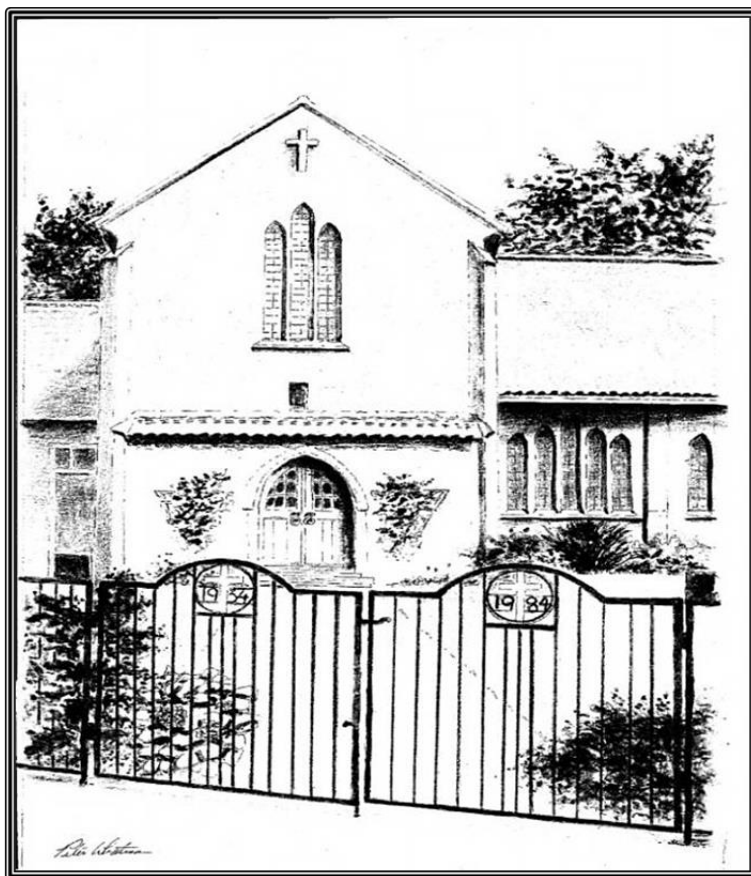


# CHURCH MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2023/ JANUARY 2024

## *ST MARY OF NAZARETH*

WEST WICKHAM



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

50P

# CLERGY AND OFFICERS

Vicar:	Rev Hazel O'Sullivan	Vicarage, The Avenue	8777 5034
	<a href="mailto:hazelos58@gmail.com">hazelos58@gmail.com</a>		<b>(day off on Monday)</b>
Assistant Priests:	Rev Richard Ford	7 Sylvan Way	8289 2432
	<a href="mailto:richard.ford73@ntlworld.com">richard.ford73@ntlworld.com</a>		
	Ven Carol Coslett	7 Woodland Way	7939 9456
	<a href="mailto:Carol.coslett@southwark.anglican.org">Carol.coslett@southwark.anglican.org</a>		
Readers:	Mr Ken Bryan	55 Goodhart Way	8777 1850
	<a href="mailto:KennethABryan@aol.com">KennethABryan@aol.com</a>		
	Mrs Debbie Adams	87 Goodhart Way	8777 7834
	<a href="mailto:debadams87@outlook.com">debadams87@outlook.com</a>		
Church Wardens:	Mr David Taylor	92 Wellbrook Road	01689 856512
	<a href="mailto:davey.taylor@talktalk.net">davey.taylor@talktalk.net</a>	Locksbottom	
	Mr Stephen Howe	5, Hazelwood Lodge	8249 0315
	<a href="mailto:aireyowe@gmail.com">aireyowe@gmail.com</a>	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:	Ms Julie Conway	<a href="mailto:julie.conway@ntlworld.com">julie.conway@ntlworld.com</a>	
Treasurer/Free-Will Offering Secretary:	Mr Bob West	163 Wickham Chase	8776 0210
	<a href="mailto:robandlinwest@tiscali.co.uk">robandlinwest@tiscali.co.uk</a>		
Organist/Choirmaster:	Mr Geoff Mussard	35 Oakfield Gardens	8650 8389
	<a href="mailto:geoff@mussard.org.uk">geoff@mussard.org.uk</a>	Beckenham	
Electoral Roll Officer:	Mr Chris Fitzgerald		8777 0083
Parish Safeguarding Officer:	Mrs Kay Mussard	35 Oakfield Gardens	8650 8389
	<a href="mailto:kay@mussard.org.uk">kay@mussard.org.uk</a>	Beckenham	

## NORMAL SERVICES

Sunday:	8:00 a.m.	Holy Communion (1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Sundays only)
	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)
Morning Praise:	9:15 a.m.	Normally on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month
Messy Church:	3:45 p.m.	Normally on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month
Holy Baptism:	By appointment	
Other Services:	Refer to the Calendar in this magazine.	
Weddings/Banns, etc.:	By appointment	

# LETTER FROM HAZEL

Dear All,

I wonder what you mean when you send a Christmas card that offers "Every best wish for Christmas and the New Year". Invariably this means 'I hope you get good presents', or 'May you share in positive experiences with family and friends.' Whilst I wouldn't want anyone to stop an activity that brings such pleasure, this focus on what the secular world wishes for Christmas does mean that we're all planning for short-lived benefits in the festive season, and this can detract from the 'good news' that Jesus brought when he was born into a world of darkness.

