

ST. MARY OF NAZARETH /ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI – WEST WICKHAM

10th April 2022: Palm Sunday

Hazel writes:

During the week we held a meeting to discuss our **Ukraine response**. Before any refugees arrive in the West Wickham area, we hope to make contact with any potential hosts, so that we can enable them to share experiences for mutual support (for example, helping with the visa application process, or advice on what the council are looking at when they come to look at your home). If you or anyone that you know in the local area has offered to host refugees under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, please do ask them to contact Hazel, who will begin to co-ordinate this response until someone is identified to facilitate this work on a longer-term basis.

Today, we have a Holy Communion service at 8am and 10.45am in St Francis' Church, and at 9.15am in St Mary's Church.

Hymns at 9.15 a.m. in St. Mary's – All glory laud and honour - Meekness and Majesty - Ride on, ride on in Majesty – Here is bread, here is wine - Make way!

Hymns at 10.45 a.m. in St. Francis – All glory, laud and honour – Ride on, ride on, in majesty - Make way! – Lord Jesus Christ – Christ is made the sure foundation.

Next **Sunday 17th April**, we will have a Holy Communion service at 8am in St Mary's and Family Communion services at 9.15am in St Mary's Church and at 10.45am in St Francis' Church, with an Easter Egg Hunt after each of these family services. All donations taken at these services will go to the Bishop of Southwark's **Lent Call** which raises money to support projects throughout the diocese and in our link dioceses of Zimbabwe and Jerusalem. Details of the projects being supported in 2022 are available here: <https://southwark.anglican.org/news-events/events/lent-call/resources/>.

Morning Prayer is held each week in St Francis' Church on Wednesday morning at 9.30am, followed by the church being **open for private prayer** from 10.30-11.30am. It is also held at St Mary's Church on Thursday morning at 9am.

The churches will also be open this week to **Pray for Ukraine** as follows:

- Tuesday from 6.30-7.30pm in St Francis'.

Bereavement Support Group meets at Emmanuel Church at 2.30p.m. on **Wednesday 13th April**.

Our **Maundy Thursday Holy Communion** service is on Thursday 14th April at **7.30pm** in **St Francis' church**.

Good Friday Churches Together service is at **11am** on Friday 15th April at **St. Francis Church**. There will also be activities and worship for children at St Francis' Church Hall from 11am-12noon. Parents can attend the service in church or are welcome to stay and join in with their children. Under 4's must be accompanied.

Good Friday - Hour at the Cross 2.00 p.m. at St. Marys

Action Aid Saturday Coffee mornings are resuming again from 10.30 to 11.30 or thereabouts. The first one will be on **Holy Saturday, 16th April**. Thereafter they will be on the **first Saturday of the month** for the rest of the year. It will be nice to meet up for a chat again on these occasions, so please do come along.

Resources and updates for the week ahead – This week our service from St Mary's at **9.15am** will be livestreamed on YouTube on Sunday. The services on Maundy Thursday evening and in the morning of Good Friday will also be livestreamed from St Francis'. All other files for this week have been combined and posted as a pew sheet which has been sent on paper to those who have told us that they are not on-line.

Other worship and resources that you might want to listen to or look at on Sunday:

- The Church of England's national virtual service will be available on their website at www.churchofengland.org.
- The BBC have the following programmes to watch and listen to:
 - Sunday Worship at 8.10am on Radio 4 – A passion for hospitality - "what you didn't do to the least of those you didn't do for me."
 - Choral Evensong at **4.00 p.m.**pm on Radio 3 from St. Ann's Church, Manchester with the HeartEdge Manchester Choral Scholars.
 - On BBC 1: Songs of Praise at 1.15 p.m. – Katherine Jenkins visits Winchester to see how they are marking Palm Sunday.

There is also a new Pilgrimage series currently showing on BBC2 on Friday nights at 9pm.

Songs of Praise services on **May 8th**: Choices of your favourite hymns are invited but please complete the list at the back of the church this week or, at the latest, on Easter Day next week. We invite you to speak about this choice, but if you would prefer someone else to read your brief comments this can be arranged. No promises, but we'll include all that we can to make a balanced service.

Since the beginning of this year our **foodbank donation points** have supported the work of Bromley Borough Foodbank with 53.8kg of food and other household goods. Thanks to everyone who has donated.

Please bring **Foodbank donations** to the Vicarage or St Francis' Church. Currently they require tinned hot and cold meat, tinned potatoes, tinned vegetables, long life fruit juice, tinned fish, chopped tomatoes, rice, custard, rice pudding. They are well stocked with pasta, cereals and baked beans. Please do not bring any fresh food, or baby milk as the foodbank cannot pass this on. You can also donate financially here <https://bromleyborough.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money>. Thank you for your continuing support.

