

# CHURCH MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2024 & JANUARY 2025

## *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:	<b><i>Parish Vacancy</i></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		
	Mrs Gifty Nortey	<a href="mailto:gfnortey@gmail.com">gfnortey@gmail.com</a>	8776 1563
Assistant Wardens:	Mrs Natalie Outten	151 Goodhart Way	8777 0340
	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:robwest46163@gmail.com">robwest46163@gmail.com</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 Charlotte Wilson		07981 040067
	<a href="mailto:charlottewilson21@hotmail.com">charlottewilson21@hotmail.com</a>		

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## 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 CAROL

Dear Friends,

During December and January, the darkest times of the year, we celebrate “Light”, and we look for renewed hope for the future in a New Year. The Christmas Gospel proclaims that “The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it” (John 1: 5) To take our thoughts further I would like to ask you if you have a special hope or dream for the future and if so what would that dream be like?

Jesus Christ was a gift to all people regardless of sex, creed or social background. How have we received this gift in our world? In John’s Gospel we are reminded “that the world did not know him” (John 1:10) and in that famous Christmas Carol, “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” we sing in verse 3, “No ear may hear his coming... in this world of sin” So maybe we haven’t done too well at receiving the greatest gift into our lives. We certainly live in a world full of conflict, unrest, financial insecurity, war, prejudice, discrimination, intolerance, and misunderstandings. The church is not exempt from these things, but grounded in Faith, Hope and Love it does try to work through the difficulties it faces.

In that same Gospel reading it says, “The word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1: 14) You may well hear these words read if you attend the Carol services in any of our churches or indeed Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. But why “The Word”? Well, we need to go back to a little Greek bearing in mind that the gospels were originally written in Greek! “The Word” is “Logos” in Greek, and in the ancient Greek world it also meant Reason. So, it means the reason and mind of God. Philo (a renowned Jew who lived in Alexandria) had studied the scriptures in depth and had come to the conclusion that the Logos was the oldest thing in the world and the instrument by which God had made the world - the thought of God stamped on the universe.

So, in this little phrase we have the Logos – the thoughts, dreams and mind of God becoming a person of flesh and blood. In Jesus Christ, this

creating, illuminating, sustaining mind of God has come to earth. Jesus is the greatest gift to us from God.

And there is a place for us all in his stable so let us renew our hope of the Christmas Dream of a future with Christ being born into our hearts this Christmastide.

For reflection I share with you words from a Modern Christmas Carol:

### **A CHRISTMAS DREAM**

Somewhere on the far horizon fires were lit and songs were sung.  
In the bright glow hands were praying waiting for the day to come.  
Everyone was on that hilltop, Young and old had parts to play -  
Living out the Christmas Story brought to us on Christmas Day.

We left home and went to join them, Reached the hilltop saw the scene -  
People of all race and colour - Living out the Christmas Dream.

In my dream the world was peaceful  
In my dream that night,  
Everyone came out and saw the light  
All the world was peaceful that night.

Somewhere on the far horizon Fires alight in eyes that gleam  
People join their hands together – Living out the Christmas Dream.

A time of love and a time of peace  
A time to pray for all hate to cease.  
A time to give, a time to understand  
All of the strength you hold in your hand.

(© Martin Coslett)

May God Bless you all this Christmas tide!

*Carol*

# CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

- Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>**      **ADVENT SUNDAY**  
8.00 a.m.      Holy Communion at St. Mary's  
                    *Carol Coslett*  
10.00 a.m.      Joint Service at St. Francis'  
                    *Bishop Rosemary/Richard Ford*
- Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>**      Big Christmas Sing 4.00 p.m. at St. Francis'
- Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>**      **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Patronal Festival**  
8.00 a.m.      Holy Communion at St. Francis'  
                    *Richard Ford/Ken Bryan*  
9.15 a.m.      Morning Praise at St Mary's with livestream  
                    *Ken Bryan/Debbie Adams*  
10.45 a.m.      Morning Worship at St. Francis'  
                    Ken Bryan/Debbie Adams
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup>**      Messy Church at St. Mary's  
3.45 p.m.      *Messy Church Team*
- Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>**      Scouts' Carol Service at St. Francis'  
6.30 p.m      *Richard Ford*
- Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>**      **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
8.00 a.m.      Holy Communion at St. Mary's  
                    *Richard Ford*  
9.15 a.m.      Holy Communion at St. Mary's with livestream  
                    *Carol Coslett/Richard Ford*  
10.45 a.m.      Holy Communion at St. Francis'  
                    *Richard Ford*
- Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>**      **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
8.00 a.m.      Holy Communion at St. Mary's  
                    *Carol Coslett*

- 10.45 a.m. Carols at St. Francis'  
*Carol Coslett/Richard Ford*
- 4.00 p.m. Carol Service at St. Mary's with livestream  
*Carol Coslett/Ken Bryan*

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> CHRISTMAS EVE**

- 4.00 p.m. Christingle Service at St. Mary's with livestream  
Ken Bryan/Katrina Walsh
- 6.00 p.m. Lighting the Lamps at St. Francis'  
Carol Coslett/Richard Ford
- 11.15 p.m. Midnight Communion at St. Mary's with livestream  
*Richard Ford*
- 11.15 p.m. Midnight Communion at St. Francis'  
*Carol Coslett*

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> CHRISTMAS DAY**

- 10.00 a.m. Joint Service at St. Francis'  
*Carol Coslett/Richard Ford*

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Francis'  
*Richard Ford*
- 10.00 a.m. Joint Service at St. Mary's with livestream  
*Richard Ford*



# CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2025

## Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>

### EPIPHANY

8.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Mary's

*Carol Coslett*

10.00 a.m.

