

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

12th March 2023: Third Sunday of Lent

Hazel writes:

We are currently discussing a return to the common cup at our **Sunday morning communion services** from Easter onwards. This will include standing or kneeling at the altar rail for distribution of the wafers and sharing the cup. Those who do not want to share the cup can still receive communion in one kind only – please leave the rail or keep your hands by your side after receiving the wafer. Please do speak to me or Richard if you have a strong objection to this as a way forward.

This week we have Holy Communion services at 8am in St Francis' Church, 9.15am in St Mary's Church and at 10.45am in St Francis' Church.

Next **Sunday 19th March**, we will have a Holy Communion service at 8am in St Mary's Church and non-eucharistic services for Mothering Sunday at 9.15am in St Mary's Church and at 10.45am in St Francis' Church.

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 in St Mary's Church on Thursday morning at 9am.

Resources and updates for the week ahead – Each week our service is livestreamed on YouTube at 10am or before. All other files for this week have been combined and included in this pew sheet which will be sent on paper to those who have told us that they are not on-line.

Stuart Froment's funeral service is on Wednesday 15th March at 1.30pm in St Mary's Church, followed by a cremation at Beckenham Crematorium and refreshments at The Railway from 3.30pm. Please let Norman Froment know (norman.froment@me.com) if you plan to join for the refreshments.

A new **network of Eco Churches** has been formed in Bromley Borough and some of us will be going to meetings on the following dates (all meetings at 7.30pm):

- Weds 29th March at Christchurch URC, Petts Wood
- Weds 3rd May at St Paul's, Beckenham
- Weds 31st May at Emmanuel URC here in West Wickham

If you would like to join us, please contact Richard (richard.ford73@gmail.com or 020 8289 2432).

Hayes Symphony Orchestra have a concert at St Francis' Church on Saturday 25th March at 7.30pm. Tickets at £10 will be available on the door or can be pre-ordered at <http://hayes.makingmusicplatform.com/Spring23>.

St John's will be hosting a **Ukrainian Banquet** at St Mary's on Saturday 25th March from 7pm. This will be for Ukrainians living locally, who will bring traditional dishes to share with others. If you would like to volunteer setting up or serving drinks and food, please contact Milly (camilla@highamsfarm.com or 07796 338483) for more details.

Further funerals are due to be held as follows:

- **Joyce Town** will have a service of cremation in the East Chapel at Croydon Crematorium on Wednesday 22nd March at 11.15am, followed by refreshments at The Grange, Beddington Park, London Rd, Wallington. SM6 7BT.
- **Mary Gearing's** funeral service will be at Beckenham Crematorium on Thursday 23rd March at 4.15pm.

In 2023, the **Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call** is raising money for projects that work to improve mental health and well-being. Our offertory on Easter Sunday will go towards the appeal, but if you would like to donate in the meantime, you can do so via the Diocese of Southwark website at www.southwark.anglican.org/lentcall. There is also more information on the projects in both of the churches if you do not have access to the internet.

There are a few spaces left for the **St. George's Supper** at St. Marys on 22nd April. Please contact Beryl 0208 289 8097 if you would like to go and have not yet been in touch.

Coronation Celebration Get-together - Sunday 7th May at St. Mary's. This will take place at about 12 noon, following drinks after the joint service at 10.00 a.m. on 7th May. The cost will be £10 a head (£5 for children under 14). All food, tea, coffee and soft drinks will be provided but you must bring along your own alcoholic drinks. Please contact Beryl Bolton 0208 289 8097 or berylbolton@hotmail.com for a ticket if you hope to come along, with payment made at time of booking. Numbers must be in by Monday 1st May to allow time for organising amounts of food etc.

A group are going along to support **West Wickham Operatic Society** at the Churchill on Wednesday 24th May in their production of Shrek. If you would like to join us, please let Beryl know (8289 8097). Tickets will be £26 each.

A **West Wickham Choir Concert** is planned for Saturday 15th July. The choir is now sufficient for us to go ahead but we can do better with more voices! Please ask any singing friends and neighbours to make contact if they would like to join – our rehearsals will be extensions of choir practices usually on Thursday evenings at St. Francis, or occasionally Friday evenings at St. Mary's. These will begin in April. Thanks Geoff. Contact via geoff@mussard.org.uk or 020 8650 8389 - or at the organ after main services at both churches.