The **West Wickham Village Day** is on Monday 2nd May from 10am to 4pm in Blake Park. Churches Together in West Wickham will be hosting the following:

- a hospitality area with tea and coffee,
- Messy Church, and
- a children's play area.

If you are able to volunteer any time during the day, or for set up or dismantling, please contact Joan Clark at laurel46@btinternet.com with details of which area you'd like to volunteer in and a two hour time slot when you could be available. There are also sign-up sheets in both church buildings. Thanks Hazel

If you, or someone you know, has English as an additional language and would like to improve it, there is a six-week series of **informal free English conversation classes** running locally. These will be held at Bromley Methodist Church on Wednesday mornings (9.30am -11am) from 20th April to 25th May 2022. People are asked to register in advance through the church office (office@bromleymethodist.org or on 020 8313 1029), so they can prepare appropriately.

West Wickham Rotary Club are holding a **Fundraiser Dinner** on Thursday May 12th at The Warren, which should be a very interesting and entertaining evening. Funds raised will go towards the London Search and Rescue team, which is based at The Warren, and there will be information on their work, as well as a speech from Richard Griffin who served the Royal Family as a protection officer for many years. There are copies of a flyer in the churches if you want more information. Tickets are £29. Let Hazel know if you would like to join her and others at the event and she will send you an electronic link to make a booking or will do it for you if you are not on the internet.

If anyone would like a pedestal at either church in memory of a loved one or to commemorate a special anniversary etc., please contact Merri Womack (8777 8772) for St Mary's (or there is a list to sign in the vestibule at St. Mary's) or Nicky Nightingale (nicholanightingale@hotmail.co.uk or 8916 9855) for St Francis'.

The churches will be decorated for Easter on Saturday 16th April.

Any items for the joint pew sheet to Beryl berylbolton@hotmail.com and items for the websites to brian.griff19@btinternet.com or Gifty office@stmarywestwickham.co.uk.

Collect

True and humble king,
hailed by the crowd as
Messiah: grant us the
faith to know you and love
you,
that we may be found
beside you on the way of
the cross, which is the
path of glory.

First Reading:**Phil. 2: 5-11**

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,
¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Second Reading:**Luke 19: 28-40**

²⁸ After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, ‘Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, “Why are you untying it?” just say this: “The Lord needs it.”’ ³² So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, ‘Why are you untying the colt?’ ³⁴ They said, ‘The Lord needs it.’ ³⁵ Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he rode along,

people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸ saying, ‘Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!’³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, ‘Teacher, order your disciples to stop.’ ⁴⁰ He answered, ‘I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.’

Post Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation: give us the mind to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord and King, to the glory of God the Father.

Collect

God our Father,
your Son Jesus Christ
was obedient to the
end and drank the cup
prepared for him:
may we who share his
table watch with him
through the night of
suffering and be
faithful.

First Reading:

1 Corinthians 11: 23-26

²³ For I received from
the Lord what I also
handed on to you, that
the Lord Jesus on the
night when he was
betrayed took a loaf of
bread, ²⁴ and when he
had given thanks, he
broke it and said, 'This is
my body that is for you.
Do this in remembrance
of me.' ²⁵ In the same
way he took the cup
also, after supper,
saying, 'This cup is the
new covenant in my
blood. Do this, as often
as you drink it, in
remembrance of

me.' ²⁶ For as often as
you eat this bread and
drink the cup, you
proclaim the Lord's
death until he comes.

Second Reading:

John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

Now before the festival
of the Passover, Jesus
knew that his hour had
come to depart from
this world and go to the
Father. Having loved his
own who were in the
world, he loved them to
the end. ² The devil had
already put it into the
heart of Judas son of
Simon Iscariot to betray
him. And during
supper ³ Jesus, knowing
that the Father had
given all things into his
hands, and that he had
come from God and was
going to God, ⁴ got up
from the table, took off
his outer robe, and tied
a towel around
himself. ⁵ Then he
poured water into a

basin and began to wash
the disciples' feet and to
wipe them with the
towel that was tied
around him. ⁶ He came
to Simon Peter, who
said to him, 'Lord, are
you going to wash my
feet?' ⁷ Jesus answered,
'You do not know now
what I am doing, but
later you will
understand.' ⁸ Peter said
to him, 'You will never
wash my feet.' Jesus
answered, 'Unless I
wash you, you have no
share with me.' ⁹ Simon
Peter said to him, 'Lord,
not my feet only but
also my hands and my
head!' ¹⁰ Jesus said to
him,
'One who has bathed
does not need to wash,
except for the feet, but
is entirely clean. And
you are clean, though
not all of you.'
¹¹ For he knew who was
to betray him; for this
reason he said, 'Not all

of you are clean.’
¹² After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, ‘Do you know what I have done to you?’ ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷ If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. ³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, ‘Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in

him. ³² If God has been glorified in him God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, “Where I am going, you cannot come.” ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’

Post Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
 we thank you that in
 this wonderful
 sacrament you have
 given us the memorial
 of your passion:
 grant us so to
 reverence the sacred

mysteries of your body
 and blood
 that we may know
 within ourselves and
 show forth in our lives
 the fruit of your
 redemption, for you are
 alive and reign, now
 and for ever.

