

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

8th November 2020: Remembrance Sunday

Hazel writes:

This lockdown will be very different to the last. While we do have access to our church buildings, this is not for in-person services, with some exceptions. We will continue our ministry as two churches on-line and on-paper, as well as being in touch by telephone and e-mail. Our community outreach is also continuing in our support of the Foodbank (please keep the donations coming). Our bereavement support group will continue to meet and pastoral care is available in exceptional circumstances. If you would like a visit from a member of the team, please do call me or Rowena Griffiths, our pastoral care co-ordinator on 020 8777 6112.

This **Sunday 8th November** the church buildings will be open for private prayer as follows:

St. Mary's: 9 – 10 am

St. Francis: 10.30 – 11.30 am, including a two-minute silence at 11.00 a.m.

There will also be a pre-recorded service available **on-line** from 9am as usual.

From 6.30-8pm Hazel is involved in a Churches Together **on-line retreat** which will include music and a bible reading and reflection to guide your thoughts and prayers in the theme of Remembering. An invitation with the Zoom log-in was sent last week and is available from Hazel.

On **Wednesday 11th November** both churches will be open from 10.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. for private prayer with a two-minute silence at 11.00 a.m.

Messy Church at Home is on **Friday 13th November** at **3.45 p.m. on-line** at

<https://www.facebook.com/MessyChurchWestWickham>. You can pick up a goodie bag with all the resources for one of the activities from outside the Vicarage – please help yourself to a bag and stick.



Please bring **Foodbank donations** to the Vicarage. Currently the **Bromley Food Bank** need jelly, instant whip, sponge puddings, and shaving gel and contributions to Christmas hampers in the form of cake, mince pies, fizzy drinks and yule logs (but please make sure any of these items are dated after 26th December). Thank you for your continuing support.

Resources and updates for the week ahead – All the necessary information is included in this 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 Remembrance from the Royal Air Force College, Cranwell in its centenary year.
 - Live from the Cenotaph at 10.30 a.m. on Radio 4 for Remembrance.
 - Choral Evensong at 3pm on Radio 3 from the Chapel of New College, Oxford.
 - On BBC 1: Sunday morning live from the Cenotaph for Remembrance with David Dimbleby at 10.15 a.m. and Songs of Praise at 1.15 p.m. where Aled Jones visits the Brecon Beacons, a place of military training.

Each week our **“coffee/tea & chat”** on Thursday at 2.30 pm is an opportunity to share with others. It is just 40 minutes and you don’t need to commit to joining each week. Please let Rowena (rowena.griff19@btinternet.com /020 8777 6112) know if you would like the log-in details.

The **Bereavement Support Group** will meet on **Wednesday 11th November at 2.30 p.m.** in Emmanuel Church.

The **St Mary's Christmas Market** is happening on-line this year. Full details are included in a separate document distributed with this pew sheet.

Advent wreaths are a symbol of Advent. They are made of a circle of evergreen laid flat to represent eternal life. Four red candles are arranged around the circle and one candle in the centre. Advent is a journey through the Christmas story. Christians use this wreath to celebrate advent, lighting one candle each Sunday till Christmas day when the last central candle is lit representing Christ the light of the world. This year the first candle will be lit on November 29th. It is particularly significant this year as we may not be able to see our families and also makes a nice table decoration for Christmas. If anyone would like to place an order, please contact Merri Womack on 8777 8772. The cost of an advent wreath is £8.

Brian Griffiths has created a catalogue of woodwork he has produced using his scroll saw and his lathe. All the craft is being sold in aid of St Mary’s and St Francis Churches. The catalogue is attached to this week’s email to St Francis and St Mary’s

congregations. Details of how to buy one of the 52 items listed and illustrated are included in the catalogue. Please contact Brian by telephone on 0208 777 6112 or by email at brian.griff19@btinternet.com to reserve a piece.

Tickets for two raffles, one for an 8" square Christmas cake and one for a luxury hamper worth £50 are now available from Beryl Bolton (8289 8097 or bbolton@ntlworld.com) at £1 each. Your names will be added to a list of numbers for however many tickets you require and I will either arrange to pick up the money, or if anyone could drop it off to me, it would be appreciated. The draws will be made on the 28th November at the same time as the main Christmas Draw. Thank you for your support.

St. Mary's Christmas card table – it looks unlikely that we will be able to have this facility this year so Kay and Geoff have very kindly offered to act as postmen, as it was felt receiving cards might be even more important for some people than in normal years. If you can put all your cards in a large envelope or a carrier bag in a bundle (in alphabetical order if possible and with the address if you know it) and deliver this to **35 Oakfield Gardens by Monday December 7th** Kay and Geoff will then sort them out after leaving for a couple of days and deliver them during the following two weeks. If anyone is unable to get someone to deliver them or deliver them themselves to Kay and Geoff, arrangements can be made to pick them up.

Any items for the joint pew sheet to Beryl bbolton@ntlworld.com and items for the websites to brian.griff19@btinternet.com.

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:

Isaiah 2: 2-5

In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords

into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

Gospel Reading:

Matthew 26: 47-56

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸ Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.'

⁴⁹ At once he came up to Jesus and said, 'Greetings, Rabbi!' and kissed him.

⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, 'Friend, do what you are here to do.' Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. ⁵¹ Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. ⁵² Then Jesus said to him, 'Put your sword back into its place; for all who

take the sword will perish by the sword. ⁵³ Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?' ⁵⁵ At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, 'Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. ⁵⁶ But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.' Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

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.

TALK: Ken Bryan

During the two world wars the people of our nation realised that it was not just those who went to fight who were involved in the war effort but it was everyone who was involved in one way or another. It was a case of being 'All in it together'.

