

ST. MARY OF NAZARETH/ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI – WEST WICKHAM  
**22<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER 2024 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

***This pew sheet will cover the 29<sup>th</sup> of December as well and the next pew sheet will not be printed until the 5<sup>th</sup> January.***

**Services over the next two weeks**

Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	8.00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Mary's 10.45 a.m. Carols at St. Francis 4.00 p.m. Carol Service at St. Mary's followed by tea in the hall
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	4.00 p.m. Christingle Service at St. Mary's 6.00 p.m. Lighting the lamps at St. Francis 11.15 p.m. Midnight Communion at St. Mary's 11.15 p.m. Midnight Communion at St. Francis
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00 a.m. Joint Family Communion at St. Francis
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> December	8.00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Francis 10.00 a.m. Joint Holy Communion at St. Mary's
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	8.00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Mary's 10.00 a.m. Joint Service at St. Francis

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

**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 <b>private prayer</b> till 11:30am
Thursday at 9am	Morning prayer at St Mary's

***Please note that there will be no Morning Prayer in St Francis' on Wednesdays December 25<sup>th</sup> or January 1<sup>st</sup> or St Mary's on Thursdays December 26<sup>th</sup> and January 2<sup>nd</sup>. They will restart the week beginning January 6<sup>th</sup>. Those who receive the daily reflections on the Morning Prayer readings, and anyone else who is interested, are reminded, if they haven't already done so, to pick up a "Follow the Star" booklet, which covers the 12 days of Christmas, from the back of either church. We shall begin circulating our own reflections again from Monday January 6<sup>th</sup>. Prayer for growth of the church will also take a break and re-commence on the 6<sup>th</sup> January.***

## Upcoming Events

**4<sup>th</sup> January 2025** next Action Aid Coffee Morning

### **Please pray for the following people associated with our community:**

Vicky Pearce, Jane Smith, Rowena Griffiths, Daphne Dack, John Dack, , Barry Burford, Pam Tabner, Barbara Goodchild, Marcia Chandler, Tim Curtis and Pauline Jackson. Please pray for the soul of Sue Jones who died recently and remember her family at this time.

## Notices

A new booklet of Jane Smith's poems called "**POEMS OF HOPE**" is now available to purchase at £5 a copy from the Kintsugi Hope charity at:-

<https://shop.kintsugihope.com/products/poems-of-hope>

Proceeds from the sale of the book will go towards the work of Kintsugi Hope which seeks to provide communities where mental and emotional health is accepted and understood and where everyone can flourish.

**'Other Earth' Christmas Tree Scheme:** St Francis' are participating in the 'Other Earth' Christmas Tree scheme this year. They have included St Francis on their website [www.otherearth.co.uk](http://www.otherearth.co.uk). Order online and select 'St Francis Church West Wickham' as the charity and we will receive a £5 donation from the company. Customers will have the option to choose between free local delivery or click and collect their tree from Bromley FC. Visit Bromley Football Club from 9.30 a.m. Monday to Sunday or buy online.

**Nominate a charity for the 12 days of giving draw: Please can you vote for St Francis of Assisi** to get the opportunity receive £1,000 which will be very useful for St Francis by using the below link: [Movement for Good - Nominate a charity for an award](#). Many thanks David Wada

**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](mailto: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](mailto:nicholanightingale@hotmail.co.uk) or 8916 9855) for St Francis'.

### **Flowers at St Francis**

The displays for Sunday 22 December have been requested by Rowena Griffiths in memory of Brian whose birthday would have been on 20<sup>th</sup> December and also from Lesley East and Margaret Thorne.

Both churches have been decorated for Christmas by those on the flower rotas.

The porch arrangement at St. Mary's has been donated by Jean Mathers as a Thank you to all her friends for their support and good wishes when she was ill.

Items for pew sheet to Beryl [berylbolton@hotmail.com](mailto:berylbolton@hotmail.com) **Deadline is Thursday MIDDAY**

Items for St Mary's website to Gifty [office@stmarywestwickham.co.uk](mailto:office@stmarywestwickham.co.uk)

Items for St Francis' website to Bo [bolaptop1@outlook.com](mailto:bolaptop1@outlook.com)

## 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 Fourth Sunday of Advent

### Collect

Eternal God,  
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,  
so we wait for his coming in glory;  
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age  
to see, with her, our great salvation  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

### First Reading: Micah 5: 2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth <sup>5</sup> and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

This is the word of the Lord

### Thanks be to God

### Gospel reading: Luke 1: 39-45

<sup>9</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.

### Post Communion

Heavenly Father,  
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of the promised saviour:  
fill us your servants with your grace,  
that in all things we may embrace your holy will  
and with her rejoice in your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

**CHRISTMAS EVE Midnight /CHRISTMAS MORNING 10.00 a.m.**

**Collect**

Eternal God,  
in the stillness of this night  
you sent your almighty Word  
to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation:  
give to the earth the peace that we long for  
and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven  
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**Collect**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
your birth at Bethlehem  
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:  
accept our heartfelt praise  
as we worship you,  
our Saviour and our eternal God.

**First Reading: Isaiah 52: 7-10**

.  
How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces  
peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation ,who says to Zion, 'Your God  
reigns.' <sup>8</sup> Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices together they sing for joy; for in plain  
sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. <sup>9</sup> Break forth together into singing, you  
ruins of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### **Gospel Reading: John 1: 1-14**

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life,<sup>l</sup> and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son full of grace and truth.

### **Post Communion**

God our Father,  
in this night you have made known to us again  
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:  
confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him  
until the day dawns  
and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.  
To him be glory both now and for ever.

*© The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England. Bible reading from the New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicised Edition, copyright © 1989, 1995 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.*

## 29<sup>th</sup> December 2024 First Sunday of Christmas

### **Collect**

God in Trinity,  
eternal unity of perfect love:  
gather the nations to be one family,  
and draw us into your holy life  
through the birth of Emmanuel,  
our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **First Reading: Colossians 3: 12-17**

<sup>12</sup> As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

<sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ<sup>1</sup> dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

<sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

## **Gospel Reading: Luke 2. 41- 52**

<sup>41</sup> Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup> When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup> Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup> When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him.

<sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.'

<sup>49</sup> He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup> Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

<sup>52</sup> And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

## **Post Communion**

Heavenly Father,  
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home:  
help your Church to live as one family,  
united in love and obedience,  
and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*© The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England. Bible reading from the New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicised Edition, copyright © 1989, 1995 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.*