

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

21st May 2023: 7th Sunday of Easter

Hazel writes:

We had a great example of linking with the wider **COMMUNITY** at St Francis' last week when nine Squirrel scouts and many of their parents joined our service. It is intended that this will happen on a monthly basis, so please do join us on Sunday 11th June when we will enjoy their company again.

During the week our Christian Aid fundraising, showing **COMPASSION** for those in need, enabled us to enjoy a fun quiz at our women's event.

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

Next **Sunday 28th May**, we will have Holy Communion services to celebrate Pentecost at 8am in St Francis' Church, 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.

We have a fundraising **film night** for Christian Aid on Tuesday 23rd May in St Mary's Church. Come and enjoy a comedy that points to God having a great sense of humour. Drinks and snacks will be available from 7.15pm and we will start the film at 7.30pm.

Nina Tilling's funeral service will be in St Francis' Church at 2.15pm on Wednesday 24th May, with refreshments afterwards in the North Aisle.

Spring means a new season of **lunchtime concerts** to be held at St. Francis church. The first is a piano recital of varied music given by a newcomer to us, Kwanyee Chan, and I'm sure we can give her a warm welcome. She will be playing on **Thursday 25th May**, from 12.45 pm, and as usual tea and coffee will be available beforehand. Please note the date and bring along a friend!

The Matchbox is back and will be presenting *Amy's View* by David Hare on June 8th, 9th & 10th. *Amy's View* takes the audience on a tense and emotional journey between a strong mother and her loving daughter who finds herself caught between a mother she adores, but who also represents the past, and Dominic, the problematic love of her life and questionable symbol of the future. Throughout the play there is a running argument about the value of the arts which becomes inextricably bound up with marital relations, love, fidelity, and integrity. We recommend you use Ticket Source to book your tickets: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-matchbox-theatre>, although you can also telephone the box office (0845 6804568).

This week sees the start of 11 days of prayer, known as **Thy Kingdom Come**. There are some booklets in the churches to help you in prayer during this time. As a follow up to this time, Hazel will be holding a **prayer event** on **Sat 10th June** from 10am to 12noon at St Mary's. This will be a time to explore different types of prayer as well as to get feedback on her sabbatical last November.

St. Mary's Garden Party and Barbecue is on **Saturday 17th June** from **11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.** Donations of cakes, plants etc. would be much appreciated and also offers of help on the day.

St. Mary's are needing someone to take over **hall bookings** from Jackie Greatorex as she wishes to retire from the post after 13 years. If you think you might be able to help with this, please get in touch with Jackie on jackiegreatorex@googlemail.com as soon as possible to find out more what is required. Jackie is still prepared to do any purchasing for the hall but needs to hand over the administration of all hall bookings. This is 95% of the time a home-based position working with the computer. There is a team of volunteers to do locking and unlocking of the hall. Please give this serious thought as this is a very important position for our church as the hall provides much needed finances.

Please bring **Foodbank donations** to the Vicarage or St Francis' Church. Currently they require squash/cordial, cooking sauce, cold meat tins, canned tomatoes, UHT fruit juice, desserts and washing up liquid. They have plenty of cereal, tea and biscuits. 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'.

The sanctuary pedestal at St. Mary's has been donated and arranged by Merri for John's birthday.

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

Risen, ascended Lord,
as we rejoice at your
triumph, fill your
Church on earth with
power and compassion,
that all who are
estranged by sin
may find forgiveness
and know your peace,
to the glory of God the
Father.

First Reading:**Acts 1: 6-14**

⁶ So when they had
come together, they
asked him, 'Lord, is this
the time when you will
restore the kingdom to
Israel?' ⁷ He replied, 'It is
not for you to know the
times or periods that
the Father has set by his
own authority. ⁸ But you
will receive power when
the Holy Spirit has come
upon you; and you will
be my witnesses in
Jerusalem, in all Judea
and Samaria, and to the
ends of the earth.'

⁹ When he had said this,

as they were watching,
he was lifted up, and a
cloud took him out of
their sight.

¹⁰ While he was going
and they were gazing up
towards heaven,
suddenly two men in
white robes stood by
them. ¹¹ They said,

'Men of Galilee, why do
you stand looking up
towards heaven? This
Jesus, who has been
taken up from you into
heaven, will come in the
same way as you saw
him go into heaven.'

¹² Then they returned to
Jerusalem from the
mount called Olivet,
which is near Jerusalem,
a sabbath day's journey
away. ¹³ When they had
entered the city, they
went to the room
upstairs where they
were staying, Peter, and
John, and James, and

Andrew, Philip and
Thomas, Bartholomew
and Matthew, James
son of Alphaeus, and
Simon the Zealot, and
Judas son of James. ¹⁴ All
these were constantly
devoting themselves to
prayer, together with
certain women,
including Mary the
mother of Jesus, as well
as his brothers.

Gospel Reading:**John 17: 1-11**

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶ 'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you

gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

REFLECTION – Brian Griffiths (to follow)

Prayer Pointers

Pray for time and space to stop and wait when we can reflect on the roots of our faith. Pray that our looking up may enable us to better look around and see Jesus working amongst us.

Thank God for the recent social and fundraising events in our Benefice – especially the Musicals Concert with St John's and the afternoon tea and piano recital last Saturday. Pray that events such as these will bring us all closer together.

In the Southwark Diocesan Prayer Cycle, pray for our own Deanery of Croydon Addington and for Deborah Forman the Area Dean.

Pray again for peace on the streets of our city, after five people were stabbed last weekend. Among them pray for the 14-year-old boy stabbed in Crystal Palace and the 18-year-old stabbed in Bromley. Pray for the families of the victims and for those responsible for bringing the perpetrators to justice.

Continue to pray for God's hand on the situation in Ukraine. Pray for all those unable to flee and living amid bombing - dreading the sirens and wondering where the next strike will hit. Lord, we ask for an end to all wars and unrest. Blanket the world with your peace.

Pray for those who yearn for God's comfort and sustaining love right now. Pray for those who are ill, in sadness or in confusion. In our congregations pray for these by name – Vicky Pearce, Jane Smith, Joan Burford, Graham Stone, Rowena Griffiths, Daphne Dack, John Dack, Barbara Goodchild, Joan Mountain, James Pitt-Payne, Pat Allegacone and Sue Jones – and those known to God alone.

Hold before God all those who have died. Pray especially for Peter Tilling, Nina Tilling, Robbie Georgel, Pam Faull, George Verwer, Mike East and Martin Rees and their families. Hold before God those for whom it is a time of anniversary and those for whom the pain never seems to get any better.