

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI WEST WICKHAM PARISH MAGAZINE



February/March 2022

50 pence

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

Church Website: www.stfranciswestwickham.co.uk

 www.facebook.com/StFofA

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| | | |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------|
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REGULAR SERVICES

ONCE RESUMED

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

SATURDAY

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

During February and March, on–line and paper–based resources for worship at home will be circulated each week in addition to the services taking place in person. At the time of going to print, the following services are planned in church but this is subject to change at short notice, dependent on local restrictions arising from the Coronavirus pandemic.

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

Sunday 6th

8.00 a.m.

Third Sunday before LENT

Holy Communion at St Mary's

Led by Richard Ford

10.00 a.m.

Joint Holy Communion at St. Francis with
livestream

Led by Richard Ford

Friday 11th

3.45 p.m.

Messy Church at St. Mary's

Led by Messy Church Team

Sunday 13th

8.00 a.m.

SUNDAY before LENT – Racial Justice

Holy Communion at St. Francis

Led by Hazel O'Sullivan

9.15 a.m.

Morning Praise at St. Mary's with livestream

Led by Debbie Adams/Talk – Hazel O'Sullivan

10.45 a.m.

Worship for all Ages at St. Francis

Led by Hazel O'Sullivan

Sunday 20th

8.00 a.m.

SECOND SUNDAY before LENT

Holy Communion at St. Mary's

Led by Hazel O'Sullivan/Preacher - Ken Bryan

9.15 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Mary's with livestream

Led by Hazel O'Sullivan/Preacher - Ken Bryan

10.45 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis

Led by Hilary Fife

Sunday 27th SUNDAY before LENT

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Francis

Led Hazel O'Sullivan

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

Led by Hazel O'Sullivan

10.45 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Francis

Led by Hazel O'Sullivan



SERVICES FOR MARCH

Wednesday 2nd Ash Wednesday

10.45 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis

Led by Hazel/Preacher – Richard Ford

8.00 p.m.

Holy Communion at West Wickham Methodist

Led by Laura MacBean/Preacher – Richard F.

Friday 4th

CTWW World Day of Prayer

Service at Hawes Lane Methodist Church

Sunday 6th

8.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis

Led by Hazel O'Sullivan

10.00 a.m.

Joint Holy Communion at St. Mary's with
livestream

Led by Hazel O'Sullivan

Friday 11th

3.45 p.m.

Messy Church at St. Mary's

Led by Messy Church Team

Sunday 13th

8.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis

Led by Richard Ford. Preacher – Ken Bryan

9.15 a.m.

Holy Communion at St Mary's with livestream

Led by Richard Ford. Preacher – Ken Bryan

10.45 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis

Led by Richard Ford. Preacher – Ken Bryan

Sunday 20th

8.00 a.m.

Lent 3

Holy Communion at St. Mary's
Led by Richard Ford

9.15 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Mary's with livestream
Led by Hazel O'Sullivan
Followed by St Mary's Annual Parochial Church Meeting

10.45 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis
Led by Richard Ford

Sunday 27th

Lent 4 – Mothering Sunday

8.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis
Led Hazel O'Sullivan

9.15 a.m.

Morning Praise at St. Mary's with livestream
Led by Ken Bryan. Preacher - Hazel O'Sullivan

10.45 a.m.

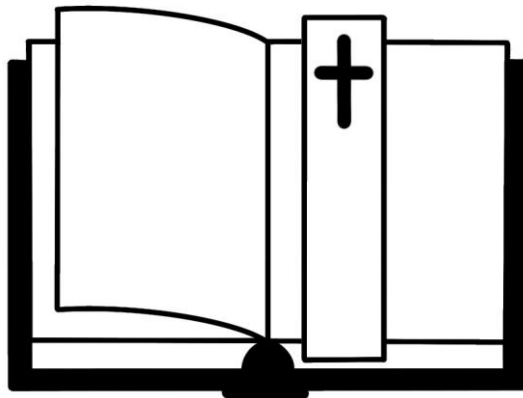
Worship for All Ages at St. Francis
Led by Hazel O'Sullivan

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On-line and paper-based resources for worship at home will continue to be circulated each week in addition to services taking place in person. At the current time, services are planned in the church building and on-line, but this is subject to change at short notice, dependent on local restrictions arising from the Coronavirus pandemic. Please check the weekly pew sheet for up-to-date information on times and location.

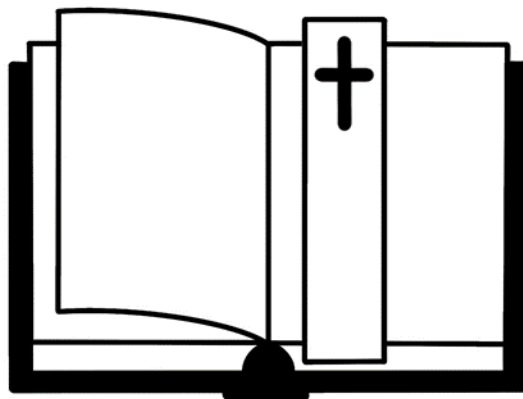
READINGS FOR FEBRUARY

| Date | Reading | Reader |
|------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| 6th | Isaiah: 1-8 or 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11 Luke 5: 1-11 | Valerie Hamilton Richard Ford |
| 13th | Special readings for Worship for All ages | James Pitt-Payne |
| 20th | Genesis 2: 4–9, 15–end or Revelation 4 Luke 8: 22-25 | Rosemary Swatland Hilary Fife |
| 27th | Exodus 34: 29-end 2 Corinthians 3: 12 – 4: 2 Luke 9: 28-36 | David Wada Hazel O’Sullivan |



