

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

25th June 2023: 3rd Sunday after Trinity

Hazel writes:

This week I have found links in what I have done with each of our four Vision headings:

- We received a certificate from Bromley Borough Foodbank thanking us for over 200kg of donations in April and May, showing our **COMPASSION** for those who are suffering through the cost-of-living crisis. More recently these donations have dropped off. It may be that people are giving through the supermarkets or in monetary form, but this is a worrying situation given that we are approaching the summer holidays when many families struggle, as children are not in school. Please do consider what support you can give.
- Martin Rees' funeral was an important link with the 7th West Wickham Scout Group who are part of our **COMMUNITY** links and were involved in the service.
- Following on from noting the community feel at the St Mary's Garden Party last Saturday, I can also now report that there was a **COMMERCIAL** benefit of over £500 from the event – see below. Many thanks to all those involved (especially Gifty who masterminded the event) and to those who attended and/or gave generous donations.
- Pat Allegacone's funeral was an opportunity to show her family the **CONGREGATIONAL** support that our church community offers.

This coming week I will be working from my sister's home in Lancashire, as there are family matters to attend to, so there will be no pew sheet next week.

This week we have Holy Communion services at 8am in St Francis' Church, 9.15am in St Mary's Church and at 10.45am in St Francis' Church.

Next **Sunday 2nd July**, we will have Holy Communion services at 8am in St Francis' Church and a joint service in St Mary's Church at 10am.

On **Sunday 9th July**, we will have a Holy Communion service at 8am in St Francis' Church and non-eucharistic **Songs of Praise** services in St Mary's Church at 9.15am and in St Francis' Church at 10.45am. There are sheets in both the church buildings where you can write down a hymn request, or you can contact Geoff: 0208 650 8389 or geoff@mussard.org.uk.

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.

You do not want to miss out on the **Comedy Night** at St Francis' Church Hall on Friday 7th July, featuring nationally acclaimed stars. Doors open at 7pm with a bar available. You can get tickets from <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-francis-of-assisj>. All profits will be in aid of local charities (including Bromley Foodbank).

A **St Francis of Assisi Exhibition at the National Gallery** presents the art and imagery of St Francis from the 13th century to today and examines how his spiritual radicalism, his commitment to the poor, his love of God and nature, as well as his striving for peace between enemies and openness to dialogue with other religions, make him a figure of enormous relevance to our times. We are planning to go as a group to view this exhibition on Saturday 8th July, gathering at West Wickham Station in time for the 10.17am to Charing Cross, then an hour and a half in the gallery and lunch for those who wish in the crypt cafe at St Martin's in the Field at 12.45pm. Although the exhibition is free, it is advisable to book. I've already made a group booking, so if you'd like to join the group, let me know: Richard Ford (020 8289 2432 or richard.ford73@gmail.com).

Tickets for the **West Wickham Choir summer concert** on Saturday 15th July at St. Francis Church at 7.30 p.m. are now on sale from Anita Curtis 0208 777 5973 or john.curtis23@ntlworld.com and Geoff Mussard 0208 650 8389 or geoff@mussard.org.uk. Tickets are £7 each and proceeds will be for church charities. The programme includes Hiawatha's Wedding Feast and songs from Jesus Christ Superstar.

Our next **Women's Group** meeting is at St Francis on Tuesday 18th July at 8 p.m. We are focussing on homelessness. Anne Horner-Tree will speak about the Bromley Homeless Starter Pack Scheme which provides household items for those made homeless, (e.g., on coming out of prison, or returning from hospital and finding accommodation is taken back by the landlord and the contents disposed of - this really happens). Brian Griffiths will also speak about the experience of some from St Mary's and St Francis' in travelling weekly to London with sandwiches and soup for the homeless on the streets. Please bring along suitable items for donation (e.g., cutlery,

crocery, duvet covers (not duvets), pillow slips, tea towels, saucepans, frying pans, bath towel, toothbrush, etc.) Come along and find out more and we will continue to collect in the weeks to come.

