

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

WEST WICKHAM

PARISH MAGAZINE



June-July 2020

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 Rev Hazel O'Sullivan 8777 5034
 The Vicarage, The Avenue, West Wickham, BR4 0DX
 email: hazelos58@gmail.com
Day off: Monday

Assistant Priest: The Rev Richard Ford 8289 2432
 email: richard.ford73@ntlworld.com

Reader: Brian Griffiths 8777 6112

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

Church Directory

Churchwardens: Barry Burford 8777 2034
 Mike East 8289 1483

Secretary: Nicky Nightingale 8916 9855
 email: nicholanightingale@hotmail.co.uk

Treasurer: David Wada 8777 6355
 email: stfranciswwtreasurer@gmail.com

Director of Music: Geoff Mussard 8650 8389

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Kim Teare .. kim_teare@hotmail.com

Sunday Notices Sheet: Elizabeth Bligh 8777 2009

Parish Magazine – Content: Margaret Green 8777 4450

Magazine - Distribution: Nicky Nightingale 8916 9855

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**

JUNE & JULY 2020

As a result of the Coronavirus pandemic, St Francis' Church is closed until further notice. Details of on-line and paper-based resources for worship at home are being circulated each week. There will be resources available for each of the following services that were scheduled to take place.

Date	Readings
Sunday 7 June – Trinity Sunday	Isaiah 40:12-17, 27-end 2 Corinthians 13:11-end Matthew 28:16-20
Friday 12 June – Messy Church at Home	
Sunday 14 June – First Sunday after Trinity	Exodus 19:2-8a Romans 5:1-8 Matthew 9:35-10.8
Sunday 21 June – Second Sunday after Trinity	Jeremiah 20:7-13 Romans 6:1b-11 Matthew 10:24-39
Sunday 28 June – Third Sunday after Trinity	Jeremiah 28:5-9 Romans 6:12-end Matthew 10:40-end
Sunday 5 July – Fourth Sunday after Trinity	Zechariah 9:9-12 Romans 7:15-25a Matthew 11:16-19, 25-end
Friday 10 July – Messy Church at Home	
Sunday 12 July – Fifth Sunday after Trinity	Isaiah 55:10-13 Romans 8:1-11 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
Sunday 19 July – Sixth Sunday after Trinity	Isaiah 44:6-8 Romans 8:12-25 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
Sunday 26 July – Seventh Sunday after Trinity	1 Kings 3:5-12 Romans 8:26-end Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Prayer Cycle

We pray for those who live in:

Duncan House, The Alders; Gable Lodge, Beckenham Road; The Glade; Glebe Way; Grosvenor Road; The Grove; Hardcourts Close; Hawes Lane; Hawkhurst Way; High Broom Crescent; High Street; Highbury Close; Highfield Drive; Kent Road.

In our cycle of prayer for other churches in West Wickham, we pray for Emmanuel Church who continue their search for a new minister. Pray for Ian Moore, the Church Secretary and Rev Bryn Thomas, who did not expect to be leading a church during a pandemic crisis.

Pray for the on-going response to the Coronavirus pandemic:

- For all those in churches who are adapting to new ways of sharing your Good News. Pray that those who have been drawn into on-line services will continue to be a part of the communities that they have come into virtual contact with.
- For those working in healthcare services – hospitals, GP surgeries, pharmacies and district nursing. We give thanks for their skill, patience and understanding in these difficult times.
- For our Government as ministers make difficult decisions about easing the lockdown. May those decisions be wise and for the good of all.
- For those who have volunteered to help the vulnerable during the crisis – give thanks for those in foodbanks and those who have delivered food parcels and medicines to those who are isolating.
- For those who work in residential and nursing homes looking after an older generation. Thank God for their patience, skill and understanding in very difficult and emotional situations and ask that they may find inspiration and strength to continue in their work.
- For teachers who have kept schools open for vulnerable children and the children of key workers.
- For those in the funeral sector – funeral directors, celebrants and staff at crematoria who are dealing with families who are unable to see their loved one who has died and to have the farewell that they would like.

- For those in public transport - for bus, tube and train drivers who have kept working in this crisis. Thank God for their courage and hold before him all transport workers who have sadly died from Covid-19.
- For all who work in agriculture and food production. May the fruits of their labours be abundantly blessed and may we always be thankful for the food on our tables.

LUNCHTIME MUSIC AT ST FRANCIS' CHURCH SUMMER 2020

This year our season of free summertime lunch recitals held at St Francis' Church extends to 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**



Arrangements for these concerts detailed 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.