Joint Service at St. Francis

*Carol Coslett*

## Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>

### BAPTISM OF CHRIST

8.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis'

*Richard Ford/Debbie Adams*

9.15 a.m.

Morning Praise at St. Mary's with livestream

*Ken Bryan/Debbie Adams*

10.45 a.m.

Morning Worship at St. Francis

*Ken Bryan/Debbie Adams*

## Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>

### 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

8.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Mary's

*Carol Coslett/Ken Bryan*

9.15 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Mary's with livestream

*Carol Coslett/Ken Bryan*

10.45 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis

*Carol Coslett/Ken Bryan*

## Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>

### 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

8.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis

*Richard Ford*

9.15 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Mary's with livestream

*Richard Ford/Debbie Adams*

10.45 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Francis

*Richard Ford/Debbie Adams*



# BIBLE READINGS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Reader</b>
<b>December</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Jerem. 33: 14-16 1 Thess.3: 9-13 Luke 21:25-36	Joint at St. Francis Bishop Rosemary
8 <sup>th</sup>	Special readings for Morning Praise	Beryl Bolton
15 <sup>th</sup>	Zephan. 3: 14-20 Philippians 4: 4-7 Luke 3: 7-18	Cheryl Davies Richard Ford
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Special readings for Carol Service David, Sharon, Stephen, John W and Ven. Carol	
24 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 52: 7-10 Hebrews 1: 1-4, (5-12) John 1: 1-14	David Taylor Richard Ford
25 <sup>th</sup>	As for 24 <sup>th</sup>	At St. Francis
29 <sup>th</sup>	TBA	David Taylor Richard Ford
<b>January 2025</b>		
5 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 60: 1-6 Ephesians 3: 1-12 Matthew 2: 1-12	Joint service at St. Francis Carol Coslett
12 <sup>th</sup>	Special readings for Morning Praise	Margaret Bond



<b>Date</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Reader</b>
19 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 62: 1-5 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11 John 2: 1-11	Merri Womack Ken Bryan
26 <sup>th</sup>	Nehemiah 8: 1-3 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a Luke 4: 14-21	Jean Mathers Richard Ford



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## December

### Big Christmas Sing

Big Christmas Sing is on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December** at 4.00p.m. in St. Francis Church. All proceeds to Christian Aid so do come along and support this event.

### Parish Lunch

The Parish Lunch is on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December** in the hall at 12.30 for sherry followed by lunch at 1.00 p.m. The cost is £10. Please let Beryl know on 0208 289 8097 if you are unable to attend. There will be a sing-a-long of Christmas carols following the lunch.

### Scouts' Carol Service

The Scouts' Carol Service is on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December** 6.30 p.m. at St. Francis. Do try to come along and support our young people.

### Making sweets for the Christingles

We will be making up the sweets for the Christingles on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December** at 2.15 p.m. in the hall. Please try and come along and help as the more people we get the quicker they get done. Thank you. Your help would be very much appreciated.

### St Francis of Assisi, West Wickham

#### Christmas Tree Festival

**14<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

Our second Community Christmas Tree Festival at St Francis of Assisi, Ravenswood Avenue, West Wickham.

Christmas Tree Festivals have become increasingly popular as a way of bringing communities together, raising money for charity, helping the local economy, sharing the joy of Christmas and having a lot of fun!

We are hoping to get as many organisations as possible involved including organisations affiliated to St Francis as well as local businesses. Trees can be any interpretation - they may be real, a branch sprayed up, something made from waste, made of fabric or cardboard. There is no charge for having a tree, but we are asking people to provide a tree complete with decorations at their own cost and all tree illuminations will need to be battery operated for safety reasons.



We would like to create a beautiful space for lots of people to come in and look at the trees, have some refreshments, listen to some music and get ready for Christmas and will be raising money for Welcare in Bromley.

The Christmas Tree Festival will be held between 14<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> December 2024 during the following times:



- Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December  
10.00am – 1.00pm
- Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December  
12.00noon – 3.00pm
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December  
10.30am – 1.00pm
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 10.00am – 1.00pm
- Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December  
10.00am – 1.00pm

If you would like to take part in decorating a tree or are interested in helping in some way, please contact Kate Dyer [katedyer41@hotmail.com](mailto:katedyer41@hotmail.com) or Nicky Nightingale [nicholanightingale@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nicholanightingale@hotmail.co.uk)

## **Making up the Christingles**

We will be making up the Christingles in the hall at 2.15 p.m. on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December. Again, any help 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. Thank you.

## **Christmas Day Service**

We look forward to seeing many of you at our Christmas services but especially on Christmas Morning Children and Adults are invited to bring something "Unusual" to show from their stockings on Christmas morning.



## **January 2025**

### **Parish Lunch**

The Parish Lunch will be on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January at 1.00 p.m. in the hall. If you are unable to attend, please let Beryl know on 0208 289 8097 or [berylbolton@hotmail.com](mailto:berylbolton@hotmail.com). Thank you. Please note one week later than usual.

