

# ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

## WEST WICKHAM

### PARISH MAGAZINE



April/May 2020

50 pence

THE CHURCH OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

RAVENSWOOD AVENUE WEST WICKHAM KENT BR4 0PW

Church Website: [www.stfranciswestwickham.co.uk](http://www.stfranciswestwickham.co.uk)

[www.facebook.com/StFofA](https://www.facebook.com/StFofA)

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The Vicarage, The Avenue, West Wickham, BR4 0DX  
email: [hazelos58@gmail.com](mailto:hazelos58@gmail.com)  
*Day off: Monday*

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**Honorary Priest:** The Rev John Scarth . . . . . 07867 505615  
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**Reader:** Brian Griffiths . . . . . 8777 6112

**SPA [Pastoral Auxiliaries]:** Lesley East . . . . . 8289 1483  
Rowena Griffiths . . . . . 8777 6112

#### Church Directory

**Churchwardens:** Barry Burford . . . . . 8777 2034  
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email: [nicholanightingale@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nicholanightingale@hotmail.co.uk)  
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**Director of Music:** Geoff Mussard . . . . . 8650 8389  
**Parish Safeguarding Officer:** Kim Teare .. [kim\\_teare@hotmail.com](mailto:kim_teare@hotmail.com)  
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**Library:** Sarah Coverdale .. . . . . 8777 0130  
**Bible Reading Fellowship:** Lesley East .. . . . . 8289 1483

## **REGULAR SERVICES**

*ONCE RESUMED AFTER CURRENT SUSPENSION*

### SUNDAY

- 8.00 am**   **Holy Communion**  
1st & 3rd Sundays at St Mary's Church, The Avenue  
2nd Sundays at St Francis' Church  
*4th & 5th Sundays vary – 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 – Worship for All Ages** (non-Eucharistic)
- 10.00 am**   **Last Sunday – Joint Family Communion**  
with St Mary's, held alternately at each church  
*See calendar for details*

### WEDNESDAY

- 9.30 am**   **Morning Prayer**  
**10.45 am**   **Holy Communion**

### THURSDAY

- 9.00 am**   **Morning Prayer**

### SATURDAY

- 9.00 am - 10.00 am**   **Church open for quiet and prayer**

## **APRIL & MAY 2020**

*As a result of the Coronavirus pandemic, St Francis' Church is now closed completely until further notice. Details of on-line and paper-based resources for worship at home are being circulated by Home Group leaders and other members of the ministry team.*

*It is anticipated that these will be available for each of the following services that were scheduled to take place.*

**Sunday 5 April – Palm Sunday**

**Thursday 9 April – Maundy Thursday**  
Maundy Thursday reflection

**Friday 10 April – Good Friday**  
Churches Together in West Wickham service  
An Hour at the Cross

**Sunday 12 April – Easter Sunday**

**Sunday 19 April – Easter 2**

**Sunday 26 April – Easter 3**

**Sunday 3 May – Easter 4**

**Sunday 10 May – Easter 5**

**Sunday 17 May – Easter 6**

**Sunday 24 May – Easter 7**

**Saturday 30 May**  
Thy Kingdom Come – Quiet Day

**Sunday 31 May – Pentecost**

## Prayer Cycle

We pray for those who live on:

Boleyn Gardens; Braemar Gardens; Bramley Way; Cavendish Way; Chamberlain Crescent; Chatsworth Lodge, 2 Wickham Court Road; Chessington Way; Christie House; Dixon Place.

In our cycle of prayer for other churches in West Wickham, we pray for the people at Hawes Lane Methodist Church and West Wickham and Shirley Baptist Church.

We pray for the current coronavirus situation and for all who mourn the loss of someone who has died as a result of contracting the disease. Give wisdom to policymakers, skill to healthcare professionals and researchers, comfort to everyone in distress and a sense of calm to us all in these days of uncertainty.