Dear Friends

We live in unprecedented times, as the unprecedented use of the word “unprecedented” clearly indicates! Or do we?

At the time of writing this, the death toll death in the United Kingdom had passed 28,000, but the trend was down. In the 1918-1919 Spanish Flu pandemic, there were 228,000 deaths out of a population of 45 million, compared with the current population of 67 million. Measures to control the disease included closing theatres, dance halls, churches and other public gathering places, some for months. Streets were sprayed with chemicals and people wore anti-germ masks, although as far as I can ascertain, there was no attempt to close down the economy, as we are currently experiencing. Now, I’m not trying to play down the seriousness of Covid-19, nor the suffering it causes, but I am questioning whether it is really unprecedented?

One of the control measures employed a hundred years ago that we can readily identify with is the closing down of churches, and I know that has been a cause of concern for many. However, we are blessed with the widespread availability of technology that our forebears lacked: the humble telephone and photocopier and the more exotic Zoom, Facebook and YouTube. All these have enabled the pastoral care of the Church as well as its services to be delivered into our homes in a way that would have amazed our predecessors. And that has been a God-send for many.

Whenever disasters of this kind arise, people usually ask, “Where is God in this?” I was interested to see in an article in this morning’s paper, the East London Mosque chairman quoted as saying, “This is clearly a test from Allah”. I wouldn’t go as far as to claim that God is responsible for the Coronavirus pandemic – it looks more likely to have a human cause – but for many it will be a test of faith. For me the message of Easter is central to an understanding of where God is in this pandemic. We worship a God who suffers *with* us, just as God the Father suffered as his Son hung from the cross, as He suffered *for* us. Consequently we can be sure, and take comfort from the knowledge, that God is alongside us in our suffering. Those suffering loneliness from the lockdown can turn to Jesus in the certainty he understands, having suffered the ultimate loneliness as demonstrated in his cry from the cross, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

(Matthew 27.46). And those suffering bereavement can turn to Him for comfort knowing how He wept at the death of His friend Lazarus. (John 11.35). But if you find that too theological an answer to the question of God’s presence in our current situation, let me add that 150 of the 500 members of the congregation of All Souls, Langham Place – next to Broadcasting House in central London – are health care professionals, many of them risking their own lives on the front line in hospitals. And God is also present alongside those out shopping for their elderly neighbours, those manning the nation’s food banks, and those picking up the phone to ring those locked down on their own, away from family and friends. As St Teresa of Avila wrote:

Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

God bless, and if still relevant, stay safe.

Richard



Where was the social distancing?

VE Day Afternoon Tea – Saturday 9 May

Over 30 of us gathered to share our experiences with each other and to sing some songs from the era – a great cacophony of voices, as the Internet means that everyone is out of sync with each other!

Additionally, I reflected on a talk which Bishop Christopher gave at the service which had been streamed from Southwark Cathedral the previous day. He suggested that VE Day this year was an opportunity to reflect on how we live by Christian values, partly as a result of the sacrifice made by those who were alive during WW2: we value everyone equally and care for those in need, we challenge injustice and we give thanks to God for keeping us safe and for our freedom. The prophet Micah voiced this in a quote that is included in the East window at St Francis' Church: "*What does the LORD require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*" (Micah 6:8). The fact that we are bound together with the rest of humanity in keeping these values alive has been made very clear in the way that the current pandemic has become a global issue very quickly.

Remembering the huge human cost of WW2 also helps us to recognise that our current deprivations are nowhere near as restrictive as those faced then and we finished our time together with an Act of Commitment to remind us that we are all in this together. Here is a copy of the commitment that we made and which you might like to reflect on further now:

**Lord God our Father,
we pledge ourselves to serve You and all humankind,
in the cause of peace,
for the relief of want and suffering.
Guide us by your Spirit; give us wisdom;
give us courage; give us hope;
and keep us faithful now and always. Amen.**

In summary, the tea party was a great opportunity to give thanks for what we have and to be reminded that there will be a time when we are restored to being able to say to others 'peace be with you'. Until then, may God be with you.

Hazel

Message from Burrell Mead Care Home

It continues to be a challenging time for Burrell Mead with a couple of deaths in April and a number of further positive cases of Covid-19 amongst residents and staff, although none of these individuals had symptoms, confirming how difficult it can be to identify and isolate those with the virus without regular testing.