### **Advance Notices**

Valentine's Ploughmen's Lunch will be on **Saturday February 15<sup>th</sup>** at 12.30 in the hall. Further updates in the weekly pew sheet but make a note of the date.

# PARISH MATTERS

## Administration of Communion from December 1<sup>st</sup> Advent Sunday

In both churches St Mary's and St Francis', we will be resuming receiving Communion with the Common Cup.



Since 2020 and the Covid outbreak, we have all experienced many restrictions in our worship pattern, but with the provision of vaccines and increased awareness the Church of England directive has been that churches resume with their normal practice before the pandemic. When our Archdeacon Greg Prior visited earlier in the year, he was surprised that we had not already re-introduced the Common Cup, and it is the Bishop's wish that we should do so.

At the last supper Jesus **“took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it and gave it to them and said, ‘Take, this is my body. ‘Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it”** (Mark 14: 22-23) It is our understanding of the sharing of the first cup of wine with Jesus and his disciples that has influenced our history, doctrine and teaching of the Church of England that the one cup is offered to every communicant.

This means that it will no longer be possible to have the option of an “Intinct” (Dipped) wafer. It is also not possible for individuals to intinct their wafer themselves. If you do not wish to share the common cup it is perfectly permissible to receive in one kind only. For those still concerned there is scientific evidence that shows that silver has a very low risk to transfer virus or infections because of its antibacterial qualities. Furthermore, there was no evidence that linked the covid outbreak with the sharing of the common cup for communion, far higher risks for the spread of the virus were airborne contact, not keeping social distancing and physical hand contact. But we should all be sensitive to one another and respectful as we would in the home

or workplace, if we are feeling unwell it is better to receive in one kind only.

### **In Tribute to Geoff – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October**

Along with others of our Benefice, I attended Trinity House, Southwark, to sit on a review entitled “Sing with the Spirit and understanding” with a subtitle “how and what hymns do you choose to enrich and support worship.”

This course was led by our own Venerable Carol Coslett, with an in-depth enlightenment on the subject, by our Director of Music, Geoff Mussard, who undeniably is a keen past master on this subject of enhancing for our benefit, well-chosen supportive music for our church services.

The net result of attending this course was to really appreciate and realise how blessed we all are, that over the years, decades, we have been witnesses and students of this remarkable craft of knitting together, an order of service, illustrative hymns and reflective sermons.

We must congratulate Geoff on his depth of music scholarship and in his teaching us new hymns he has introduced over the years.

Our Benefice owes a great deal to our Organist and Choirmaster, and we all thank him for his dedication, which we all appreciate, knowing we are in the company of an outstanding musician and churchman.

*Stephen Howe*

### **Harvest Supper**

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October some thirty members of St. Mary’s sat down to enjoy a meal of sausages, chips and baked beans with French bread. Home cooked apart from the chips which arrived courtesy of the local fish and chip shop and Stephen!! This was followed by tasty desserts and then a sing-a-long of songs from the shows with music as usual provided by Geoff. All in all, a very pleasant evening in good company

and our thanks must go to Gifty, Julie and Jackie and of course to Geoff for the music. A profit of £186.10 was made for Church funds.

*Beryl*

## **High Street Christmas Light Event at St Francis**

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November St Francis was open during the West Wickham Christmas Festival and Christmas Lights switch on.

The hall was full of interesting stalls and the church provided a quiet space where people could come in, see the Christmas crib and light a candle if they wished.

We had battery candles and booklets for children to take away with them, and some craft activities available for them to do in the church.



We had 200 people through the door, and it was a great opportunity to share with them a little about Christmas and let them know about our forthcoming Christmas Tree Festival, Big Sing and the Christmas services at St Francis and St Mary's.

## **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 edition of the magazine. In the meantime, a big thank you to the Christmas Market Team, particularly Natalie and Tony for coordinating the event.

*Beryl*

## **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 on 0208 777 8772. We can always arrange to do an extra pedestal if anyone requires a special date. If anyone is interested in arranging flowers and would be interested in helping, please contact Merri.

## **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 Hall at St Mary's or outside the vestry door at St Francis. 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.



### **More needles for your arms!**

The new RSV vaccination is available for those aged 75 to 79. RSV is a serious respiratory disease, especially in the elderly and those with underlying health issues.

GP's are encouraging this cohort to have the jab, and the age span for it is set to increase in the future.

## December 2024

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.

### Some thoughts and prayers

Praise be to God in his great love for us, He has entered our darkness with his great light. He comes as our God and yet as a child. Lord, help us and your whole church to walk as children of the light. We give thanks for the word spoken by the prophets, but above all for the Word made flesh Dwelling among us: May your whole church proclaim this Good News with joy.

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace  
We pray for lasting peace in the Middle East, in Ukraine and in all nations where there is conflict. Lord give peace in the hearts of all, peace in our homes and peace in all our dealings.  
Amen

May the holy remembrance of the first Christmas Day  
Be our reassurance Christ is not far away.  
For on Christmas, He came to walk here on earth  
So let us find joy in the news of His birth.

# FOCUS

## January 2025

4 <sup>th</sup> Naming of Jesus	Pray for parents that they may be able to bring up their children to know God.
6 <sup>th</sup> Epiphany	May our gifts to God be love of Him and love of our neighbours.
14 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> Christian Unity Week	Let us not occupy ourselves with the things which divide us, but focus more on the things we hold in common.
25 <sup>th</sup> Conversion Of St. Paul	Pray that God's light may shine in our lives and the Holy Spirit will be our guide.