Despite all the passing time and changes there have been in the world since that moment just over 2,000 years ago, we are again in a world full of darkness. Darkness which is revealed by wars in Gaza, Ukraine and other places; climate change causing flooding, drought and wild-fires; economic hard times resulting in some families living with mould on the walls and no bed for children to sleep in. We need a word of positive, good news to give us hope that shines a light into these dark places. This is what Jesus can bring so much better than any tasty Christmas treat or any party where you meet with others.

Jesus came to bring peace on earth. This peace that Jesus brings is not only the cessation of conflict in places like Gaza and Ukraine. The peace that Jesus wants for us is an inner peace, which is gained not through a lack of noise, but through good relationships with our neighbour, where our neighbour is anyone that we encounter. As well as family and friends, it includes those we pass on the street and those we hear about in the news or on social media. Keeping up good relationships with, or loving, all these people is hard, but it's something worth striving for, as it's this 'good news' of peace and love that brings hope to every new day of life.

So, how can we make every day like Christmas Day, when we wish for love and peace to all? It's only by focusing on Jesus. We celebrate and giving thanks to God for Jesus every day in prayer and when we share in communion. Remembering Jesus means that we know the love that God showed for us in sending him to live among us. And it's the knowledge of that love which brings us hope, even in the dark times, such as we are living in today.

So, rather than "Every best wish for Christmas and the New Year", may I wish you "Every blessing of peace and love shared with others throughout 2024 and beyond".

*Hazel*



Luke 2:14

# CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

## **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>**

4.00 p.m. Big Christmas Sing at St. Francis'

## **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

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

*Richard Ford*

10.00 a.m. Joint Service at St. Mary's with livestream

*Hazel O'Sullivan/Richard Ford*

## **Friday 8<sup>th</sup>**

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

*Messy Church Team*

## **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>**

6.30 p.m. Scouts carol service at St Mary's

*Hazel O'Sullivan/Ken Bryan*

## **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>**

### **2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

#### **Patronal Festival at St. Mary's**

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

*Hazel O'Sullivan/Ken Bryan*

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'

*Carol Coslett*

## **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>**

### **3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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

10.45 a.m. Carol Service at St. Francis' with livestream

4.00 p.m. Carol Service at St. Mary's with livestream followed by tea in hall.

## **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>**

## **4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT CHRISTMAS EVE**

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Mary's  
*Carol Coslett*
- 10.00 a.m. Joint service at St. Mary's with livestream  
*Hazel O'Sullivan/Carol Coslett*
- 4.00 p.m. Christingle at St Mary's
- 6.00 p.m. Lighting the Lamps at St Francis'  
*Hazel O'Sullivan*
- 11.15 p.m. Holy Communion at St. Mary's with livestream  
*Richard Ford*
- 11.15 p.m. Holy Communion at St. Francis'  
*Hazel O'Sullivan*

## **Monday 25<sup>th</sup>**

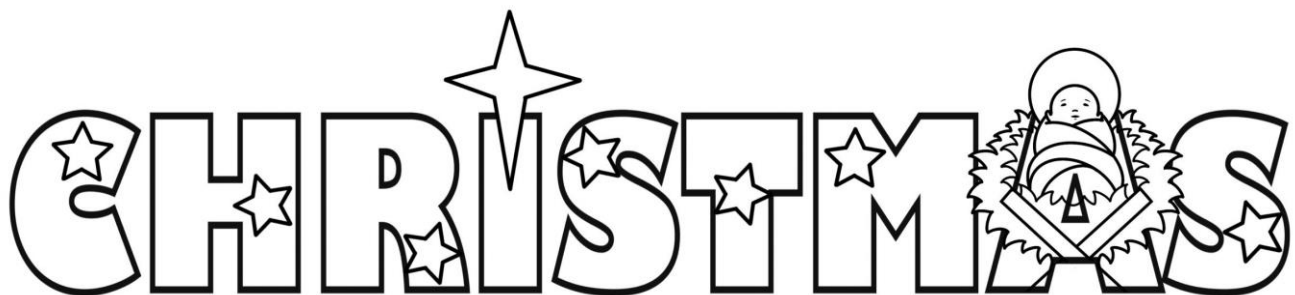
## **CHRISTMAS DAY**

- 10.00 a.m. Joint service at St. Francis'  
*Hazel O'Sullivan/Richard Ford*

## **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>**

## **CHRISTMAS 1**

- 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*



# CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2024

## **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>**

8.00 a.m.

### **EPIPHANY**

Holy Communion at St. Mary's

*Carol Coslett*

10.00 a.m.

