

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

19th March 2023: Mothering Sunday

Hazel writes:

At our main services this morning, we are welcoming two groups who are an important part of our church community. The 7th West Wickham Scouts will be at the 9.15am service in St Mary's, with a cake sale after the service, and our Youth Group will be presenting a video for Mothering Sunday at the 10.45am service in St Francis'. Do support and encourage these groups who give us a positive profile and keep us connected with the wider community of West Wickham.

This week we 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.

Next **Sunday 26th March**, we will 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.

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.

Two funerals are being held this week:

- **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.

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.

A memorial service to celebrate **John Cooper's** life will be held at The Bluebell Cemetery, Old London Road, Halstead, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN14 7AE on Monday 3rd April at 3.00 pm followed by a gathering nearby. Please contact pcooper746@gmail.com if you are hoping to attend.

A **local Ukrainian woman**, employed at Glebe School, and her adult son are looking for new accommodation. If you know of anyone who would be able to house them in two bedrooms as a sponsor, or who has a two bed roomed property they could rent to them, please ask them to contact Hazel. They have a caseworker who can help in dealing with all the necessary paperwork under either scenario.

We are supporting our local foodbanks with **High Street collections** on Friday 31st March and Saturday 1st April from 10am to 1pm. If you would like to volunteer some time on either day, please be in touch with Tim Shingler (tim.shingler@ntlworld.com or 020 8402 8286).

Our Youth Club leaders are running an **Easter Egg Hunt** on Saturday 8th of April from 10am to 4pm. The activities and hunt will be available to take part in all day: drop in for however long you like, whenever you like! There will be plenty of games and activities running alongside the Easter Egg Hunt as well as the sale of cakes, tea, and coffee. The link to pre-book tickets (cost of £3) is: <https://www.Ticketsource.co.uk/st-Francis-of-Assisi>. You can turn up any time between 10 am and 3 pm to take part in the activities (pay on the door if you prefer). If you would just like to come along to socialise, we would also love to see you there! Please do invite family, friends and neighbours: all are welcome.

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)

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 the church buildings if you do not have access to the internet.

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 please 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. £10 must be made at time of booking. Numbers must be in by Monday 1st May in order to allow time for organising amounts of food etc.

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. PLEASE return the keys to the old doors to David Wada, Thank you. There is a key 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 for use as 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.

We are planning 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 Hazel or Richard if you have a strong objection to this as a way forward.

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.

The arrangement under the Madonna at St. Mary's has been arranged by Miriam Richards for Mothering Sunday.

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'.

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 of love,
passionate and strong,
tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us
all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our
Lord.

First Reading:

Exodus 2:1-10

There was a man from the family of Levi. He married a woman who was also from the family of Levi. ²She became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She saw how wonderful the baby was, and she hid him for three months. ³But after three months, she was not able to hide the baby any longer. So she got a basket made of reeds and covered it with tar so that it would float. She put the baby in the basket. Then she put the basket among the tall grass at the edge of the Nile River. ⁴The baby's sister stood a short distance away. She wanted to see what would happen to him.

⁵Then the daughter of the king of Egypt came to the river. She was going to take a bath. Her servant girls were walking beside the river. She saw the basket in the tall grass. So she sent

her slave girl to get it. ⁶The king's daughter opened the basket and saw the baby boy. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. She said, "This is one of the Hebrew babies."

⁷Then the baby's sister asked the king's daughter, "Would you like me to find a Hebrew woman to nurse the baby for you?"

⁸The king's daughter said, "Yes, please." So the girl went and got the baby's own mother.

⁹The king's daughter said to the woman, "Take this baby and nurse him for me. I will pay you." So the woman took her baby and nursed him. ¹⁰After the child had grown older, the woman took him to the king's daughter. She adopted the baby as her own son. The king's daughter named him Moses, because she had pulled him out of the water.

Gospel Reading:

John 3:16-21

[Jesus said] ¹⁶"For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son. God gave his Son so that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but have eternal life. ¹⁷God did not

send his Son into the world to judge the world guilty, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸He who believes in God's Son is not judged guilty. He who does not believe has already been judged guilty, because he has not believed in God's only Son. ¹⁹People are judged by this fact: I am the Light from God that has come into the world. But men did not want light. They wanted darkness because they were doing evil things. ²⁰Everyone who does evil hates the light. He will not come to the light because it will show all the evil things he has done. ²¹But he who follows the true way comes to the light. Then the light will show that the things he has done were done through God."

Post Communion Prayer

Loving God,
as a mother feeds her children at the breast
you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life:
help us who have tasted your goodness, to grow in grace within the household of faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

REFLECTION – Debbie Adams/Hazel O’Sullivan – to follow

Prayer Pointers

Hold before God all mothers and thank God for mothers who nurtured and cared for us.

Pray for all who would love to be mothers, but for whatever reason, cannot. Pray for those who have suffered miscarriages or whose children died during birth or subsequently.

Pray for mothers who are struggling to make ends meet during this cost-of-living crisis.

In the Southwark Diocesan Prayer Cycle, pray for the congregation of St Mary Magdalene, Peckham - for their vicar Olu Adams and their Reader, Sonia Phippard.

Pray for those involved in Industrial Relations especially those negotiating with workers on strike. Pray that there will be a fair and just settlement to the disputes with NHS staff.

Pray for those countries torn apart by war and civil unrest - 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.