### Our thoughts and prayers for the coming year

The Wise Men were led to Bethlehem by the light of a star, to worship the baby Jesus. Lord, we ask for your guidance in our lives, open our ears to your call and our eyes to your glory. We pray for all seekers, all who walk in darkness and look for your light. We pray for your Church, that it may be drawn ever closer towards you.

As the weather becomes colder, we remember those living on the streets with little shelter from wind and rain. We pray for people living in poverty, and for families badly housed. We remember the lonely and handicapped, and for all whose lives seem purposeless or who cannot find work. We pray for young people growing up in deprived areas that they may soon have a better quality of life, true opportunity, a future and a hope.

Give us through the coming year quietness of mind, teach us to be patient and always to be kind.

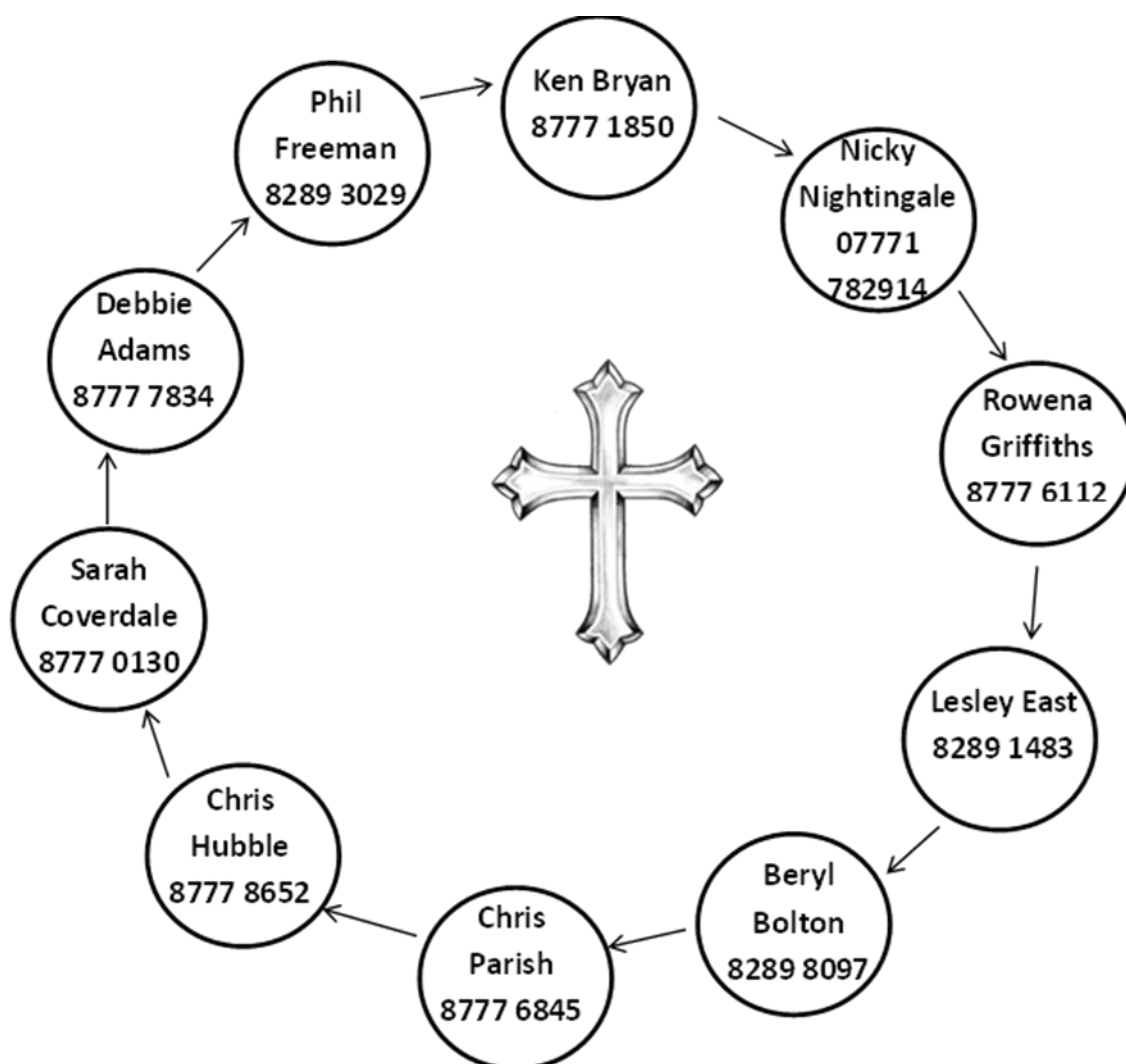
Give us reassurance when everything goes wrong, so our faith remains unfaltering and our hope and courage strong.