Church Keys at St. Francis' You may have noticed that the doors to the Church kitchen and the Youth Room have been replaced with stronger more suitable doors. If you were a key holder previously, these will no longer work. PLEASE return the keys to the old doors to David Wada, both Yale and mortice – Thank you. There is a key attached to a wooden block to the Youth Room door in the Kitchen on top of the microwave. Additionally, there is a key to the Kitchen Door hanging on a chain by the door which can be used to unlock the door. The Kitchen Door MUST BE UNLOCKED if the church is in use as this is a Fire Exit. Please do not remove either of these keys from the building as they are used regularly, and the replacement cost is high. Thank you all for your help and support in this matter.

Churches Together in West Wickham are continuing **Warm Spaces** on five days each week (normally 9am-5pm) providing somewhere warm for people to meet in for free. This is also an opportunity to meet with volunteers from other churches and share some social time together, so if you are looking for some company, do join in at the following locations: ·

On a Monday at West Wickham & Shirley Baptist Church ·

On a Tuesday at Coney Hill Baptist Church ·

On a Wednesday at St Francis' Church ·

On a Thursday at West Wickham Methodist Church ·

On a Friday at Emmanuel United Reformed Church

Please bring **Foodbank donations** to the Vicarage or St Francis' Church. Currently they require canned vegetables, canned hot meat, cold meats, UHT milk, bleach and desserts. Please do not bring any fresh or frozen 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.

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'.

No flowers now for Lent.

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

Eternal God,
give us insight to
discern your will for us,
to give up what harms
us, and to seek the
perfection we are
promised in Jesus Christ
our Lord.

First Reading:

Psalm 13

How long, O LORD? Will
you forget me for ever?
How long will you hide
your face from me?
² How long must I bear
pain in my soul, and
have sorrow in my heart
all day long?
How long shall my
enemy be exalted over
me?
³ Consider and answer
me, O LORD my God!
Give light to my eyes, or
I will sleep the sleep of
death,⁴ and my enemy
will say, 'I have
prevailed'; my foes will
rejoice because I am
shaken.

⁵ But I trusted in your
steadfast love; my heart
shall rejoice in your
salvation.

⁶ I will sing to
the LORD, because he
has dealt bountifully
with me.

Gospel Reading:

Luke 23: 50-56

⁵⁰ Now there was a good
and righteous man
named Joseph, who,
though a member of the
council, ⁵¹ had not
agreed to their plan and
action. He came from
the Jewish town of
Arimathea, and he was
waiting expectantly for
the kingdom of
God. ⁵² This man went to
Pilate and asked for the
body of Jesus. ⁵³ Then he
took it down, wrapped it
in a linen cloth, and laid
it in a rock-hewn tomb
where no one had ever
been laid. ⁵⁴ It was the
day of Preparation, and
the sabbath was

beginning. ⁵⁵ The women
who had come with him
from Galilee followed,
and they saw the tomb
and how his body was
laid. ⁵⁶ Then they
returned, and prepared
spices and ointments.

On the sabbath they
rested according to the
commandment.

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace
to withstand the
temptations of the
world, the flesh and the
devil, and with pure
hearts and minds to
follow you, the only
God; through Jesus
Christ our Lord.

REFLECTION – Richard Ford to follow

Prayer Pointers

Hold before God all those who feel that God is silent and absent when they are in a storm of life. Pray that the silence may draw them into a deeper relationship with Him. May they see that God is still there in the silence.

Continue to pray for everyone trying to bring some relief to the suffering after the earthquakes and aftershocks in Turkey and Syria.

In the Southwark Diocesan Prayer Cycle, pray for the congregation of All Saints, Peckham and for Jenny Dawkins the Associate Vicar.

Hold before God the victims of the shooting in the church in Hamburg, Germany.

Pray for all those who are suffering as a result of warfare and civil strife - especially the people of Ukraine in their desire to live peacefully in their own nation.

Pray for those people in our communities who are suffering with illness, grief or situations that are very difficult. In our congregations pray for these by name –Mark Outten, Vicky Pearce, Mike East, Jane Smith, Joan Burford, Graham Stone, Rowena Griffiths, Daphne Dack, John Dack, Barbara Goodchild, Karen Plummer, and Nina Tilling – and those known to God alone.

Hold before God all those who have died in the faith of Christ crucified. Pray especially for Stuart Froment, Joyce Town, Margaret Creedon, John Cooper and Mary Gearing and their families.

Offer our own personal prayers and thanksgivings. We do not know what lies ahead for us. We have hopes. We have fears. We may have doubts. Help us always to remember that Jesus will be with us, beside us, within us and his love will guide us on the way forward.