READINGS FOR MARCH

| Date | Reading | Reader |
|------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| 2nd | Ash Wednesday at St Francis' Isaiah 58: 1-12 or 2 Corinthians 5: 20b-6, 10 Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21 | John Womack Richard Ford |
| 6th | Joint service at St Mary's Deuteronomy 26: 1-11 or Romans 10: 8b-13 Luke 4: 1-13 | Jean Pogose Hazel O'Sullivan |
| 13th | Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18 or Phil. 3: 17-4: 1 Luke 13: 31-end | Gill Kehoe Ken Bryan |
| 20th | Isaiah 55: 1-9 or 1 Corinthians 10: 1-13 Luke 13: 1-9 | Valerie Hamilton Richard Ford |
| 27th | Special readings for Worship for all ages – Mothering Sunday | James Pitt-Payne |



LETTER FROM HAZEL

Dear friends,

And so, we begin another new year. I wonder what 2022 will bring. I think that there are many reasons to be cheerful at the start of this new year, which may seem like a strange thing for me to say while writing this in isolation because I have covid. The reason why I say there are reasons to be cheerful are because we are now beginning to learn to live with covid in the same way that we have learned to live with the flu and colds. We can also give thanks that the vaccines are protecting us from having severe forms of this disease. And so, it means that we can have much to look forward to this year – we can book holidays and arrange celebrations without too much risk of them being cancelled.

At the start of each new year, we have themes in our services, driven by the readings, one of which is the wedding at Cana, where Jesus turns water into wine (John 2:1-11). This is Jesus' first miracle and so it is about new beginnings for him. Interestingly Jesus initially says, "my time has not yet come", suggesting that he might be thinking it's too early for him to start in ministry. I wonder if any of you are thinking it's too early to begin going out and about and socialising with others. Jesus found that God provided all that he needed when he trusted in him, with great abundance. And yes, we need to take care to keep us all safe, but I think that we too will gain whatever we need for our interactions with others when we trust in God and plan for events that we can look forward to in a way that was not possible last year. And these interactions might be so much more abundant now that we have been living without them for such a long time.

May God pour out an abundance in your lives this year.

Hazel

Lent Groups

The Beatitudes have been called the most powerful and beautiful teaching that Jesus gave. The text is found at the beginning of The Sermon on the Mount at Matthew 5:1-12. It was a reading that we had at our wedding, because we knew it to be a pattern for how to have a good life; the best life; the life God intended for you to live. However, I'm not sure that I've really lived up to this in my almost 30 years of marriage.

Why are The Beatitudes so difficult to live out? Maybe, it's because we've forgotten what they are all about. We regularly use Jesus' teaching on prayer - it's called the Lord's Prayer. We know what we believe, as we often say the Creed in our services and we take part in communion, remembering the forgiveness and promise of eternal life given by Jesus. But do we have anything in our services on how to live life today? This is arguably the most important aspect of all of Jesus' teaching and yet it's not included regularly in our liturgy. I think that this is something to do with the fact that the Beatitudes echo the highest ideals of Jesus' teachings on spirituality and compassion, and they are an uncomfortable way of looking at life today. In summary, they call us to:

- spiritual renewal,
- lament for the injustices in the world,
- be prepared to lay aside our status and privilege to enrich others,
- stand up for what is right,
- be honest and real in our relationships, forgiving and accepting, always seeking peace and wholeness.

Are these all things that you are committed to in life?

The Beatitudes are sometimes called the Ten Commandments of the New Testament, as they present a new set of ideals that focus on love and humility, rather than force and exaction. But because they are not set out as clear rules to be followed, they can be difficult to put into practice.

This is all very challenging and following the teaching will mean standing out from the crowd. Christian faith is not a hobby, but a way of life. As challenging as this may be, however, it is a good life that the Beatitudes lead us to, because this is what it means to live as a child of God's kingdom. And that has to be somewhere we'd like to be.

I pray that this year we will take steps toward living more of this life by looking at The Beatitudes in our Lent groups. We will explore what each of the Beatitudes mean and how we might live this kind of life today. If you are not normally part of a home group, do be in touch with a leader to join in for the period of Lent which starts on Wednesday 2nd March this year.

Here are the groups that will be running:

- Monday evenings – contact Richard on 020 8289 2432 or richard.ford73@ntlworld.com
- Wednesday evenings – contact Nicky on 020 8916 9855 or nicholanightingale@hotmail.co.uk
- Thursday mornings – contact Debbie on 020 8777 7834 or debadams64@icloud.com
- Friday mornings – contact Ken on 020 8777 1850 or kennethabryan@aol.com

You can swap from one group to another so that you don't miss a week if you have something else planned for the normal time when

the group is running. I do hope that you will be able to join a group, so that we can see this as a topic that we all try to get to grips with together.

Hazel



Ash Wednesday Services



Over the centuries the tradition has developed of burning palm crosses saved from the previous year to use in a service on Ash Wednesday when they are applied to the forehead of those worshippers who choose to receive them in the sign of the cross.

The practice is strongest in the Catholic and Anglican traditions, though several free churches also observe Ash Wednesday, being in part mindful of the Biblical basis of expressing repentance found in the Old and New Testaments. The ashes serve as a reminder of the failings of humanity, both personal and corporate, and the cross a reminder of God's loving, forgiving, salvation.

