

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI WEST WICKHAM PARISH MAGAZINE



Oct/Nov 2025

50 pence

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

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REGULAR SERVICES

SUNDAY

- 8.00 am** **Holy Communion**
1st Sunday varies - See calendar for details
3rd & 5th Sundays at St Mary's Church, The Avenue
2nd & 4th Sundays at St Francis' Church
- 10.00 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 Carol

Dear Friends,

“Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness”

The autumn months are traditionally the time when we can give thanks for Creation, celebrate the harvest, “all is (safely) gathered in” and Thank the Farmers. This year has been a particular challenge as we have experienced one of the driest years, so our crops have struggled, and farmers have had to adapt to the climate changes in order to survive and keep supplies going.

If you have tended an allotment or worked in your garden you might now be reaping your harvest. For some there are sometimes too many carrots, potatoes or beans - there can be a lot at once to eat or store, so we think of ways to share our produce. I enjoy making jam, and I used to walk the hedgerows and pick blackberries to add to apples from the garden, and one of my specialities was making greengage jam. This year I was lucky enough to be given some greengages, so I have made a few jars, but also I tried my hand at Red Grape Relish which goes well with cheese! When I get stuck into the process of bottling or preserving it all becomes quite a cottage industry and I take over the kitchen!

At Harvest we give thanks for the food we have, yet many of us no longer work the land and we are more divorced from food production than people from previous generations. A hundred years ago everyone worked the land, helped pick the fruit, helped store the grain. They also knew that vegetables came out of the ground, had to be washed, scrubbed and were not perfectly shaped as we expect in Supermarkets today. So, we are thankful for our farmers and growers, local and national, who labour over food production. We are also thankful to have food on our plate when many people around the world lack a basic and secure daily diet.

Here in West Wickham on October 5th, we celebrate St Francis of Assisi (being the patron saint of one of our churches). St Francis is remembered for his love of all creation and called upon us to respect our created world. We might call him one of our first environmentalists, an advocate for self-sufficiency, and using the world's resources wisely. His life was changed radically with his response to God, and he set up his own order of St Francis, now known as Franciscans, who follow a Rule of Life and aim to live humbly and simply within our created world. He received the gift of Stigmata in 1224 (the marks of Jesus cross on his hands and feet) and died in 1226. St Francis was known as a gently and generous man, who through his spiritual response to God and his actions still has an impact on peoples lives today. The prayer of St Francis calls for peace, "where there is hatred let me sow love, where there is doubt, faith, O master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, and to be loved as to love with all my soul"

As we move through October into November, the season changes into one of Remembering. Officially, we experience the end of British summer time and our evenings become longer, daylight reduced, which has its own further challenges for our farmers. At the end of October, we will remember All Souls of the faithful departed, loved ones that we see no longer, those that have died during this year. Then to start November we remember All Saints. Remembrance Sunday on November 9th, is another chance for us all to remember lives lost in world wars and in present times, to pray more than ever for peace to end world conflicts.

So however you are celebrating this "Season of Mists and mellow fruitfulness", I pray that through Harvest celebrations, Remembrance services we will all recognise, as St Francis did, God's primary role as creator and sustainer of the earth. We too are called to be partners in maintaining the world, we are called to celebrate as well as take responsible action, and to pray for peace for all nations.

Carol

Calendar for October

Sunday 5th

TRINITY 16/ ST. FRANCIS'

8.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Mary's
Matt Drummond/Carol Coslett

10.00 a.m.

Joint Service at St. Francis'
Matt Drummond

Friday 10th

3.45 p.m.

Messy Church at St. Mary's
Messy Church Team

Sunday 12th

TRINITY 17 HARVEST

8.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis'
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' with Scouts
Richard Ford/Ken Bryan

Sunday 19th

TRINITY 18

8.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Mary's
Richard Ford

9.15 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Mary's with livestream
Matt Drummond/Richard Ford

10.45 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis'
Richard Ford

Sunday 26th

BIBLE SUNDAY

8.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis'
Matt Drummond/Ken Bryan

Sunday 26th

BIBLE SUNDAY

9.15 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Mary's with livestream

Matt Drummond/Ken Bryan

10.45 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis'

Matt Drummond/Ken Bryan



Calendar for November

Sunday 2nd

ALL SAINTS

8.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis'

Carol Coslett/Debbie Adams

10.00 a.m.

Joint Service at St. Marys with livestream

Matt Drummond/Debbie Adams

3.00 p.m.

Memorial Service for All Souls at St. Mary's

Sunday 9th

REMEMBRANCE 3rd BEFORE ADVENT

8.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Mary's

Carol Coslett

9.15 a.m.

Morning Praise at St. Mary's with livestream

Matt Drummond/Carol Coslett

10.45 a.m.

Morning Worship at St. Francis'

Carol Coslett

Friday 14th

3.45 p.m.

