

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

14th November: Remembrance Sunday

Hazel writes:

This Sunday morning, we will be focussing on our Act of Remembrance at all the services in the two church buildings. We also had a **Messy Church** service on Friday, when eight children and their families joined in lots of fun activities themed around the story of Tabitha (Acts 9:36-42). Do watch the celebration on our YouTube channel.

Next Sunday 21st November, we will have **Holy Communion services** at 8am in St Mary's church and at 10am in St. Francis' Church. The service at St Francis' will be very special as it will also include a **baptism** of Elisha and Sienna Watson – mother and daughter.

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.

Resources and updates for the week ahead – This week our service will be **livestreamed at 9.15am** 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 – Rev. Dr. Rosa Hunt and Rev. Jamie Washam lead a transatlantic service for remembrance.
 - Choral Evensong at 3pm on Radio 3 from the Chapel of Selwyn College, Cambridge during the Rodolfus Choral course.
 - On BBC 1: at 10.15 a.m. Live from the Cenotaph with David Dimbleby and Songs of Praise at 1.15 p.m. – Sean Fletcher meets veterans at Imperial War Museum North.

Coffee & Chat this week is on Thursday 18th November at 2.30pm in St Francis' Church. Our next Zoom date is on Thursday 2nd December. 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 the dates, or would like the log-in details, please let Rowena know (rowena.griff19@btinternet.com or 8777 6112).

Welcare have extended an open invitation to a **Service of Thanksgiving** for the work of the charity in the Borough of Bromley which will take place at 11.30 am on Friday 19th November 2021 in Bromley Parish Church, St Peter and St Paul Bromley, Church Road, Bromley, BR2 0EG, with hospitality afterwards.

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>.

Once again St Francis and St Mary's are collecting for the **Bromley Foodbank** on Saturday 20th November from 10 am to 3 pm. This is the Christmas collection which is of real importance to the organisation and our contribution is always well received. If you can spare an hour between 10 and 3, please could you let Tim Shingler know either by phone on 07785 772649 or email tim.shingler@ntlworld.com. The collection takes place on the corner of The High Street and Ravenswood Avenue.

We are hoping to go ahead with the **Christmas Market on 27th November** subject to government rules and regulations with a different layout to take social distancing into account. The following stalls will be available this year: Bric-a-brac, Cakes & Preserves, Hampers, Bottle Tombola, Chocolates & Sweets Tombola, Books & Puzzles and Toys. Face painting will be available for both young and old.

The Kitchen will not have the usual full menu and will be serving delicious soups, filled rolls and jacket potatoes with fillings. The Café will be in operation with tea/coffee and home-made cakes as well as the Irish Coffees.

The Market does rely on your generous donations and will appreciate donations of chocolates, sweets, baked goods, bottles of any kind (alcoholic, non-alcoholic, etc).

Monetary donations for the hampers will be most welcome and donations are now urgently needed for stocking the bottle, and chocolate and sweet tombolas.

Raffle tickets at £1 each for the cake and the hamper are now available from Beryl Bolton 8289 8097 or berylbolton@hotmail.com

Tickets for the grand draw are available from Bob West 8776 0210.

Do contact Merri Womack directly if you would like to order an Advent ring this year. Her telephone number is 0208 777 8772.

Posters advertising the Market are available in the vestibule at St. Mary's please take one and display in a prominent position for the next 2 weeks.

Matchbox Theatre are looking forward to welcoming you to their forthcoming production "ENGLAND EXPECTS" by their very own STEVE TOLMIE. Performances are on 2nd, 3rd and 4th December 8pm in St Francis Church Hall. Tickets are £8.50 children £6 and may be purchased online using debit/credit card at <http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-matchbox-theatre>

SATURDAY 4th DECEMBER BIG CHRISTMAS SING: REFRESHMENTS.

We will need contributions of mince pies and biscuits, and there is a list at the back of church for you to sign if you can help in this way. Please bring your contributions to St Mary's or St Francis by Sunday 28th November (10am service at St. Mary's). It would be helpful if you could tick your name off the list when you have brought your donation. Donations, however small, towards other costs would also be appreciated and can be given to Kay Mussard or Margaret Bond at St Mary's or Barbara Plummer at St Francis'. Any surplus will be given to Christian Aid.

Community lunches have started again at both St Mary's and St Francis'. The **Christmas Community Lunches** have always been lovely occasions and will be especially so this year. The lunch at St. Mary's will be on Wednesday 8th December at 12.30 p.m. and at St Francis on SUNDAY 12TH DECEMBER at 12.30pm. The cost of both is £10 and you need to book before the beginning of December. Please contact Beryl Bolton 8289 8097 for St Mary's and Barbara Goodchild on 8777 8782 for St Francis' as soon as possible if you wish to come as numbers will be restricted a little this year.

Please continue to bring furnishings – sticks and dry leaves – for our 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.

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 flowers at St. Marys this week have been provided by Elizabeth Barclay and family in memory of Mary and Vernon Habberfield and have been arranged by Merri.

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

God, our refuge and strength, bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and pain shall end, that earth may know the peace of heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord.

First Reading: Daniel

12:1-3

“At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will stand up. There will be a time of much trouble, the worst time since nations have been on earth, but your people will be saved. Everyone whose name is written in God’s book will be saved. ² Many people who have already died will live again. Some of them will wake up to have life forever, but some will wake up to find shame and disgrace forever. ³ The wise people will shine like the brightness of the sky. Those who teach others to live right will shine like stars forever and ever.