REFLECTION – Debbie Adams

Celebrity! Fame! The glitz and glamour of being famous and living a celebrity lifestyle is portrayed as something we should all aspire to in our materialistic world.

So, let's imagine for a moment that you are rich and famous and a household name around the world. You have been invited to an awards ceremony such as the Oscars. The event is televised around the world and is highly organised. A chauffeur collects you and drives you to the location in a stretched limousine which has a luxurious leather interior and a well-stocked drinks cabinet. The journey comes to an end, and you are excited at the thought of meeting other A-list celebrities.

On your arrival there are hundreds of fans shouting your name and trying to grab your attention, and you are blinded by the flashing lights of photographers taking your photograph. You look every inch the celebrity, dressed in expensive designer clothes and jewellery. You step onto a plush red carpet and wave to your adoring fans. You are welcomed and led into the glamorous venue.

You may be wondering what this has to do with Palm Sunday and the bible readings. In complete contrast, we read in the Gospel of Luke that Jesus has also carefully planned an event which is recorded in all the four Gospels. It will take place in Jerusalem. It was not sudden or impulsive, and he has arranged for a specific mode of transport to be waiting for him so that he can arrive at his destination.

Many people in and around Jerusalem would have heard about Jesus. He had built up a reputation for performing miracles, casting out demons, and raising the dead back to life, as in the case of Lazarus which occurred near Jerusalem. He had challenged the Pharisees and high priests with his controversial way of thinking and teaching. While he did not seek fame or celebrity status, people wanted to know more about him, and some believed he was the chosen one, the long-awaited Messiah.

Jesus begins the last leg of his journey to Jerusalem. It is a scorchingly hot, dusty and oppressive day, and he has already walked many miles with his disciples on his journey. It was the custom, followed by many other pilgrims, to enter Jerusalem on foot a week before the Passover celebrations. He is not dressed in fine robes but is suitably dressed in clothes that protect him from the blazing sun, and the dust which covers the landscape.

We read in Luke 19 verses 29 and 30 that Jesus pauses near Bethphage and Bethany at a place called The Mount of Olives, no doubt exhausted from this part of the journey. Two disciples are sent to collect a colt (a young donkey) that has not been ridden

before, and to untie it and bring it to him. There are further instructions in verse 31 to inform the owner, if asked, why they are untying the colt: they are to reply with the words “**The Lord needs it**”. The owners, on hearing those words, acted on them immediately, and gave their permission because they knew the colt was for Jesus. These events were carefully planned to the last detail by Jesus. The disciples did not know why Jesus wanted the colt, but they were obedient and trusted his reasons.

How would you have reacted to being asked to continue walking in the blazing heat to collect an animal, while everyone else rested?

Would you put your trust in Jesus as the disciples did without questioning him?

How have you dealt with the challenges of being obedient to God when it may not be convenient and will affect your current well laid plans?

The disciples return with the colt and put their cloaks on its back to form a saddle for Jesus (Luke 19:34). Luke does not say that Jesus mounted the colt, but that the disciples take the initiative and put him on it. The disciples and Jesus continue the journey towards Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives. It is rocky and steep, and the ride on the colt is far from comfortable or luxurious, as the animal sways from side to side on the uneven hilly and dusty path.

Jesus is fulfilling the prophecy spoken by the Prophet Zechariah, which is also cited in the Gospels of Matthew and John, that there would be great rejoicing and shouting for the Messiah who will enter Jerusalem “humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey”. (Zechariah 9:9). The colt emphasises the peaceful, humble nature of Jesus, in contrast to a mighty warrior on a warhorse with power and authority riding into battle. Also, by entering Jerusalem on a colt rather than on foot, as was the normal custom with pilgrims, Jesus is showing that he is special.

Just as Jesus continues his journey to Jerusalem, I wonder whether you feel your faith is also on a journey?

Is the road rocky and uncomfortable at times which you find challenging?

Where did your faith begin and where are you now? Has your faith developed and changed?

What influences and experiences have had a real impact on your faith?

Perhaps it was someone you met, or something you were invited to, or a sermon you heard that really spoke to you. Maybe it was being involved in a church organisation or

charity giving support to others. It could be a variety of things and encounters that shaped your faith.

Maybe you don't think of your faith as a journey, but something that has always been a part of your life, guided and shaped by God. You may have been open and obedient to where your faith has taken you now. I would encourage you to be brave, and to share those experiences with others in witness of your faith, in the same way that Jesus showed courage by identifying who he was and what he believed.