Messy Church at St. Mary's

Messy Church Team

Sunday 16th**2ND BEFORE ADVENT Safeguarding Sunday**

8.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis'

Richard Ford

9.15 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Mary's with livestream

Matt Drummond/Richard Ford

10.45 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis'

*Richard Ford***Sunday 23rd****CHRIST THE KING**

8.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Mary's

Matt Drummond

9.15 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Mary's with livestream

Matt Drummond/Richard Ford

10.45 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis'

*Matt Drummond***Sunday 30th****ADVENT SUNDAY**

8.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis'

Matt Drummond

9.15 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Mary's with livestream

Matt Drummond

10.45 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis'

Matt Drummond

Loving God, we give thanks for those who produce our food: for farmers and fishermen, factory and shop workers. We pray for those for whom this has been a difficult year: farmers who have battled the weather to grow food, delivery drivers, those aid workers struggling to get food into places of war and isolation. Help us to value and support each other, so that we may always and in all things act according to your Holy will. Amen.

Bible Readings

Date	Reading	Reader
October		
5 th	8.00 a.m. Lamentations 1: 1-6 2 Tim.1-14 Luke 17: 5-10 10.00 a.m. Micah 6: 6-8 Galatians 6:14-14-18 Luke 12: 22-34	Gill Kehoe Matt Drummond
12 th	Deut. 26: 1-11 Philippians 4: 4-9 John 6: 25	Valerie Hamilton Richard Ford
19 th	Jeremiah 31: 27-34 2 Tim. 3: 14 – 4: 5 Luke 18: 1-8	David Wada Richard Ford
26 th	Isaiah 45: 22-25 Romans 15: 1-6 Luke 4: 16-24	James Pitt-Payne Ken Bryan
November		
2 nd	Daniel 7: 1-3, 15-18 Ephesians 1: 11-23 Luke 6: 20-31	Tabitha Woodroffe Debbie Adams
9 th	Job 19: 23-27a 2 Thess. 2 1-5, 13-17 Luke 20: 27-38	Sam Hand Carol Coslett

16 th	Psalm 91: 1-7 James 1: 19-27 John 13: 12-17	Gill Kehoe Richard Ford
23 rd	Jeremiah 23: 1-6 Colossians 1: 11-20 Luke 23: 33-43	Valerie Hamilton Matt Drummond
30 th	Isaiah 2: 1-5 Romans 13: 11-14 Matthew 24:36-44	David Wada Matt Drummond

Creator God, the whole earth proclaims your glory. Field and forest, farm and garden all sing your praise! As we gaze at the world around us we see your handiwork; your fingerprint is everywhere. This is your world; help us to enjoy it gently and remember those in need. Amen

Answers to Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS: 1, Jehoiachin. 7, Endured. 8, Eased. 10, Rash. 11, Startled. 13, Easier. 15, Rubric. 17, Impurity. 18, Feet. 21, Eye at. 22, Ready to. 23, Holy Spirit.

DOWN: 1, Judas. 2, Harm. 3, Is duty. 4, Cheerful. 5, Insular. 6, Jezreelite. 9, Dedication. 12, Secretly. 14, Supremo. 16, Stir up. 19, Egypt. 20, Hair.

Dates for your Diary

October

Parish Lunch

The Parish lunch is on **Wednesday 1st October** at 1.00 p.m. in the hall. Please let Beryl know on 0208 289 8097 or berylbolton@hotmail.com if you are unable to attend.

Pet Service

Our annual Pet service will be at St Francis' Church on **Sunday 5th October** at 3pm. Do bring your pet (or a picture of your pet) for a prayer of blessing and tell your neighbours, friends, and family that they are welcome to join us.

Harvest Supper

The Harvest Supper is on **Saturday 11th October** at 7.00 p.m. in the hall. The cost is £10 and there is a list to sign in the vestibule, or you can contact Beryl on 0208 289 8097 or berylbolton@hotmail.com. On the menu are sausages, beans and chips and a dessert but you must bring your own drinks. After the supper Geoff will entertain us on the piano and there will be the usual sing-along of popular songs. Any profit will be for church funds.

Harvest Services

This year our Harvest Services will be held on **Sunday 12th October** at 9.15am in St Mary's Church and at 10.45am in St Francis' Church joined by the Scouts. We will be collecting donations of non-perishable foods and toiletries for the Bromley FoodBank. Please do come along to give thanks for all we have and bring some donations for those in need.

Debbie Adams – Licensing Service

Debbie's licensing service is at Southwark Cathedral on **Sunday 12th October** at 6pm. All are welcome to attend, invitation not needed.

An Evening with The London Concert Chorus

The London Concert Chorus will be performing at St Francis of Assisi, West Wickham on **Saturday, 18th October** at 7.30pm. Conducted by Georg Torman. Hot from his show at the Edinburgh Festival featuring songs by The Beatles, Joni Mitchell, Adele, Coldplay, & Carole King and others from the shows My Fair Lady, Phantom of the Opera & Lion King.

Tickets: £15 including a glass of wine & refreshments are available from Marion Barry at the church.

November

Parish Lunch

The Parish Lunch is on **Wednesday 3rd November** at 1.00 p.m. in the hall. Please advise Beryl on 020 8289 8097 if you are unable to attend.

NB The Christmas lunch will be one week later than normal on Wednesday 10th of December at 12.30pm.

In Loving Memory

Our annual service to remember those who have died will be on **Sunday 2nd November** at 3pm in St Mary's Church. This is an opportunity to come and remember with thankfulness, the lives of those you have loved and lost.

If you would like the names of loved ones read out at this service, please complete a sheet that will be in the churches a few weeks beforehand or give your names by email or phone to Matt. Also, do let others who might find this service helpful know about it and offer to come along with them to provide support.

Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday is on **9th November** this year. Morning Praise service will be held at St Mary's at 9.15am followed by the Morning Worship service at St Francis' at 10.45am joined by the Scouts group. The service of Holy Communion at 8am will be held at St Mary's.



Christmas Market - Saturday November 29th 10.30am – 2.30pm

Just a reminder of this year's Christmas Market which is **on Saturday 29th November**. The wrong date was put in the last magazine. There will be all the usual stalls with possibly something new!! Donations to our various stalls will be gratefully received, including unwanted quality gifts, bric-a-brac, bottles of wine etc. Lists for further donations and help will be put up in church at the beginning of October. Thank you to everyone in advance.

Natalie

Parish Matters

West Wickham Choir Concert – Sunday 27th July

The Combined Choir of West Wickham made a welcome return by public demand, at St Francis on 27th July 2025. The concert began with Vivaldi's Gloria, always a popular curtain raiser, and continued with a wide variety of pieces, such as The Vicar of Dibley, Ave Maria, and Old Mother Hubbard! Choral items were interspersed with solos and duets, both vocal and instrumental. Many thanks go to Geoff and all those who organised and participated in the event, and to those who provided the excellent tea. The concert raised a total of £609 for the charity Water Aid.

Peter Cordery

Barn Dance – Saturday 13th September

It was an evening filled with fun and laughter!

The hall looked wonderful, decorated with red-checked tablecloths and bunting along the walls. The only thing missing was hay on the floor but alas – for health and safety reasons, one had to forgo that rustic touch to avoid any accidental slips!

Guests arrived, both young and old, some dressed in fitting attire. As the music began, people looked at each other hesitantly before slowly making their way to the dance floor. A few had to be cajoled, while others were eager to get started, and that's when the real fun began!

From the very first steps, confusion reigned. Left and right were forgotten, clockwise blurred with anticlockwise, and chaos soon followed. With more women than men, some had to step into the role of “men,” which only added to the hilarity when people forgot which part they were supposed to play. A few of us quickly discovered we had two left feet (me included!), but we

followed the caller's instructions as best we could - always accompanied by plenty of laughter.

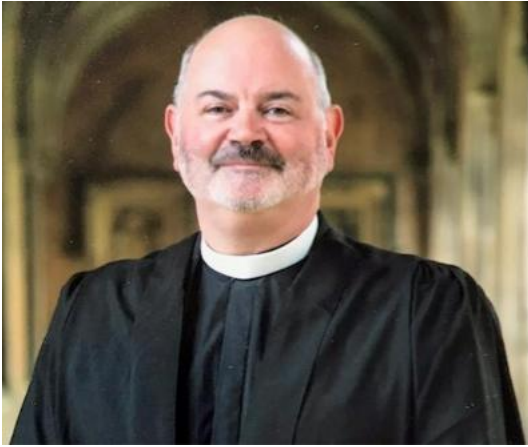
We danced with almost everyone, sometimes in close quarters, each person moving at their own pace and adding to the lively atmosphere.

Claire and Peter, thank you for co-ordinating and hosting such a delightful evening. With 45 people attending, we not only enjoyed ourselves immensely but also raised over £200 which will be split between Water Aid and church funds.

Gifty Nortey

The Very Revd Mark Oakley

On Sunday 7th December we will be joined by the Dean of Southwark Cathedral, the Very Reverend Mark Oakley, who will be preaching and



presiding at our 10am joint service at St Mary's where we will be celebrating their Patronal Festival. Refreshments will follow after the service when there will be the opportunity to meet Mark.

Mark was ordained at St Paul's Cathedral in 1993 and served his curacy at St John's Wood Church. He was later appointed Chaplain to the Bishop of London and after four years was made Rector of the Actors' church in Covent Garden. He has subsequently served as an archdeacon in the Diocese in Europe, Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral and Dean of St John's College, Cambridge.

Mark holds a PhD in English Literature and is an admired author of several books on poetry and spirituality. He is well known as a speaker and preacher and has been awarded both the Michael Ramsey Prize for theological writing and the Lanfranc award, by the Archbishop of Canterbury, for education and scholarship.

Mark has a strong commitment to human rights and has served on the board of Liberty and the Civil Liberties Trust, as well as being awarded one of the first 'Upstander' awards for his work with hate crime victims. King's College London awarded him a Fellowship in recognition of his work and ministry.

He was installed as the Dean of Southwark in early December 2023.

St Francis & St Mary's

Joint, All-Age, Other Special Services and Events Calendar

October

- 1st St Mary's Community Lunch – 1pm
- 5th Joint Service at St Francis': St Francis' Patronal Service – 10am
- 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'
- 18th London Concert Chorus Concert – 7.30pm 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 Francis' – 8pm
- 14th Messy Church – 3:45pm
- 21st High Street Christmas Lights event at St Francis'
- 29th 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

From the Registers

Funeral Mass

for

WENDY LEONORA CARVALHO

21 June 1934 – 24 July 2025

on

Monday 18th August

Followed by committal at Bluebell Crematorium

I first met Wendy about 25 years ago when she joined Ravenswood WI. We were all struck by her glamorous appearance which continued all her life. Her immaculate hair was the envy of us all! She was an enthusiastic member of the West Wickham District WI choir singing soprano until it was disbanded. She was an excellent flower arranger and took part in the St Francis Flower Festivals with the WI and with St Mary's Church - also being a regular flower arranger in St Mary's Church. Cooking was also important to her and she made and decorated celebratory cakes making flowers out of white marzipan. She was lucky in going to the WI 100-year Celebration at a Buckingham Palace Garden Party. Ravenswood was particularly grateful that she had been in the police – quite high up looking after all the secretarial staff at Lewisham – as it had enabled them to hold various celebratory lunches and Christmas lunches at the Warren. Another high was the Needles & Natter meeting on alternate Mondays at Mavis's house.