Gospel Reading: Mark

13:1-8

As Jesus was leaving the Temple, one of his followers said to him, “Look, Teacher! How beautiful the buildings are! How big the stones are!”

² Jesus said, “Do you see all these great buildings? Not one stone will be left on another. Every stone will be thrown down to the ground.”

³ Later, as Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, opposite the Temple, he was alone with Peter, James, John, and Andrew. They asked Jesus, ⁴ “Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are going to happen?”

⁵ Jesus began to answer them, “Be careful that no one fools you. ⁶ Many people will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the One,’ and they will fool many people. ⁷ When you hear about wars and stories of wars that are

coming, don’t be afraid. These things must happen before the end comes. ⁸ Nations will fight against other nations, and kingdoms against other kingdoms. There will be earthquakes in different places, and there will be times when there is no food for people to eat. These things are like the first pains when something new is about to be born.

Post Communion Prayer

God of peace, whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom and restored the broken to wholeness of life: look with compassion on the anguish of the world, and by your healing power make whole both people and nations; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Sermon – Hazel O’Sullivan

This year has been a tough one. I know that many of you have faced really tough situations in the past 12 months – this time last year we were in a lockdown and doing things on-line and by telephone. As Christians we are not immune from difficult circumstances and our world today is facing many situations that might be caught up in the categories listed in verses 7 to 8 of our gospel reading, for example:

- Wars continue in Yemen, Syria, and the Tigray region of Ethiopia;
- There has been great destruction of homes and businesses in La Palma after the recent volcanic eruption there.
- Migrants are stuck at the border between Belarus and Poland in freezing weather;
- Starvation conditions exist in Afghanistan and there’s a water shortage in Haiti;
- Increasing costs and supply chain problems are leading to increased fuel and food poverty here in the UK.

We need to remember that tough times like this will happen, but often, it’s only through them that good can come. I’m not saying that this makes it all OK and we don’t need to pray for those caught up in difficult situations – we most certainly do. But just as the pain of giving birth is necessary for life to begin, so Jesus says that wars, earthquakes and famine will need to happen before the end of time, so that a new heaven and new earth can be brought into being.

And it’s only by remembering past difficulties: the sacrifices that have been made and the good that has come out of these situations, that we can know and be reminded of the hope that we have in Jesus.

This is why we remember those who have died or been injured in war and other conflict situations at this time of year – so that we can recognise their sacrifice and give thanks for the better life and peace that we have as a result of that sacrifice.

Today’s difficulties make it easy to forget the past difficulties that people have faced – our own situation seems so bad that we forget what others have suffered before. And we also don’t extend our view to all of those who have made sacrifices in the past – it’s not just those from the British armed forces who fought in the two world wars from the UK who have ensured that we can lead a better life. It’s also:

- those who have fought in other conflicts;

- those who have supported conflicts being fought, such as medics, pastors, administrative staff and those making armaments;
- those from other countries who have assisted us in a conflict, such as those Afghans who were supporting UK troops in making Afghanistan a better place to live in;
- those civilians (of whatever nationality) who have been caught up in fighting somewhere in the world.

I was recently shown a short film about an exhibition that was put on a few years ago recognising people from Caribbean countries who helped Britain in World War 1, World War 2 and subsequently, by serving in the RAF. You can watch a longer version at the following YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fj7fKfyWJcc>. Maybe you too didn't know about this story. It was one of those that started with a retelling of something that happened in a Black History Month. We can't remember what we have not been told, but we can have a desire to find out more about events and the people involved in them to whom we owe a debt of gratitude.

Let's never forget those who have sacrificed something in a conflict, whether that be a life, good health or a loved one, so that we can live in peace. Today on Remembrance Sunday we do remember all these people and commit ourselves to serving others and making sacrifices ourselves too.

Amen.

Prayer Pointers

With the Climate Change conference of Cop26 ending, continue to pray for all those involved, that the seriousness of the effects of global warming will remain uppermost in their deliberations. Pray that all parties will continue to listen to each other. Give thanks for the agreements already made and pray that they will come to fruition.

Please continue to use the following prayer for the Conference –

Creator God, giver of life,

you sustain the earth and direct the nations.

In this time of climate crisis grant us clarity to hear the groaning of creation and the cries of the poor;

challenge us to change our lifestyles;

guide our leaders to take courageous action;

enable your church to be a beacon of hope;

and foster within us a renewed vision of your purposes for your world. Amen

Continue to pray for Afghanistan, particularly in the light of the recent ISIS attacks.

Pray that all those needing food and medical aid and other assistance will receive it, especially those in isolated communities. Pray for the safety of all aid personnel.

Pray for the Leaders and People of the Sudan after the recent Coup.

Pray that the current conflict in NE Africa will be resolved.

Thank God for those who have given their lives in the service of their country, pray for those who suffer as the result of war, whether as service men and women or civilians that they may get the physical and mental help they need. Pray for all the organisations that have been set up to provide help, especially the Royal British Legion.

For all those who are ill and for their friends and relatives – especially for Vicky Pearce, Julie Bailey, Carole Hubbard, Robert Davis, Linda Keynes and Brian Griffiths – and those unknown to us but known to God.

Pray for all who have lost their lives through acts of violence.

Pray for Elisha and daughter Sienna who will be baptised at St Francis on 21st November that it will be a joyful and meaningful service for all.