

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

5th May 2024: Sixth Sunday of Easter

This week we have Holy Communion services at 8am in St Francis' Church, and a joint service at 10am in St Mary's Church, which will be Hazel's farewell service. Please do join us at the service and for refreshments afterwards if you haven't been able to book for the lunch which will follow.

There is a Deanery **Ascension Day Service** on Thursday 9th May at 7.30pm in St Edwards, New Addington.

On **Sunday 12th May**, we will have a Holy Communion service at 8am in St Francis' Church, and non-eucharistic services for Christian Aid Week 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.

St John's are running a **Bereavement Journey Course** over 7 weeks, starting on Tuesday 7th May (7.30-9.30pm). If you or someone you know has recently lost someone close, or if you would like to support others who find themselves in this situation, please contact either Sybil Andrew (sybilandrew11@gmail.com or 0208 462 5643) or Penny Seabrook (seabrookpenny@gmail.com or 0208 777 0014) for more information.

Messy Church is on Friday 10th May, at 3.45pm in St Mary's. We will be focussing on Pentecost. Please do tell friends and neighbours with young families about this monthly congregation which meets after school on the 2nd Friday of every month.

Resources and updates for the week ahead – Each week our service is livestreamed on YouTube at 10am or before.

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.

A number of people support St Francis of Assisi - West Wickham for free every time they shop online on #easyfundraising! Thanks to supporters like them they've raised £457.56 so far! If you're not already, join today and raise free donations when you shop with over 8,000 brands! All the big brands including Sainsbury's, Argos, M&S, eBay and many more are ready to donate. Plus, join today and they could win a £50 bonus: <https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/stfoawestwickham/28WNGC/s2s/FGzwYxpg/SE815/facebook>

Members of St Mary's can, of course, nominate St Mary's as the beneficiary of their online shopping.

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). We will be catching the 12.00 train from Hayes (or a little later at West Wickham). 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 **81** Kingsway (NOTE THIS IS ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE ROAD) 5.30 - 8 pm on Friday 17th May, or from 8 am on Saturday 18th May to 80 Kingsway.

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.

Tickets are available from today for **St. Mary's** fundraising afternoon tea **on Sunday 19th May** at 1.30 p.m. Tickets at £10 (without fizz) £15 (with fizz) can be obtained from Natalie Outten 07941 680369.

This month sees the start of our new season of lunchtime concerts at St. Francis **on Thursday 23rd May at 12.45 pm.** with a piano recital by Nicholas Austin, Hazel's friend who played for us last year at a tea concert to great acclaim. He'll be playing a different programme this time and it's sure to be an exciting and popular recital. As always admission is free and tea and coffee will be available before the concert. So come along and bring a friend.

Piano Recital – Saturday 1 June 2024

Please come along to a piano recital by Nigel Clayton & Imma Setiadi performing 'The Planets' by Holst at St Francis Church on Saturday 1 June at 3.00pm and will be followed by refreshments. Voluntary donations are welcome and further information is available from Jean Mathers (mathersjean@hotmail.com).

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 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 St. Mary's 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'.

The flowers in St. Marys are for Hazel's final service with us and have been arranged by Merri and Annette.

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

5th May 2024: Sixth Sunday of Easter

Collect

Risen Christ,
by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples:
help your Church to obey your command
and draw the nations to the fire of your love,
to the glory of God the Father.

First Reading:

Acts 10: 44-48

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵ The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶ for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷ 'Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' ⁴⁸ So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Gospel reading:

John 15: 9-17

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹² 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶ You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Post Communion Prayer

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life:
may we thirst for you,
the spring of life and source of goodness,
through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

*The collect and post communion prayer, copyright © The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England.
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Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.*