She became a regular 8 am attender at both churches after the death of her husband and really enjoyed the monthly Community lunches at St Mary's and

the monthly Sunday lunches at the Wheatsheaf. Also, she helped at the Christmas Market at St Mary's.

She also joined Emmanuel Fellowship weekly meetings along with those ex-Mothers Union members from St Francis, and also the monthly Library talks in the library held latterly at Emmanuel.

Wendy was born in Bombay and married in Calcutta which I did not know myself and others may not know. She moved from Seabrook Drive at the bottom of Hawes Lane to an apartment at Notley after her husband died. However, being on the first floor with no lift, with some of her friends unable to visit she felt a bit lonely. She also missed her lovely garden. However, she was so lucky that her daughter was able to pop in every morning, and her son visited for breakfast when he had to come to West Wickham for work but otherwise phoned each day.

We will all miss Wendy, her offers of coffee, biscuits and sandwich, or a lift, and her friendship. God Bless her and may she Rest in Peace.

Barbara Goodchild

I have fought a good fight,

I have finished my course,

I have kept the faith. (2 Timothy 4:7)

St Francis Canticle of Brother Sun and Sister Moon

*Praised be You my Lord with all Your creatures,
especially Brother Sun,
Who is the day through whom You give us light.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour,
Of You Most High, he bears the likeness.*

*Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,
In the heavens you have made them bright, precious and fair.*

*Praised be You, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air,
And fair and stormy, all weather's moods,
by which You cherish all that You have made.*

*Praised be You my Lord through Sister Water,
So useful, humble, precious and pure.*

*Praised be You my Lord through Brother Fire,
through whom You light the night and he is beautiful and playful and robust
and strong.*

*Praised be You my Lord through our Sister,
Mother Earth
who sustains and governs us,
producing varied fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.
Praise be You my Lord through those who grant pardon for love of You and
bear sickness and trial.*

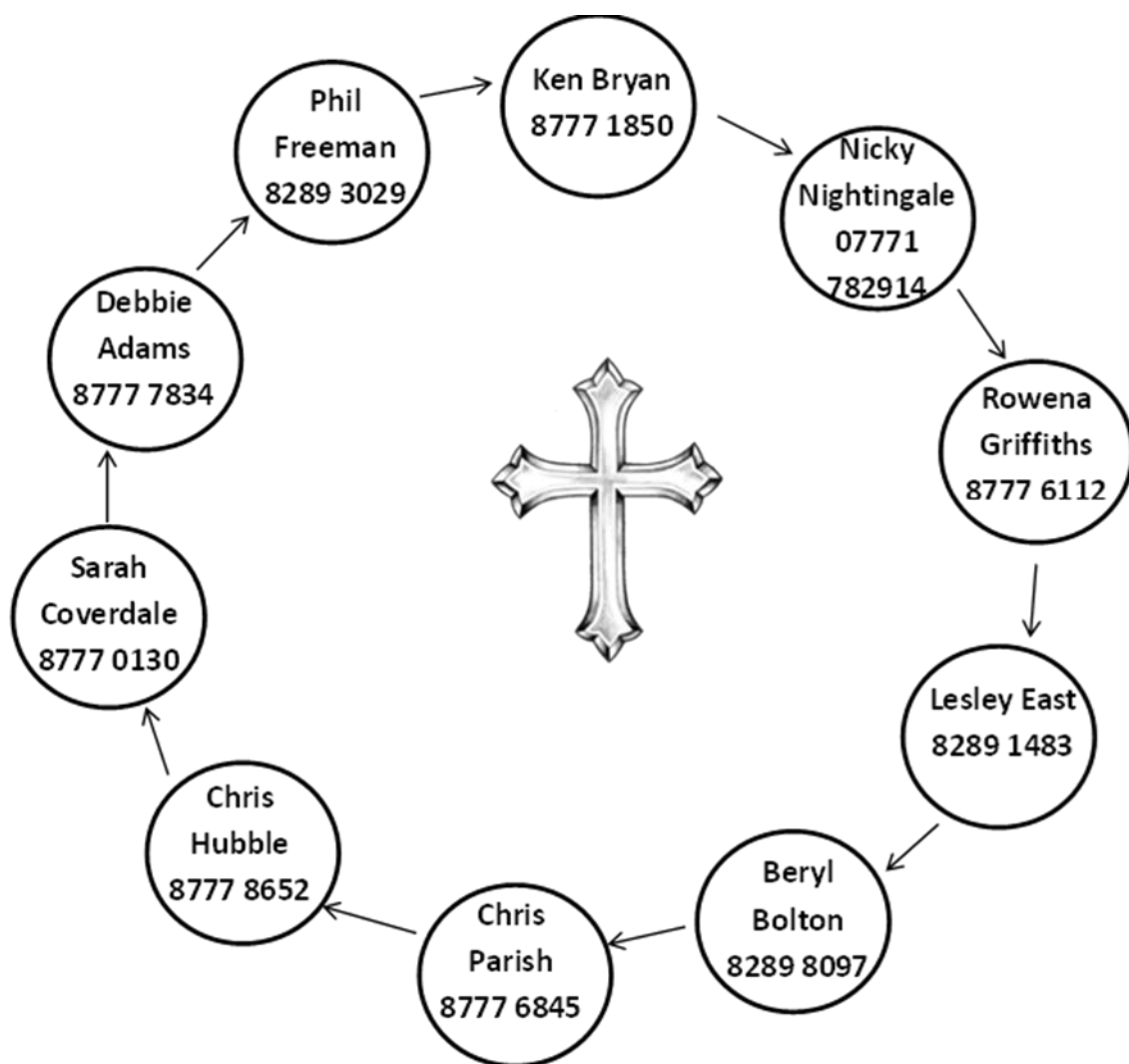
*Blessed are those who endure in peace, By You Most High, they will be
crowned.*

