

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

29th January 2023: Candlemas

Hazel writes:

The church magazines are out this week with articles that look forward to Lent and backwards at 45 years in ministry, as well as reports on our link church in Zimbabwe, the introduction of a peace candle at St Francis' and an environmental audit done at St Mary's.

Next **Sunday 5th February**, we will have Holy Communion services for at 8am in St Mary's Church and at 10am 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.

Our monthly **Action Aid Coffee Morning** will be this Saturday 4th February from 10.30-11.30am in St Francis' Church.

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.

Tony Goodchild's funeral service is on Tuesday 31st January at 12.30pm in St Francis' Church, with refreshments immediately afterwards in the North Aisle.

Barbara Plummer's funeral service is on Tuesday 14th February at 11.15am in St Francis' Church. If you would like to go to the reception afterwards at Club Langley, please let Kay Mussard know for catering purposes: kay@mussard.org.uk or 8650 8389.

Valentine's Ploughmen's Lunch Saturday 11th February 12.30 p.m. in St. Mary's Church Hall organised by the men of St. Mary's. There is a list to sign up in the vestibule at St. Marys or you can book your place through Beryl Bolton 0208 289 8097 or berylbolton@hotmail.com. You will need to indicate whether you wish for tomato or mushroom soup and whether you wish for ham, pate or cheese with your ploughmen's. The cost is £10 and all profits will be for church funds. There will also be a raffle. Numbers will be limited to 40 so book early to avoid disappointment.

We have a **new Archdeacon of Croydon**, Greg Prior. His service of welcome is being held on **Saturday 18 February 2023, 3pm** at **Christ Church Purley**. If anyone

would like to attend, you can register (by 31st Jan) on Eventbrite here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/welcome-service-for-the-archdeacon-of-croydon-tickets-452907136437>. Do let Hazel know if you are going, so that we can share lifts where possible.

Come to our **coffee morning** at St Francis Church Hall on Saturday 18th February 10.30-11.30am. There will be tea, coffee and cake and an introduction on how to do CPR and how to use our defibrillators in an emergency. Any funds raised will be donated to the British Heart Foundation.

Please contact Nicky (nicholanightingale@hotmail.co.uk or 8916 9855) or Liz (stevelizbraemar52@sky.com or 8777-2745) if you would like to provide any cakes.

We are slightly changing how we run our **Sunday morning communion services** to get an appropriate balance between returning to previous traditions and enabling everyone to feel safe in the church buildings:

- We will continue to distribute communion by the priest dipping the wafer in the wine, but will review whether to return to the common cup at Easter. If we do, then those who do not want to share the cup can still receive communion in one kind only. Please do speak to Richard or Hazel if you have a strong view one way or the other.
- On any livestream we will show what is happening in the church during communion. If you do not want to be seen on the livestream when receiving communion, please speak to Hazel, Richard or a warden on duty and we will bring communion to you.
- Sharing the peace can now be done in closer proximity, with a handshake or similar, but please be mindful of what each individual will feel comfortable with.
- With smaller numbers of people attending the services in the church buildings, it will help us to feel part of one community if we sit closer together. Please sit towards the front and in the middle of the buildings. This will also make it easier for you to sing along with the hymns.

A **qualified and experienced carer** known to our pastoral care team has some free time when she could take on another client, including help with things such as: personal care; food preparation; shopping; assistance with walking; laundry, ironing and some cleaning. If you, or someone you know, might benefit from some more help around the home, do call Izabela on 07761 326618.

You can get a free life-saving **home safety check** from the London Fire Brigade who will visit your home and do a fire safety check, including providing a free smoke alarm if necessary. This is especially helpful if you have mobility issues, including the

housebound. Please do let others know about this. You can get more detail at <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/the-home/home-fire-safety-visits/>

Churches Together in West Wickham continue to open **Warm Spaces** on five days each week (normally 9am-5pm) providing somewhere warm for people to meet in for free. If you could help with this for a couple of hours on a rota basis, please contact the following:

- For a Monday – Jon Hills (jon@wwsbc.org.uk or 020 8777 5705) at West Wickham & Shirley Baptist Church
- For a Tuesday – Ian Hamlin (ianh2102@hotmail.com or 07543 561868) at Coney Hill Baptist Church
- For a Wednesday - Kate Dyer (katedyer41@hotmail.com or 07808 468591) or Nicky Nightingale (nicholanightingale@hotmail.co.uk or 8916 9855) at St Francis' Church
- For a Thursday – Laura MacBean (laura.macbean@googlemail.com) at West Wickham Methodist Church
- For a Friday – Pat Best (patbest@btinternet.com or 020 8464 7208) at Emmanuel United Reformed Church

Please bring **Foodbank donations** to the Vicarage or St Francis' Church. Currently they require milk (long life), coffee, sweets, cooking sauces, soup, rice, tinned potatoes and other vegetables. They are well stocked with pasta, 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 Beryl for Tony's family's birthdays.

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

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and
glory of Israel:
make your home
among us, and present
us pure and holy to
your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God.

First Reading:**Malachi 3: 1-5**

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like

gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

⁵ Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

Gospel Reading**Luke 2: 22-40**

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought

him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon¹ this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him

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what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed

³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day.

³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned

to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

REFLECTION – Brian Griffiths to follow

Prayer Pointers

As we celebrate the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, thank God that Jesus came down to live amongst us and share our humanity. Mary and Joseph were poor. Pray for all who are struggling to make ends meet due to the cost-of-living crisis and hold before God all those who use churches in West Wickham as warm spaces.

As we remember Simeon and Anna in the Temple meeting Jesus, pray for patience in prayer in our own lives. Pray that we may see the Light of Christ, like Simeon and Anna, in those we meet in completely unexpected situations, and may others see that light reflected in our own lives.

As we remember the prophecy of Simeon declaring Jesus to be a light for everyone, pray for those who daily, no matter what the cost to themselves, speak out your words of truth, who step-out to help and heal and care and show your love even in face of danger.

In the Southwark Diocesan Prayer Cycle, pray for all churchwardens in the Diocese, especially our own wardens, Kate, Tim, Stephen and David. Thank God for all the time and energy they give to organise events and keep worship running smoothly.

Pray for Kate Harrison, the Vicar, and the congregation of St Mark's in St John's Wood in London Diocese which was completely destroyed by fire on Thursday evening.

Hold before God Members of Parliament and all in positions of responsibility nationally and locally. Pray that they may always seek to improve the condition of everyone and have a special concern for the poor and marginalised.

Pray for those who work for peace and for those who stand on the battlefield yearning for conflict to end and peace to be restored. Pray for those caught in the middle, who feel helpless and hopeless in the face of war and aggression. Hold before God the continuing war in Ukraine and conflicts in other countries around the world. Pray for just and peaceable solutions.

Pray for those we know and love, our family, friends, and neighbours who are in need this day, especially for the physically and mentally ill. 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 Mary Sanders and Keith Morley – and those known to God alone.

Hold before God all those who have died in the faith of Christ crucified. We remember especially those in our congregations who died recently: Tony Goodchild, Barbara Plummer and Stuart Froment and pray for the families of each of them.

Offer our own personal prayers and thanksgivings - all those things that worry us; those situations we feel helpless in; those decisions that burden us; those losses that overwhelm us, and all that we are thankful for.