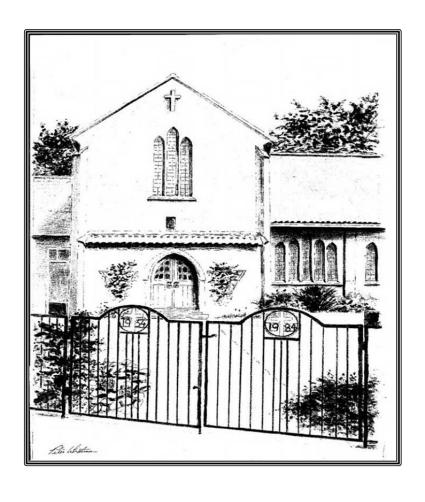
# ST MARY OF NAZARETH

WEST WICKHAM



A WELCOMING FAMILY WITH THE CHRISTIAN FAITH AT THE HEART OF ALL WE DO.

**50**P

# **CLERGY AND OFFICERS**

Vicarage, The Avenue 8777 5034 Vicar: Rev Hazel O'Sullivan hazelos58@gmail.com (day off on Monday) Rev Richard Ford 7 Sylvan Way Assistant 8289 2432 Priest: richard.ford73@ntlworld.com Reader: Mr Ken Bryan 55 Goodhart Way 8777 1850 KennethABryan@aol.com Church Wardens: Mr David Taylor 92 Wellbrook Road 01689 856512 davey.taylor@talktalk.net Locksbottom Mr Stephen Howe 5, Hazelwood Lodge 8249 0315 aireyowe@gmail.com Red Lodge Road Assistant Wardens: Mrs Natalie Outten 151 Goodhart Way 8777 0340 Mrs Gifty Nortey 8776 1563 Mr. J. Womack 2 Long Meadow Close 8777 8772 Mrs. M. Womack 2 Long Meadow Close 8777 8772 Sacristans: Mrs Deidre Fitzgerald 8777 0083 Mrs Wendy Taylor 92 Wellbrook Road 01689 856512 Locksbottom PCC Secretary: julie.conway@ntlworld.com Ms Julie Conway 163 Wickham Chase Treasurer/Free-Will Mr Bob West 8776 0210 Offering Secretary: <a href="mailto:robandlinwest@tiscali.co.uk">robandlinwest@tiscali.co.uk</a> 35 Oakfield Gardens Organist/Choirmaster: Mr Geoff Mussard 8650 8389 geoff@mussard.org.uk Beckenham 8777 0083

Electoral Roll

Officer:

Mr Chris Fitzgerald

Parish Safeguarding Mrs Kay Mussard

kay@mussard.org.uk Beckenham Officer:

**NORMAL SERVICES** 

35 Oakfield Gardens

Holy Communion (1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays only) Sunday: 8:00 a.m.

> 9:15 a.m. Sung Communion & Crèche (joint service at 10am on the

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month, sometimes at St Francis)

8650 8389

Normally on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month Morning Praise: 9:15 a.m.

Messy Church: Normally on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month 3:45 p.m.

Holy Baptism: By appointment

Other Services: Refer to the Calendar in this magazine

Weddings/Banns, etc.: By appointment

# LETTER FROM HAZEL

Dear friends,

I am writing this soon after the ordination of deacons and priests has taken place in churches and cathedrals across the land. And we have a celebration of our own in October when Debbie Adams will be licensed as a Reader at a service in Southwark Cathedral on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October. We also have a recent addition to our ministry team in the Ven. Carol Coslett. Carol is Assistant Director of Lay Ministry in the Diocese of Southwark and has been licensed as an Assistant Priest for the United Benefice of St Francis & St Mary, so we'll recognise this at a service in one of our churches during the autumn.

In a recent diocesan publication, Bishop Karowei wrote about how this public recognition of ministry can also remind us of everyone's calling to the be part of universal priesthood of all believers. The apostle Peter says:

"you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

(1 Peter 2:9 NIVUK)

God's calling is universal — it's for everyone. Now you might be thinking that this is all very well for people like Debbie and Carol, but I'm not in any position to be answering a call of God into ministry. But that's the whole point of that word 'universal'. Your call may not be to a ministry where you are licensed or commissioned by a bishop into a diocesan-recognised role, but we can all do something to shine God's light into this world. That light might shine in a variety of contexts — at work, in our leisure, through our relationships with others, in church life, or through volunteering in our community. No

matter who you are, there will be one of these situations where you will come across other people and have an opportunity to speak of God's love and saving grace, whether that be in something you do or something that you say.