*Praised be You, my Lord through Sister Death,
from whom no-one living can escape. Woe to those who die in mortal sin!
Blessed are they She finds doing Your Will.
No second death can do them harm. Praise and bless my Lord and give Him
thanks And serve Him with great humility.*

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

As we enter into October and November, Autumn begins to come into its own: the nights draw in, the trees begin to shed their leaves, and we begin to feel more introspective, looking inward towards the light of hearth and home. So, to in the life of the Church where October and November are months for remembering: first the goodness of creation at Harvest, then the Saints, the Departed, and Victims of War. But in the autumnal gloom there is also light, as we look to the coming of Advent, and the promise of Christ's return.

October

Sunday 5th October: St Francis of Assisi & Sunday 12th October: Harvest

- *'Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind, and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather, through whom You give sustenance to Your creatures.'* (St Francis, Canticle of the Creatures).

Sunday 19th October: Trinity 18, & Sunday 26th October: Bible Sunday

- *'All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.'*
(2 Tim. 3.16-17)



November

Sunday 2nd November: All Saints & All Souls

- *‘For all the saints who from their labours rest, who Thee by faith before the world confessed; Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.’*

Sunday 9th November: Remembrance Sunday

- *‘In Flanders fields the poppies blow Between the crosses, row on row, that mark our place; and in the sky the larks, still bravely singing, fly scarce heard amid the guns below. We are the dead. Short days ago we lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow, loved and were loved, and now we lie In Flanders fields.’ (Matthew 25.37-40)*

Sunday 16th November 2nd before Advent: Safeguarding Sunday

- *‘Speak out on behalf of the voiceless, and for the rights of all who are vulnerable.’ (Proverbs 3.18)*

Sunday 23rd November: Christ the King

- *“The righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”*

Sunday 30th November: Advent Sunday (The Patriarchs)

- *‘Father Abraham had many sons, many sons had Father Abraham, and I am one of them and so are you, so let's just praise the Lord.’*



Zimbabwe update

As many of you know, we are linked with the parish of St Andrew's in Mkoba, Gweru, Zimbabwe. Both our churches have been fund raising to support St Andrew's and the money raised is being put towards the building of a rectory. Currently the parish priest, Tinashe Mahwerera, is living in a different location which he tells me "is quite a distance from St Andrew's parish."



The approach to building in Zimbabwe is to build as much of the building as you have the money for, then wait until you have some more money to continue building. Tinashe was pleased to tell me that the building is almost complete, as you can see in the pictures. However, they are still "left with plumbing, electrification and painting" to complete.

Tinashe has been off work sick for some time, but is now recovered, back at work and very grateful for our support. "On the 4th October", he tells us, "we shall be celebrating our Diocesan 44th Anniversary in Gokwe".

Do remember Tinashe and the folk at St Andrew's in your prayers. The quotations are taken from his emails.

Richard Ford

Matt's Book Review

Every generation or so something comes along in the life of the Church that inspires her to new action, or changes her direction in some way. Examples of these moments of transformation include the ministry of the Wesley Brothers, who inspired the Church to active holiness, good hymnody and care for the poor. Then there is the Tractarian Movement which called the Church back to her Catholic roots and to beauty and colour in worship, in particular when undertaken among the poorest communities bringing a piece of Heaven into the slums of Portsmouth and London.

In our own time the Parish Communion Movement saw the introduction of Holy Communion as the main act of Sunday worship, replacing Mattins. Then in the mid-2000s came the 'Mission Shaped Church' report which explored 'doing Church' in new and radical ways. But the moment of transformation that interests me most is the publication of the 'Faith in the City' report 1985, and whose 40th anniversary of publication is being celebrated this year.

The 'Faith in the City' report was published under the shadow of riots in London across England and changed the way in which the Church related to the Government. Before then the Church of England was known as 'the Tory Party at prayer'. Now the Church was asking difficult questions of the Government over how the poor were being treated, and how the Church and Government could respond. It was famously criticised by a still unidentified Government Minister as being 'pure Marxism' and as 'that wicked report', such was its impact. However, for many the Church has moved on, but the impact of this report continues in the Church Urban Fund, a fund set up to support the work of churches in poor urban areas, in particular Urban Priority Areas, a category identified by the Report.