Joint service at St. Francis' with livestream

*Richard Ford/Carol Coslett*

## **Friday 12<sup>th</sup>**

3.45 p.m.

Messy Church at St. Mary's

*Messy Church Team*

## **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>**

8.00 a.m.

### **EPIPHANY 2 Generosity Sunday**

Holy Communion at St. Francis'

*Hazel O'Sullivan*

9.15 a.m.

Morning Praise at St. Mary's with livestream

*Hazel O'Sullivan/Ken Bryan*

10.45 a.m.

Morning Worship at St. Francis'

*Hazel O'Sullivan*

## **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>**

### **EPIPHANY 3**

#### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

8.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Mary's

*Hazel O'Sullivan/Ken Bryan*

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'

*Carol Coslett/Ken Bryan*

## **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>**

### **CANDLEMAS – Presentation of Christ**

8.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis'

*Richrd 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'

*Hazel O'Sullivan/Richard Ford/Debbie Adams*

# READINGS FOR DECEMBER & JANUARY 24

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Reader</b>
Dec 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Isaiah 64: 1-9 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9 Mark 13: 24-37	Stephen Howe Richard Ford
Dec 10 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 7: 10-14 Hebrews 10: 4-10 Luke 1: 26-38	Merri Womack Carol Coslett
Dec 17 <sup>th</sup> 8.00 a.m.	Isaiah 61: 1-4,8-11 1 Thess.5:16-24 John 1: 6-8, 19 -28	
Dec 24 <sup>th</sup>	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1: 39-45	Beryl Bolton Carol Coslett
Midnight	Isaiah 52: 7-10 John 1: 1-14	David Taylor Richard Ford
Dec 31 <sup>st</sup>	Isaiah 61: 10-62:3 Galations4: 4-7 Luke 2: 15-21	John Womack Hazel O'Sullivan
Jan 7 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 60: 1-6 Ephesians 3: 1-12 Matthew 2: 1-12	At St. Francis Carol Coslett
Jan 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan 21 <sup>st</sup>	Special readings for Morning Praise 1 Samuel 3: 1-10 Revelations 5: 1-10 John 1: 43-51	Charlotte Wilson Jean Mathers Ken Bryan
Jan 28 <sup>th</sup>	Malachi 3: 1-5 Hebrews 2: 14-18 Luke 2: 22-40	Jean Pogose Richard Ford



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## December

### Big Christmas Sing

Big Christmas Sing is on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December** at 4.00 p.m. in St. Francis' Church. All proceeds to Christian Aid. Do come along and support this event.

### Parish Lunch

The Christmas Parish Lunch is on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 12.30 p.m.** in the hall for sherry followed by lunch at 1.00 p.m. The cost is £10, and places must be booked through Beryl Bolton 0208 289 8097 or [berylbolton@hotmail.com](mailto:berylbolton@hotmail.com). If you would like to join us, please get in touch, or to advise you are unable to attend. The lunch will be followed by a sing-along- of Christmas carols and songs.

### Scouts' Carol Service

It was great to have the 7<sup>th</sup> West Wickham Scout Group supporting our Remembrance Sunday service at St Francis' in November. We have an opportunity to return this support when the scout group hold their Carol Service in St Mary's Church on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December** at 6.30pm. All are welcome.

### Making up Sweets for Christingles

We will be making up the sweets for the Christingles in the hall at **2.00 p.m. on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**. If you are able to spare a bit of time to help this would be very much appreciated. Thank you.

### Making up the Christingles

We will be making up the Christingles in the hall from **2.00 p.m. on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December**. Again, if you are able to spare a little time to help this would be very much appreciated. Thank you.

If anyone would like to donate towards the cost of the Christingles, please give to either of the churchwardens. This enables us to send a larger donation to the Children's Society.

## January 2024

### Parish Lunch

The Parish Lunch is on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January** at 1.00 p.m. in the hall. Please contact Beryl Bolton on 0208 289 8097 or [berylbolton@hotmail.com](mailto:berylbolton@hotmail.com) if you are unable to attend or if you wish to join us.



### ADVANCE NOTICE

Valentine's Ploughman's Lunch **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2024** at 12 noon in the hall. Further updates in the weekly pew sheet nearer the time.

### Croydon Area Lay Conference

The Lay Conference is a day to celebrate what's happening in our churches and to be inspired for the future. It's a day that includes a key-note speaker, Elaine Storkey, who is a prominent feminist evangelical known for her lecturing, writing and broadcasting. There will also be a variety of workshops, lunch, an address from Bishop Rosemarie and time to mingle with those from other churches in the Croydon Area.

The conference is being staged at St Bede's School, Carlton Road, Redhill on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024** and the event will run from 9.30am to 4pm. Put the date in your diary, and further details and an opportunity to register will follow in January.

# **PARISH MATTERS**

## **Christmas Market**

Thanks to all who supported our Christmas Market by donating gifts, helping on the day and during the week before. A full write up on the market with details of all draw winners and raffle winners will be reported in the February issue of the magazine. In the meantime, a big thank you to the Christmas Market Team for co-ordinating the event.

