 1:3

DID YOU KNOW?

Jesus told us to:

LOVE the Lord your God with
all your **heart**, all your **soul**
and with all your **mind**.

_____ Matthew 22:37

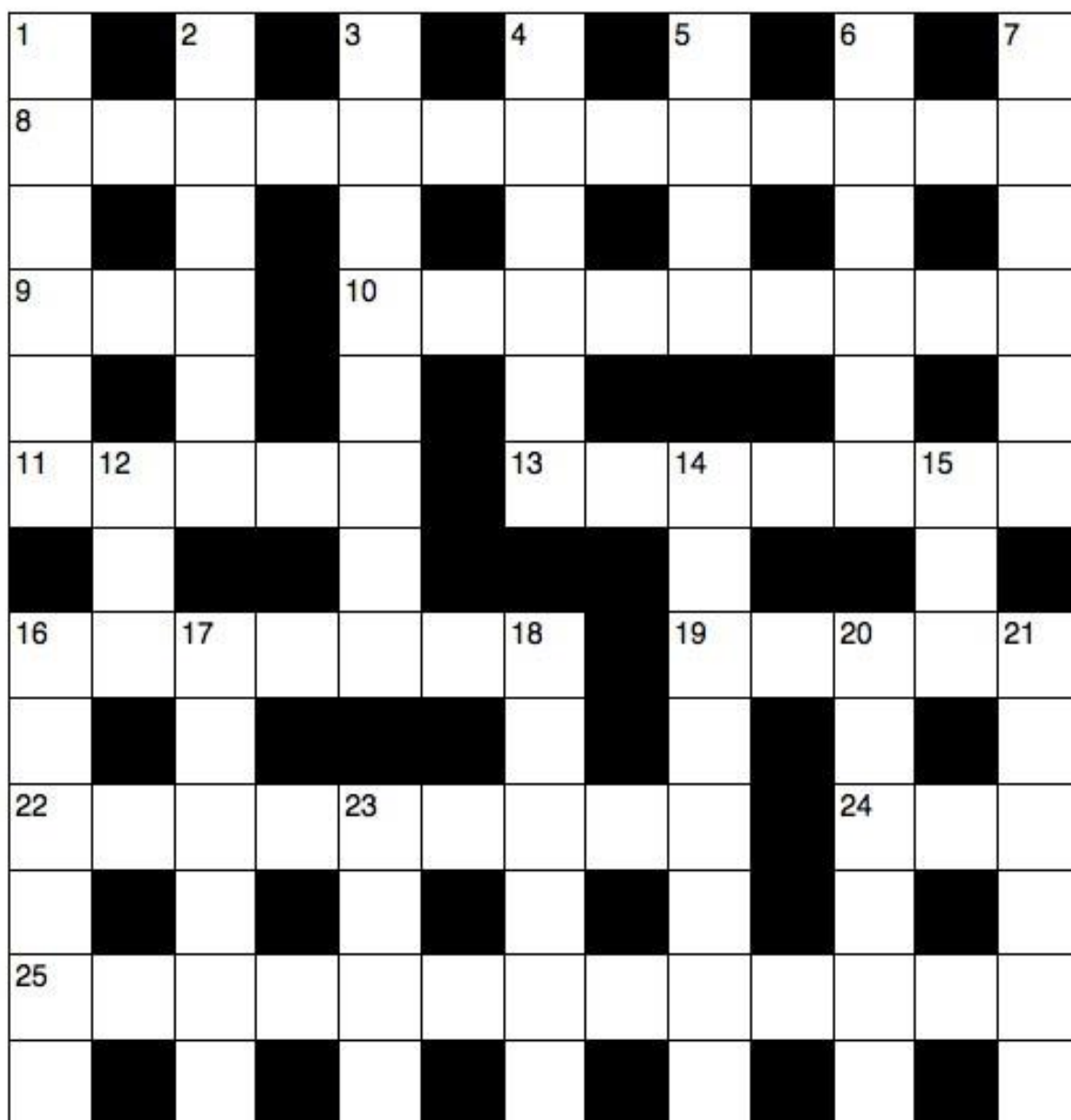
LOVE your neighbour the
same as you **love** yourself.

_____ Matthew 22:39

GOD • LOVE
PATIENT • KIND
GRACIOUS • PEACE
JUST • TRUTHFUL
TRUSTING • LOYAL
HOPEFUL
PERSEVERES
ENDURES
HUMBLE
SELFLESS
PROTECTS • DEFENDS

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

Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
- 9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
- 10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
- 11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
- 13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)
- 16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)

- 19 ‘Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices’ (Romans 12:1) (5)
- 22 David’s plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: ‘On — — let them escape’ (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)
- 24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Down

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
- 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)
- 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)
- 4 ‘Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father’ (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
- 5 One of Esau’s grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
- 6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
- 7 God’s instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ‘ — salt to — your offerings’ (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
- 12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
- 14 ‘All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me’ (Psalm 56:5) (8)
- 15 The crowd’s reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow’s son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
- 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
- 17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn’t rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)
- 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
- 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
- 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)
- 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

The Bible version used in our crosswords is the NIV.

Answers earlier in the magazine

WE ARE ALL GUILTY

Well, I am. At times! Of complacency of leaving it to others to sort out!

BUT we do have a duty when it comes to the safeguarding of children **OR** vulnerable adults in the church.

There is a manual in our church vestibule entitled, '*A Safe Church*', which is for reference by anyone and acts as a guide to safeguarding matters.

If you do have a genuine concern about such a matter, then you may wish to speak to Charlotte Wilson or Kim Teare, our Safeguarding Officers or to one of the churchwardens.

HAVE YOU OR WILL YOU BE MAKING A WILL?

If so, please consider leaving a legacy to St Francis' church.

Legacies we have had in the past have been a great blessing and encouragement and enabled us to carry out important work. It is helpful if the bequest is given without conditions so the PCC can use the money as they feel appropriate.

Please give this prayerful consideration.

To make a Will is one of the kindest things you can do so your wishes are known.

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

Men's Group. This meets on the second Monday evening of the month, alternately at St Francis' and St Mary's.

Contact: Stephen Howe 8249 0315

Reading Group. This meets on the second Thursday morning of the month.

Contact Barbara Goodchild 8777 8782

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 2.00 pm 07492 864597

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 April/May and June/July], please contact Nicky Nightingale by the second Sunday of the month