My faith journey began when I was a child at Sunday school, joined by my other siblings, four brothers and a sister, and encouraged by my mother who attended the local church. Attending church became less appealing when I was a teenager, and it wasn't until I got married 26 years ago and moved to West Wickham that I started attending church again. It began with an invitation by my next-door neighbours, Chris and Kathy Drakes, to attend St. Mary's, and I didn't imagine that my journey would eventually lead me to train as a reader.

Let's return to Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. The disciples and others spread their cloaks on the ground in front of Jesus, making a path for him to ride on. (Luke 19:36). They are laying out the equivalent of a plush red carpet. Jesus can see the huge crowds that have come to greet him with great joy and loud voices. The noise must have been deafening.

There were of course no photographers, but a sea of smiling faces wanting to attract Jesus' attention as they acknowledge him as the Messiah with the words in verse 38 of Luke's Gospel: "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" In Luke's account there is no mention of palm branches or shouts of Hosanna, as appear in the Gospels of Matthew (21:8-10) and John. (12:12-13).

The crowds are celebrating the arrival of the Messiah, who they believe will rescue them from the oppression of their Roman rulers. This is the moment that Jesus makes a public declaration for the first time that he is indeed the Messiah, the heavenly King, who is humble and comes in peace and love. The Pharisees in the crowd are outraged at the noise and disturbance caused by Jesus' arrival, and at his dangerous action in declaring himself to be the Messiah and a King. The protest by the Pharisees to Jesus to silence the crowds is ignored, and he declares that even if the crowds were silent "the stones would cry out". In other words, he is declaring that he is worthy of praise, and that such a reaction is inevitable. (Luke 19:40). The peaceful celebration of the

Passover descends into chaos as the crowds grow out of control with their joyous zeal for Jesus. This is not what the Pharisees had planned, and the fate of Jesus is sealed.

Jesus has now placed himself in a dangerous position as the Romans dislike disorder and anything which threatens their dominance and control.

On February 11th, 1990, Nelson Mandela was released after spending 27 years in prison for campaigning against Apartheid and opposing the oppressive South African government. He also knew the risks he was taking but was prepared for the consequences of his actions. On his release he was greeted by 100,000 people at a rally in Cape Town who had gathered to hear him speak. The atmosphere was also tense and fraught with danger, with riots and disorder. Nelson Mandela must have been overwhelmed with the outpouring of support, but also wary of the personal risks he was taking regarding his own safety. However, he was brave and courageous and said to the crowds "Fellow South Africans, I greet you in the name of peace". He worked tirelessly with the South African government resulting in the end of Apartheid in the early 1990s.

Jesus was a controversial figure who has been described as a revolutionary, who wasn't afraid to challenge or upset the authorities. His entry into Jerusalem on a colt was provocative and dangerous but he was completely committed to revealing his true identity as the Messiah.

What about you? Will you be making a real commitment today?

On Palm Sunday, as we are reminded of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, let us ride with him with a real commitment to our faith, and with a brave and courageous spirit. Let us publicly declare our praise and adoration and announce our faith with shouts of "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord" (Luke 19:38).

Amen

Prayer Pointers

As we hold the Palm Sunday cross in our hand, we focus on the humility of Jesus. Thank Jesus that he came in humility to show us what love is really like. Pray that we may love like he does.

Pray for all on our Ministry Team at St Francis' and St Mary's. Pray that they may first and foremost model humility and teamwork, and care for themselves in order to effectively serve our congregations and community.

Reflecting on the examples in the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call projects pray that God will show us what we, as Christ's Body here in West Wickham, can do to make sure that more people are able to feel at home and secure where they are living. Pray especially for families and individuals who have offered to provide homes for Ukrainian refugees.

Pray for the world's leaders and rulers that they may seek humility and wisdom with listening ears and open hearts and a deep desire to put others first. Pray especially for all those trying to bring a peaceful conclusion to the war in Ukraine,

For those struggling with ill health – especially Julie Bailey, Vicky Pearce, Barbara Colpus and Mary Sanders. Give thanks for our National Health Service – for all healthcare professionals who care for the sick at home, in hospital and in hospices.

For the soul of Cynthia Symes, for her husband Archie, her daughters Joanna and Michelle and all her family. May God help them all to begin again.

Offer our own personal prayers – our deepest needs, our fears, our joys and thanksgivings and for all those who we love dearly.

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of strength and peace, send your blessing on the people of Ukraine. Sustain them in their struggles, hold them in their fear, protect them from all danger, and be for them the hope they desire. *(Composed by Andrew Nunn – Dean of Southwark)*

Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call Prayer 2022

Loving and saving God, we thank you that you have given us a home with you in heaven, help us work to enable others to feel at home in our communities. Give us your generosity of spirit that we might work with our neighbours to bring hope and peace to those around us. Amen.