## **Sanctuary Pedestal List**

There is a list on the noticeboard at the foot of the choir vestry stairs. Please fill in any dates where you would like to donate a pedestal in memory of a loved one, for a birthday or anniversary. The available dates are every other week as the flowers usually last for two weeks and, this eases the workload as we do not have many arrangers now. The contact for any queries is Merri Womack 0208 777 8772. We can always arrange to do an extra pedestal if anyone requires a special date.

## **Electoral Roll**

If you are new to St. Marys, or already a member but not on the electoral roll, please see Chris Fitzgerald on a Sunday morning or give him a ring on 020 8777 0083. Chris will be pleased to explain what is involved and give you the necessary form to be filled in. Being on the Electoral Roll gives you the right to vote on any matter concerning the Church.

## **The Food Bank**

Thank you all for your generous and regular donations to the Food Bank. The need is always there but even more so during the winter months and at Christmas time. Please continue to leave donations in

the box outside the Vicarage. Any “bags for life” you may have spare would be very useful for making up Christmas parcels. Thank you.

## Magazine Subscriptions

This is a reminder that subscriptions for the magazine are due with the next edition of the magazine in February. The cost remains at £3 for the year. If you prefer to pay with each two-monthly edition, the cost is 50p per copy. Electronic copies are sent to everyone on the church’s email group. If you wish to receive an electronic copy, please contact Gifty at [office@stmaryswestwickham.co.uk](mailto:office@stmaryswestwickham.co.uk). We are always pleased to receive any articles for the magazine.

## Religious and Social Events Dates

### December 2023

- 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’
- 9<sup>th</sup> Allegri Singers at St Francis’
- 9<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
- 24<sup>th</sup> Lighting the Lamps service at St Francis’ 6pm
- 24<sup>th</sup> Midnight Communion at both churches 11:15pm
- 25<sup>th</sup> Joint service at St Francis – 10am
- 31<sup>st</sup> Joint service at St Mary’s – 10am

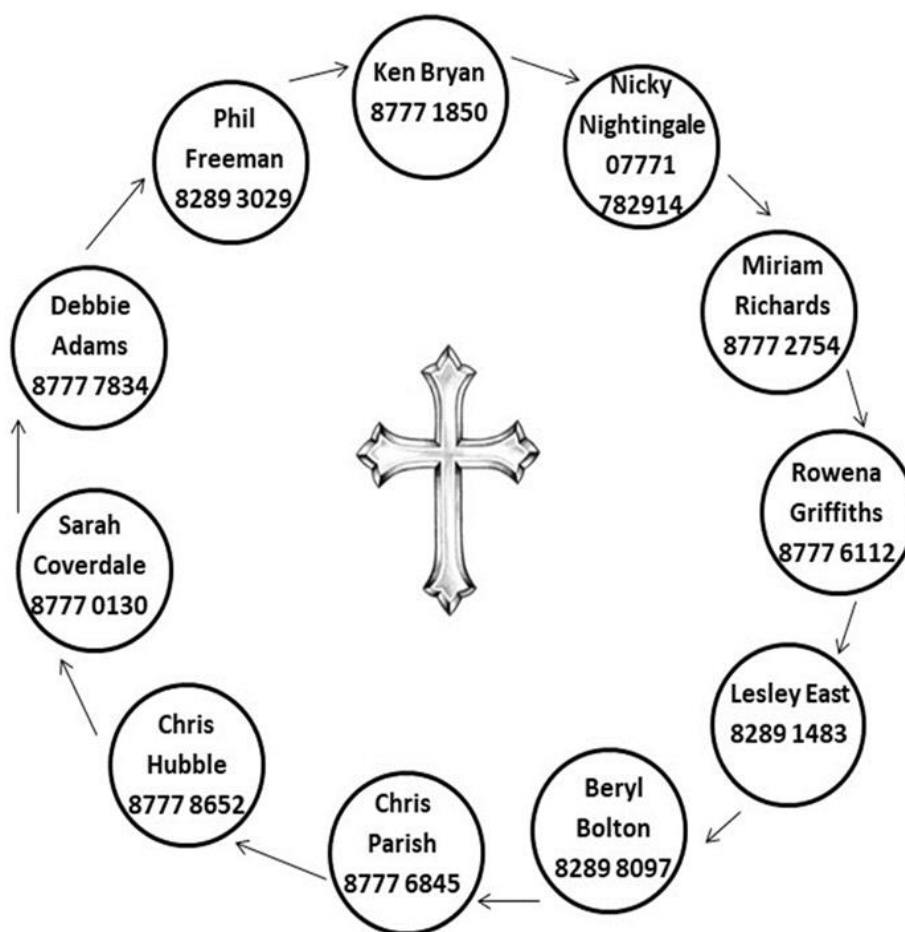
### January 2024

- 3<sup>rd</sup> St Mary’s Community Lunch – 1pm
- 7<sup>th</sup> Joint service at St Francis’: Epiphany/Lay Ministries 10am
- 12<sup>th</sup> Messy Church 3:45pm
- 14<sup>th</sup> Non-eucharistic: Generosity Sunday
- 18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Women’s event at St Mary’s
- 28<sup>th</sup> Candlemas

# 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

## December

**25<sup>th</sup>**  
**Christmas Day** We offer ourselves to God with thanksgiving. He is both giver and gift.

**26<sup>th</sup>**  
**St. Stephen** Pray that we may be always truly forgiving and have courage to stand up for what we believe.