The home is closed to all visitors except for health and safety reasons and everyone is temperature checked daily. Full PPE is available to all staff and hand sanitiser is available throughout the home. The use of agency staff is minimised and where possible our own staff cover additional shifts.

Life in the home continues and staff are now providing entertainment and quizzes to keep residents stimulated. We look forward to welcoming everyone back as soon as it is safe.

Best wishes to everyone from all the team at Burrell Mead Care Home.

Reflections on Lockdown Experiences

Hazel writes: I would like to thank all the Ministry Team for their wonderful support during the lockdown to provide some form of service each week. Guidance has been changing all the time and we have also been able to do things differently as we have gained in experience with the use of technology. It would be really helpful if we could have feedback on what it is that you have found helpful during this time, so that we can continue with this. It will be some time before we can go back to having services in the same way as before (if indeed we ever do).

I would also like to say how blessed we are in having a team of people who are keeping in regular contact with those in our congregations. This has been one of the most important parts of what we have been able to do during this time as social contact is critical to our spiritual life.

Barry Burford: I belong to an Art class and I received an email from Stewart, the class tutor, who sent me some exercises to do and said don't forget "Keep Painting"! I showed Joan the email -- so I painted

the kitchen, I painted the conservatory wall and I have just finished painting the bedroom! I am not going to show my emails to Joan in future! Stewart will not be impressed!! Nevertheless, I have had the opportunity to do some drawing and painting, which I find very relaxing.

Joan Burford has been sorting out their wardrobes and the drawers in their bedroom and as a result has lots of bags for the charity shops/refugee centre etc!

Daphne Dack: John and I give thanks for all the paramedics working at the Croydon Ambulance Station at Shirley Oaks Hospital, where John's daughter's partner, Paul, works. One night Paul came home feeling exhausted and in the morning was critically ill with the Coronavirus. His friends soon arrived in 'full cover gear' and gave his partner, Lisa, some drugs to administer, so he didn't have to go into hospital. They regularly called in over the next few days to check he was okay and to give more medication. Five weeks later he went back on duty and found out that three paramedics had died, including two of his best mates. Lisa looked after Paul day and night, despite having had breast cancer, being a type-1 diabetic and having one of her kidneys removed.

We thank God for all the wonderful paramedics, for Paul's amazing recovery and for Lisa's protection from the virus.

Kate Dyer: The last few weeks have been challenging but, thanks to our fabulous staff and the support of local schools and businesses who provided us with PPE in the early weeks of the pandemic, we have continued to keep our corner of the NHS up and running.

Outside of work, thanks to the magic of Zoom, we have stayed in touch with family and friends, enjoying Zoom wine-tasting, cheese-tasting, quizzes and weekly yoga sessions. Dog-walking has provided our exercise and baking and gardening have been surprisingly enjoyable.

The VE Day weekend was a highlight; a socially-distanced tea with the neighbours in our front gardens, communal singing on Zoom with our friends, wine-tasting with our kids and our Zoom tea with the Church.

On Sunday night my friends and I light a candle to bring us together across the country and to look forward with hope to when this is over and we can hug our children again.

Rowena writes: As I haven't been out at all since 21 March, I have been kept very busy. I have spent a lot of time gardening and finding things to do in the house like various bits of de-cluttering. Although the

garden looks nice, the house looks no different! I have also spent a great deal of time on the phone and on email supporting parishioners.

Brian has been going for walks and cycle rides and has been learning even more woodworking skills!

We have both had to learn some new technology to use Zoom for Ministry Team meetings as well as other skills to put services together online. Brian is constantly updating and maintaining both church websites and I am keeping the Facebook page up to date.

Barbara Goodchild: I have enjoyed locked down more than expected Tony and I have walked every day and I have shopped once a week. I have attempted to play my keyboard fairly regularly and also to paint a few flowers, the latter mainly to encourage Tony back to painting – unsuccessfully!

I am knitting a colourful striped jumper for a child in Africa, the pattern for which came from the WI. I have also bought a new laptop as I had sprayed my old one (keyboard) with antiseptic and it stopped the keys working – a good excuse to have a new faster model! It does not have a touchscreen so is a bit difficult getting used to it. Luckily I have a mouse which is better! I have also done a lot of phoning around and enjoying programmes about the country on TV, eg railway journeys.

I have also enjoyed the quizzes that the Reading Group have been sent by Barbara Plummer each week.

During lockdown **Valerie Hamilton** has been reading her Bible, the New Testament in particular, and has now got as far as John. Some of her other time is spent in the garden and doing jigsaw puzzles.