In World War 1 soldiers from all over the country joined up. Pals battalions from towns and villages, workplaces or even churches were formed. There were sailors and airmen. And at home millions of people were involved in the war effort.

In World War 2 it was even more of a situation that we were 'All in it together'. As well as the fighters of the army, navy and air force and the merchant navy and others, the civilian population was in the front line as towns and cities were bombed.

The war effort at home was at full stretch to keep the troops supplied with food and ammunition in Europe and further afield.

Industry was diverted to making ships, planes, tanks, guns and ammunition.

There was the making of uniforms and essential utensils.

Then there were mechanics whose responsibility it was to keep things going and to repair where necessary.

There was a land army recruited to fill the farming vacancies left by those who had joined up.

Construction played its part with new buildings, but also the repair and rebuilding of those homes and factories that were bombed. Factories were needed to be up and running and manufacturing their goods as soon as possible to keep the supply lines flowing.

Fire marshals were ever present during air raids and there were police and ambulance staff on constant call and of course hospitals and convalescent homes for the injured service men and women.

Even the postal service played a vital role in getting information around the world but especially letters to and from the front to keep up morale both of the fighters and families at home waiting for any news of their loved ones. It is amazing to know how efficient it was. Post arriving more quickly than it does even today.

Then there was a rebuilding effort by everyone after the wars. Rebuilding communities and also nations.

And internationally nations came together in the League of Nations after the First World War and subsequently the United Nations after the Second World War. Both with the prime motive to prevent further wars by trying to bring peoples together to talk not fight when there are differences. Never has it been clearer, that as a world we are 'All in it together'. What one person or nation does, has an effect on other people and nations.

Today we are fighting an invisible enemy, a virus. Again we will be best served if we are 'All in it together' and pull in the same direction through these difficult times. We must support those on the front line, our Health Service and our Care Homes. And not forgetting the Keyworkers. We have come to recognise the importance of those behind the scenes making things happen. Supplying food, making deliveries, keeping all our communications going and so much more. Just like the importance of military supply lines for the troops.

An unseen enemy might feel more disturbing, more frightening. The unknown consequences of where we go and who we see. Unsure of how to protect ourselves.

Also the effect on the community of the sadness of illness and death. The limitation of our freedom to do the things we like and what we want to do, where and who to visit, the separation of families. Also where to go for leisure or holiday and then the economic cost of the loss of shops and businesses and the consequent loss of jobs.

Fortunately we are not in muddy trenches, in unhealthy conditions with violence all round as on the battlefield. Or as in the Second World War with planes overhead and bombs being dropped on us.

I do not want to belittle the sickness people are going through or the loss of life and for many the mental hardships that people are now going through.

Suffering unfortunately is not new. People around the world are suffering in wars daily. The innocent are the ones who are killed or injured or lose homes, jobs or businesses.

We are not through this pandemic yet as we move into a second lockdown but we should take strength and inspiration from those who have suffered in the past and even sacrificed all for the good of those who come after them.

The phrase it will be "All over by Christmas" was said before the wars and during our first lockdown it was said, but here we are fast approaching Christmas without a final solution.

So perhaps we should take a positive approach like the 'Old Guard'. Like Captain Sir Tom Moore and others such as the Chelsea Pensioners who have been through so much but know we will come out the other side. The virus has not been with us for one year but the wars were over several years. They can keep seeing the positives in life and look forward in hope to better days to come.

We have tried to come together as a community to fight the pandemic. Working together during lockdown. Keeping contact with each other. Giving a helping hand where we can supporting those less fortunate than ourselves such as with the Foodbanks or with financial giving. This must continue as we look out for each other.

Finally at this time of Remembrance let us commit ourselves and our nation to work for peace. For a time as it says in Isaiah that:

'they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. So come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!'

On a day that we remember all who gave so much so that those coming after might have a better future. Let us be thankful and take courage and inspiration from them and go forward into the future remembering that like them we are 'All in it together'.

Looking forward to a time after the virus. Also to a time of world peace.

Amen

Prayer Pointers

We pray for everyone on earth caught up in war. Every man. Every woman. Every child. We remember those who died for us long ago. Still the wars go on... and on. Pray for peace in our world – that you will use all of us who follow Christ as peacemakers in our communities and throughout the world. May we walk in his steps and guide others into the path of your peace.

Almighty God, in you alone we find safety and peace. We commend to your gracious keeping all the men and women who serve in the Navy, the Army, or the Air Force, who face danger and put their lives at risk so that others might live in safety. Defend them day by day by your heavenly power; and help them to know that they can never pass

beyond the reach of your care. Keep alive in them and in us your vision of that peace which alone we must seek and serve.

(From the Field Service Book of the British Army)

For the people of the USA following the presidential election last week. For peace and harmony in America regardless of the result. May whoever is elected seek wisdom, compassion and justice for all in the USA and in the world.

For all on our ministry team at this time when we are unable to worship in our churches once again and especially for Hazel our Vicar. For all planning meetings for services at Christmas time and for guidance and wisdom as online services are planned and recorded in the weeks ahead. For your blessing on all involved in pastoral work in our benefice during this difficult time.

As we begin another lockdown pray that Christ may be with us in our isolation, close to us in our distancing, healing in our sickness, joy in our sadness, light in our darkness, wisdom in our confusion, and all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar. May we have the right words to say in all situations to help and inspire those around us. May Jesus lift our spirits Lord in these difficult times. May we see the light where others see darkness and use the light we see as encouragement to all.

Thank God for the courage and dedication of NHS staff, including those who have just completed their training and previously employed people returning to help. For young junior doctors and nurses working long stressful hours on wards throughout the country. Pray that they may receive peace and wisdom at this challenging time. May they know God's presence and care well for their patients.