My father Terry Drummond and Joseph Forde have published a book of essays to mark the 40th anniversary of the publication of the Report 'Celebrating Forty Years of Faith in the City' published by Sacristy Press. The book drawing together essays from historians, Church officials and

bishops, and which reflect on the report and its impact on their lives as ministers, and on the communities they serve. It makes for a good read for anyone interested in church history and/ or how politics and the church interact on the ground, and how the Church rediscovered something of its call to care for the poor and needy.

The second book I want to review is by the Revd Jonathan Macy, a Priest and Team Vicar on the Thamesmead estate on the Thameside/Northeastern edge of this Diocese. If Terry and Joseph's book look at the history and impact of the Faith in the City report at the historical and national level, then Jonathan's book looks at what life is like ministering in an Urban Priority Area.

Thamesmead was built in the late -1960s on marshland that had previously been used by the Royal Ordnance Factory in Woolwich. Like many estates of that period, it was not built with the best quality materials, and to this day lacks decent public transport links, the nearest station (Abbey Wood) being just under two miles away. There are also social problems commonly associated with poorer communities, and those communities who have been pushed to the margins both physically and socially.

In his book 'Sowing the Seeds with Songs of Joy: Growing God's Garden in Forgotten Places' Jonathan reflects on what it means to be a Vicar to this community, and how the Church can serve places like this. What struck me most was the underinvestment in communities like Thamesmead, and Thurrock Deanery in the Diocese of Chelmsford where I served before coming here. This lack of investment comes not just from local and national government, but also from the Church itself. It has been shown that churches who have a Priest will grow, whereas those that don't will go into decline, yet as a national Church we continue to invest in prosperous areas which can pay their way and withdraw support for those poorer communities who can't meet their Parish Share. (When I was in Thurrock Deanery, we were advised that because we couldn't pay our quota, we would have to cut clergy numbers which has left my former Team Rector colleague caring for 40,000 plus souls.

These two books remind us of the importance of caring for the poor, but also of paying our way as Churches. The Parish Share can feel expensive, but it does go towards paying not just for clergy in this Deanery, but also for the clergy like Jonathan who are serving in poorer communities which through no fault of their own, can't meet their share quota. This is reflected in the Book of Acts where we read in Acts 4.34-5: *'There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.'*

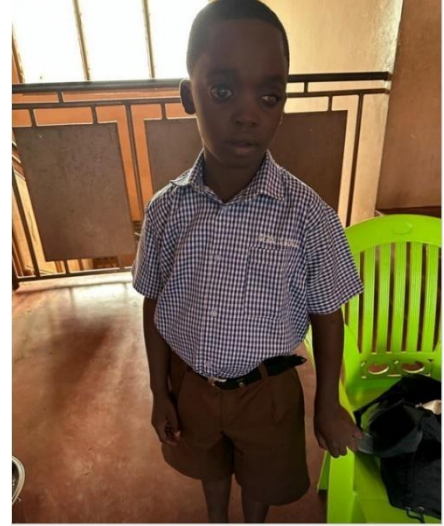
St Francis' Overseas Mission

Anglican Eye Hospital, Jachie, Ghana

Message from Rev. Sr. Aba OHP

At this time of the year as the children head off to school in their new uniforms, full of excitement at the beginning of the school year, I would like to share this story with you.

I felt so proud and hopeful as I drove Gerald now aged 9 to the Akropong School for the Blind, for his first day at school. Gerald was rejected by his mother at the age of 4 months; his father is unknown. I still recall the mother saying to me at the clinic that she was directed to come and see me. She said, "I don't want this baby". It then became my responsibility to protect the little one against the odds.



He underwent 3 eye surgeries at the teaching hospital in Kumasi (paid for by our mission hospital) but ultimately, he lost the vision in both eyes.

I care deeply for Gerald and pray that with time such children will not be rejected by their families as they come to know better. Sadly, it is a cultural taboo to have a blind child.

I am grateful for the support from St Francis Church.

Stay blessed. Sr Aba

The Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal 2025

For many years churches and organisations in West Wickham have generously supported the Shoe Box Appeal either by filling a shoebox, donating items for a shoe box or giving financial donations. Many of you supported the charity last year. The charity is very grateful for the contribution we have made in the past. I hope you will be able to support us again this year please.

Completed boxes or donations can be brought to St Mary's or left in the porch at 95 Copse Avenue. Alternatively, I could collect your items from you.

I shall leave leaflets in the vestibule at St Mary's.

What makes The Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal 2025 different?

The shoeboxes will go to the poorest people in Ukraine, Moldova, Bulgaria and Romania.

Unlike many other shoeboxes appeals, the scheme collects boxes for entire families and the elderly, so nobody's left out.

The charity is small yet established enough to have personal relationships with the individuals in Eastern Europe. For transparency, the charity also carries out spot-checks to confirm that the right people are receiving your boxes.

Details of what to put in a box are on the next page below.