Advance Notice - Liz and Mike Jeggo, the OMF missionary workers in Japan, whom St Francis support, will be coming with their family to the 10.45 service at St Francis on July 30th, when Mike Jeggo will be the preacher. It would be good to have as many people there as possible to support and encourage them.

Thank you to all who contributed to this year's **Christian Aid Week collection**, in whatever way. At **St Mary's** £808 was donated, which, with Gift Aid, totals £922, a splendid sum. Many thanks, too, to Tony Ivey who coordinated our activities.

Thanks to everyone who donated items, helped on the day and beforehand and to those who supported and came along to the **St. Mary's Garden Party and Barbecue**. A special thanks to Gifty for organising the event with her team. A profit of £523.42 was made for Church funds.

Please bring **Foodbank donations** to the Vicarage or St Francis' Church. Currently they require tinned vegetables, cold meat tins, desserts (e.g., sponge pudding, jelly, Angel Delight), coffee, ladies' deodorant, and toothpaste. They have plenty of pasta, cereal 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 sanctuary pedestal at St. Mary's this week has been provided by Audrey Tibbles in memory of her mother and has been arranged by Merri.

Any items for the joint pew sheet to Beryl berylbolton@hotmail.com and items for the websites to brian.griff19@btinternet.com or Gifty office@stmarywestwickham.co.uk.

Collect

God our saviour,
look on this wounded
world in pity and in
power;
hold us fast to your
promises of peace
won for us by your Son,
our Saviour Jesus
Christ.

First Reading:

Jeremiah 20: 7-13

Jeremiah cried out: O
LORD, you have enticed
me, and I was enticed;
you have overpowered
me, and you have
prevailed.
I have become a
laughing-stock all day
long;
everyone mocks me.
For whenever I speak, I
must cry out,
I must shout, 'Violence
and destruction!'
For the word of the LORD
has become for me a
reproach and derision
all day long.
If I say, 'I will not

mention him, or speak
any more in his name',
then within me there is
something like a burning
fire shut up in my
bones;
I am weary with holding
it in, and I cannot.
For I hear many
whispering: 'Terror is all
around! Denounce him!
Let us denounce him!'
All my close friends are
watching for me to
stumble.
'Perhaps he can be
enticed, and we can
prevail against him, and
take our revenge on
him.'
But the LORD is with me
like a dread warrior;
therefore my
persecutors will
stumble, and they will
not prevail.
They will be greatly
shamed, for they will
not succeed.
Their eternal dishonour
will never be forgotten.
O LORD of hosts, you test

the righteous, you see
the heart and the mind;
let me see your
retribution upon them,
for to you I have
committed my cause.

Sing to the LORD; praise
the LORD!
For he has delivered the
life of the needy from
the hands of evildoers.

Gospel reading:

Matthew 10: 24-39

Jesus summoned the
twelve and sent them
out with the following
instruction:

²⁴ 'A disciple is not
above the teacher, nor a
slave above the
master; ²⁵ it is enough
for the disciple to be like
the teacher, and the
slave like the master. If
they have called the
master of the house
Beelzebul, how much
more will they malign
those of his household!

²⁶ 'So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. ³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³² 'Everyone therefore who acknowledges me

before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; ³³ but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴ 'Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

³⁶ and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

³⁷ Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸ and whoever does not take up the

cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

Post Communion Prayer

O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining and whose power we cannot comprehend: show us your glory as far as we can grasp it, and shield us from knowing more than we can bear until we may look upon you without fear; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Collect

Gracious Father,
by the obedience of Jesus
you brought salvation to
our wayward world:
draw us into harmony with
your will, that we may find
all things restored in him,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

First Reading:

Romans 6: 12 -23

¹² Therefore, do not let sin
exercise dominion in your
mortal bodies, to make you
obey their passions. ¹³ No
longer present your
members to sin as
instruments of wickedness,
but present yourselves to
God as those who have
been brought from death to
life, and present your
members to God as
instruments of
righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin will
have no dominion over you,
since you are not under law
but under grace.