We cannot do this on our own though and when we praise God, whether at home on your own, or in a church building with others, you are reflecting on what God has done through you and others in the past and asking for the continued gift of the enabling Holy Spirit, so that you can fulfil your calling to shine God's light in the future. I pray that in this season you will be able to reflect on God's calling to you and find opportunities where this might be recognised by others.

Hazel

Come Holy Spirit,
ignite in us
your Holy Fire,
strengthen our Faith,
increase in us
your Gift of Love,
and revive
your Church
to live out
your message
of Love and Hope.

# **CALENDAR FOR AUGUST**

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>** Coffee Morning at St Francis'

Volunteers Thank You Event

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

Hazel O'Sullivan/Brian Griffiths (by video)

10.00 a.m. Joint Service at St. Francis' with livestream

Hazel O'Sullivan/Brian Griffiths

Friday 11<sup>th</sup>

3.45 p.m. Messy Church at St. Mary's

Messy Church Team

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

Hazel O'Sullivan

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

Hazel O'Sullivan/Ken Bryan

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

Hazel O'Sullivan/Brian Griffiths

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

Richard Ford/Ken Bryan

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

Richard Ford/Ken Bryan

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

Richard Ford/Ken Bryan

Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. Francis
	Richard Ford
9.15 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. Marys with livestream
	Hazel O'Sullivan/Richard Ford
10.45 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. Francis
	Richard Ford/Brian Griffiths

# **CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER**

13TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Morning Praise at St. Mary's with livestream

8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. Francis'
	Hazel O'Sullivan
10.00 a.m.	Joint Service at St. Mary's with livestream
	Hazel O' Sullivan/Richard Ford/Ken Bryan
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup>	
3.45 p.m.	Messy Church at St. Mary's
	Messy Church Team
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
•	Creation Sunday
8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. Francis'
	Hazel O'Sullivan

Hazel O'Sulliivan/Ken Bryan

Hazel O'Sullivan

Morning Worship at St. Francis'

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>

9.15 a.m.

10.45 a.m.

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.00 am. Holy Communion at St. Mary's

Carol Coslett

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

Hazel O'Sullivan/Carol Coslett

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

Hazel O'Sullivan/Brian Griffiths

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

Richard Ford

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

Hazel O'Sullivan/Richard Ford

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

Richard Ford

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> 7.00 p.m. Harvest Supper at St. Mary's

### FROM THE REGISTERS

#### **BAPTISM**

On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June at 1.00 p.m. *Theo Lennie Leslie JACQUES* 

Theo with Mum and Dad, Amy and Craig and brothers,
Teddy and Louis are a lovely family and members of our Messy
Church congregation. It was great to welcome them and all their
family and friends for Theo's baptism.

# READINGS FOR AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

Date	Reading	Reader
Aug. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Dan.7: 9-10, 13-14 2 Pet.1: 1619 Luke 9: 28-36	At St. Francis  Brian Griffiths
Aug. 13 <sup>th</sup>	1 Kings 19: 9-18 Rom.10:5-15 Matt. 14: 22-33	Stephen Howe Hazel O' Sullivan
Aug. 20 <sup>th</sup>	Isa. 56:1, 6-8 Rom.11:1-2a,29-32 Matt. 15: 21-28	John Womack Ken Bryan
Aug. 27 <sup>th</sup>	Isa. 51: 1-6 Rom. 12: 1-8 Matt. 16: 13-20	Bob West Richard Ford
Sept. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jer. 15: 15-21 Rom. 12: 9-end Matt. 16: 21-end	David Taylor Hazel O'Sullivan
Sept. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Special readings for Morning Praise	Beryl Bolton
Sept. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Gen 50: 15-21 Rom. 14: 1-12 Matt. 18: 21-35	Cheryl Davies Carol Coslett
Sept. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Jonah 3: 10- 4: end Phil. 1: 21-end Matt. 20: 1-16	Merri Womack Richard Ford

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## **August**

# **Volunteering Thank You Event**

The past year has been a busy one with our support for projects that show our compassion, as well as our ongoing support of people in our congregations. This has involved a huge amount of volunteering which we'd like to recognise and say thank you for. If you have been involved in anything at our churches, whether that be on Sunday mornings, or at other times, or if you have given support from your own home, we will be celebrating this at a *coffee and cake event* on **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August** between 10.30-11.30am at St Francis' Church.