And show us that in quietness we can feel your presence near, filling us with joy and peace throughout the coming year. Amen

# 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.



## St Francis & St Mary's

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

#### January

- 5<sup>th</sup> Joint service at St Francis' Epiphany – 10am
- 8<sup>th</sup> St Mary's Community Lunch - 1pm
- 10<sup>th</sup> Messy Church – 3.45pm
- 18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> Week of Prayer for Christian Unity including Pulpit swap?
- 21<sup>st</sup> Women's event at St Mary's – 8pm

#### February

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Joint service at St Mary's Candlemas – 10am
- 5<sup>th</sup> St Mary's Community Lunch - 1pm
- 9<sup>th</sup> Healing Service at St Mary's – 3pm
- 14<sup>th</sup> Messy Church - 3.45pm
- 15<sup>th</sup> Valentine's lunch at St Mary's – 12.30pm
- 23<sup>rd</sup> St Francis Community Lunch

#### March

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Joint service at St Francis' – 10am
- 5<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday at St Francis' – 10.45am TBC
- 5<sup>th</sup> St Mary's Community Lunch – 1pm
- 7<sup>th</sup> World Day of Prayer at Emmanuel URC 10:30am TBC
- 9<sup>th</sup> Non-Eucharistic – Lent season as theme?
- 14<sup>th</sup> Messy Church – 3.45pm
- 11<sup>th</sup> Women's Event at St Francis' – 8pm
- 16<sup>th</sup> St Mary's APCM
- 30<sup>th</sup> All-age: Mothering Sunday services

#### April

- 2<sup>nd</sup> St Mary's Community Lunch – 1pm
- 6<sup>th</sup> Passion Sunday Joint service at St Mary's – 10am
- TBC High Street Foodbank collection – 10am -1pm
- 11<sup>th</sup> Messy Church at 3:45pm
- **13<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday**
- 17<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday – Holy Communion – 7.30pm

- 18<sup>th</sup> Good Friday: CTWW service at St Francis' – 11am
- Hour at the Cross at St Mary's – 2pm
- **20<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday**
- 26<sup>th</sup> St George's supper at St Mary's – 7:30pm
- 27<sup>th</sup> St George's service
- 27<sup>th</sup> St Francis' APCM

## **Messy Church Update with a request**

Messy Church continues to bring fun, food, fellowship, messy creative activities and a celebration in church on the second Friday of each month at St. Mary's. In October, we were joined by sixteen children, accompanied by their parents, carers or grandparents. Our theme was 'Harvest' and the contributions for the Food Bank were very generous.

Anne and Richard helped the children to make place mats to use at mealtimes and Kate Dyer organised the making of Thank You cards to thank God for all His gifts. Another activity was for the children to draw or use collage skills to fill a paper plate with their favourite foods. Merri had lent us a section of honeycomb made by a swarm of bees in her garden, so we made bees with flapping wings. There was honey on bread to taste for those who wished – this became a very sticky activity, supervised by Kay and Geoff. Ken, together with Phillip Freeman, took the children outdoors with magnifying glasses to look carefully at the fruits of the church garden and to discover things which birds and animals could eat. Margaret supervised the making of fruit kebabs, fruit was carefully chosen and arranged before being quickly demolished at tea-time. The meal was our ever-popular pasta with sauce and cheese. This month's chefs, Annette and Cheryl (it was Beryl's month off) worked incredibly hard and judged the portions to perfection! The celebration in Church is such an important part of what we do. Richard showed us his wonderful pictures of mis-shaped vegetables and fruit and linked all the children's

activities to his excellent presentation. Some of the children are too young to understand the full meaning behind everything we say or do, but they are all learning that church is where we celebrate God's wonderful world and that every one of us must look after all that God has given us.

So, October's Messy Church went well. The same was true in September when we were pleased to see eleven children so near the start of a new school year. In August there was a picnic on the grass in the church garden where games were played, the giant parachute was used, and there was plenty of time to chat and enjoy ourselves.

In November the theme was Remembrance and in December we will make decorations for a Messy Church Christmas Tree which will be part of the Christmas Tree Festival at St. Francis' Church.

Prayers have been answered. Messy Church is flourishing and growing. Now we are praying that a few more people will be able to come and join us as helpers. We have fewer helpers and more children at the moment, and we are finding it difficult to have enough time to talk with the families as we are all so busy.

If you are at all interested in joining in the Friday fun each month, please have a word with Kay or with any of the people mentioned in this description of October's Messy Church.

We meet to set things up from 2.30pm, the families come from 3.45pm and we leave the hall clean and tidy by 5.45pm. The busy period is between 3.30 and 5.30 and that is when we need you most!

A huge thank you to those who already help at Messy Church and to those who support us financially or by prayer and encouragement. This really is Church – “but not as you know it” and it's a great example of team work at St. Mary's and St. Francis.

*KM*



The Diocese of  
**Southwark**

Letter from The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun  
The Bishop of Southwark

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Many of you will have either read the Makin Report – an independent review into the Church of England’s handling of allegations of abuse by John Smyth - or seen the news coverage.

The report details many failings over a number of decades that likely led to John Smyth’s abuse of boys and young men across two continents continuing when it might have been stopped. It is a deeply distressing read – but also an important one. If you are engaging with it, I would urge you to go gently and ensure that you are accessing whatever support you may need. Please also be aware that the publication of the report and widespread news coverage is likely to be having an impact on survivors of abuse, who may be struggling – if you are supporting people affected by issues such as those detailed in the report, please take extra care to check in with them and offer support. A full list of organisations that can help is available [here](#).