With grateful thanks,

Sharon Newman (078117 42062)

1. Gather the items listed in the BLUE box. These items should try to go in every shoebox regardless of whether it is a Family or Elderly Shoebox. Then choose 5 or more of the items in the RED or PURPLE Box and put them in your shoebox. There should be a minimum of 11 different items in your shoebox

2. Tick everything you have put into your box and whether it is a Family or an Elderly Shoebox.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO NOT PUT IN ANY FOOD (INCL. BISCUITS), MEDICINES, BOOKS, TEA/COFFEE OR OUT OF DATE ITEMS, NO SANITARY ITEMS OR UNDERWEAR. ALSO, NO ITEMS FOR UNDER 3 YEARS OLD'S – THIS IS DUE TO CUSTOM REGULATIONS.

3. Now wrap the entire box in wrapping paper. If you want to wrap the lid and box separately, please make sure it is securely sellotaped and an elastic band is put around it. This is to stop them opening during transit.

4. Tape the contents list (the one where you have ticked all the items) to the shoebox only on the yellow strips where indicated.

5. Fold over the leaflet and if you pay tax please complete and sign the attached Gift Aid Form. Please tape down where indicated and attach £3.

TAPE DOWN ON SHOEBOX HERE

Link to Hope **CONTENTS LIST**

We want everyone to receive a fun and useful box of new and unused gifts so every shoebox should contain all items in this blue box.

☐ Gloves or Scarf or Hat (new or knitted) ☐ Sweets or Chocolates (BB June 2026 EU Origin) ☐ Soap & Flannel	☐ Toothbrushes & Toothpaste ☐ Candles & Holders* or Tealights ☐ Small Games (Travel Size Draughts/Dominoes/Playing Cards)
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*Holder is for safety and stability

Then please ADD 5 or more items (at least one of each item) from the Red Box for a Family Shoebox OR from the Purple Box to make a Unisex Elderly Shoebox.

☐ **FAMILY** (PLEASE TICK)

☐ **ELDERLY** (UNISEX)

☐ Colouring Pads (A5)
☐ Crayons/Pencils (with rubber & sharpener)
☐ Small Toys (yo-yo, skipping rope, toy cars)
☐ Soft Toy Teddy (with CE labels)
☐ Tape Measure/DIY Tool
☐ Sewing Kit
☐ Shampoo (max 400ml)
☐ Solar-Powered Calculator
☐ Safety Razors
☐ Hairbrush/Comb
☐ Other Gifts

OR

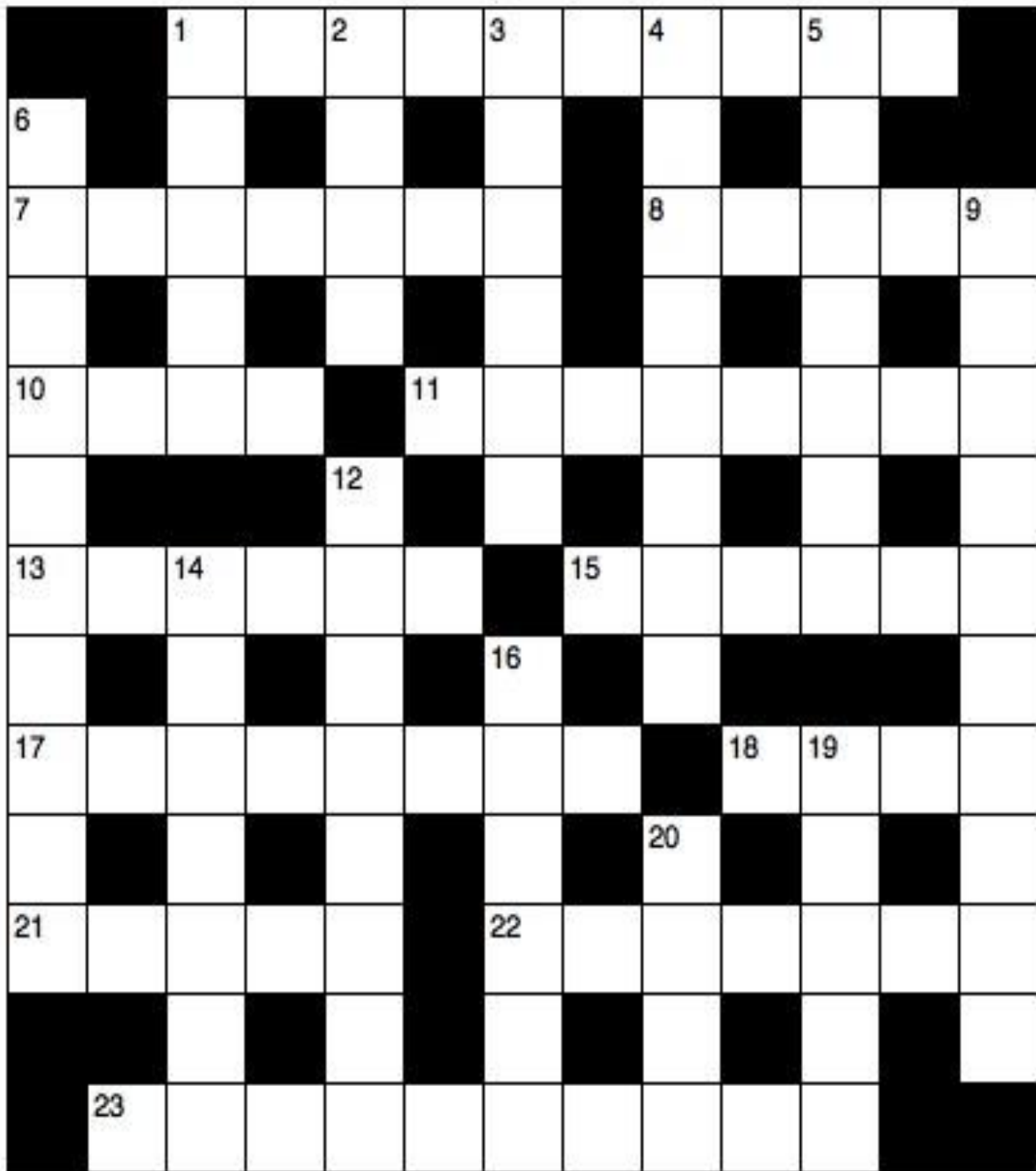
☐ Reading Glasses/Magnifier (Max + 2 strength)
☐ Mug/Wooden Spoon/Cutlery
☐ Sensory Item (eg Bean Bag, Lavender Bag, Stress Ball etc)
☐ Hot Water Bottle
☐ Work Gloves
☐ Pen and Paper
☐ Socks/Tights (NEW)
☐ Wind-Up Radio/Torch
☐ Shampoo (max 400ml)
☐ Scissors/Nail Clippers
☐ Safety Razors
☐ Other Gifts

