

ST. MARY OF NAZARETH/ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI – WEST WICKHAM
1ST DECEMBER 2024 ADVENT SUNDAY

A message from Richard: *Following the talk the other Sunday, Safeguarding Sunday, by the Southwark Diocesan Advisors on Modern Slavery, I made the following points: Safeguarding is of major importance and the responsibility of everyone. If anyone experiences, hears or sees anything at all that concerns them, they should contact the relevant safeguarding officer, in person, in total confidence for the matter to be dealt with. For St Mary's Charlotte Wilson is the safeguarding officer, for St Francis it's Kim Teare.*

Services over the next two weeks

Sunday 1 st December	8.00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Mary's 10.00 a.m. Joint Service at St. Francis
Sunday 8 th December	8.00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Francis 9.15 a.m. Morning Praise at St. Mary's 10.45 a.m. Morning Worship at St. Francis

Services are livestreamed on YouTube during the main services, weekly at St Mary's and whenever possible at St Francis.

December 1st, Advent Sunday: At our joint service at St Francis, we shall be welcoming the Bishop of Croydon, Bishop Rosemarie, to preach and preside at our Holy Communion service. We anticipate that she will join us afterwards to meet with members of the congregation.

Weekly services/Prayers

Tuesday at 10am	Pray for growth of the church held at 130 The Avenue. Contact Jean Pogose on 8289 5996 for more information.
Wednesday at 9:30am	Morning Prayer at St Francis
Wednesday at 10:30am	St Francis' open for private prayer till 11:30am
Thursday at 9am	Morning prayer at St Mary's

Upcoming Events

Please note there will be **NO Action Aid coffee morning next Saturday 7th** as preparations will be happening for the Big Sing in the afternoon.

The next coffee morning will be on the first Saturday of the New Year - **4th January 2025**. Hope to see you there.

Big Christmas Sing Saturday 7th December 4.00 p.m. at St. Francis. Please try and come along and support this event. All proceeds to Christian Aid. See item below under notices regarding mince pies.

Christmas Tree Festival at St. Francis 14th to 21st December. See item under notices.

Please pray for the following people associated with our community:

Vicky Pearce, Jane Smith, Rowena Griffiths, Daphne Dack, John Dack, Sue Jones, Barry Burford, Pam Tabner, Barbara Goodchild, Marcia Chandler, Tim Curtis, Pauline Jackson and Jean Pogose.

Notices

Bromley Foodbank Christmas Appeal: We are not required this year, to help with the actual deliveries of the hampers from the Foodbank but they are in need of the following items URGENTLY – *Christmas Pudding, Tinned Ham, Biscuits, Chocolates, Mince Pies, Peanuts/Crisps, Selection Box, Yule Log, Christmas Crackers and Christmas Cake.* It will be very much appreciated if these items can be brought to the Joint service at St Francis this Sunday where there will be a table at the back to receive them. Thank you so very much.

Common Cup: We shall be returning to the use of a shared chalice from this Sunday. There is absolutely NO OBLIGATION to receive the wine at Communion. We entirely understand that some people may feel anxious about this. If you do not wish to receive the wine, then simply leave the altar rail after you have received the bread (wafer).

Donations of mince pies or cash in lieu would be much appreciated for **the Big Christmas Sing.** Please give to David Wada at St. Francis and Margaret Bond or Kay Mussard at St. Mary's. Thank you. There is a bag in the vestibule at St. Mary's for the mince pies and there is a box at the back of St Francis for donations of mince pies and a list for volunteers. If you would like to help with refreshments on the day that would much appreciated. Please add your name to the list or speak to Gill Kehoe.

The second Community Christmas Tree Festival will be held between 14th – 21st December at St Francis Church and we are looking for volunteers to help during the following opening times:

- Saturday 14 December – 10.00am – 1.00pm
- Sunday 15 December – 12.00noon – 3.00pm
- Wednesday 18 December – 10.30am – 1.00pm
- Friday 20 December – 10.00am – 1.00pm
- Saturday 21 December – 10.00am – 1.00pm

If you are able to help either to Welcome and support with any questions or to help serve refreshments (tea/coffee/biscuits) please can you sign up on the sheets available at St Francis and St Mary's or let either Kate Dyer katedyer41@hotmail.com or Nicky Nightingale nicholanightingale@hotmail.co.uk know.

Women's Group Christmas Tree: This year our tree will be decorated with pictures (with names) of great women who have inspired us or are significant to us, famous or not, alive or not. Please do bring along pictures already made up as decorations or bring along the pictures to be made up as decorations. Please drop them into either St Francis or St Mary's over the next 2 weeks ready for the Christmas Tree Festival between 14-21 December. Thank you.

Once again **Kay and Geoff** have offered to **deliver Christmas cards locally** for those from St. Marys not able to get out. Please contact Kay or Beryl when your cards are ready, and they will arrange to pick them up. They must be with Kay and Geoff by the **15thDecember.**

If anyone from **St. Marys** would like to donate towards the cost of the Christingles, please give to either of the Churchwardens or if you prefer to buy some sweets its jelly babies or any other **soft** small sweets to put on the cocktail sticks. Thank you.

If anyone at **St. Mary's** could provide a few **cakes for the tea after the Carol Service** on the 22nd of December at 4.00 p.m. it would be much appreciated.

Please encourage children to bring a small toy along with them on **Christmas Day** to the 10am Family Communion service at St Francis. Maybe something they found during early morning stocking present unwrapping!

Warm space: This will take place from **10.00 am – 2.00 pm on a Wednesday morning at St Francis** as unfortunately we have been unable to find volunteers to be able to open for longer. Thank you to those who have already told me that they can help with this. We always have two volunteers on at a time and in general they do a 2-hour shift. If anyone else is happy to volunteer to help, please could you get in touch with me by email.

We are also looking for new ideas for the Warm Space perhaps some special activity that people can join in with. If you have any ideas and would be prepared to get involved with putting it on just get in touch. Maybe you could run a painting morning or a “knit and natter” or have other wonderful ideas. Thank you. Kate.

katedyer41@hotmail.com

We will continue to collect items for the **Bromley Homeless Starter Pack Scheme** for those starting out in a new home with nothing. Starter Packs for families in need include cutlery, crockery, duvet covers (not duvets) pillowcases, tea towels, saucepans, frying pans, bath towels, toothbrushes etc. Please continue to bring these items to St. Francis.

Flowers: 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’.

Items for pew sheet to Beryl berylbolton@hotmail.com **Deadline is Thursday MIDDAY**

Items for St Mary’s website to Gifty office@stmarywestwickham.co.uk

Items for St Francis’ website to Bo bolaptop1@outlook.com

December 1st Advent Sunday

Collect

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the
light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

First Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³ And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading: Luke 12.25-36

²⁵ And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁶ If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? ²⁷ Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ²⁸ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! ²⁹ And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. ³⁰ For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

³² 'Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵ 'Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶ be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks.

Post Communion

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord

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