Following last week’s publication of the report, there has been much public discussion around the particular responsibilities and accountability of those named in the report. It is with deep sadness that I heard the news yesterday of Archbishop Justin’s resignation. The Archbishop has my respect for the integrity of this decision – please do pray for him, his family and for all the staff at Lambeth Palace as well as for our Church at this challenging time. I remain deeply grateful for the support and encouragement of Archbishop Justin - both personally and on behalf of the Diocese in which he has taken a close interest, living in our midst when not in Canterbury.



In the midst of this, it is absolutely crucial that we do not lose sight of our own responsibilities. It is imperative that we do not miss the opportunity to learn the lessons of this review – especially with regard to diligence in reporting, care for survivors and the need to continually reflect on and review our culture and practices. It is rightly said that Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility – but as church officers and ministers, we bear a particular duty to ensure this responsibility is taken seriously.

Many will find the full report too complex or upsetting to read in detail – that is understandable. However, I would encourage all those who are able to engage with it to read and reflect on Part 4 of the report – Learning themes and recommendations. This sets out the key learnings from the Review, which I believe are important for all of us.

For those wondering how to respond to the Review in the short term, I offer the following as practical steps that can be taken without delay:

First and foremost, please pray for all victims and survivors of abuse. We do not need to know who they are or what they have suffered to do this – we simply need to lift them before God in prayer.

This Sunday (17 November) is Safeguarding Sunday – an opportunity to highlight the importance of Safeguarding, repent of our failings and give thanks for the good work that continues to be done. Resources are available [here](#).

How easy is it for people in your congregation to access safeguarding support and advice? Please check that parish and diocesan contacts are clearly signposted, both within your church building and on your website.

Safeguarding should be part of our regular conversations. Please ensure that it is a regular item on your PCC agenda and with your leadership teams. It would be helpful for your PCC to discuss the recommendations of the Makin report – and how those might be implemented locally.

Check that safeguarding training is up-to-date for those in positions of responsibility in your parish. Your Parish Safeguarding Officer will be able to do this – information about Safeguarding training can be found online here.

If you need any safeguarding support or advice, please don't hesitate to contact the diocesan Safeguarding team – details here.

I am enormously grateful to each one of you for your share in this crucial work, which is at the heart of our calling as disciples of Christ. In the face of these challenges, it can be tempting to despair, but God remains faithful, even where we have failed.

As we approach the season of Advent, we are reminded that 'the light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it' (John 1:4). When we commit ourselves to shine a light on the darkness of this world and the failings of our own Church, when we are willing to face the hard realities, we can be confident that God is with us and will make a way for justice, mercy and peace to overcome.

Bishops Rosemarie, Martin and Alastair join me in continued prayers for you and your parishes at this time,

The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun  
The Bishop of Southwark



**Answers to Crossword Puzzle**

**ACROSS:** 1, *Lame*. 3, *Obtained*. 8, *Omit*. 9, *Merchant*.  
11, *Burdensome*. 14, *Crafty*. 15, *Please*. 17, *Blacksmith*.  
20, *Splendid*. 21, *Tier*. 22, *Singeing*. 23, *Hand*.

**DOWN:** 1, *Look back*. 2, *Main road*. 4, *Breast*.  
5, *Accomplish*. 6, *Near*. 7, *Date*. 10, *Pestilence*.  
12, *Basilica*. 13, *Tethered*. 16, *Action*. 18, *Asa's*. 19, *Clan*.



**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 OSF

**07801 755199**

# **The Christmas Kitchen**

*The kitchen is, at Christmas  
A very busy room!  
Lots of work in such a rush  
Or Christmas Day will loom.*

*First there is the cake to bake  
And many pastries too,  
Mince pies and biscuits, festive fare  
There is so much to do!*

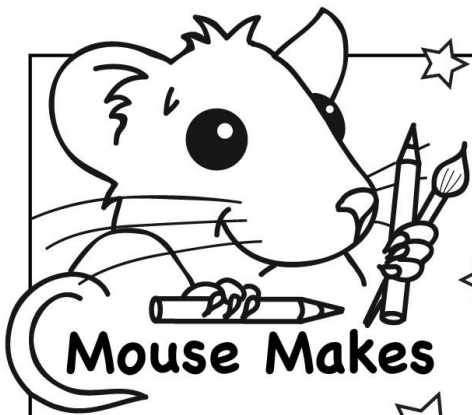
*Then comes the day, the kitchen fills  
With wondrous cooking smells,  
As turkey roasts and parsnip toasts  
The cooks must work their spells.*

*The dinner's on the table  
We gather round and eat,  
But someone has to wash the pots  
And make the kitchen neat.*

*So have a happy Christmas,  
Enjoy the festive fare,  
But grab a towel and help the cook,  
And show them that you care!*

*By Nigel Beeton*





**Mouse Makes**

“Jesus said,  
I am the \_\_\_ Y  
and the \_\_\_ U \_\_\_  
and the \_\_\_ I \_\_\_ .  
No one comes to the Father  
except through me.”  
*John 14:6*

“The child to be born  
will be called  
H \_\_\_\_\_ , the  
\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ ”  
*Luke 1:35*

“For unto you is born  
this day a  
S \_\_\_\_\_  
who is  
\_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_  
the \_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_”  
*Luke 2:11*

**THE GREATEST GIFT**

“She will bear a son,  
and shall call his name  
\_\_\_\_\_  
for he will save his  
people from their sins.”  
*Matthew 1:21*

