

ST. MARY OF NAZARETH/ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI – WEST WICKHAM
15th DECEMBER 2024 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Services over the next two weeks

Sunday 15 th December	8.00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Mary's 9.15 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Mary's 10.45 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Francis
Sunday 22 nd 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.

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 private prayer till 11:30am
Thursday at 9am	Morning prayer at St Mary's

Upcoming Events

Christingle service on 24th December at St Mary's: If anyone at St Mary's 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, it's jelly babies or any other **soft** small sweets to put on the cocktail sticks. Thank you.

4th 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, Pauline Jackson and Jean Pogose. Please pray for the soul of Sue Jones who died this week 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. 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

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.

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 today, **15thDecember**

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 15th Third Second Sunday of Advent

Collect

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

First Reading: Philippians: 4: 4 -7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel reading: Luke 3: 7-18

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?' ⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' ¹¹ In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' ¹² Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' ¹³ He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation and be satisfied with your wages.'

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Post Communion

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

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