**27<sup>th</sup>**  
**St. John**  
**Evangelist** Grant O Lord, that the Word made flesh proclaimed by your Apostle John may ever live within us.

**28<sup>th</sup>**  
**The Holy**  
**Innocents** Pray that we may have the will and courage to defend the weak and persecuted.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
May we come to worship you with the shepherds,  
Proclaim you with the Angels,  
Seek you with the Wise Men,  
Offer ourselves to you with Joseph and Mary,  
And rejoice in your love, Christ our Lord.

Jesus, Son of Mary,  
You have come among us, to be one of us.  
We welcome you into our homes,  
We welcome you into our hearts.  
We welcome you into our lives.  
Let us all worship with the shepherds  
And adore you with the Wise Men –  
Glory to God in the Highest.

Amen

# FOCUS

## January 24

**4<sup>th</sup>** Pray for parents that they may be able to  
**Naming of Jesus** bring up their children to know God.

**6<sup>th</sup>** May our gifts to God be love of Him and love of  
**Epiphany** our neighbours.

**15<sup>th</sup>** Let us not occupy ourselves with the things  
**Christian Unity** which divides us, but focus more on the  
**Week** things we hold in common.

**25<sup>th</sup>** Pray that God's light may shine in our lives and  
**Conversion of** the Holy Spirit will be our guide.  
**St. Paul**

### **The Year Ahead**

For all the possibilities ahead in this New Year, may we be thankful, dear Lord. We pray for wisdom, courage, and discernment in the face of so much chaos, despair, and fear. Help us to see how in our circumstances and in our own small way, we might bring about some healing in our suffering world – whether by action or by our prayers.

We pray for those whose lives have been torn apart by war, terrorism, and Inhumanity. We pray for children left orphaned, for the suddenly bereaved and for all who are displaced and have no safe refuge. We pray for peace in the world and blessing on all who work for peace to be brought about. Amen.

## Eco Church Report

When you flush the pan before leaving your toilet, have you ever thought how blessed you are to live in a country where you can take such a facility for granted?

Sadly there are still many in the world today who lack such a convenience.

To address this problem, Tearfund (The Evangelical Alliance Relief Fund, a similar organisation to Christian Aid) have developed Toilet Twinning, an initiative that helps tackle the global water and sanitation crisis with help from supporters who can get involved by twinning their toilet with a family latrine built overseas. For £60 you can have your toilet linked with a toilet in a country where sanitation, if it exists, is very primitive. Such countries include Nepal, Malawi, Tanzania and Pakistan. In return, you get a certificate with a picture of the toilet with which yours is twinned and the GPS coordinates so you can look it up on Google Maps. The certificate can be framed and located in your toilet to remind you of how you are benefiting people whose sanitation is less developed than ours.



Alternatively, or in addition, why not help our campaign to get an Eco Church award by helping to get some of our church toilets twinned. Perhaps the PCCs could club together, or maybe the choirs. Or how about the flower arrangers getting involved? Or maybe the ministry team? Or a home group? Wouldn't it be great if we could get all our toilets twinned?

For more information go to <https://toilettwinning.org/product/twin-a-toilet-today>

*Richard Ford*



**Community Christmas Tree Festival**  
**St. Francis Church, Ravenswood Avenue,**  
**West Wickham BR4 0PW**

**Free**



**Entry**

Come along to St Francis Church to view the trees, enjoy some refreshments, listen to festive music and get ready for Christmas.

We will be raising money for Welcare in Bromley, a charity that provides practical and emotional support and advice to families in need.

The Christmas Tree Festival will be held between 9-16 December 2023 and the church will open at the following times:

- Saturday 9 December – 10.00am – 1.00pm
- Sunday 10 December – 12.00noon – 3.00pm
- Wednesday 13 December – 10.30am – 1.00pm
- Friday 15 December – 10.00am – 1.00pm
- Saturday 16 December (with Treasure Hunt) – 10.00am – 1.00pm



# **The Light of the World**

During the month of December, people are 'counting down' to Christmas Day in an ever - increasing variety of ways.

In my childhood we had a simple card with a traditional picture of a manger scene with doors marked with the countdown numbers and a picture of the different characters behind each. If my parents had extra money to spend, they would buy one with shiny snow made of sparkles!

These days you can pay hundreds to have a gift for each day from toys to jewellery. And don't fret, your pets can have their own also!

Churches don't normally count the days, but they do note the four Sundays before Christmas Day. They give each of those four 'advent' Sundays a theme and light a candle each time. One for the first week, two for the second and so on.