“Jesus said,  
I am the  
\_\_\_\_\_ and the life.”  
*John 11:25*

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**JESUS  
—  
THE  
GREATEST  
GIFT  
OF ALL!**

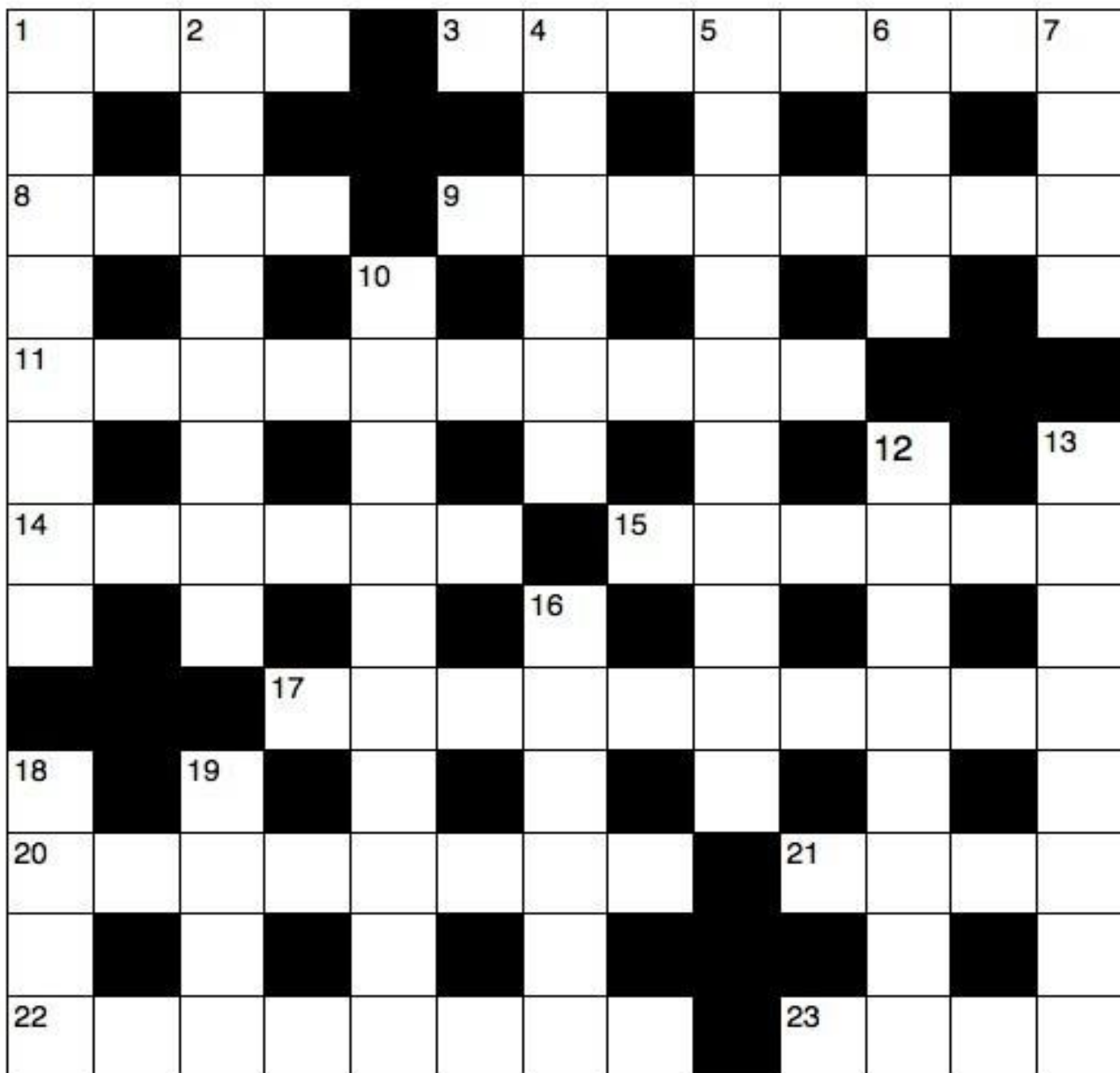
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T	E	A	C	H	E	R	E	C	O	U	N	S	E	L	L	O	R	U

EMMANUEL • MESSIAH REDEEMER • KING OF KINGS • WORD  
SON OF MAN • EVERLASTING • SHEPHERD • PRIEST • PROPHET • TEACHER  
LIGHT • BREAD • VINE • DOOR • LAMB • COUNSELLOR • CHRISTMAS • GIFT

Find the words from the Bible verses too!