As well as our church activities, we also opened the Warm Space on a Wednesday so that those who were struggling in the economic and energy crisis had somewhere to meet with others and share some food. Social Befrienders continued to offer a listening ear over the telephone to those living on their own who needed someone to talk to, and we arranged and delivered Christmas Bromley Foodbank hampers again. Volunteers for these initiatives have included people from outside our church congregations and they have also been invited to this event.

If you have been involved in any of these, or other initiatives at our churches, please do come along to meet others who are community minded.

## **Parish Lunch**

The Parish Lunch is on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August** at 1.00 p.m. in the hall. Please contact Beryl Bolton on 0208 289 8097 or <a href="mailto:berylbolton@hotmail.com">berylbolton@hotmail.com</a> if you are unable to attend or if you would like to join us.

## **September**

#### **Parish Lunch**

The Parish Lunch is on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September** at 1.00 p.m. in the hall. Please contact Beryl Bolton on 0208 289 8097 or <a href="mailto:berylbolton@hotmail.com">berylbolton@hotmail.com</a> if you are unable to attend or if you wish to join us.

#### **Lunchtime Concerts**

Our last two Lunchtime Concerts of the season will take place at St. Francis on 24<sup>th</sup> August and 28<sup>th</sup> September. By popular request, Felicity Cliffe will bring the Orchestra Nouveau to us with a special programme for late summer, including the Tchaikovsky Serenade for Strings and the meditative Swan of Tuonela on 24<sup>th</sup> of August.

On 28<sup>th</sup> September, Mr David Bullen will be bringing some of his talented students from Langley Park schools to entertain us with their customary programme featuring various instrumentalists, pianists and singers.

Concerts start at 12.45 with tea and coffee available beforehand. *Please note both these dates* as they are updated from previous information.

## **Harvest Supper**

The Harvest Supper is on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00 p.m. in the hall. This will take the form of a Bring & Share buffet and a list will be posted for people to sign up if they intend to come along and indicate from the suggestions what they would like to bring. Desserts and teas and coffees will be provided and there will be a nominal charge of £5 to cover this. Some entertainment will be provided to follow the meal. Watch the pew sheet for further updates.

# **PARISH MATTERS**

## **Summer Garden Party**

Saturday 17th June

Another successful day! There was a steady stream of people throughout the day even though three other schools were having their summer fairs at the same time. We introduced Pimms this year which went down very well and over £500 was raised for church funds.

Thank you to everyone who helped and contributed to make it an enjoyable day for all.

#### **West Wickham Choir Concert**

Hiawatha Wedding Feast Review
Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July

A night out at St. Francis church, we start off with Hazel introducing the man in black, conductor, pianist, Geoff Mussard, and the West Wickham choir.

Mentioning the words Hiawatha Wedding Feast, around West Wickham there was a rumour going around this maybe the challenge of all challenges, but hopefully with practice, practice, and more practice, and Geoff at the helm they have a chance of pulling it off. If the choir was nervous, they didn't show it.

The concentration on the choir's faces was intense and this is before they started singing. The singing was fast and furious, as a member of the audience, initially I found it hard to follow, but ten minutes into the performance it got easier and following the handout sheet, I started to enjoy the entertainment.



Hiawatha Wedding Feast is the first of a Trilogy of cantatas, written by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor between 1898 and 1900.

Born August 15<sup>th</sup>, 1875 - 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 1912 Holborn London England Composer and conductor.

Like all shows, we need light & shade, and the West Wickham choir didn't disappoint, we had a rendition of Old Mother Hubbard and Jesus Christ Superstar, executed brilliantly by all.

So, we come to our finale, who better to sing the night out, than the lovely singer and soloist Jacqueline Turner, a former member of St Francis' choir, singing a rendition of that well known song 'I Could have Danced all Night' from the musical My fair Lady to end *to the show*.

Thank you to everyone who attended and over £500 was raised for charity.

Tony Ivey

## **Growing together**

For the past few months, on a Thursday morning, behind the garden gate on the left of the main door to St Francis' Church, a merry band of volunteers have been creating a garden. The aim of this garden is to create a safe haven for people to socialise and "grow in friendship". We aim to follow the "Men in Sheds" model, a successful campaign run by Age UK. We hope to gain clientele through the social prescribing officers in GP surgeries and have designed leaflets to be left in community areas.