Unlike the secular world, the church counts up, and not down. It increases the light as we get nearer to Christmas Day and then adds an extra light on that day. So, a total of five candles.

Churches vary in their use of colour in the candles. Some will use all white, whilst many only use white for the Christ-light on Christmas Day and 'colours' on the four Sundays.

There again they vary; some use all purple – originally the most expensive colour - as we prepare for The King. In a more modern style, some use blue – perhaps recalling the most associated colour for Jesus' mother Mary. But perhaps reminding us of creation and that we are surrounded by God's love as the earth is surrounded by the blue sky.

And again, others will change the colours for each Sunday, often giving the third Sunday to be pink as we are over half-way through Advent and it is known as Gaudate – Joyful – Sunday. Or there are those who

make the fourth Sunday pink, as that one is often dedicated to Mary and it's a 'girly' colour.

This month, have a look at the advent candles in your church, or perhaps in your own home, and think about what the colours mean to you. How do they reflect your faith? Whatever the colour – Have a Good Christmas!

*Revd Jo White*

*Statistics prove we're all getting stronger. Fifty years ago, you needed an estate car to hold £50 worth of Christmas presents. Twenty-five years ago, it took two people to carry £30 worth of Christmas groceries - now a five-year-old can do it.*

*It was Christmas and the judge was in a benign mood as he asked the prisoner what he was charged with. "Doing my Christmas shopping early," replied the man. "Why, that's no offence," said the judge. "How early were you doing it?" "Before the store opened," replied the defendant.*

### **Answers to Crossword Puzzle**

**ACROSS:** 1, Depend. 4, Canopy. 7, Beak. 8, Irritate. 9, Zedekiah. 13, Ate. 16, Job's comforter. 17, NAE. 19, Lang Syne. 24, Blockade. 25, Five. 26, Enigma. 27, Drench.

**DOWN:** 1, Debt. 2, Peaceable. 3, Drink. 4, Curia. 5, Nuts. 6, Put it. 10, Excel. 11, Is man. 12, Hoofs. 13, Attention. 14, Ezra. 15, Ijon. 18, Aslan. 20, Abana. 21, Greed. 22, GCMG. 23, Lea

A stylized line drawing of a roofer wearing a cap and boots, working on a gabled roof with a chimney. The drawing is in the background of the text.

# **ROOFING & Maintenance**

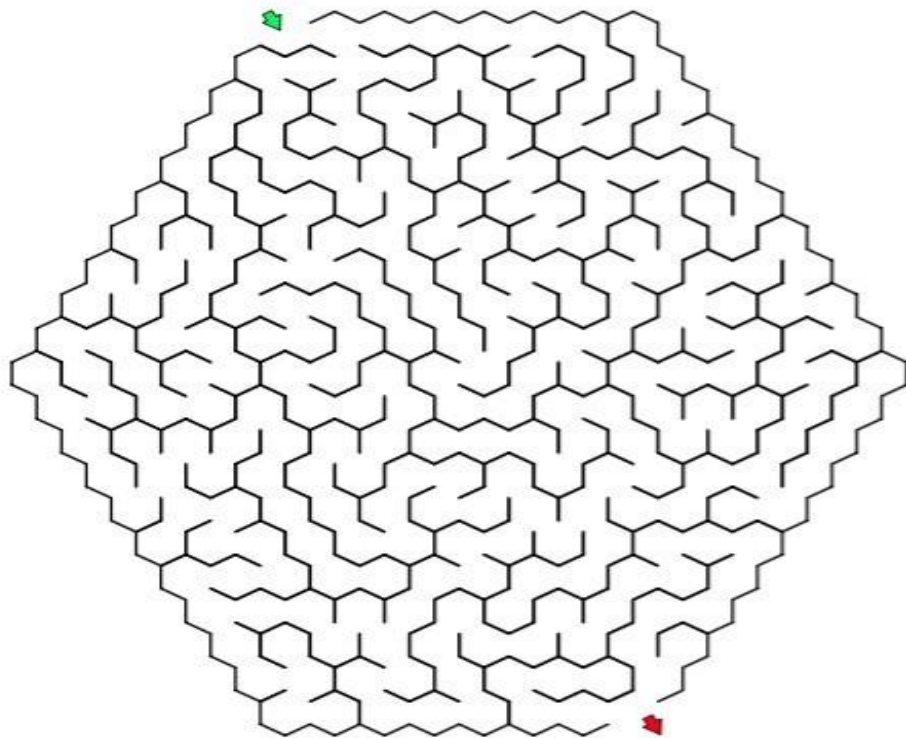
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**All types of work undertaken  
Also Flat pack assembly  
No job too small**

