

ST. MARY OF NAZARETH /ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI – WEST WICKHAM
25th July & 1st August 2021: Eighth & Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Hazel writes:

Following the advice from our healing service last week, I am taking some rest and recuperation for two weeks at the moment. There will be no pew sheet next week and no on-line service, so you might want to watch something different if you cannot make it to a church building.

Next Sunday (1st August) we have Holy Communion services at **8am in St Mary's church** and at **10am in St Francis' Church**. On Sunday (8th August) we have Holy Communion services at **8am in St Francis' church** and at **10am in St Mary's Church**.

Morning Prayer is at St Mary's Church on Tuesday mornings at 9am and at St Francis' Church on Wednesday mornings at 9.30am, followed by the church being **open for private prayer** from 10.30-11.30am.

Resources and updates for the week ahead – This week our service will be **livestreamed** at 10am on YouTube. All other files for this week have been combined and posted as a pew sheet which has been sent on paper to those who have told us that they are not on-line. Next week there will be no separate pew sheet and no on-line provision of our service. 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 –the theme of the Keswick Convention this year is “Faithful” with preacher Alasdair Paine.
 - Choral Evensong at 3pm on Radio 3 from the Chapel of Selwyn College, Cambridge on the eve of the feast of Mary Magdalene.
 - **On BBC 2:** Sunday Morning Live at 9.30 a.m. - Sean Fletcher and Nina Wadia explore the ethical and religious issues of the day and
 - Songs of Praise at 1.15 p.m. - the Rev. Kate Bottley discovers the Catholic history of Boscobel House in Shropshire.

And for Sunday 1st August

- 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 – On the 4th August 2020 a nuclear sized explosion in Beirut devastated its ancient churches.
 - Choral Evensong at 3pm on Radio 3 from Worcester Cathedral during the 2021 Three Choirs Festival.
 - **On BBC 2:** Sunday Morning Live at 9.35 a.m. – Sean Fletcher and Nina Wadia explore the ethical and religious issues of the day and
 - Songs of Praise at 1.15 p.m. - Aled visits Hertfordshire to explore the link between faith and food for Coptic Christians.

Our **bereavement support bags** will be especially helpful in the months ahead. If you would like a bag to give to someone that you know who has lost a loved one, do take one from the back of either of the churches.

Our **Messy Church** in August will be face to face, mostly outside. We are praying for good weather and would like to include an activity with a paddling pool. If anyone has a paddling pool which could be lent to us for the day (Friday 13th August), please let Kay Mussard (kay@mussard.org.uk or 8650 8389) know.

Freedom from legal restrictions will enable us to make changes in our public worship, but Covid 19 is still a threat. From this week we are reintroducing congregational singing for hymns and the Gloria (and possibly serving refreshments, ideally outside). We ask you to observe the following:

- Please keep your mask on, unless exempt or if you are leading the service in any way. Remember the mask mainly protects others from you, so if you care for others' wellbeing (Jesus said 'love your neighbour as yourself'), please keep your mask on.
- Please observe social distancing and only sit where there is a green tick, unless you are a family group, in which case at least one of you should sit on the green tick.
- If, when you are sitting, you are concerned about others being too close to you, feel free to move to another seat.

One-way systems will remain in place. At St Francis' we will use hymn books, as the audio-visual facilities do not facilitate easy provision of the words on screen. The sharing

of the Peace will continue in a socially distanced format and arrangements for administering Communion, bread only, will remain the same for the time being.

In the feedback on activities, it was clear that what many people have missed most is the social gatherings. To start these off again and to celebrate being able to look forward positively we will have an **afternoon tea** on Sunday 22nd August from 3-5pm in the gardens at St Mary's. If you would like to donate sandwiches and/or cake for this event, please contact Gifty Nortey office@stmarywestwickham.co.uk or Liz Raper stevelizbraemar52@sky.com. Alternatively, tell one of them that you'll be coming and make a monetary donation at the event.

Booking has now opened for the extremely popular Bishop's Certificate Course starting in September. There are five taught modules (5 weeks per module) and a final residential weekend module as follows:

- Following - about the New Testament
- Remembering - about the Old Testament
- Exploring - about the history of the church and what it means to be Anglican
- Believing - about what Christians believe
- Deepening - about living, serving and praying as a follower of Jesus
- Expecting - about putting your future into God's hands

For 2021/2022, there are four options to participate. Tuesday evenings at Trinity House, near London Bridge, Wednesday evenings online via 'Zoom', Thursday evenings online and Saturday mornings at Trinity House. The cost of the course is £220 which includes the residential event at Wychcroft. For more information about the course speak to Brian Griffiths our Reader who is also a course tutor, or Debbie Adams who has completed the course. To request an application form and a schedule of dates, visit bishopscertificate@southwark.anglican.org or telephone the Diocesan Office on 020 7939 9400 and ask for the Discipleship and Ministry Department.