Garden therapy has proved beneficial for many health issues. Monty Don, a well-known presenter on Gardeners' World (I'm a huge fan) advocates that a garden, "can and does contribute a great deal to physical and mental health and thus make a significant contribution to the wellbeing of society".

It is a lovely joint church project to be involved in. If you wish to know more, we're always in the garden on a Thursday morning. There will also be an opening event where you can find out more at a Coffee Morning on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

Happy gardening, Wendy Jaffrey, project leader.



# Wholeness A Poem by Jane Smith

All of us are broken
Each in different ways
Life is far from easy
We lock away the pain
Its not a sign of weakness
Deciding to be real
Begin the healing process
And tell God how we feel

You need to stop pretending

To fill the whole within

Admit that you are broken

And give it all to Him

Please don't try to hide it

I ask you to be brave

Decide to take the next step

starting from today

God can bring you wholeness
Freedom and release
Healing and forgiveness
joy and lasting peace
you`ll find it is a process
It happens stage by stage
It starts when you are honest
And admit that you have pain

I know that it takes courage
Taking off the mask
Letting others help you
But you need to ask Ask yourself the question
Deep within your soul
"Will my heart be open
And let God make me whole?

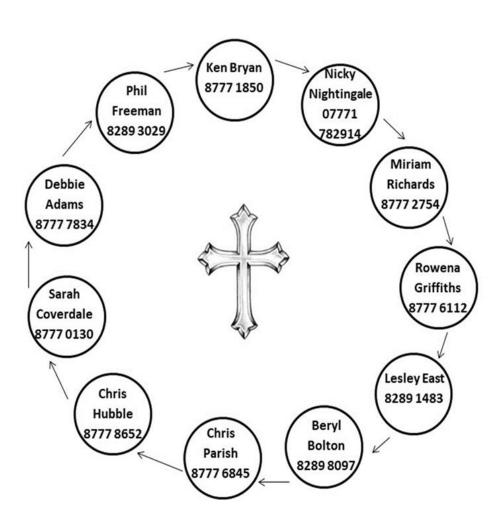
Come to me, all that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28

# 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

## **August**

**9**th

Holy God, we have been shown your glory in **Transfiguration** the face of Jesus; may we reflect his life in our

words and deeds.

**15**<sup>th</sup> **Blessed Virgin Mary** 

May we be strengthened to take, as Mary, the path of obedience, and so bring forth the fruit of holiness.

**24**<sup>th</sup>

Pray that with the help of the Holy Spirit, we **S. Bartholomew** may be strong in our witness to God's truth and Good News.

#### Some Thoughts and Prayers

#### We pray for: -

All who are on holiday in the coming weeks that they may be renewed and refreshed.

Teaching staff, children, and students. We give thanks for our teachers and tutors and all who provide education. We remember in prayer, children starting new schools and students going on to, or returning to higher education.

We pray for those looking for work and families struggling to pay the bills.

We remember those who are suffering from cancer and other health problems. Lord, touch them with your healing power, may they be aware of your presence with its peace and serenity and be given grace and strength to cope. **Amen.** 

# **Focus**

# **September**

**14**<sup>th</sup> Pray that we are able to bear with patience and humility any cross of suffering laid upon us.

Give us grace to deny the selfish pursuit of gain

**St. Matthew** and the possessive love of wealth.

29<sup>th</sup> Everlasting God, grant that as your angels always serve you in heaven, so at your command they may help and defend us on earth.

**Lines to Jesus** 

Lines to Jesus are never engaged. No call back required,
No answering machine. No Press 1 for advice and 2 for confession.
Lines to Jesus are always free. No appointment required,
No hour inconvenient. No charge for late night calls.
Lines to Jesus have no time limit. There's no eye on the clock.
One ear half listening. No faraway look or distracted attention.
Lines to Jesus are always connected. No dial-up needed. No busy.com.

No password recalling, No download to wait for. Lines to Jesus are open and waiting. So call him now... He is longing to hear from you.

