

ST. MARY OF NAZARETH /ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI – WEST WICKHAM
10th October 2021: Harvest Sunday; Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

Hazel writes:

A return to using service booklets last week worked well and we are planning another change for next week, when communion will be given in both kinds – bread and wine – by the priest briefly dipping the wafer in some wine at the point of distribution. Please let Hazel or Richard know before the service starts if you would prefer to receive a wafer only, without any intinction.

Next Sunday 17th October, we will have **Joint Holy Communion services** at 8am in St Mary's church and at 10am in St. Francis' Church.

Morning Prayer is held in St Francis' Church on Wednesday mornings 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 mornings at 9am.

The **Bereavement Support Group** meets on Wednesday 13th at 2.30pm in Emmanuel Church, The Grove.

Resources and updates for the week ahead – This week our service will be **livestreamed at 10am** on YouTube. 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 service for World Mental Health day with Counsellor and psychotherapist Richard Gaudion.
 - Choral Evensong at 3pm on Radio 3 from Winchester Cathedral.
 - On BBC 1: Songs of Praise at 1.15 p.m. – We visit Coventry, the UK City of Culture to experience its 24 hour Faith event.

Saturday 16th October - London Concert Chorus have some joyous songs to lift our spirits and they will be joined by Jacqueline Turner. Tickets from Geoff Mussard (tickets@mussard.org.uk) or 020 8650 8389.

October is **Black History Month** and we will be showing the **film**, Green Book, which won a BAFTA best picture award. The film is inspired by the true story of the world class classical and jazz pianist, Don Shirley and the friendship formed with his chauffeur following the adversity faced in their travels through the racially charged deep south of

the US. Come to St. Mary's Church on Wednesday 20th October from 7.15 p.m. when refreshments will be available, to start the film at 7.30 p.m.

Coffee & Chat on Zoom is now held every first Thursday of the month. We also have a **Coffee & Chat in person** on the third Thursday of the month. The next of these will be at 2.30pm on Thursday 21st October in St Francis' Church. If you would like to come and meet others for a chat, please do join us. If you would like to do this, but cannot make this date, please let Rowena know (rowena.griff19@btinternet.com or 8777 6112).

Please bring **Foodbank donations** to the Vicarage or St Francis' Church. Currently they need bags for life, cooking sauce, toothbrushes, children's toothpaste, and hair conditioner. They are well-stocked with pasta, cereals and baked beans and 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>.

Ann Dakin's funeral will be held on Wednesday, 20th October 2.15 p.m. Christ Church, Church Crookham, GU52 6LH 3.30 p.m. North Hants Golf Club GU51 1RF. If you wish to attend, please contact Elizabeth Bligh by Tuesday if possible: 020 8777 2009 or by email elizabeth.bligh@hotmail.com. Martin appreciates your prayers and the letters which he has received.

Christine Harley's funeral will be held on Friday 22nd October 2.15 p.m. at St. Mary's followed by committal at Beckenham Crematorium at 3.30 p.m. A celebration of her life will follow at Wickham Park Sports Club, 228 – 230 Pickhurst Rise, West Wickham BR4 0AU. Donations to St. Christopher's Hospice via Killick's or the family.

Thanks to all those who have contributed stories about '**God with Us**' for the magazines and our special service in July. If you have any further stories to share, please do send them to Hazel (with a request for anonymisation if you'd prefer), so that we can continue to share these in different ways.

Please continue to bring furnishings – sticks and dry leaves – for the Messy Church **Bug Hotel** at St Mary's, so that the bugs feel at home. If you want to walk with a purpose, please do collect some of these on your travels, bring them to St Mary's and put them into the Bug Hotel, or leave them beside it and someone from Messy Church will put them into the structure.

Our **bereavement support bags** will be especially helpful in the months ahead. If you would like a bag to give to someone that you know who has lost a loved one, do take one from the back of either of the churches.

Freedom from legal restrictions will enable us to make changes in our public worship, but Covid 19 is still a threat. Please do come to one of the services to see how we are maintaining safety by asking everyone to observe the following:

- Keep your mask on, unless you are exempt or if you are leading the service in any way.
- Observe social distancing and only sit where there is a green tick, so maintaining at least 1m between people from different households.
- If, when you are sitting, you are concerned about others being too close to you, feel free to move to another seat.

