

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

21st April 2024: Fourth Sunday of Easter - St George

Hazel writes:

Following my message last week, this week's pew sheet is in the format that we propose going forwards. If you receive this on-line and would like to have more spiritual input in written form, you could ask to be added to those who receive our Morning Prayer reflections. This is a brief reflection on two readings from the Old and New Testament sent every weekday.

For those who are not on-line, we will be in touch with you over the next couple of weeks to discuss what we might be able to provide. Can I also remind you that the following programmes continue to be broadcast by the BBC every week and are worth watching or listening to:

- Sunday Worship on Radio 4 at 8.10am.
- Songs of Praise every Sunday (normally at 1.15pm on BBC 1).
- Choral Evensong every Sunday at 3pm on Radio 3 (a repeat of a broadcast on Wednesdays at 3pm).

This week we have a Holy Communion service at 8am in St Mary's Church, and a joint service of Morning Worship for St George's Day at 10am in St Francis' Church, when we will be joined by the 7th West Wickham Scout Group.

Next **Sunday 28th April**, we will have Holy Communion services at 8am in St Francis' Church, at 9.15am in St Mary's Church and at 10.45am in St Francis' Church.

We meet to **pray for growth of the Church** on Tuesday mornings between 10-11am at 130, The Avenue. Please contact Jean Pogose for more information: (dennis.pogose@ntlworld.com or 8289-5996).

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.

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.

Hazel is hosting a **Farewell Community Tea** event for people to drop in to say 'goodbye' at St Francis' Church Hall from 3 to 5pm on Saturday 27th April. Please circulate the

flyer that is available in the churches to all those you know who are associated with St Francis' and St Mary's. All are welcome: do come along and bring a friend.

The West Wickham Rotary Club are hosting a **Rock Choir concert** at St Francis' Church on Saturday 27th April at 7.30pm. Tickets (£10) can be obtained from WestWickhamRotary@btinternet.com or from Matthews Jewellers on West Wickham High Street.

Children's Society Boxes at St. Marys are due for the annual count. Could all those who have a box please let Dave or Wendy Taylor have them in, or bring in any donations you'd like to make to the Children's Society. Thank you.

The Christian Aid Team have arranged the following events for **Christian Aid Week** to raise money for projects in Burundi, one of the poorest countries in Africa:

- **Saturday 11th May:** Join the **London Freedom Walk**, visiting churches in the City of London. It starts from 12.30pm at All Hallows by the Tower (or you can join later along the route) and finishes at 5pm with an option to experience full Choral Evensong inside St Paul's Cathedral. To take part you might be sponsored or give a donation to Christian Aid. You are welcome to go round the route on your own, or with friends, but if you would like to join us as a group please contact Jonathan Tickner (07774 422120 or jticknerphoto@gmail.com). Details of the route, which is just over 5km, are available on the following website: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/events/london-freedom-walk>.
- **Sunday 12th May: Family Quiz Evening** 7pm at St Mary's Church Hall, The Avenue, West Wickham. Bring your own drinks and snacks, tea and coffee provided. Teams of 6 to 8 - come as a team or join a team when you arrive. Donations to Christian Aid (suggested minimum £5 per person). There will be a raffle so please bring some small change. Please let us know if you have a team (and how many people) or if you want to join a team on the night - contact Anna Seabrook (07791 106199 or anna_seabrook9@yahoo.co.uk)
- **Tuesday 14th May, Film Night** 7pm at St Mary's Church, West Wickham. The film is 'Hidden Figures', a biographical drama about three inspiring black, female mathematicians working on the NASA space Program. Refreshments and popcorn provided. Donations to Christian Aid. Please contact Tony Ivey (07771 942013 or iveytony@yahoo.co.uk) if you would like to come.
- **Saturday 18th May, 10 am - 2 pm, a Plant Sale** in the front garden of 80 Kingsway, Coney Hall and an activity for children. Please start sowing seeds and growing plants for this sale. If you have plants available, please contact Julie

Lancaster (020 8777 2373 or julie.lancaster08@gmail.com). Plants can be delivered to the front garden of 80 Kingsway 5.30 - 8 pm on Friday 17th May or from 8 am on Saturday 18th May.

We have set up an electronic envelope with Christian Aid to receive donations, which can be gift aided if appropriate. The link is <https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2024/west-wickham-cofe-churches>

If you're not so interested in walking a long distance on Saturday 11th May, please do come to the **Children's Society Coffee and Cake Sale** in the hall at St Francis' Church from 10am to 12noon where delicious home-made cakes will be on sale, together with coffee and biscuits, children's amusements, "Guess the weight of the Cake", and a Raffle. Donations of home-made cakes would be very welcome.

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

Vicky Pearce, Jane Smith, Graham Stone, Rowena Griffiths, Daphne Dack, John Dack, Sue Jones, Barry Burford, Pam Tabner, Mark Christy, David Taylor and Joan Mountain. Hold before God all those who have lost loved ones recently, praying especially for Jackie Greatorex and the family of Jack Bramwell.

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), pillow slips, tea towels, saucepans, frying pans, bath towel, toothbrushes, etc. Please continue to bring any excess items that you have in cupboards at home.

Please bring **Foodbank donations** to the Vicarage or St Francis' Church. Currently they require tinned vegetables (including tomatoes and potatoes) hot and cold meat tins, cooking sauces, UHT milk, squash, UHT fruit juice and jam. They have plenty of 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'.

Any items for the joint pew sheet to Beryl berylbolton@hotmail.com and items for the websites to Gifty office@stmarywestwickham.co.uk.

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Collect

God of hosts, who so kindled the flame of love
in the heart of your servant George
that he bore witness to the risen Lord by his life and by his death:
give us the same faith and power of love
that we who rejoice in his triumphs
may come to share with him the fullness of the resurrection;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

First Reading: 2 Timothy 2:3-13

As a good soldier of Christ Jesus, you must endure your share of suffering. Soldiers on duty don't work at outside jobs. They try only to please their commanding officer. No one wins an athletic contest without obeying the rules. And farmers who work hard are the first to eat what grows in their field. If you keep in mind what I have told you, the Lord will help you understand completely.

Keep your mind on Jesus Christ! He was from the family of David and was raised from death, just as my good news says. And because of this message, I am locked up in jail and treated like a criminal. But God's good news isn't locked in jail, and so I am willing to put up with anything. Then God's special people will be saved and given eternal glory because they belong to Christ Jesus. Here is a true message:

“If we died with Christ, we will live with him.

If we don't give up, we will rule with him.

If we deny that we know him, he will deny that he knows us.

If we are not faithful, he will still be faithful.

Christ cannot deny who he is.”

Gospel reading: John 15:18-21

¹⁸ If the people of this world hate you, just remember that they hated me first. ¹⁹ If you belonged to the world, its people would love you. But you don't belong to the world. I have chosen you to leave the world behind, and this is why its people hate you. ²⁰ Remember how I told you that servants are not greater than their master. So, if people mistreat me, they will mistreat you. If they do what I say, they will do what you say.

²¹ People will do to you exactly what they did to me. They will do it because you belong to me, and they don't know the one who sent me.

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Father,

you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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