# Religious and Social Events Dates 2023 Diary

#### **August**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Volunteer Thank You Event at St Francis' 10am
- 6<sup>th</sup> Joint Service at St Francis' (Transfiguration) 10am
- 24<sup>th</sup> Lunchtime Concert at St Francis 12:45pm

#### September

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Joint service at St Mary's 10am
- 10<sup>th</sup> Non-eucharistic: Creation Sunday
- 24<sup>th</sup> St Francis' Community Lunch 12:30pm
- 28<sup>th</sup> Lunchtime concert at St Francis' 12:45pm
- 30<sup>th</sup> Harvest Supper at St Mary's 7pm

#### **October**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Joint service at St Francis' 10am: St Francis' Patronal Sunday (Gift Day)
- 1st Pet Service at St Francis'
- 7<sup>th</sup> London Concert Chorus concert at St Francis' 7:30pm
- 8<sup>th</sup> All Age Harvest Services
- 8th Debbie's licensing Service at Southwark Cathedral 6pm
- 15<sup>th</sup> Joint service at St Mary's 10am: Celebrating Debbie's Licensing, followed by brunch
- 29th CTWW Bible Sunday service and meeting 6pm

#### **November**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Joint service at St Francis' (All Saints') 10am
- 5<sup>th</sup> Memorial Service at St Mary's 3pm
- 12<sup>th</sup> All-age Remembrance Sunday services
- 18th Hayes Symphony Orchestra concert at St Francis'-7:30pm
- 24<sup>th</sup> High Street Christmas Lights event at St Francis'
- 25<sup>th</sup> St Mary's Christmas Market
- 30<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec Matchbox performances

#### **December**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> The Big Christmas Sing at St Francis' 4pm
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Joint service at St Mary's (Advent Sunday) 10am
- 9<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> Christmas Tree Festival at St Francis'
- 9th Allegri Singers at St Francis'
- 16<sup>th</sup> Scouts' Carols service at St Mary's
- 17<sup>th</sup> Carol Services
- 17<sup>th</sup> St Francis' Community Lunch 12:30pm
- 24<sup>th</sup> Christingle service at St Mary's 4pm
- 24th Lighting the Lamps service at St Francis' 6pm
- 24th Midnight Communion at both churches 11:15pm
- 25<sup>th</sup> Joint service at St Francis 10am
- 31st Joint service at St Mary's 10am

## **Women's Group**

At a women's event in July, it was interesting to hear how Anne Horner-Tree got involved in the Bromley Homeless Starter Pack Scheme for single people and families starting out in a new home with nothing. This may be women and families leaving a women's refuge, or newly released prisoners, or those who have had previous belongings removed from a rented property while they were in hospital for an extended period. Starter packs are provided from Bromley Parish Church to those who know about a family in need the council, a food bank, schools, a women's refuge or Citizen's Advice. Demand has gone up recently and last year Anne gave out 200 starter-packs. We donated a carload of cutlery, crockery, duvet covers (not duvets), pillow slips, tea towels, saucepans, frying pans, bath towel, toothbrushes, etc. Please continue to bring any items that you have when you clear out cupboards at home to one of the church buildings, and we will get these to Anne, so that this work of compassion can continue.

## **Introducing The Venerable Revd Carol Coslett**

Hallo everyone. It is a delight to have found a home amongst you and to be able to serve you in West Wickham working with Hazel and the team.



My role in the diocese is as Assistant Director of Lay Ministry, in the Discipleship and Ministry team at Trinity House, London Bridge. I have been licensed by Bishop Christopher across the diocese and part of my role is to encourage new

vocations into Lay Ministry. This means visiting different churches, and deaneries raising awareness of the different forms of ministry available from Pastoral Minsters, Children and young people, Readers, Evangelists/ pioneers and more.

Before taking up this post I was an Archdeacon in the Derbyshire Peak and Dales, which as well as getting to know a whole new county, allowed me to experience virtually every aspect of church and diocesan life. But the calling to return to Southwark was there, and one of my strengths is engagement with people, and working in a tangible way that allows every gift to blossom. I was born in Epsom and my family roots are firmly in the south, so it was time to return, and I felt God calling me into this role to inspire others to ministry.

My substantive parish ministry had been in Reigate Deanery, as a Rector, Area Dean and Acting Archdeacon, but prior to ordination I had been a music teacher and also since university a Reader. I have a great love of music, enjoy playing the harpsichord, and clarinet, and joined in the community choir for Hiawatha which I have to say was such fun! On my day off I try to get a swim, (so glad that there is a swimming pool in West Wickham), enjoy a woodland walk, or tackle the garden!