Sheila Hawkins has kept busy by painted her summer house and garden bench.

Barbara Plummer: I give thanks for being able to have longer and more relaxed chats with my daughter now she is working from home.

Jane Smith: I have been writing even more poems than usual during this time of lockdown and I am planning to publish 25 of these poems into another book, which I shall subtitle *Finding Hope During Lockdown*.



Bishop Christopher writes . . .

Our first concern in a crisis is for the health, safety and well-being of those we love, and those entrusted to our care. In the past few days and weeks, we have been reminded that we are part of a global community as the threat of Coronavirus has become clear and, nation by nation, emergency measures have transformed the daily lives of us all.

I became aware of the rapid spread of the disease at the beginning of Lent, whilst co-leading the first Ecumenical Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The night before we were due to visit the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, the West Bank was locked down and our happy band of 70 pilgrims was barred from going there. We were one of the last Pilgrimage groups to fly out. Since then, my concern and prayers have been for the Diocesan family of parishes and other communities of faith, indeed for all people who have been affected by the virus.

The message from our Government has been very simple and very clear: Stay at Home, Protect the NHS, Save Lives. The simplicity of this message is its greatest compelling strength. It has needed to be, given the risk to life and the danger of stretching the capacity of our NHS to breaking point. The impact on lives and livelihoods, and the mental health of many people, particularly those who are isolated or vulnerable, or living in cramped accommodation, is also considerable.

In all this, much is being threatened and endangered; but there is much to be gained as well. It is wonderful to learn that in the past 24 hours, at the time of writing, more than half a million people have offered voluntary service to support the NHS. I also know that in many of our parishes the Church is at the heart of emerging local networks which will reach out to those most in need. I express my thanks and appreciation especially for all that is being extended in prayer and pastoral care. Many of us are able to put a renewed focus on home and family as we take this opportunity to give precious time to each other. Equally, many of us are living alone and relying on other networks of support.

We are also recovering the New Testament understanding of Church as people, not buildings, and as believers drawn together by their shared faith, hope and love in Jesus Christ. We are finding new ways in which we can worship in our homes and making ever more creative use of social media and other helpful technologies.

Just as the Government message is simple and compelling, let us take this opportunity to look at the world around us more simply: the simple beauty of springtime, with trees bursting into blossom, is very apparent in the many open spaces of South London which people are accessing for exercise and recreation, whilst observing proper social distancing; the simple peace of a world in which there is less traffic and less pollution; above all, the simple peace that is to be found in prayer, and in our eternal hope, new every morning as we journey with the suffering Lord towards Holy Week and Easter, when we shall proclaim that Christ is Risen.