"St Francis & St Marys will be collecting for the Bromley Foodbank on Saturday 31st July between 10 am and 3 pm, CAN YOU HELP?

We are looking for volunteers to spend one hour at the tables and take food and money from people as they make donations. The location is outside Croft Radio on the corner of the High Street and Ravenswood Avenue.

To volunteer, please contact Tim Shingler at tim.shingler@ntlworld.com or call 07785 772649.

Thank you for your help with this important outreach project."

ADVANCE NOTICE: Some of us will be going to **The Southwark Diocesan Spirituality Day, 'Wells of Salvation'** on

Saturday 9th October, 10.00 am-1.00 pm, in Southwark Cathedral. Cost £5.00

A morning of meditations, prayer, sung worship and restoration. Speakers include - the Venerable Justine Allain Chapman, the Archdeacon of Boston, author of *The Resilient Disciple*, writer and broadcaster Nick Mayhew-Smith, Bishop Christopher with oboe player Amy Roberts and members of Southwark Cathedral choir. Tickets available from: <https://spirituality-day.eventbrite.co.uk>

If you would like to join us and are not on the internet or need help with booking your ticket please contact Rowena Griffiths for further information on 8777 6112 or rowena.griff19@btinternet.com

Following the recent Refugee's Journey immersive exhibition at Coney Hill Baptist Church Deacon Laura MacBean has set up a JustGiving page to raise funds for **Hope Health Action's emergency appeal** for refugees in Uganda's BidiBidi settlement through a sponsored walk. She will walk 25 miles in the first week of July 2021 (the distance some of the refugees said they had fled to BidiBidi from their village in South Sudan) and build up to 128 miles by 31st July 2021. Please sponsor her here: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/laura-macbean>

Please bring **Foodbank donations** to the Vicarage or St Francis' Church. Currently their biggest need is "bags for life". They also need jellies, instant whips, biscuits, tinned tomatoes, coffee, squash, deodorant, cleaning spray, antiseptic wipes and washing up liquid. Please do not bring any fresh 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>.

Our **United in Giving** campaign, which ran during April and May has resulted in some people signing up to the Parish Giving Scheme. If you would rather increase your financial contribution to St Francis or St Mary's churches by other means, please note that we can receive on-line donations through our websites, as well as through machines in both churches which accept contactless payment cards. Please do ask about these ways of donating if these would suit you better than using cash, direct debit or a standing order.

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 Nicky Nightingale (nicholanightingale@hotmail.co.uk or 8916 9855) for St Francis'

The pedestal at St. Marys this week has been provided by Dave and Wendy Taylor in memory of Dave's brother and has been arranged by Merri.

Are you keen to help a small independent business survive as they emerge from the pandemic? A young couple with a carpentry business are about to lose their current workshop space. If you have a spare garage or workshop space with an electric supply, which you would be happy to let them use, with costs covered, please contact Toby and Saffron at TM12358@outlook.com or 07872 938235.

Glebe Housing Association are looking for a volunteer minibus driver for any of the following mornings each week: Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri. You could make a real difference for residents who value being able to access local community activities and shops. You must have had a FULL UK Driving License for 2 years or more and this must include category D1, with no serious driving convictions. If you are interested, please contact the HR department at hr@glebeha.org.uk or call 0208 777 1122.

St Francis and St Mary's are working with the St John's Community Befriending Team to help tackle loneliness in the community by providing volunteer **Telephone Befrienders** for people referred by NHS Social Prescribers. More volunteers are always needed to give regular support to someone on the telephone. When asked about this opportunity, one befriender said:

I have found it very rewarding and so easy to do. The person I support says "it's so nice to hear a different voice and talk about different things". We normally have a lovely chat about what we've been up to and what's going on in the world and exchange ideas about gardening. Today she advised me to use porridge and garlic paste to help ward off snails. It's great to know that my volunteering has benefited both of us'.

If this is something you think you might want to be involved in, please contact Kate Dyer katedyer41@hotmail.com.

"We are delighted to be able to commence our **Thursday lunchtime concerts at St. Francis** this year and, although it will be a shorter season than usual, we have some very talented musicians happy to come and play for us. The dates for your diary are: August 12th, August 26th and September 23rd. All commence at 12.45. Further details of programmes soon.