We pray for each of the projects that are supported by the Bishop's Lent Appeal:

- *L'Arche community in Bethlehem*, which brings together core members with learning disabilities and assistants to engage in creative activity and share daily life, so providing employment for those with learning difficulties and making the local community aware of the value and worth of those with learning disabilities;
- *Kaduna Centre for the Study of Christian-Muslim Relations, northern Nigeria*, where those involved in conflict prevention and resolution are taught the religious beliefs of both their own and the 'other' religions, so that Kaduna State can become a place of safety and peace and an example for the other flash-point states in the north of Nigeria;
- *SparkFish in the Redhill area*, which supports local schools with an aim of encouraging and inspiring young people in faith, hope and love;
- *Nicholas Stewart Project in Earlsfield*, which raises awareness of the effects of youth violence and runs a mentoring programme for vulnerable primary school pupils;
- *Superkidz in Eltham*, which serves communities that are among the most deprived in the country, tackling drug abuse and drug dealing by valuing children and teaching them perseverance, social responsibility and rejection of gangs, so breaking the cycle of damaged children becoming struggling or damaging parents;
- *For projects in Zimbabwe* which are tackling food insecurity, training priests to lead work that helps to meet the many needs of people, and helping in those areas devastated by Cyclone Idai to build houses, develop market gardens and give educational opportunities.

## **Easter Joy**

Jesus came to earth,  
To show us how to live,  
How to put others first,  
How to love and how to give.

Then He set about His work,  
That God sent Him to do;  
He took our punishment on Himself;  
He made us clean and new.

He could have saved Himself,  
Calling angels from above,  
But He chose to pay our price for sin;  
He paid it out of love.

Our Lord died on Good Friday,  
But the cross did not destroy  
His resurrection on Easter morn  
That fills our hearts with joy.

Now we know our earthly death,  
Like His, is just a rest.  
We'll be forever with Him  
In heaven, where life is best.

So we live our lives for Jesus,  
Think of Him in all we do.  
Thank you Savior; Thank you Lord.  
Help us love like you!

*By Joanna Fuchs*

*Dear Friends*

### **Keep Calm and Carry on Hand-Washing!**

At the time of writing, the biggest news topic is the rapid spread of the coronavirus showing how connected we all are. Events which started off half a world away and seemed very remote are now very close to home, as travel overseas is so easy and commonly done.

The 17th century poet and priest, John Donne, famously wrote: 'No man is an island'. This current outbreak reminds us that our common humanity connects us with everyone else in the world, irrespective of national borders, economic or social status, or anything else that usually divides us. For the church, I am reminded of how St Paul describes us as 'the body of Christ' – one body, made of many parts, or members. He says, '*If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it*' (1 Cor. 12.26). The same could be said of our world: if part of it suffers, we are all affected. But let's not fear unnecessarily, as we have something that can overcome fear – St John wrote in his letter, '*perfect love casts out fear*' (1 John 4:18). So, let's be sensible and take the public health advice offered (with due regard to our own vulnerabilities), but without becoming unduly anxious. If all the church uses that perfect love that we find in Christ to make a difference in our approach to the real life issue of coronavirus, we will all play a part in seeking the health and wellbeing of everyone. The Bishop of St Albans has suggested that there are four things that we can do as Christians to make a real difference:

**1.** Think about how we can protect and support our neighbours. So many people today do not know their neighbours. What if this crisis showed us the downside of valuing our virtual and social-media neighbours, rather than our physical neighbours?

**2.** Think about who may be suffering more than you. There is great value in looking out for others that we know who are elderly, housebound or who have chronic health conditions. They may be very anxious. All it needs is a telephone call.

**3.** Don't give into panic and start hoarding food. There is plenty to go around, so practise the Christian discipline of sharing, so speaking of God's generosity.

**4.** Live today to the full. None of us ever know what the future holds. In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6, 25–34), Jesus challenged his followers to live each day fully and not to worry. Every time we are tempted to give in to fear and worry, we need to make a conscious choice to respond in trust and openness.