This year Churches Together in West Wickham are holding two such services on Ash Wednesday, 2nd March:

- A morning service at 10:45am at St Francis' conducted by Revd Hazel O'Sullivan.
- An evening service at 8pm at West Wickham Methodist Church conducted by Deacon Laura MacBean.

The two services will follow the same pattern and have similar content, both include Holy Communion led by the host minister, a sermon given by Revd Richard Ford and the act of ashing.

St. Mary`s Christmas Market ***Saturday, 27th November 2021***

Arranging the Market this year was a challenge! We had to take the Covid guidelines into consideration - social distancing, having a well-ventilated hall and ensuring all surfaces (food utensils) were sanitised - to hold an in-person event.

To achieve this, we had to reduce the number of stalls, food had to be served on recyclable disposable tableware and for the first time in circa 25 years, the stalls which add to the Christmas atmosphere, were not erected to create more space in the hall. Stalls were also moved to create more space in the concourse area for eating.

The Secret Santa and Santa's Grotto could not go ahead as there was no ventilation in the rooms they were held in. Another casualty was the delicious hot food usually provided by the Graydon's because we couldn't have too many people in the kitchen. Instead, we used a simplified menu that allowed us to keep within the Covid guidelines.

Despite all the challenges, we managed to create a Christmassy atmosphere in the hall with the streamers, beautifully displayed goods on the red and green tablecloths and the Christmas tree standing tall on the stage!

Snow had been forecast for the day but by God's grace, the day dawned with no snow. We even had to open earlier than 10:30am as there was a queue of people waiting! Throughout the day, there was a steady stream of people coming in and at no point did the hall feel overcrowded. It was a truly blessed day!

Thank you to everyone who generously donated their time in setting up, wrapping up hampers, helping on the day, attending and donating in kind.

We raised over £4k which was due to the generous nature of both churches and our community.

We would like to say a special thank you to the following people who have 'retired' after decades of successfully running their stalls:

- Carole & Malcolm Hubbard on the Bottle Tombola
- Miriam & John Richards on the Books stall and
- Michelle & Paul Graydon providing us with delicious hot lunches.

We are looking for volunteers to take over managing and running the following:

- Bottle Tombola stall
- Kitchen - providing hot lunches
- Toys stall

Please speak to Gifty Nortey on 07813797757 or email gifty@nortey.com if you are interested and would like some further information. Also, contact Gifty if you have an idea for running a new stall at the market. Thank you.

The St Mary's Christmas Market Team

Christmas Services

Times might be difficult, but we still made an effort to decorate the church for Christmas. A beautiful festive tree, candles, floral decorations and of course, the crib.

Our **Joint Messy Christmas** was attended by 13 children with a total of 35 with parents, carers and helpers. There was a lovely happy atmosphere in the hall for the activities, the story in the church followed by a meal held in family groups. Messy Christmas has had 44 views on the livestream.

The **Carol Service** was attended by 46 people, and it was great to be able to include a 'nativity' scene in this service. We have had 58 livestream views.

The **Lighting the Lamps Service** was kept as safe as we could make it with Oliver doing the readings from around the church and Hazel's family helping with the lighting and some of the other logistics. There were 64 people in church.

There were 29 people at the **Midnight Communion Service** and 43 on **Christmas Day** morning for Communion.

Thanks to all who have been involved in decorating the church, for those involved in any way in putting on the services in the church building and for enabling them to be watched on our livestream.

Hopefully, we will be able to come together to celebrate in our usual way next Christmas.

February

2nd Candlemas

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Luke 2: v 22-“Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem and presented him to the Lord. ” We praise you Lord for the quiet strength of Joseph, the prophetic insight of Simeon, the self-destruction of Anna, and the courage of Mary as she faced the truth that a sword would pierce her heart. May we be bearers of our Lord’s light, which lightens the world, and help us, like Simeon, to live for the Lord and depart in peace”.
Amen

A Prayer for the World

Lord God, we pray for the great powers of the world; the strong nations and governments. May their power be used properly so that the poor are protected and no one is oppressed. So many people of the world are suffering from war, crop failure or natural disaster. So many people are without a home as they seek to find a safe country or peace where they can survive. We pray especially for the people of the Yemen and Afghanistan and that Aid Agencies will be supported generously and their workers are kept safe as they face many dangers.

And ... close to home....

Father we thank you for the NHS and ask your blessing on all its staff that they may keep strong as they work to relieve the sick and suffering. We ask that you might give wisdom to politicians and other leaders as they decide on measures to contain the spread of Covid and its variants. We pray for those suffering from long Covid and give thanks for all who have recovered. Amen

FOCUS

March

1st We pray for the people and church of Wales
St. David

2nd Lord, may this Lent be a holy time of dedication
Ash Wednesday and reflection – How are we using our lives?

4th We join with Christians of every land praying that
World Day peace and justice will prevail throughout the world
of Prayer

17th We pray for the people and church of Ireland.
St. Patrick

19th We pray for fathers, giving thanks for our own.
St. Joseph May God continue to bless the sacrament of
of Nazareth marriage and all parents and families.

25th Lord, give us, like Mary, grace and obedience, so
Annunciation of that we may be willing and worthy to carry out
Blessed Virgin Mary your will for us.

27th We pray for mothers everywhere, remembering
Mothering Sunday our own mother with thanks.