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## CROSS WORD GRID



### **Across**

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the — walk' (Luke 7:22) (4)
- 3 Got (Philippians 3:12) (8)
- 8 Leave out (Jeremiah 26:2) (4)
- 9 Castigated for using dishonest scales (Hosea 12:7) (8)
- 11 Weighty (1 John 5:3) (10)
- 14 'Now the serpent was more — than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made' (Genesis 3:1) (6)
- 15 'Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot — God' (Romans 8:8) (6)

- 17 Because Israel lacked one of these, tools had to be sharpened by the Philistines (1 Samuel 13:19) (10)
- 20 In his vision of the two eagles and the vine, this is how Ezekiel described the latter (Ezekiel 17:8) (8)
- 21 Rite (anag.) (4)
- 22 Nine gigs (anag.) (8)
- 23 ‘The eye cannot say to the — , “I don’t need you”’ (1 Corinthians 12:21) (4)

### **Down**

- 1 ‘Flee for your lives! Don’t — — , and don’t stop anywhere in the plain!’ (Genesis 19:17) (4,4)
- 2 Principal thoroughfare (Numbers 20:19) (4,4)
- 4 ‘The tax collector... beat his — and said, “God have mercy on me, a sinner”’ (Luke 18:13) (6)
- 5 ‘The zeal of the Lord Almighty will — this’ (2 Kings 19:31) (10)
- 6 ‘The day of the Lord is — for all nations’ (Obadiah 15) (4)
- 7 Specified day (Acts 21:26) (4)
- 10 Deadly epidemic (Deuteronomy 32:24) (10)
- 12 Roman Catholic church which has special ceremonial rights (8)
- 13 Tied up (2 Kings 7:10) (8)
- 16 In his speech to the Sanhedrin, Stephen described Moses as ‘powerful in speech and — ’ (Acts 7:22) (6)
- 18 ‘Although he did not remove the high places, — heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life’ (1 Kings 15:14) (4)
- 19 Tribe (Deuteronomy 29:18) (4)

*The Bible version used in our crosswords is the NIV.  
Answers on page 26*

## **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.

## **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 2024**

## **Welcoming in Church**

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

1 <sup>st</sup>	St. Mary's	Stephen Howe
8 <sup>th</sup>	St. Francis	Stephen Howe
15 <sup>th</sup>	St. Mary's	Stephen Howe
22 <sup>nd</sup>	St. Mary's	Stephen Howe
29 <sup>th</sup>	St. Francis	Stephen Howe

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

1 <sup>st</sup>	10.00 a.m.	Joint Service at St. Francis
8 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 a.m.	Malcolm Hubbard/Mike Messinger
15 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 a.m.	Julie Conway/Stephen Howe
22 <sup>nd</sup>	4.00 p.m. Carol Service	Claire Bull/Dot Smythe
24 <sup>th</sup>	4.00 p.m. Christingle	Linda West/Pauline Christy
24 <sup>th</sup>	11.15 p.m. Midnight	John and Merri Womack
29 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 a.m.	Natalie Outten/Phil Nortey

### **Coffee**

1 <sup>st</sup>	10.00 a.m.	Joint at St. Francis
8 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 a.m.	Claire Bull/Stephen Howe
15 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 a.m.	John and Merri Womack
22 <sup>nd</sup>	4.00 p.m. Carols	Beryl Bolton/Gifty Nortey
29 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 a.m.	Deidre and Chris Fitzgerald

### **Church Cleaning**

Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs. C. Bryan/Mrs A. Cordery
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs. K. Mussard/Mr. G. Mussard

### **Church Flower Pedestals**

8 <sup>th</sup>	Donated by Joan Baker in memory of Peter and arranged by Merri.
21 <sup>st</sup>	Everyone for Christmas please on Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> December from 9.30 a.m. to decorate the Church for Christmas. There should be enough holly in church gardens. Anyone passing the church for the two weeks after Christmas please help by keeping the flowers watered. Thank you. If anyone would like to donate towards the cost of Christmas flowers please give the money to either of the Churchwardens. Thank you.

# ROTAS

**January 2024**

## **Welcoming in Church**

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

5 <sup>th</sup>	St. Mary's	Stephen Howe
12 <sup>th</sup>	St. Francis	Stephen Howe
19 <sup>th</sup>	St. Mary's	Stephen Howe
26 <sup>th</sup>	St. Francis	Stephen Howe

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

5 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 a.m.	Joint at St. Francis
12 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 a.m.	Malcolm Hubbard/Mike Messinger
19 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 a.m.	Claire Bull/Dot Smythe
26 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 a.m.	Julie Conway/Jackie Greatorex

### **Coffee**

5 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	Joint at St. Francis
12 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 a. m.	Jean Mathers/Natalie Outten
19 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 a.m.	Margaret Bond/Mike Messinger
26 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 a.m.	Cheryl Davies/Linda West

### **Church Cleaning**

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Claire and Peter Cordery
17 <sup>th</sup>	Margaret Bond/Cheryl Davies
31 <sup>st</sup>	Chris Bryan/Annette Cordery

### **Church Flower Pedestals**

12 <sup>th</sup>	Donated by Margaret Bond in memory of Richard arranged by Beryl
26 <sup>th</sup>	Donated by Audrey Tibbles remembering her brother Denis's birthday and arranged by Merri.

# CONTACTS

<b>Bible Reading Fellowship:</b>	Mrs M Richards	<a href="mailto:miriamrichards@outlook.com">miriamrichards@outlook.com</a>	3813 5913
<b>Church/Wedding Flowers:</b>	Mrs M Womack	2 Long Meadow Close	8777 8772
<b>Beavers:</b>	Mr D Tarrant	<a href="mailto:duncan.tarrant@openreach.co.uk">duncan.tarrant@openreach.co.uk</a>	
<b>Brownies:</b>	Mrs S Hann	149 Hayes Chase	8776 1385
<b>Messy Church:</b>	Mrs K Mussard	35 Oakfield Gardens	8650 8389
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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 publicatio*



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