One-way systems will remain in place. The sharing of the Peace will continue in a socially distanced format and arrangements for administering Communion, bread only, will remain the same for the time being.

Our Link Parish, St. Andrew's in Gweru has a new priest, Rev. Fr. Meso Sabastian. Zimbabwe has just come out of its third lockdown and the churches are only open to people who are fully vaccinated (up to a maximum of 100 people), with everyone else receiving audio sermons. Fr. Sebastian asks for energy and protection while they bring God's presence to parishioners during these trying times.

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 Nicky Nightingale (nicholanightingale@hotmail.co.uk or 8916 9855) for St Francis'.

There are now vacancies at St. Mary's and St. Francis' so please get in touch if you would like a pedestal. There is a list to sign in the vestibule at St. Mary's.

The flowers at St. Mary's this week have all been provided for the Harvest Festival and arranged by ladies on the flower rota.

Jars for pickled onions needed. If anyone has any large one and a half to two pound jars with good fitting lids could they please leave them in the vestibule at St Mary's or ring Ann on 8464 1609 and she would be willing to collect them. Also required 1lb jars for marmalade. Thank you.

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

Creator God, you made the goodness of the land, the riches of the sea and the rhythm of the seasons; as we thank you for the harvest, may we cherish and respect this planet and its peoples, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

First Reading:**Genesis 4:1-12.****Contemporary English Version**

Adam and Eve had a son. Then Eve said, "I'll name him Cain because I got him with the help of the LORD."² Later she had another son and named him Abel. Abel became a sheep farmer, but Cain farmed the land.³ One day, Cain gave part of his harvest to the LORD,⁴ and Abel also gave an offering to the LORD. He killed the first-born lamb from one of his sheep and

gave the LORD the best parts of it. The LORD was pleased with Abel and his offering,⁵ but not with Cain and his offering. This made Cain so angry that he could not hide his feelings.⁶ The LORD said to Cain: What's wrong with you? Why do you have such an angry look on your face?⁷ If you had done the right thing, you would be smiling. But you did the wrong thing, and now sin is waiting to attack you like a lion. Sin wants to destroy you, but don't let it!⁸ Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go for a walk." And when they were out in a field, Cain killed him.⁹ Afterwards the LORD asked Cain, "Where is Abel?" "How should I know?" he answered. "Am I supposed to look after my brother?"¹⁰ Then

the LORD said: Why have you done this terrible thing? Because you killed Abel you will never be able to farm the land again.¹² If you try to farm the land, it won't produce anything for you. From now on, you'll be without a home, and you'll spend the rest of your life wandering from place to place.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom: by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Sermon – Richard Ford

To be circulated after the 10.00 a.m. service

Prayer Pointers

As the Climate Change conference of COP26 draws closer, may those who attend take on board the seriousness of the effects of global warming and be prepared to make hard decisions about the future wellbeing of our planet.

As we celebrate Harvest, give thanks for all God's gifts to us, pray for all who produce our food and pray that we will always be mindful of those who struggle to get enough food for daily life for whatever reason. Pray for the Food Banks and the volunteers who run them.

Pray for Zimbabwe as she emerges from her third lockdown, for St Andrews' Gweru our link parish and her new priest Rev Fr Meso Sabastian who asks for energy and protection while they bring God's presence to parishioners during these trying times.

Continue to pray for the people of Afghanistan as they continue to adjust to a new regime and for her Leaders, that they rule with justice, integrity and impartiality. Pray for those fleeing from the new regime that they will be kept safe, and for all refugees hoping to find a place of welcome away from their homeland.

For the people of La Palma in the Canary Islands as the volcano continues to be a threat to people and property. Pray for all those affected by the wild fires that have raged in various places this year.

For all those who are ill and for their friends and relatives – especially for Vicky Pearce, Julie Bailey, Carole Hubbard, Conor Owlett– and those unknown to us but known to God alone.

Pray for Christine Harley and Ann Dakin who died recently: may they rest in peace and rise in glory, and we pray for their families and friends as they mourn their passing. Pray for all who have lost their lives through violence.