The Gift of Silence

We are so busy Lord; we do not listen. The world is so noisy, Lord, we do not hear. We do not hear what your Spirit is saying to each one of us. We have been afraid of silence.

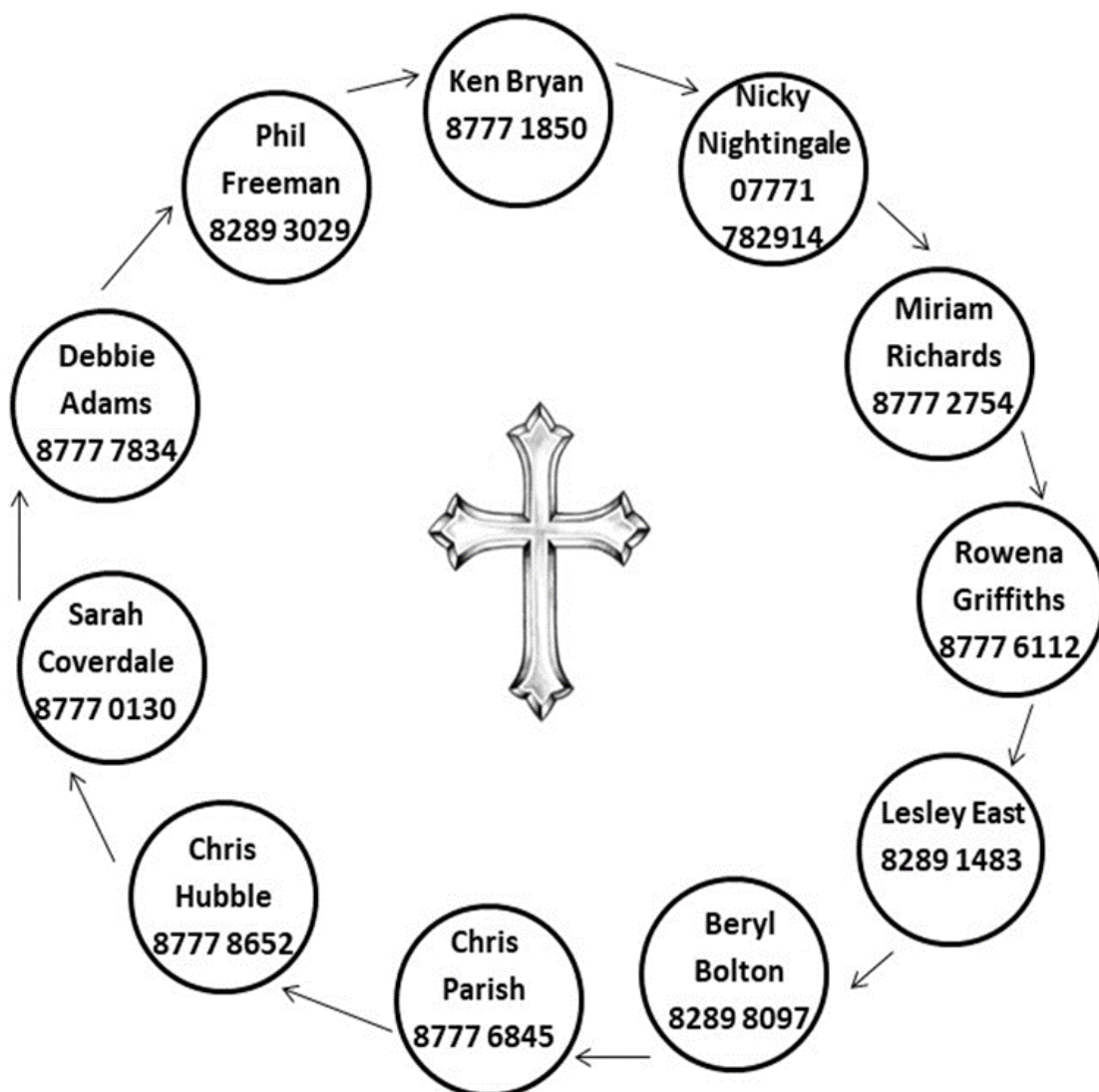
Teach us, Lord.

(Women of New Zealand)

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.





churches
together
in West Wickham

As we come out of the pandemic, more community services are looking to improve how they serve our locality. Here are three varied opportunities to help in the community:

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED to drive elderly Bencurtis residents to the West Wickham shops in one of the Bencurtis minibuses. We're looking for drivers who can give up one morning (or more) a week to take shoppers to Sainsbury's at 10.00 a.m. & pick them up again at 11.30 a.m. to return them home. An ideal way to serve folk in our local community! Drivers need to have a clean driving licence, to provide character references & be willing to be DBS checked. Ideally, they need to be under 70 years of age, as drivers over 70 will need to complete a DVLA driving assessment. The Friends of Glebe Housing Association/Bencurtis will cover insurance costs. Further details from Geoff Larcombe (Tel: 020 8777 5114; Mobile: 07954 707755; email: g.d.larcombe@gmail.com)

School Governor Roles

Compass Academy Trust is looking to recruit local volunteer school governors within our family of schools (Marian Vian, Unicorn and Wickham Common & Oak Lodge). Local governors do not have to be specialists in education; instead, much of the role is the inquisitiveness to question and analyse; and the willingness to learn. You will be expected to get to know the school through visits, attending events and meeting the staff and students. You also need enthusiasm, commitment and a little spare time.