If others in the population see this kind of behaviour in us and then hear the message of Easter, think what a difference it might make. Never has Christ's offer of love, truth, care, strength and light been so relevant to our world today. Our choice is to either follow the ways of this world, allowing fear to take charge, or we can turn to Christ and trust in God's grace, which is brought to bear in all our loving and caring acts.

Have a safe and Happy Easter,

*Hazel*

***Arrangements for all the events detailed below are subject to change, dependent on the restrictions that are in force at the time.***

***The Festival of Arts has been postponed for a year to 2021. Dates will be set and communicated shortly.***

### **Holy Week and Easter Services**

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on 5 April, and finishes a week later on Easter Sunday – 12 April. What form our meeting will take by then is uncertain, but we hope to have something on line for the following key dates:

Thursday 9 April	7.30 pm	Maundy Thursday at St Mary's
Friday 10 April	10.30 am	Act of Witness and Churches Together event in West Wickham
	2.00 pm	A Devotional Hour at the Cross at St Mary's

It was originally planned for the Act of Witness on Good Friday to be different this year, so as to engage with the community more during the whole of Holy Week. There was to be sheep displayed in the High Street during the week and people would be encouraged to find all 12 of these and then collect a prize on Good Friday at the children's activities in St Francis' church hall at 11am. Those who meet at St Mark's on Good Friday morning and then make their way up the High Street to St Francis' for the Churches Together service, would also be encouraged to take part in this activity.

### Deanery Ascension Day Communion Service

We have joined together with other churches in our deanery for the past two years for an Ascension Day, which has been a great opportunity to experience different churches and for choirs to come together for this one service. This year the plan was for us to be at St Francis' Church Monks Hill on Thursday 21 May for a communion service at 7.30pm. Please do come along if it continues and join with others for transport.

Hazel

### Thy Kingdom Come Quiet Day

We have worked together with St John's Church on two Quiet Days now. These are an opportunity to take some time out on a Saturday and reflect on the season of the year with a focus on particular bible passages, prayers, pictures, poems and prose, as well as some music. It's about finding something that speaks to you and responding in some way, not necessarily about being silent before God.

Our next opportunity will be on Saturday 30 May and it will be held at St Mary's Church. Please do drop in at any time between 10.30 am and 3.30 pm.

Hazel



## **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK** **Door-to-Door Collection 10-16 May 2020**

Christian Aid call us together for Climate Justice  
We stand with people living in poverty to fight for a more just world. Listen to Rose Jonathan, as she looks over parched land in Kenya, where every last drop of water has dried up.

'Because of the drought . . . I often feel hungry'  
Rose fights hunger and thirst every day.  
Your gift this Christian Aid Week could help her community build a long-lasting source of water so not a single drop is wasted.



**Anita and John Curtis** can be contacted at  
41 Pine Avenue, West Wickham, BR4 0LN  
Telephone: 020 8777 5973  
Email: john.curtis23@ntlworld.com

### June/July Magazine

Items for inclusion in the next magazine are needed by Sunday 10 May 2020 please, or contact Margaret Green to make alternative arrangements via:

Tel: 8777 4450 or email: magletitiagreen@hotmail.com



## Bishop Richard writes . . .

At the beginning of February we remember the Presentation of Christ in the Temple forty days after his birth, as told in the marvellous story in Luke 2. This can be seen as a kind of pivot point between Christmas and Easter as we turn from the birth of Christ and the message of the incarnation that God is with us, to the story of Christ's death and resurrection in Holy week and Easter, which reveals the purpose and the effect of God's saving and sacrificial love in our midst. The Presentation of Christ gives us a glimpse of the great truths of both Christmas and Easter, and helps us to see the whole picture of the purpose of our lives as Christians, and what is truly important in the Christian faith in the life of the Church and the world. As the elderly Simeon holds the infant Christ in his arms, he declares that his eyes have seen God's salvation that will bring light to all nations. In a heart-breaking phrase he expresses the costliness of sacrificial love as he tells Mary that a sword will pierce her own soul too.