Part of my family have moved with me: my husband Martin, a writer of musicals recently "The Crooked Spire" based on where we used to live in Chesterfield, and this year "Mountains of the Moon" being performed in the Buxton Festival Fringe; our daughter Clara, striving to tread the boards professionally, but meanwhile managing the Carnaby Hollister shop when not auditioning. Our son David was married in 2021 and is settled in Derbyshire.

I look forward to getting to know you all as time goes by and being part of your community.

Thank you for your welcome.

Every blessing Carol

#### **Answers to Crossword Puzzle**

Across:1, John. 3, And James. 8, Near. 9, Omission.

11, Theocratic. 14, Asleep. 15, By-path. 17, Stalingrad.

20, Backbone. 21, Baca. 22, Whose eye. 23, Seth.

**Down:**1, Jonathan. 2, Heavenly. 4, No meat. 5, Justifying. 6, Maid. 7, Sins. 10, Acceptable. 12, Marriage. 13, Shadrach. 16, Plenty.18, A bow. 19, ECHO.

#### **Debbie Adams**

#### Our new Reader to be licenced in October 2023

I moved from the West Midlands to London as a student to study law. During my legal training I met James, a newly qualified barrister. We married in 1995 and moved to West Wickham. My next-door neighbours, Chris and Kathy Drakes, were members of St. Mary's church, and they invited me to a Sunday service, which I really enjoyed. I continued to worship at St. Mary's on a Sunday, with very little time available in my busy working life to be more involved.

We decided to start a family and were blessed with 3 sons. William was born in 1998, quickly followed by Edward in 1999 and Alexander in 2001. I moved from the world of work to looking after the boys full time.

During this period, I became more involved with St Mary's, and the boys became regular attenders at Sunday Club and other church events. I became part of the Sunday Club teaching team and enjoyed re-telling bible stories to the children through craft activities and role play. I can recall the challenges of keeping 3 young children under the age of 3 occupied during Sunday services. It was not uncommon for me to be bottle feeding one of my sons while chasing another down the central aisle of the church to prevent him crashing into the vicar! However, it has been a real privilege to have been able to spend time with them and watch them develop and grow into the young men they are today.

I would describe my calling to the ministry as a gradual progression, starting with my confirmation in 1998. It took time for my faith to develop and grow, and as the boys became more independent, I

began to feel that God was calling me to do something more specific. This call slowly became stronger and stronger until I felt I could no I enrolled on the Bishop's Certificate Course in longer ignore it. September 2018, primarily as a stepping stone in order to reflect on my faith and explore what it was that God was calling me to do. I found the course to be an excellent place to start, and meeting other Christians to talk about faith, was an invaluable experience. I also found taking opportunities within church, such as preaching, leading services, and leading a home group, helped to confirm the calling to lead and teach. I began the discerning process with a Vocations Adviser in January 2021, in order to explore and identify my call to either Lay Ministry or Ordination. At the end of the 6-month period I was interviewed by a selection panel as part of the application process and was recommended for Reader Training. I began the 2year Reader Course at St. Augustine's College of Theology in September 2021 and completed the course in June 2023. I will be Licensed as a Reader in October 2023.

Debbie Adams.

#### **Confidence in God**

By St Columba

Alone with none but Thee, my God,
I journey on my way.
What need I fear, when Thou art near
O King of night and day?
More safe I am within Thy hand
Than if a host did round me stand.



æ

## Maintenance

All types of work undertaken Also Flat pack assembly No job too small

Harry Allen 138 Queen Anne Avenue, Bromley BR2 OSF

07801 755199

#### Best position for effective prayer

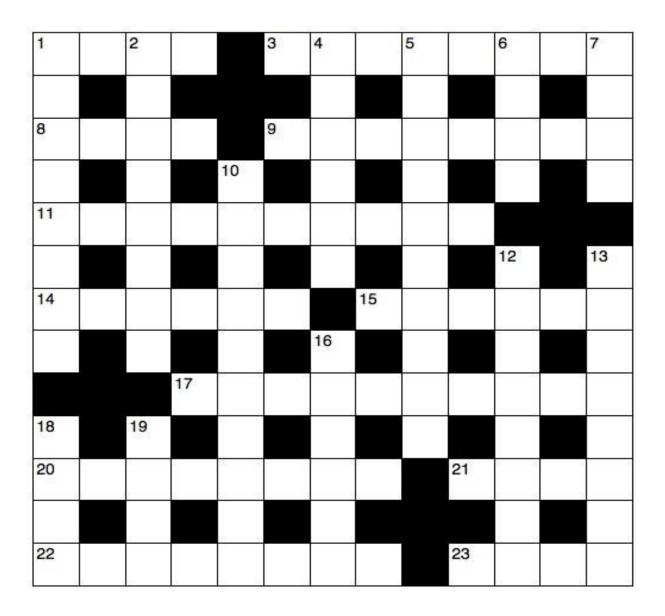
Three ministers sat discussing the best positions for prayer while a telephone repairman worked nearby. "Kneeling is definitely best," claimed one minister.