✠Christopher Southwark

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**

**HAZEL
O'SULLIVAN**

**LESLEY
EAST
8289 1483**

**ROWENA
GRIFFITHS
8777 6112**

**ANITA
CURTIS
8777 5973**

**CHRIS
PARISH
8777 6845**

**MARGHARET
MARSH
8462 6906**

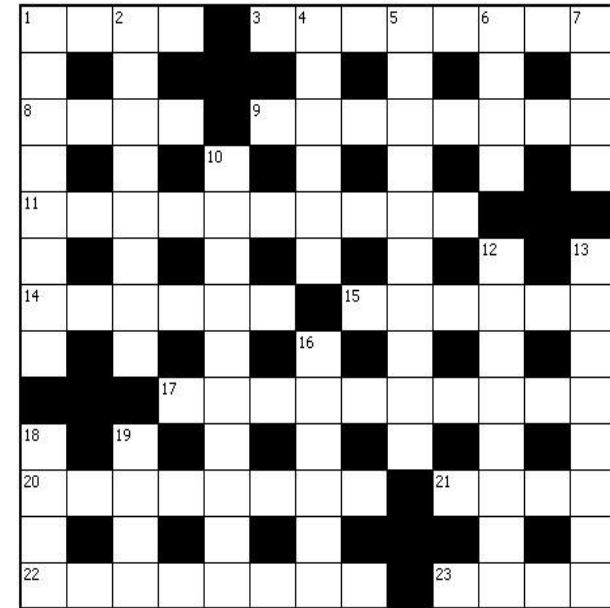
**NICKY
NIGHTINGALE
07771 782914**

**PHIL
FREEMAN
8289 3029**

**SARAH
COVERDALE
8777 0130**

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

Bible Crossword for June/July



Clues

Across

- 1 See 23 Across
- 3 Where the thief on the cross was told he would be, with Jesus (Luke 23:43) (8)
- 8 Invalid (4)
- 9 Blasphemed (Ezekiel 36:20) (8)
- 11 Adhering to the letter of the law rather than its spirit (Philippians 3:6) (10)
- 14 Shut (Ecclesiastes 12:4) (6)
- 15 'This is how it will be with anyone who — up things for himself but is not rich towards God' (Luke 12:21) (6)
- 17 Mary on Isis (anag) (10)
- 20 Agreement (Hebrews 9:15) (8)
- 21 Native of, say, Bangkok (4)
- 22 Deaf fort (anag) (5-3)
- 23 & 1 Across 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of — to work it and take — of it' (Genesis 2:15) (4,4)

Down

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

Answers for April/May Crossword

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



Sudoku for June/July

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

Answers for Sudoku April/May

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



Word Search Clues for June 2020

Coronavirus has turned our world upside down. But God is still there, and we can call on Him, as Psalm 91 (vs 1-6) reminds us...

- Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
- ² I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."
- ³ Surely he will save you
from the fowler's snare
and from the deadly pestilence.
- ⁴ He will cover you with his feathers,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.
- ⁵ You will not fear the terror of night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
- ⁶ nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,
nor the plague that destroys at midday.

ALMIGHTY
ARROW
COVER
DEADLY
DESTROYS
DWELLS
FAITHFULNESS
FEAR
FEATHERS
FORTRESS
HIGH
MOST
NIGHT

PESTILENCE
PLAGUE
RAMPART
REFUGE
SAVE
SHADOW
SHELTER
SHIELD
SNARE
TERROR
TRUST
WINGS



If Jesus Came to Your House

If Jesus came to our house to spend a day or two
If He came unexpectedly, I wonder what you'd do?

Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honoured Guest,
And all the food you'd serve to Him would be the very best.

And you would keep assuring Him you're glad to have Him there,
That serving Him in your home is joy beyond compare.

But when you saw Him coming, would you meet Him at the door,
With arms outstretched in welcome to your Heavenly Visitor?

Or would you have to change your clothes before you let Him in,
Or hide some magazines and put the Bible where they'd been?

Would you turn off the radio and hope He hadn't heard,
And wish you hadn't uttered that last, loud, hasty word?

Would you hide your worldly music and put some hymn books out,
Could you let Jesus walk right in, or would you rush about?

And I wonder, if the Saviour spent a day or two with you,
Would you go right on doing the things you always do?
Would you keep right on saying the things you always say,
Would life for you continue as it does from day to day?
Would your family conversation keep up its usual pace?
And would you find it hard each meal to say a table grace?
Would you sing the songs you always sing and read the books you read,
And let Him know the things on which your mind and spirit feed?
Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you'd planned to go,
Or would you maybe change your plans for just a day or so?
Would you be glad to have Him meet your very closest friends,
Or would you hope they'd stay away until His visit ends?
Would you be glad to have Him stay forever on and on,
Or would you sigh with great relief when He at last was gone?
It might be interesting to know the things that you would do
If Jesus came in person to spend the holidays with you.

www.watchmyhomeschool.com

August/September Magazine

Items for inclusion in the next magazine are needed by Sunday 12 July please, or contact Margaret Green to make alternative arrangements via:

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



The Rainbow Children – A Coronavirus Poem

The history books will talk of now,
That time the world stood still.
When every family stayed at home,
Waved out from windowsills -
At those they loved but could not hold,
Because they loved them so.
Yet, whilst they did they noticed all the flowers start to grow.

The sun came out, they can recall,
And windows, rainbows filled.
They kicked a football in their yards,
Until the night drew in.
They walked each day but not too close,
That time the world stood still.
When people walked straight down the roads,
That once the cars did fill.

They saw that people became ill,
They knew the world was scared.
But whilst the world stood still they saw,
How much the whole world cared.
They clapped on Thursdays from their doors,
They cheered for the brave.
For people who would risk their lives,
So others could be saved.

The schools closed down, they missed their friends,
They missed their teachers so.
Their Mam's and Dad's helped with their work,
They helped their minds to grow.
The parents used to worry that,
As schools were put on hold,
Their children wouldn't have the tools,
They'd need as they grew old.

But history books will talk of them,
Now adults, fully grown.
Those little boys and girls back then,
The ones who stayed at home.
They'll tell you that they fixed this world,
Of all they would fulfil.
The RAINBOW children building dreams,
They'd dreamed whilst time stood still.

Gemma Peacock, 2020

**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

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.