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.

Any items for the joint pew sheet to Beryl bbolton@ntlworld.com and items for the websites to brian.griff19@btinternet.com or Gifty office@stmarywestwickham.co.uk

Collect

Merciful God, whose holy apostle Saint James, leaving his father and all that he had, was obedient to the calling of your Son Jesus Christ and followed him even to death: help us, forsaking the false attractions of the world, to be ready at all times to answer your call without delay; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

First Reading:

Acts 11: 27 – 12: 2

²⁷ At that time prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸ One of them named Agabus stood up and predicted by the Spirit that there would be a severe famine over all the world; and this took place during the reign of Claudius. ²⁹ The disciples determined that according to their ability, each would send relief to the believers living in Judea; ³⁰ this they did, sending it to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

12 About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. ² He had James,

the brother of John, killed with the sword.

Gospel Reading:

Matthew 20: 20-28

²⁰ Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favour of him. ²¹ And he said to her, 'What do you want?' She said to him, 'Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.' ²² But Jesus answered, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?' They said to him, 'We are able.' ²³ He said to them, 'You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.'

²⁴ When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. ²⁵ But Jesus called them to him and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. ²⁶ It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be

St James the Apostle

great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; ²⁸ just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

Post Communion Prayer

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have taken holy things; may the ears which have heard your word be deaf to clamour and dispute; may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit; may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love shine with the light of hope; and may the bodies which have been fed with your body be refreshed with the fullness of your life; glory to you for ever.

Collect

Gracious Father, revive your Church in our day, and make her holy, strong and faithful, for your glory's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord.

First Reading:**Ephesians 4 1-16**

4 I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. ⁷ But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore it is said, 'When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.' ⁹ (When it says, 'He ascended', what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹ The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until all of us come to

the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴ We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

Gospel Reading:**John 6: 24-35**

²⁴ So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. ²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' ²⁶ Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.' ²⁸ Then they said to him, 'What must we do to perform the works of

God?' ²⁹ Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.' ³⁰ So they said to him, 'What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?' ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat." ³² Then Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' ³⁴ They said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.' ³⁵ Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

Post Communion Prayer

Holy Father, who gathered us here around the table of your Son to share this meal with the whole household of God: in that new world where you reveal the fullness of your peace, gather people of every race and language to share in the eternal banquet of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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REFLECTION for the 8th Sunday of Trinity – 25th July 2021 St James - Ken Bryan

Today we celebrate St. James. There were two disciples named James. This is not the son of Alphaeus but the one who is referred to as James the Great. He was the son of Zebedee and Salome and brother of John. He was a fisherman with his father working in Galilee. When Jesus asked him and his brother to follow him he was mending fishing nets in their boat on Lake Gennesaret.

He and his brother immediately left everything behind and went with Jesus. He stayed with Jesus throughout his ministry. He was one of the close friends who was with Jesus on several significant occasions such as when Peter's mother-in-law was healed and at the raising of Jairus' daughter. He was also chosen by Jesus to be with him at his transfiguration on the Mount of Olives.

James and his brother were nicknamed 'Boanerges' meaning sons of thunder. Probably this was because of their impetuous desire to strike down the Samaritan village with fire from heaven when it refused hospitality to Jesus. But Jesus rebuked them for this idea. (Luke 9:54-55).

After Jesus' crucifixion we have little specific information of what James did but we know the disciples stayed together at first and then went out to spread the gospel. And some ten years later James was the first of the apostles to be martyred. He was beheaded under the instructions of Herod Agrippa.

A later tradition that he preached in Spain and that his body was brought from Jerusalem after his martyrdom and was buried there is unlikely, but he has become the patron saint of Spain also of pilgrims and labourers.

In our gospel reading I am not sure if we have a pushy mother or cunning sons who convince their mother to speak up for them. Either way she comes to Jesus with the request that her sons be granted the honour of sitting either side of Jesus 'in his kingdom'. The gospel doesn't comment that the sons were at all embarrassed by their mother asking this of Jesus.

When asked if they would drink of the same cup as Jesus they say that they are able to. Meaning that they will accept whatever befalls Jesus for themselves. When Jesus says that you will indeed drink of my cup he may well have been giving a foresight into the martyrdom of James. Not that they really understood at that time the full implications of what he was saying to them.