The path to salvation via the way of God's self giving love in Christ is a deeply costly one, but it is the way that brings true fullness of life and healing in every situation. Central to Christian life is being shaped by God's sacrificial love in Christ. The end of February sees Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Central to that season, and to Christian faith, is the call to repentance – to re-orientate our lives away from sin and selfishness and towards love of God and neighbour. This entails careful and prayerful examination of our lives both individually and corporately.

The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book for 2020 is entitled "Saying yes to life", written by Dr Ruth Valerio from TEAR fund. It offers thought-provoking reflections, questions and prayers for both individuals and groups. She draws imaginatively on the days of creation from Genesis 1 to help us think about our Christian response to matters of environmental, ethical and social concern. In his foreword, Archbishop Justin says, "every single one of us has a responsibility as part of our discipleship to Jesus Christ to live a life that cares for God's world and its creatures . . . sadly, Christians have not

always given God's creation reverence it deserves . . . it is of the utmost importance that we now stand in solidarity together, repenting of our sins towards our Earth and committing to face our responsibilities as God's people . . . to live out the life that Christ calls us to live, to care for our neighbours, for the creatures and the creation that God has so generously given us."

2020 will be a significant year in our response to the climate and environmental issues which have reached such a critical stage in the life of our planet. This will be a major theme at the Lambeth Conference of bishops of the Anglican Communion in July, and in the autumn the city of Glasgow will host a major and extremely important international conference. It is vital that we think deeply about our Christian response at every level – individually how we live our lives, as a Church with our commitments to Eco-Church and Eco-Diocese, and nationally and internationally. I hope and pray that in this time between the Presentation of Christ and the beginning of Lent we may be able to give deep thought and action as to what we might do in response to the salvation of God in Christ which brings light to all the nations.

+Richard Kingston

### The Dean of Southwark has written the following prayer which you may wish to use:

*Please pray for all who are involved in the response to this crisis worldwide.*

Loving God,  
source of healing and comfort,  
fill us with your grace,  
that the sick may be made whole,  
that those who care for us may be strengthened,  
that the anxious may be calmed,  
and those most vulnerable be protected  
in the power of Spirit  
in the faith of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI PRAYER SUPPORT CHAIN

### LUNCHTIME MUSIC AT ST FRANCIS' CHURCH SUMMER 2020

This year our season of free summertime lunch recitals held at St Francis' Church extends from May unto September.

As usual each recital will take place on a Thursday between 12.45 pm and 1.30 pm on the following dates. This year among our favourite performers we also have some exciting new musicians to play for us.

**18 June:** Bethan Terry, soprano and Francesca Lauri, piano

**23 July:** Nigel Sharpe, violin, Yohei Nakajima, viola,  
Martin Sharpe, piano

**13 August:** Peter De Croos, organ

**27 August:** Yuko Yagishita piano

**24 September:** Students from Langley Park School for Boys

**All are welcome  
Please bring your own lunch  
Free tea and coffee will be available**



HAZEL  
O'SULLIVAN

LESLEY  
EAST  
8289 1483

ROWENA  
GRIFFITHS  
8777 6112

ANITA  
CURTIS  
8777 5973

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8289 3029

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*WOULD YOU LIKE PRAYER SUPPORT? IF SO, PLEASE  
CONTACT LESLEY AND SHE WILL PASS THE MESSAGE ON*

## Subscription for the Parish Magazine in 2020

During 2020 there will be six editions of the magazine, each covering two calendar months, costing 50p each. It helps us if you are able to subscribe for the year, at a cost of £3.00 (or £6.50 for a postal subscription). Please complete the form below and return it with a cheque or cash to your magazine distributor or Nicky Nightingale or David Wada (Church Treasurer).

### MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2020

Name .....