"No," another contended. "I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven."

"You're both wrong," the third insisted. "The most effective prayer position is lying prostrate, face down on the floor."

The repairman could contain himself no longer. "Sorry," he blurted out, "but the best praying I ever did was hanging upside down from a telephone pole."

## **CROSS WORD GRID**



#### **Across**

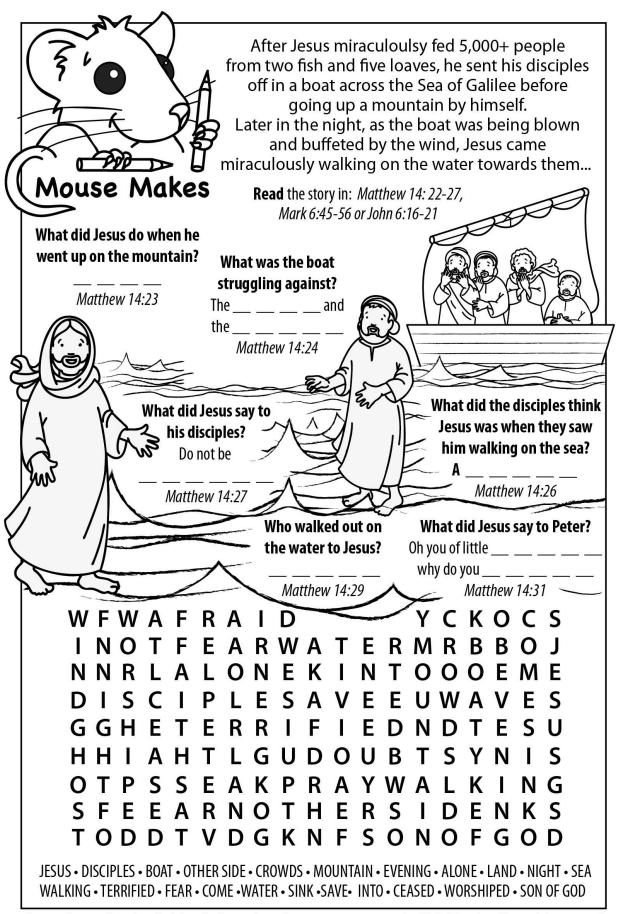
- 1 and 3 Two of the disciples who witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus (Luke 9:28) (4,3,5)
- 3 See 1 Across
- 8 'Let us draw to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith' (Hebrews 10:22) (4)
- 9 O Simon is (anag.) (8)
- 11 Form of government under the direct rule of God or his agents (10)
- How Jesus found his disciples when he returned to them after praying in Gethsemane (Luke 22:45) (6)

- In The Pilgrim's Progress, the name of the meadow into which Christian strayed, which led to Doubting Castle (2-4)
- 17 Glad sin rat (anag.) (10)
- 20 Spinal column (Leviticus 3:9) (8)
- Valley of the Balsam Tree with a reputation of being a waterless place (Psalm 84:6) (4)
- 22 'The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the oracle of one — sees clearly' (Numbers 24:3) (5,3)
- 23 Adam and Eve's third son (Genesis 4:25) (4)

### Down

- 1 David's great friend (1 Samuel 20:17) (8)
- 2 'The Lord... will bring me safely to his kingdom' (2 Timothy 4:18) (8)
- 4 'I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; or wine touched my lips' (Daniel 10:3) (2,4)
- 5 Seeking to vindicate (Job 32:2) (10)
- 6 Female servant (Isaiah 24:2) (4)
- 7 'For Christ died for once for all' (1 Peter 3:18) (4)
- 10 'Offering spiritual sacrifices to God through Jesus Christ' (1 Peter 2:5) (10)
- Jesus said that some people had renounced this 'because of the kingdom of heaven' (Matthew 19:12) (8)
- One of the three men thrown into the furnace for refusing to worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden image (Daniel 3:20) (8)
- 16 'You have of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry' (Luke 12:19) (6)
- 18 'There before me was a white horse! Its rider held — , and he was given a crown' (Revelation 6:2) (1,3)
- 19 Equipment to Charity Hospitals Overseas (1,1,1,1)

The NIV bible was used to set the crossword. Answers on page 19



Answer the questions then find them in the word search

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#### **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 Kay Mussard, our Safeguarding Officer or one of the following: our Vicar, Rev. Hazel O'Sullivan or to one of the churchwardens.