The local governors work with school leaders to deliver the best education for pupils at our schools and ensure they are nurtured and cared for in a safe environment. We look at a diverse range of matters - from deciding what kind of schools we want to be and thinking about how we want to get there; to setting school priorities and ensuring they are delivered. The Local Governing Body meets every term, currently virtually, to discuss these matters and in turn are accountable to the Board of Trustees. To help local governors in their role you will receive:

- Induction training – to welcome and introduce you to the role of Local Governing Body
- An ongoing programme of training.
- Support and guidance from other members of your governing board (such as a ‘buddy’)

THE TRUST ACTIVELY ENCOURAGES VOLUNTEERS FROM A BAME BACKGROUND.

If you would be interested in having an informal chat to find out more about how you can contribute to governance, please email your details to: governance@compassacademytrust.org Joyce Munro, Governance Manager, will be glad to contact you to arrange an informal conversation.

Bromley Borough Foodbank (BBF) is recruiting new Trustees

At BBF, we’ve been helping those facing food poverty in our local community for over 10 years. It’s a big job and it requires lots of volunteers in a wide variety of roles. One of those roles is as a Trustee: we have five and are looking to recruit two more. We hope that one of them might have HR experience, but don’t let that stop you applying if you have other attributes that might interest us. For instance, we could learn a lot from a Trustee who has been helped by BBF or another Foodbank.

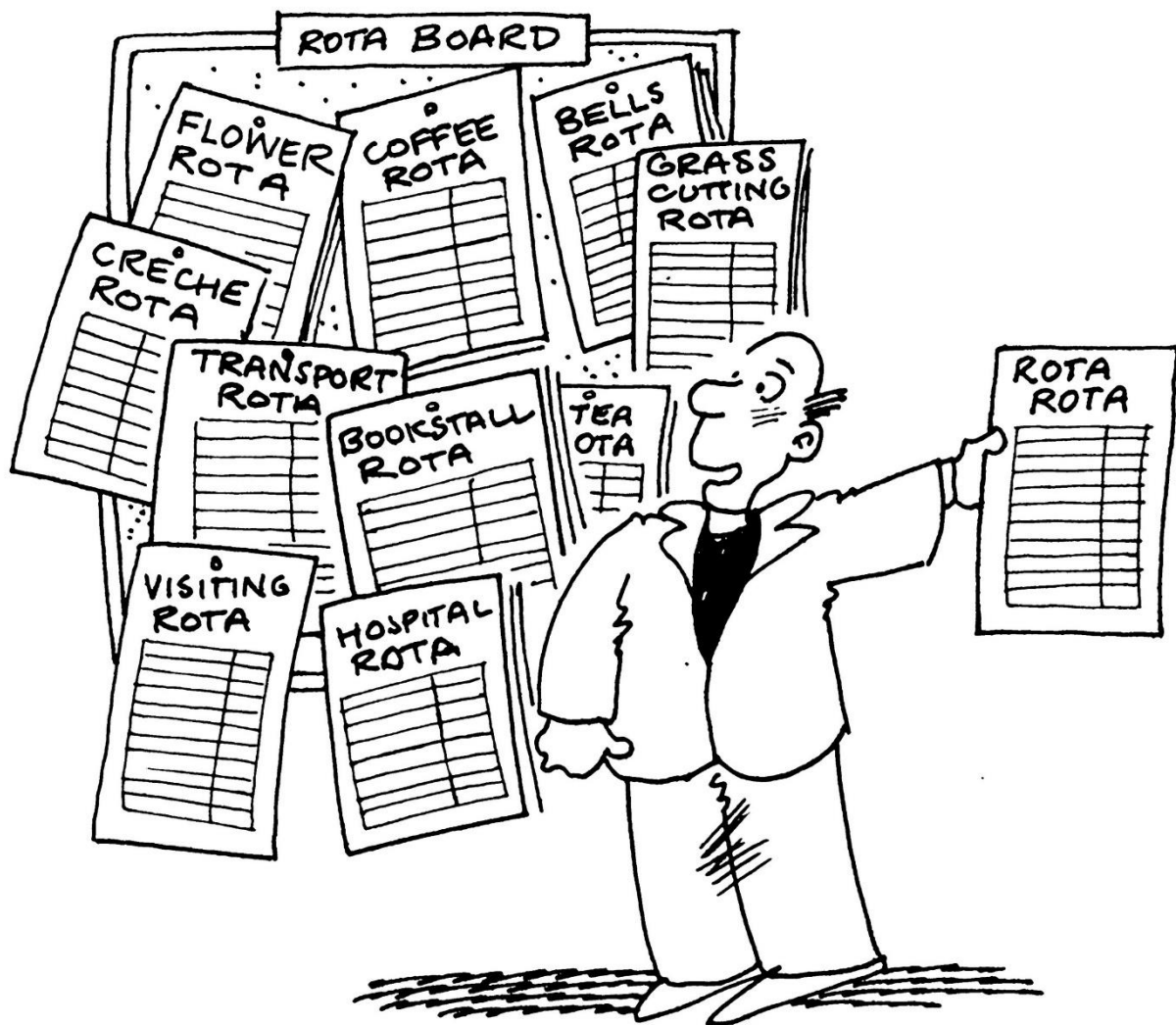
What you would do as a Trustee:

- As a team: you would sit on our “Trustee Board”, which provides strategic direction and oversight for all BBF activities and works to ensure that BBF is properly run.
- At an individual level: you would also be asked to take responsibility for particular aspects of BBF’s operations, getting to know what is happening and providing guidance and support in those areas.
- Time commitment: the Trustee Board meets every other month, with one awayday and some training each year in addition to the AGM. The time commitment for your individual responsibilities as a Trustee would be tailored to fit your circumstances.