For other gifts & sustainability ideas go to www.linktohope.co.uk

PLEASE REDUCE THE PACKAGING YOU PUT IN YOUR SHOEBOX

TAPE DOWN ON SHOEBOX HERE

Crossword Puzzle



Across

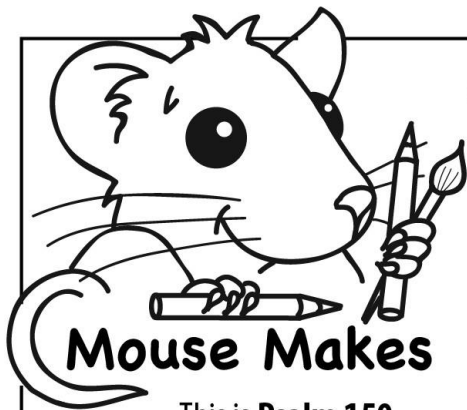
- 1 He was replaced as king of Judah by his uncle Mattaniah (2 Kings 24:17) (10)
- 7 'Let us fix our eyes on Jesus... who for the joy set before him — the cross' (Hebrews 12:2) (7)
- 8 Relieved (5)
- 10 Impetuous (Acts 19:36) (4)

- 11 Surprised and alarmed (Luke 24:37) (8)
- 13 'It is — for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God' (Mark 10:25) (6)
- 15 Directions for the conduct of a church service (6)
- 17 One of the acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19) (8)
- 18 and 20 Down 'She began to wet his — with her tears. Then she wiped them with her — ' (Luke 7:38) (4,4)
- 21 'We will all be changed, in a flash, in the twinkling of an — , — the last trumpet' (1 Corinthians 15:51–52) (3,2)
- 22 'But he replied, "Lord, I am — — go with you to prison and to death"' (Luke 22:33) (5,2)
- 23 Third person of the Trinity (2 Corinthians 13:14) (4,6)

Down

- 1 He betrayed Jesus (Matthew 27:3) (5)
- 2 Paul's assurance to the Philippian jailer: 'Don't — yourself! We are all here!' (Acts 16:28) (4)
- 3 'Fear God and keep his commandments, for this — the whole — of man' (Ecclesiastes 12:13) (2,4)
- 4 The sort of giver God loves (2 Corinthians 9:7) (8)
- 5 Sun rail (anag.) (7)
- 6 Naboth, the ill-fated vineyard owner, was one (1 Kings 21:1) (10)
- 9 Paul said of young widows, 'When their sensual desires overcome their — to Christ, they want to marry' (1 Timothy 5:11) (10)
- 12 This was how Joseph of Arimathea practised his discipleship 'because he feared the Jews' (John 19:38) (8)
- 14 Mop ruse (anag.) (7)
- 16 Foment (Philippians 1:17) (4,2)
- 19 Where Joseph and Mary escaped to with the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:14) (5)
- 20 See 18 Across

Answers can be found earlier in the Magazine



This is **Psalm 150**,
a song of praise to God,
it tells us why and how
to worship God.
*How do you praise and
worship God?*

Praise God in His Temple,
Praise Him in His mighty heavens.
Praise Him for His acts of power,
Praise Him for his surpassing greatness.

Praise Him

with the sounding trumpet,

Praise Him

with the harp and lyre,

Praise Him

with tambourine and dancing,

Praise Him

with the clash of cymbals,

Praise Him

with the resounding cymbals.

Let everything that has breath

PRAISE THE LORD!

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

PRAISE • GOD • TEMPLE • HEAVENS • SANCTUARY • POWER • GREATNESS
TRUMPET • HORN • PIPE • FLUTE • HARP • LYRE • LUTE • STRINGS
TAMBOURINE • DANCING • CYMBALS • DRUMS • BREATH • LORD

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.

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

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 Dec/Jan, Feb/Mar etc], please contact Nicky Nightingale

nicholanightingale@hotmail.co.uk

by the second Sunday of the month