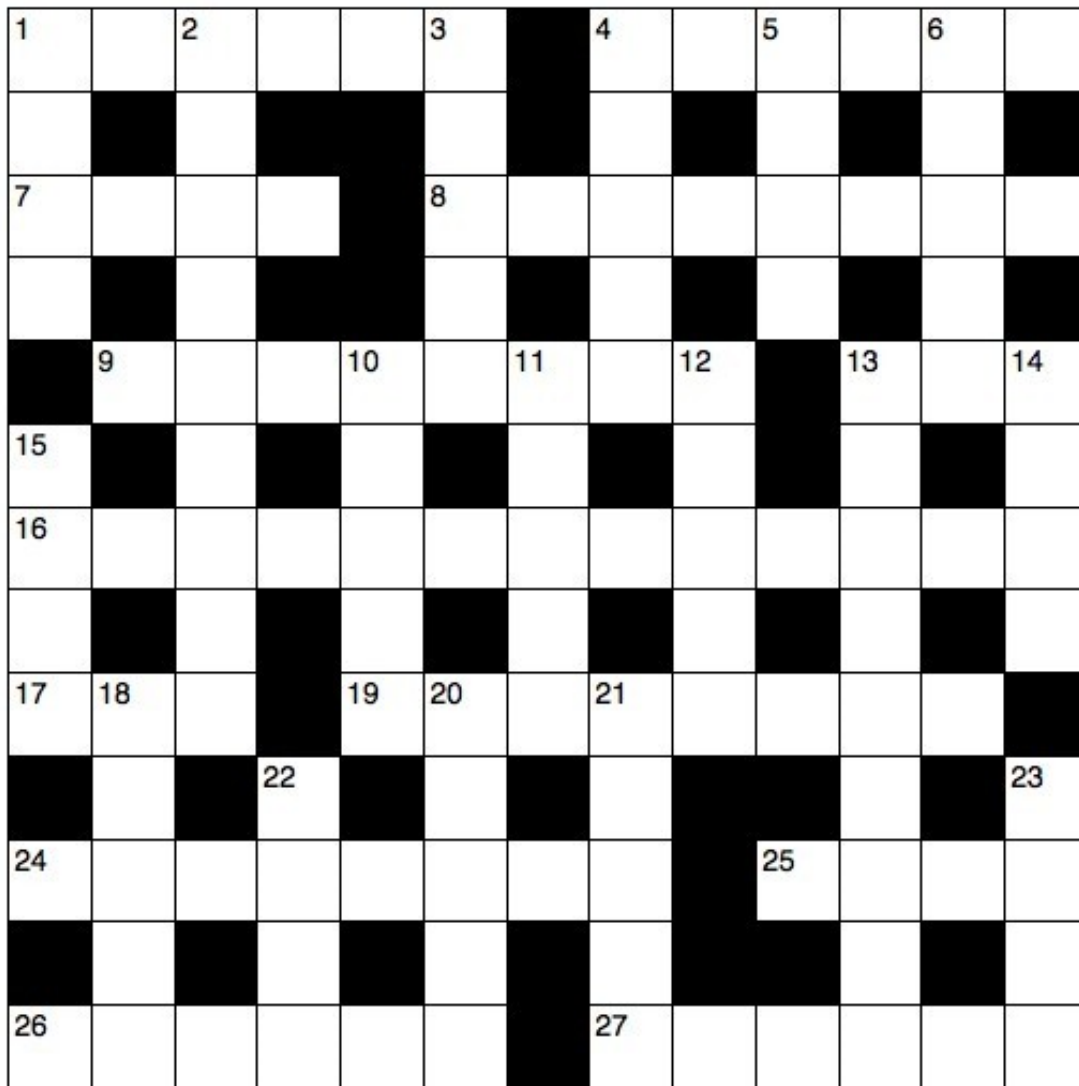
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**Harry Allen  
138 Queen Anne Avenue, Bromley BR2 0SF**

**07801 755199**



# CROSS WORD GRID



## Across

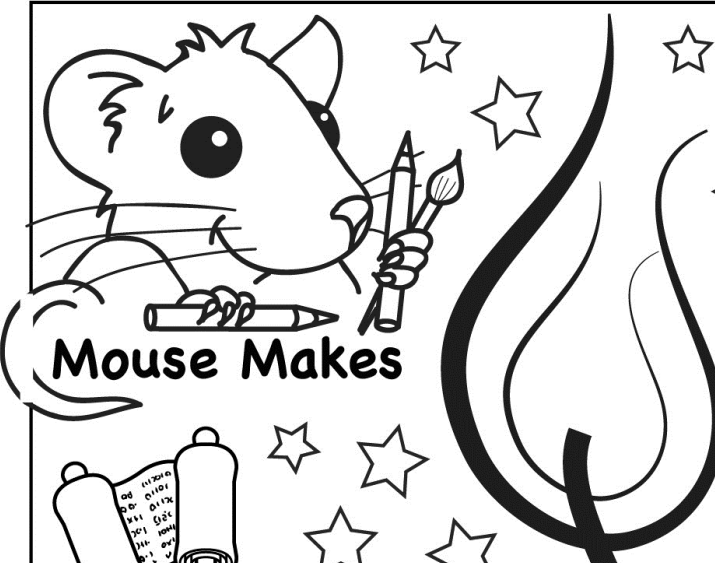
- 1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)
- 4 'He stretches out the heavens like a — , and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)
- 7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)
- 8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)
- 9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)
- 13 'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)
- 16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)