¹⁵ What then? Should we sin
because we are not under
law but under grace? By no
means! ¹⁶ Do you not know
that if you present
yourselves to anyone as
obedient slaves, you are
slaves of the one whom you

obey, either of sin, which
leads to death, or of
obedience, which leads to
righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks
be to God that you, having
once been slaves of sin,
have become obedient
from the heart to the form
of teaching to which you
were entrusted, ¹⁸ and that
you, having been set free
from sin, have become
slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ I
am speaking in human
terms because of your
natural limitations. For just
as you once presented your
members as slaves to
impurity and to greater and
greater iniquity, so now
present your members as
slaves to righteousness for
sanctification.

²⁰ When you were slaves of
sin, you were free in regard
to righteousness. ²¹ So what
advantage did you then get
from the things of which
you now are ashamed? The
end of those things is
death. ²² But now that you
have been freed from sin
and enslaved to God, the
advantage you get is
sanctification. The end is
eternal life. ²³ For the wages

of sin is death, but the free
gift of God is eternal life in
Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel Reading:

Matthew 10: 40-42

⁴⁰ 'Whoever welcomes you
welcomes me, and whoever
welcomes me welcomes the
one who sent
me. ⁴¹ Whoever welcomes a
prophet in the name of a
prophet will receive a
prophet's reward; and
whoever welcomes a
righteous person in the
name of a righteous person
will receive the reward of
the righteous; ⁴² and
whoever gives even a cup of
cold water to one of these
little ones in the name of a
disciple—truly I tell you,
none of these will lose their
reward.'

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, comfort of the
afflicted and healer of the
broken, you have fed us at
the table of life and hope:
teach us the ways of
gentleness and peace,
that all the world may
acknowledge the kingdom
of your Son Jesus Christ
our Lord.

REFLECTION – Brian Griffiths (to follow)

Prayer Pointers

Pray for the church, that she may have the courage to speak words of truth and compassion and challenge. Pray that each of us may have the energy of the Holy Spirit that would not fear the consequences of sharing our faith.

Pray for those who are crushed by life – for those whose faith was once strong, but is now severely tested. Pray for all Christians going through serious illness or other crises in their lives who wonder where God is and why there are few, if any, answers to prayer.

In the Southwark Diocesan Prayer Cycle, pray for the Benefice of The Ascension Lavender Hill, & St Philip w St Bartholomew, Battersea. For their vicar Philip Kennedy and Barbara Marcham and Ann Warwick their Pastoral Auxiliaries.

Pray for the people and the nation of Ukraine, that the atrocities committed there would come to light and those responsible for war crimes would be brought to justice. Pray for an end to the conflict.

With accounts of abuse in the Church of England hitting the headlines again, pray for all who have suffered abuse at the hands of those they trusted – clergy, lay ministers and church officers. Pray that those in power in the church may learn to minister with humility and that all church members, especially those who are vulnerable and those who speak out against abuse and bullying, may not be excluded, but always be valued, and treated with dignity.

Pray for those who are ill, in sadness and confusion. In our congregations pray for these by name – Vicky Pearce, Jane Smith, Joan Burford, Graham Stone, Rowena Griffiths, Daphne Dack, John Dack, Barbara Goodchild, Joan Mountain, James Pitt-Payne, Jack Bramwell and Sue Jones – and those known to God alone.

Hold before God all those who have died. Pray especially for Daniel Grainger, Pat Allegacone and Martin Rees and their families.

Offer our own personal prayers and thanksgivings - all those things that worry us; those situations we feel helpless in; those decisions that burden us; those losses that overwhelm us, and all that we are thankful for.