# HAVE YOU OR WILL YOU BE MAKING A WILL?

If so, please consider leaving a legacy to St. Mary's.

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

Please give this prayerful consideration.

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

# **ROTAS**

## **August**

## **Welcoming in Church**

### 8.00 a.m. services

6 <sup>th</sup>	St. Marys	Stephen Howe
13 <sup>th</sup>	St. Francis	Debbie Adams
20 <sup>th</sup>	St. Marys	Stephen Howe
27 <sup>th</sup>	St. Francis	Debbie Adams

## 9:15a.m./10.00 a.m. services

6 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 a.m.	Joint at St. Francis
13 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 a.m.	Natalie Outten/Phil Nortey
20 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 a.m.	Julie Conway/Jackie Greatorex
27 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 a.m.	Malcolm Hubbard/Mike Messinger

#### Coffee

6 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 a.m.	Joint service at St. Francis
13 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 a.m.	Margaret Bond/Mike Messinger
20 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 a.m.	Cheryl Davies/Linda West
27 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 a.m.	Claire Bull/Jackie Greatorex

## Church Cleaning

4 <sup>th</sup>	Chris Bryan/Annette Cordery
18 <sup>th</sup>	Claire and Peter Cordery

#### **Church Flower Pedestals**

13 <sup>th</sup>	Dave & Wendy Taylor for their wedding anniversary	Merri
27 <sup>th</sup>	Beryl for family birthdays	Beryl

# **ROTAS**

## September

# **Welcoming in Church**

#### 8.00 a.m. services

3 <sup>rd</sup>	St. Francis'	Debbie Adams
$10^{\text{th}}$	St. Francis'	Debbie Adams
17 <sup>th</sup>	St. Mary's	Stephen Howe
24 <sup>th</sup>	St. Francis'	Debbie Adams

### 9:15a.m./10.00 a.m. services

3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.00 a.m.	Joint	Merri and John Womack
10 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 a.m.		Claire Bull/Dot Smythe
17 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 a.m.		Pauline Christy/Linda West
24 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 a.m.		Natalie Outten/Phil Nortey

#### Coffee

3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.00 a.m. Joint	Beryl Bolton/Gifty Nortey
10 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 a.m.	Merri and John Womack
17 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 a.m.	Jean Mathers/Natalie Outten
24 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 a.m.	Margaret Bond/Mike Messinger

## Church Cleaning

1 <sup>st</sup>	Beryl Bolton/Margaret Bond
15 <sup>th</sup>	Chris Bryan/Annette Cordery
29 <sup>th</sup>	Kay and Geoff Mussard

#### **Church Flower Pedestals**

10<sup>th</sup>

24<sup>th</sup>

# **CONTACTS**

Bible Reading Fellowship:	Mrs M Richards	miriamrichards@outlook.com	
Church/Wedding Flowers:	Mrs M Womack	2 Long Meadow Close	8777 8772
Beavers:	Mr D Tarrant	duncan.tarrant@openreach.co.uk	
Brownies:	Mrs S Hann	149 Hayes Chase	8776 1385
Messy Church:	Mrs K Mussard	35 Oakfield Gardens	8650 8389
Magazine Editor:	Mrs G Nortey	office@stmarywestwickham.co.uk	8776 1563
Articles for typing to:	Mrs B Bolton	3 Foxes Dale, Shortlands	8289 8097
Printing:	Mrs G Nortey	office@stmarywestwickham.co.uk	8776 1563
Hall & Youth Hall:	Hall & Youth Hall:	6 North Road jackiegreatorex@googlemail.com	

## Magazine Articles

The Parish Magazine welcomes articles from its readers. Please place in the box provided within the vestibule or send to <a href="mailto:office@stmarywestwickham.co.uk">office@stmarywestwickham.co.uk</a> by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication.

www.stmarywestwickham.co.uk

St Mary of Nazareth Parish Church The Avenue, West Wickham, Kent BR4 0DX