- 17 National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)
- 19 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4)
- 24 Able dock (anag.) (8)
- 25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)
- 26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)
- 27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

**Down**

- 1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)
- 2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)
- 3 'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)
- 4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)
- 5 One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)
- 6 'Reach out your hand and — — into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)
- 10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)
- 11 'What — — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)
- 12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)
- 13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)
- 14 Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)
- 15 One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)
- 18 Narnia's Lion (5)
- 20 One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)
- 21 Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)
- 22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)
- 23 Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)


*The NIV bible was used to set the crossword. Answers on page 17*



**Mouse Makes**


**ADVENT**  
comes from  
the Latin  
**'AD VENTO'**  
which means  
**ARRIVAL**

In Advent we  
celebrate Jesus' birth  
and look forward to  
the time when Jesus  
will come again.




**GOD'S PROMISE**  
*Isaiah 9:6-7*

CHILD • BORN • SON  
GIVEN • WONDERFUL  
COUNCELLOR  
MIGHTY • GOD  
EVERLASTING  
FATHER • PRINCE  
PEACE • LORD



**AN ANGEL MESSENGER**  
*Luke 1:26-38*

ANGEL • GABRIEL  
JOSEPH • MARY  
FAVOUR • SON  
JESUS • GREAT  
THRONE • REIGN  
FOREVER • HOLY  
SERVANT • WORD



**A LONG JOURNEY**  
*Luke 2:1-20*

BETHLEHEM  
REGISTER • BIRTH  
MANGER • INN  
SHEPHERDS • FLOCK  
ANGELS • JOY  
GOOD NEWS • PRAISE  
SAVIOUR • CHRIST



**THE BEST GIFT OF ALL**  
*John 3:16*

GOD • SO • LOVED  
WORLD • HE • GAVE  
ONLY • SON  
WHOEVER • BELIEVES  
ETERNAL • LIFE

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

Colour in one star each day until Christmas

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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

## December

### Welcoming in Church

#### ***8.00 a.m. services***

3 <sup>rd</sup>	St. Francis'	Debbie Adams
10 <sup>th</sup>	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. and other Christmas services***

3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.00 a.m. Joint	Claire Bull/Dot Smythe
10 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 a.m.	Pauline Christy/Linda West
17 <sup>th</sup>	4.00 p.m. Carols	Natalie Outten/Phil Nortey
24 <sup>th</sup>	11.15 p.m.	Merri and John Womack
25 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 a.m.	Joint at St. Francis
31 <sup>st</sup>	10.00 a.m. Joint	Malcolm Hubbard/Mike Messinger

#### ***Coffee***

3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.00 a.m. Joint	Margaret Bond/Mike Messinger
10 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 a.m.	Claire Bull/Jackie Greatorex
17 <sup>th</sup>	4.00 p.m. Carols	Cheryl Davies/Linda West
24 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 a.m. Joint	Beryl Bolton/Gifty Nortey
31 <sup>st</sup>	10.00 a.m. Joint	Deidre and Chris Fitzgerald

#### ***Church Cleaning***

8 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs. K. Mussard/Mr. G. Mussard
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Mrs. M. Bond/Mrs. C. Davies

#### ***Church Flower Pedestals***

15 <sup>th</sup> /16 <sup>th</sup>	Everyone to decorate the Church for Christmas.
31 <sup>st</sup>	Pedestal donated by Margaret Bond in memory of Richard and arranged by Beryl.

# ROTAS

January 2024

## Welcoming in Church

### ***8.00 a.m. services***

7 <sup>th</sup>	St. Mary's	Stephen Howe
14 <sup>th</sup>	St. Francis'	Debbie Adams
21 <sup>st</sup>	St. Mary's	Stephen Howe
28 <sup>th</sup>	St. Francis'	Debbie Adams

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

7 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 a.m.	Joint at St. Francis
14 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 a.m.	Julie Conway/Jackie Greatorex
21 <sup>st</sup>	9.15 a.m.	Claire Bull/Dot Smythe
28 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 a.m.	Pauline Christy/Linda West

### ***Coffee***

7 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 a.m.	Joint at St. Francis
14 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 a.m.	Merri and John Womack
21 <sup>st</sup>	9.15 a.m.	Jean Mathers/Natalie Outten
28 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 a.m.	Margaret Bond/Mike Messinger

### ***Church Cleaning***

5 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs. C. Bryan/Mrs. A. Cordery
19 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs. K. Mussard/Mr. G. Mussard

### ***Church Flower Pedestals***

14 <sup>th</sup>	Pedestal donated and arranged by Merri for her birthday.
28 <sup>th</sup>	Pedestal donated and arranged by Beryl for family birthdays.

# CONTACTS

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## ***Magazine Articles***

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

**[www.stmarywestwickham.co.uk](http://www.stmarywestwickham.co.uk)**

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