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\*I enclose £3.00 as my subscription to the magazine for 2020

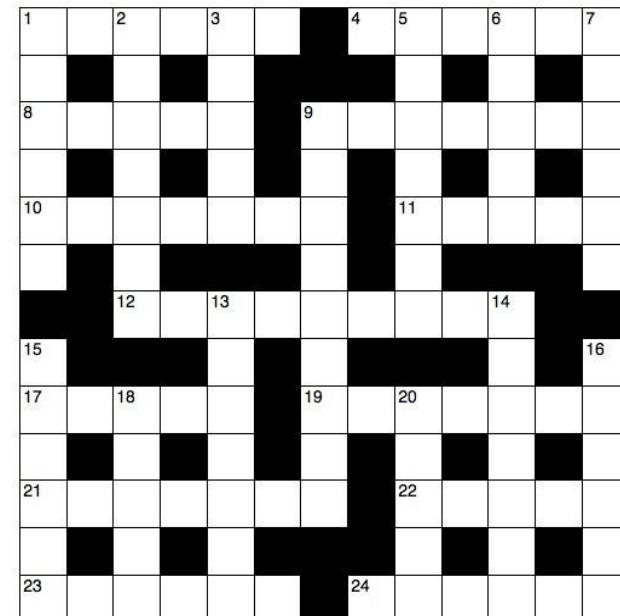
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(Cheques made payable to St Francis' Church, West Wickham)



## Bible Crossword for April/May



### Clues

#### Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
- 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
- 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3–4) (5)
- 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)
- 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)

- 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)  
 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles'  
     (Acts 1:26) (6)  
 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came  
     to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

**Down**

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)  
 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)  
 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)  
 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)  
 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)  
 7 He reps (anag.) (6)  
 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)  
 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her  
     treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)  
 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much  
     wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)  
 15 The human mind or soul (6)  
 16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase;  
     their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)  
 18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — '  
     (Matthew 11:17) (5)  
 20 Bared (anag.) (5)

**Answers for February/March Crossword**



**Sudoku**

			1	4			
7					3	1	2
	9			1			3
8			9	1			
	2	5			7	1	
4			2	7			8
	3	6	8		9		
							2
			5	6			

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## GROUPS & ACTIVITIES AT ST FRANCIS' CHURCH

On Saturday mornings the church is open from 9.00 am to 10.00 am for quiet and prayer. From 10.30 am to 11.30 am refreshments are served and this raises money for Action Aid.

Contact Barbara Goodchild .. . . . . 8777 8782

**The Church Halls.** There are two halls available for hire - a large hall suitable for 30 people upwards and a small hall for up to 25 people.

Bookings Secretary: Katie Rees .. . . . . 8289 3846

**Church Choir.** The choir helps to lead the singing at Sunday services. It regularly sings anthems and there are special musical services at festivals. Rehearsals: 7.15 pm - 8.15 pm on Thursdays.

Contact Geoff Mussard .. . . . . 8650 8389

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

Contact Tim Shingler .. . . . . 8402 8286

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

Contact Barbara Plummer .. . . . . 8289 3846

**Matchbox Theatre.** A well-established amateur dramatic society which includes members of St Francis' Church and performs in the church hall, usually three times a year.

Contact Mike Downing .. . . . . 8776 2732

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES IN THE CHURCH HALL

### **Cubs**

Tuesdays from 6.15 pm to 7.45 pm

Contact Yvonne Bulman: [yvonne.bulman@gmail.com](mailto:yvonne.bulman@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 .. . . . . 8776 1603

### **Wednesday Market [supporting South East Cancer Help Centre]**

From 9.00 am to 1.00 pm .. . . . . 8777 3005

### **Fitness Through Movement, Exercise & Dance**

Tuesdays from 8.00 pm to 9.00 pm .. . . . . 8771 7896

### **Weight Watchers**

Mondays at 6.30 pm and Tuesdays at 10.00 am

### **Sugar Craft & Cake Decorating**

Thursdays at 8.00 pm [Six meetings a year]

### **Articles and items for the magazine are always welcome.**

Any contributions can be left in the envelope at the back of the church [on the notice board] by the second Sunday of the month for inclusion in the next bi-monthly magazine [editions for Dec/Jan, Feb/March, etc]. Otherwise contact the Editor, Margaret Green, on 8777 4450 or by emailing her at [magletitiagreen@hotmail.com](mailto:magletitiagreen@hotmail.com).