What we are looking for in our Trustees

- A blend of different skills and experience: we want people from different backgrounds with a wide range of talents to bring to bear in their Trustee role.
- A willingness to learn: we don’t require Trustees to have previous experience of being a trustee or to understand the legal responsibilities and liabilities it entails; we can help you learn about them and the other aspects of your role as a Trustee.
- Diversity: we would like our Trustee Board to reflect the ethnic, gender and other diversity of our clients and the staff and volunteers who work for us.
- Supportive of our ethos: we require each of our Trustees to be supportive of our collective Trustee Board responsibility to maintain BBF's Christian identity and ethos.
- Commitment: to be a Trustee you need to be committed to BBF and its aims, to devote the necessary time and effort to fulfil your responsibilities and to work well as part of a cheerful and dynamic team.

Interested? please contact Simon Lees, Chair of Trustees, at accounts@bromleyborough.foodbank.org.uk or on 07768 175377.



"I'm updating the 'rota notice-board' rota, rota... do I see a hand...?"

Croydon: Central Zimbabwe parish links Update from Zimbabwe – January 2022

The celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Diocese of Central Zimbabwe had to be postponed by a couple of months, but on 27th November over 2,000 people attended a memorable event in Kwekwe. Here are pictures from the Mother's Union Facebook page:



There was a virtual presence at this event from the Croydon-Zimbabwe Link in the form of a pre-recorded video message. This was greatly valued by those in Zimbabwe as it showed solidarity and gave great encouragement. \$36,000 was raised through various events associated with the anniversary celebrations and this will be used to construct diocesan offices.

Thanks are being given to God as the rains have been very good (although they arrived late). It is hoped that there will be a good harvest.

There is much political activity as there are by-elections that happened in December, and more are coming up in late March.

The virus is now subsiding. Not many are getting sick, and the effects are not devastating. Enough doses of the vaccination are available for everyone to have it, but there is still some hesitancy. 3 million have been vaccinated (nationally 45% have had one dose and 34% two doses) and a booster programme has now started. Bishop Ignatius is reported to be going onto the radio to encourage the uptake of vaccinations.

There is now no limit on the number who are allowed to meet in church, as long as they are vaccinated. Unvaccinated people are forbidden by law from gathering with others. Church income has gone up as a result, but not to pre-Covid levels, as people's incomes have reduced.

Schools have remained closed in January to contain infections, but now that daily deaths are in single figures, it is hoped that there will be more opening up soon. The public have responded well to the reduction in the regulations.

On diocesan projects, the following progress has been made:

- A grant of \$300,000 has been approved for the solar plant at St. Patrick's, and when the project is complete, St. Patrick's will be able to sell electricity to the government where there is excess generated above its own requirements.

- The insurance partnership project with the communications company Econet to set up a self-managed insurance scheme has taken off and the diocese is now selling insurance as an agent on a commission.
- Horticultural projects last year, especially around garlic and tomatoes, have made the diocese and churches less dependent on the offerings they receive, and it is hoped that this will continue this year.

The Mothers Union in Zimbabwe have been meeting virtually recently, but back in November, their president, Flora Makumbe (wife of Bishop Ignatius) and other members of a team have visited many of the churches in the diocese to advocate for breaking the silence against Gender Based Violence.

The MU recently made donations of groceries to current and retired priests. Planning is now happening for meetings this year. Here is a link to their Facebook page where you can see their news: www.facebook.com/groups/171212804989295



Mike & Fiona Smith

Update on Ear Aid Nepal

On 16th December, 2021, Mike and Fiona Smith sent greetings to friends and family with love to all for a wonderful Christmas, and attached their latest news.

Elizabeth exclaims in a loud voice:

Blessed are you among women and blessed is the child you will bear! As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy”.

Luke 1.42-44

These verses remind us of Jesus special entrance to the world at the first Christmas, and the importance of hearing!

Mike is now back in Nepal. We both left Nepal in late January 2020, planning to return after a few weeks spent with family. Unfortunately, Fiona’s Mum was taken unwell, so Mike returned to Nepal alone in early March and returned to England on the same day that the UK lockdown began. It was 20 months later that Mike managed to get back, just a few weeks ago. Mike’s mum now has a place in an excellent residential home near us in Hereford. Fiona’s mum will soon move to residential nursing care.

Because of all this and also being unsure of what Mike could contribute in Nepal now that the Ear Centre at INF Green Pastures Hospital has been running without his direct input for

a long time, he returned with some trepidation! Mike has been able to get fully involved and has been operating almost every day.

During Covid, although the hospital was quiet, a trickle of patients and surgery continued, so thankfully the staff were almost all retained. We were able to appoint a senior audiologist, who really upgraded our hearing tests and hearing aid fittings. Mike returned to Nepal with new and serviced equipment purchased by the charity, as well as a large supply of donated new and used hearing aids.

We give thanks that so many patients get help each day. Mike had been challenged by the need to offer services in some new areas such as cosmetic reconstruction of the outer ear, in those born without an ear. This is notoriously difficult but is a frequent request as it affects things like marriage prospects.

Our time in the UK was also fruitful. Fiona has worked with a local organisation called Care in the Community speaking with and visiting clients struggling with health or other problems. Mike has also been a vaccinator for a day most weeks.