Perhaps they thought it was all nearly over as Jesus made his way to Jerusalem. They had left everything behind to follow Jesus, and had gone about the country with him as he preached, healed and performed miracles. They had endured hardships and setbacks. So perhaps it was now time to ask, 'What shall we have'? As if nothing were now to be looked for but the benefits of their success. However they did not realise that there were far greater hardships and difficulties before them than they had yet met with. They imagined their struggle was accomplished when in fact it had scarcely begun.

The disciples were thinking in this world terms of being successful, with power, position and prestige.

Had they forgotten or chosen to ignore what they had heard in the Sermon on the Mount. Or what Jesus taught them saying 'the first will be last, and the last will be first'.

The other disciples were angry yet Jesus appears to be less angry than concerned that, despite having shared in his ministry and heard his teaching, the disciples still don't understand what genuine service looks like. Jesus contrasts the values of the world where 'rulers of the Gentiles lord it over their subjects' with the values of the kingdom. Among them, he stresses, whoever wishes to be great must be a servant

He is saying that they should follow his example. He was forsaking heavenly glory to share fully in our human condition. Not only that, he says that he has come to serve. And he has shown that in his dealings with the poor, the sick and the marginalised. And the ransom he will pay will set free those who were enslaved by sin.

Now for his disciples they are to serve and if any think they should be first then they should be as a slave. A real reversal of the way the world operates. Jesus here sets himself before his disciples as a pattern of humility, and usefulness.

The disciples stayed together after the crucifixion and then went out enthused to spread the gospel of the coming of God's kingdom here on earth. They also served people where there was a need.

Like St James in following Jesus we should be doing that work which he sets before us to serve him and to serve our neighbour.

We are told by Paul in Ephesians 4:11 and 12 The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

Well the saints are not only those who have been made a saint by the church but as it says in Psalm 31:23 Love the LORD, all you his saints.

And in Romans 1:7 To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints.

So the saints are all believers.

Then what does that mean for us? We are the saints of today. We are to serve as Jesus did and his disciples did. We are not to expect society success but through humility serve where we can and do what we can for those in need.

I believe we can get nudges or promptings for what we should be doing from many sources. One of those is through songs. I have always liked pop songs from early days and have thought that the words of many songs speak to me in different situations. Surely now there are songs that speak of how we can serve.

I think of 'Help' by the Beatles which readily comes to mind. How many people during this pandemic have cried for help? Surely it is for us to be there for them as they say 'help me if you can I'm feeling down and I do appreciate you being round, help me get my feet back on the ground, Please, please help me'. What a request from the heart which could be from someone we know or someone we don't but surely we must respond and bring that help to the suffering to help get them back on an even keel.

That leads me to one of my favourite singers, James Taylor who sang the Carole King song, 'You've got a friend'. This includes the words 'When you are down and troubled and need a helping hand and nothing is going right soon I'll be there, you've got a friend'. It even has the line 'and I'll come knocking on your door'. Which in these days could also include, a telephone call, a letter or email or even a video call, just to make contact.

We have a friend in Jesus as the hymn goes and we can be the friend to others at their time of need.

'A bridge over troubled water' sung by Simon and Garfunkel has the words 'When you're weary, feeling small, when tears are in your eyes, I'll dry them all, I'm on your side'.

And only this week I heard the Bill Withers song 'Lean on me' with the words

'Sometimes in our lives we all have pain we all have sorrow, but if we are wise we know that there's always tomorrow. Lean on me when you're not strong and I'll be your friend I'll help you carry on...'

And it has a final verse 'If there is a load you have to bear, that you can't carry, I'm right up the road, I'll share your load if you just call me.'

I am sure that there are many other songs that you know where the words are particularly relevant to a situation which can be a prompt for our service.

So on this day when we celebrate St James we look to mirror not the pride that he showed in seeking what he could not have but to be humble pilgrims like the disciples who followed the model Jesus set before them of humility and usefulness in our ministry that God sets before each one of us.

Amen

Prayer Pointers

- That our faith and our discipleship may be defined by our service to others. Through our service may others know that we belong to Christ.
- For all in ministry in the church that they may use their ministry to spread kindness and love.
- For our two churches of St Mary's and St Francis' as we consider how best to reset our worship as restrictions begin to ease. Pray for a new long-term vision for the future of our two churches.
- For businesses and services that are experiencing difficulties as a result of staff having to self-isolate.
- For all who have suffered loss as a result of the floods in Germany and other European countries
- For peace on the streets of cities in South Africa – for an end to the unrest and the looting.
- For all those who are ill and for their friends and relatives – especially for Vicky Pearce and Julie Bailey – and all those unknown to us, but known to God alone.