

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

5th March 2023: Second Sunday of Lent

Hazel writes:

Next week is the **St Mary's Annual Parochial Church Meeting** after the 9.15am service. This is an important time when we get together and take note of those things to be thankful to God for and any concerns on the part of those in our congregation. Please do come along to hear about what the church has been doing, how it is run and how you can help. At the meeting we will be looking to recruit new members of the PCC, offering opportunities to visit other churches and see what they are doing, and to gain a greater insight into how God is working through the church. We are a friendly group who would appreciate anyone with new ideas to offer. Additionally, after 13 years of managing our hall bookings, Jackie Greatorex is looking to hand this on to someone else. We will discuss this at the APCM, but if you'd like some details about what's involved before then, please do speak to Jackie.

This week we have Holy Communion services at 8am in St Francis' Church and a joint service at 10am in St Mary's Church.

Next **Sunday 12th 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.

We have a **bereavement support group** meeting this week on Wednesday 8th March at 2.30pm in the Hewitt Room, Emmanuel Church, The Grove.

Messy Church is on Friday 10th March at 3.45pm in St Mary's. Please do tell friends and neighbours with young families about this monthly activity after school on a Friday.

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.

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 both of the churches if you do not have access to the internet.

St Mary's electoral roll is now being updated. If you consider yourself part of the church, but are not on the roll, please ask Chris Fitzgerald for an application form for enrolment.

The funeral arrangements for members of our congregations who have died recently are as follows:

- **Margaret Creedon** will have a service of cremation at Beckenham Crematorium on Friday 10th March at 9.30am. If you would like a lift there in a minibus from 26 Park Avenue at 9am, please speak with her daughter, Karen, on 07834 896915. There will be refreshments afterwards at 26 Park Avenue.
- **Stuart Froment's** service is on Wednesday 15th March at 1.30pm in St Mary's Church, followed by a cremation at Beckenham Crematorium and refreshments at The Railway from 3.30pm. Please let Norman Froment know (norman.froment@me.com) if you plan to join for the refreshments.
- **Joyce Town** will have a service of cremation in the East Chapel at Croydon Crematorium on Wednesday 22nd March at 11.15am. More details to follow.

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>.

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.

St. George's Supper will be held at St. Marys on Saturday 22nd April at 7.00 p.m. in the hall. This will be a three-course meal of prawn cocktail or melon, roast beef with all the trimmings, trifle and coffee. The cost will be £15 per head. Please provide your own alcoholic drinks. Places can be booked through Beryl Bolton on 0208 289 8097 or berylbolton@hotmail.com when you can provide your choice of starter. There will also be a raffle. Payment must be made at time of booking. Profit will be for church funds.

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. If you were a key holder previously, these will no longer work. PLEASE return the keys to the old doors to David Wada, both Yale and mortice – Thank you. There is a key attached to a wooden block 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. The Kitchen Door MUST BE UNLOCKED if the church is in use as this is 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. Thank you all for your help and support in this matter.

Churches Together in West Wickham are continuing with the **Warm Spaces** on five days each week (normally 9am-5pm) providing somewhere warm for people to meet in for free. This is also an opportunity to meet with volunteers from other churches and share some social time together, so if you are looking for some company, do join in at the following locations: ·

- On a Monday at West Wickham & Shirley Baptist Church ·
- On a Tuesday at Coney Hill Baptist Church ·
- On a Wednesday at St Francis' Church ·
- On a Thursday at West Wickham Methodist Church ·
- On a Friday at Emmanuel United Reformed Church

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.

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'.

No flowers now during Lent.

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

Almighty God,
by the prayer and
discipline of Lent
may we enter into the
mystery of Christ's
sufferings, and by
following in his Way,
come to share in his
glory; through Jesus
Christ our Lord.

First Reading:

Ephesians 6: 10-17

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand

firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵ As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Gospel Reading:

Mark 15: 33-39

³³ When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴ At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' ³⁵ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.' ³⁶ And someone ran, filled a sponge with

sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.' ³⁷ Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸ And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹ Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God,
you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies,
and inwardly in our souls;
that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

REFLECTION – Brian Griffiths (to follow)

Prayer Pointers

Hold before God all those who ask the question ‘Why are my prayers not being answered?’ Pray that they may be surrounded with the love of Christ. May they not give up on prayer and may they find hope in scripture and kind words from those around them. May they see that God is still there in the silence.

Hold before God, our link parish of St Andrew’ in Gwero in the Diocese of Central Zimbabwe. Pray that the parish will find the resources to complete building the rectory.

Continue to pray for everyone trying to bring some relief to the suffering after the earthquakes and aftershocks in Turkey and Syria. Hold before God those who are involved in the ongoing rescue and recovery effort, give them the resilience and patience they need to keep going.

In the Southwark Diocesan Prayer Cycle, pray for the congregations of Forest Hill Team Ministry. For their Team Vicar, Ifeanyi Chukuka, and within the Team Ministry for St George, Perry Hill and St Michael & All Angels, Lower Sydenham.

Hold before God the 57 victims of the Greek railway crash and their families. Pray for the rescue workers still searching the wreckage.

Pray for those people in our communities who are in the midst of life’ storms 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.