Our church in the UK, at Bodenham chapel kept meeting either by zoom or in person, and our church in Nepal have also returned to face to face meetings and Mike has really enjoyed re-joining them.

We loved having family come over from Australia for three months in the summer and we had wonderful breaks together in Port Appin, Scotland. We are all looking forward to a family wedding, probably in Spain in '23!

For those who wish to donate to the Ear Centre work, please go to: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/donate?cid=182237>

Please continue to check out our website – <https://www.earaidnepal.org/donate.html>

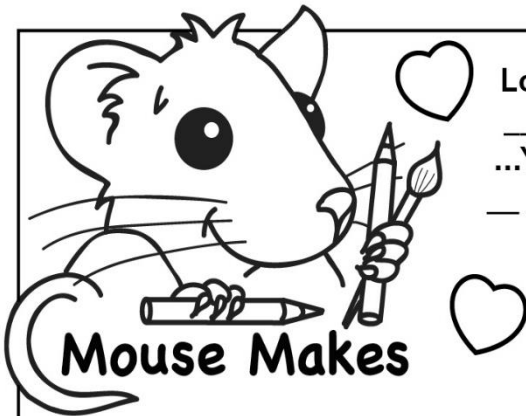


Parish Magazine

You may have noticed that this edition of the Parish Magazine is a bit different. This is because Margaret Green has stepped down as our editor, following her move away from West Wickham. She has been the editor for many years and our greatest thanks go to her for this service.

If you have any comments on this edition – things you like, things you miss, alternative ideas that you have, please do let our vicar, Hazel, (hazelos58@gmail.com or 020 8777 5034) know about this.

Also, if you'd like to volunteer in an editorial capacity, please let Hazel know. We hope to look at a variety of options over the next months.



Lord, you are a God who shows _____ and is _____
 ...You have great _____ and _____

Psalm 86:1

Love the Lord your God with all your

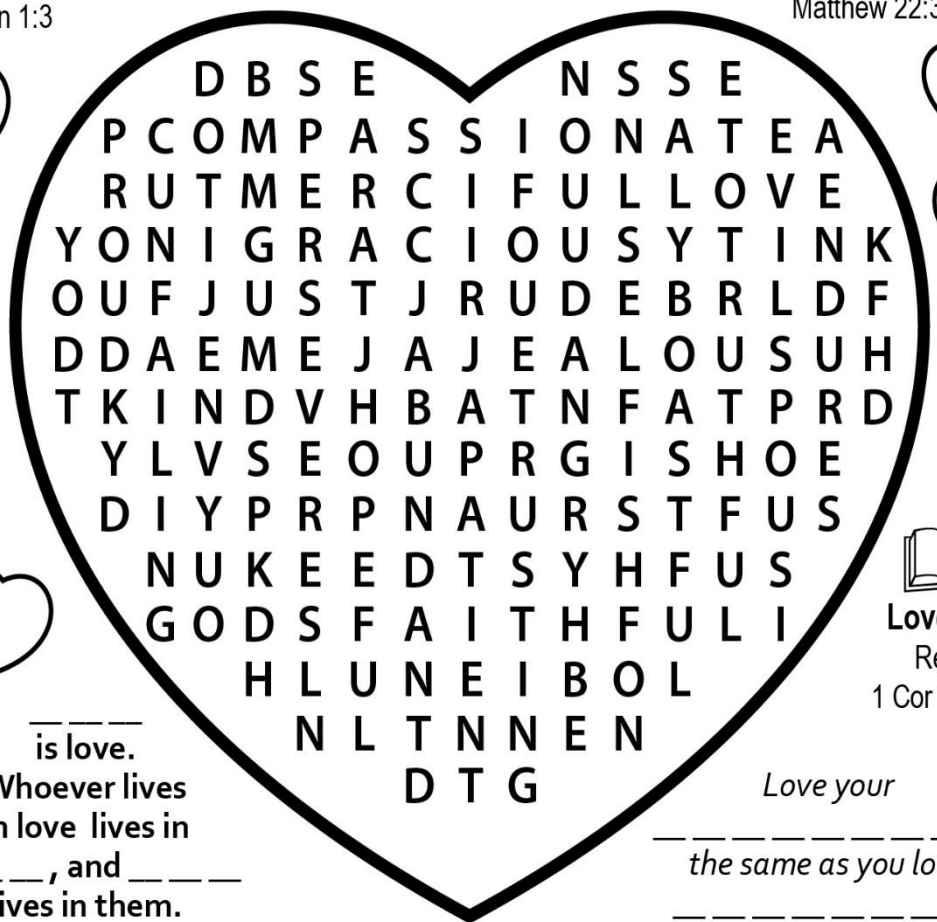
See what great love the Father has for us that He would call us His

1 John 1:3

How did God show He **loved** us?
 Read 1 John 4:9

with all your _____ and with all your _____

Matthew 22:37



_____ is love.
 Whoever lives in love lives in _____, and _____ lives in them.
 1 John 4:16

Love is ..
 Read 1 Cor 13:4-7

Love your _____ the same as you love _____
 Matthew 22:39

Love is:
 PATIENT • KIND • GRACIOUS • JUST • TRUTHFUL • TRUSTING • HOPEFUL
 PERSEVERE • ENDURES • GOD

Love is not:
 JEALOUS • ENVY • BOASTFUL • PROUD • SELFISH • ANGRY • RUDE • EVIL
God's love is:
 LOVE • MERCIFUL • FAITHFUL • UNFAILING • ABUNDANT • COMPASSIONATE

**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>

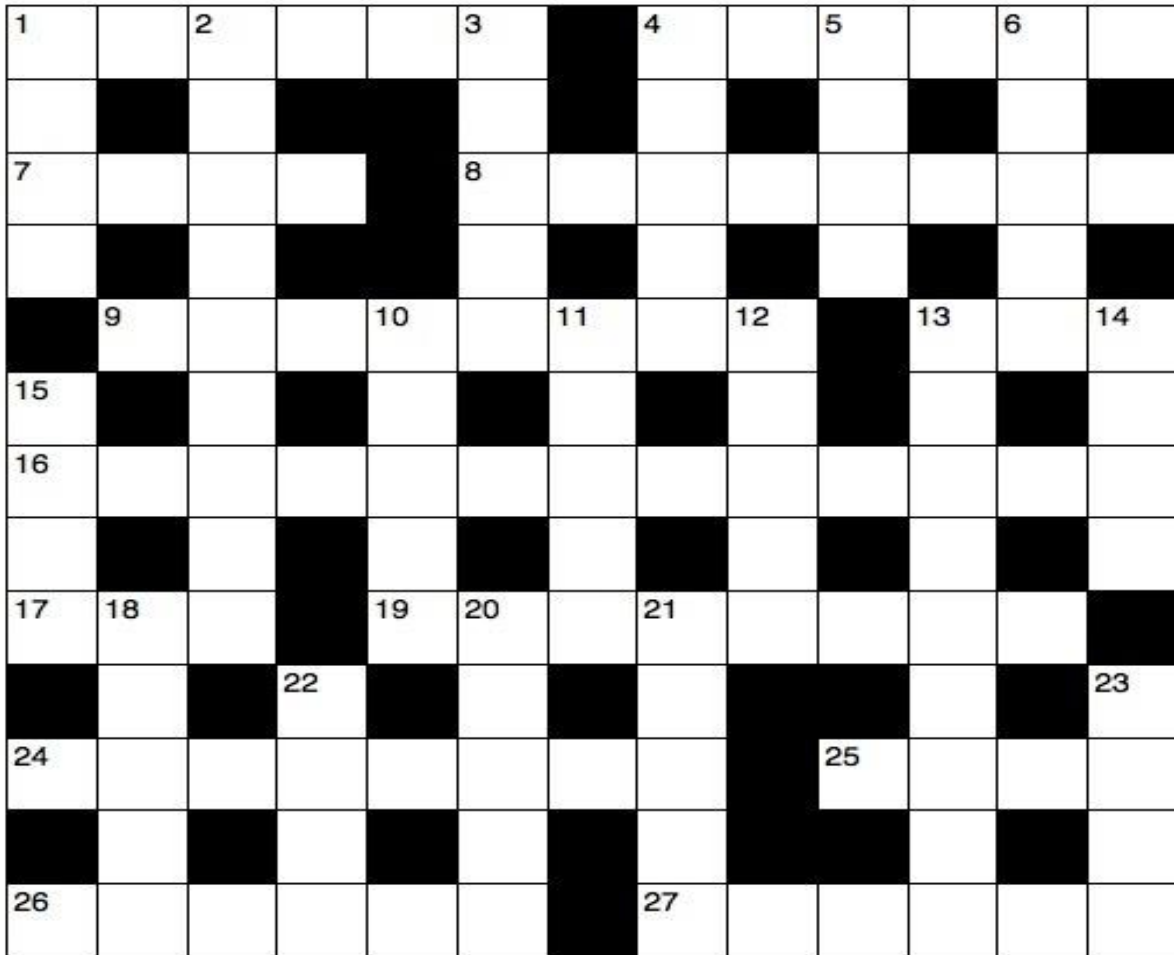


Answers to this month's crossword

ACROSS: 1, Credit. 4, Tackle. 7, Cain. 8, Kenaniah. 9, Strength. 13, Beg. 16,
Salvation Army. 17, ARC. 19, Every day. 24, Admonish. 25, Dire. 26, Sneeze. 27,
Bronze.

DOWN: 1, Cock. 2, Epistolic. 3, Taken. 4, Tenet. 5, Cane. 6, Leave. 10, Erase. 11,
Guide. 12, Honey. 13, Barbarian. 14, Guys. 15, Asia. 18, Rod in. 20, Voice. 21,
Rahab. 22, Hope. 23, Mene.

CROSS
WORD



Across

- 1 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?'
(Luke 6:32) (6)
- 4 'They threw the ship's — overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)
- 7 The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)
- 8 He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the
ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem
(1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)
- 9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)
- 13 Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3)
- 16 What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)
- 17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)
- 19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — — I will

- praise you' (Psalm 145:1–2) (5,3)
- 24 Simon had (anag.) (8)
- 25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)
- 26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)
- 27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

Down

- 1 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)
- 2 Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)
- 3 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5)
- 4 Belief (5)
- 5 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant — ' (Exodus 30:23) (4)
- 6 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)
- 10 A seer (anag.) (5)
- 11 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)
- 12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)
- 13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)
- 14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of
- 16 Across, — and Dolls (4)
- 15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)
- 18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)
- 20 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)
- 21 The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5)
- 22 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13) (4)
- 23 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end' (Daniel 5:26) (4)

GROUPS & ACTIVITIES AT ST FRANCIS CHURCH

Not yet returned after Coronavirus restrictions: 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. 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, usually 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