**St Francis of Assisi**

**www.stfranciswestwickham.co.uk**

**Charity No. 1134856**

**Sunday, 1st December 2019 – Advent Sunday**

8 am Holy Communion – Hazel O’Sullivan, Preacher – Ken Bryan

10.45 am Holy Communion– Hazel O’Sullivan, Preacher – Brian Griffiths

3.30 pm Service of Prayer and Worship at Burrell Mead

**Collect: Almighty** Before the start of the service it’s good to prepare in quiet. Please talk to God in prayer at this time rather than to others, or perhaps look at the day’s readings and hymns. After the service is the time for conversations with each other and we hope that you will stay then for a cup of tea or coffee.

**God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  **Hymns** | **Readings**  | **Bible** | **Large Print** |
| 128: Come, thou long expected Jesus | Isaiah 2: 1 - 5 | 550 | 1063 |
| 757: Ye servants of the Lord |  |  |  |
| 405: Lo, He comes with clouds descending | Romans 13: 11 - 14 | 923 | 1776 |
| Longing for light (Christ be our light) |  |  |  |
|  | Matthew 24: 36 - 44 | 806 | 1549 |

**Burrell Mead:** We will be visiting the residents at Burrell MeadResidential Home this afternoon for a service of prayer and worship at 3.30 pm.  If you would like to join in with some singing and chatting to the residents, please let Hazel know.

**Help a Hospice and save a tree**: send Christmas greetings to all your friends in the congregation by putting a card on the Christmas Greetings board at the back of church. The money you save from not sending cards can be donated to Demelza House, our local Children’s Hospice. Please complete a Gift Aid envelope if you are a taxpayer. Cheques should be made payable to Demelza House.

**The Matchbox Theatre 5th, 6th and 7th December:** a production entitled, very appropriately, "Matchbox Theatre"!   This is a series of short entertainments by Michael Frayn (of "Noises off" fame!).   Many of you will now be booking on line, but the box office is still available at 0845 680 4568, managed by Mike Downing.  We look forward to welcoming you, as always.

**Saturday 7 December - Visit to Bethlem Gallery and Art Fair 2019**. In advance of 'The Festival of Art - Healing through the Arts' in July 2020, Nicky Nightingale and Gill Kehoe will be visiting the Bethlem Gallery on Saturday 7 December at 12.00 noon and you are welcome to come along and join them.  If you are interested please can you sign the sheet at the back of the church with your phone number.  Thank you, Nicky and Gill.

The **Advent Quiet Day** on Saturday 14th December at St Francis’ is an opportunity to spiritually prepare for Christmas.  Prayer stations in the church will be set up between 11.30am and 3.30pm.  Come along at any time.

We will be **collecting toys** at the service on Sunday, 15th December for Bromley & Croydon Women's Aid.  Children in a refuge or other temporary accommodation as a result of domestic abuse really would appreciate something special at Christmas.  Please don't wrap the toys, bring only new toys and no soft toys.

**Sunday 15 December - St Francis Christmas Community Lunch:** The St Francis Christmas Community lunch will be taking place in the church hall at 12.30pm on Sunday 15 December - tickets are available from Barbara Goodchild and are £10.00 each.  We would be grateful for help on the day - preparing, laying up tables, serving, clearing away and washing up - if you are able to help even for an hour please can you sign the sheet at the back of church.  We are also looking for suitable Christmas raffle prizes too.  Many thanks Barbara and Nicky.

**The Big Christmas Sing:** 4 pm on Saturday, 7th December**.** Free admission but a bucket collection will be taken. All proceeds to Christian Aid.

**Safeguarding -** Taking and Publishing Images of Children: On the noticeboard and in the Safeguarding folder by the entrance to the church there is a notice showing the suggested guidance that should be followed should anyone be taking photographs or filming at any church event. If there are any questions arising from this please speak to either Hazel O’Sullivan (Church Incumbent) or Kim Teare (Parish Safeguarding Officer).

**Children’s Society Boxes: I am now opening the boxes, so please bring them to church, or I can arrange for them to be opened at home. Many thanks, Christine Morton (Tel No. 020 8777 9213).**

**Readings:** If you would like to read ONE of the lessons on a Sunday in December, please print your name on the list at the back of Church. Thank you, Joan.

**Cards and more:** Daphne Dack will be selling cards, pebbles and raffle tickets after the service today and on 15th December. The raffle will be drawn on 15th December. All in aid of Christian Aid.

**Pew sheet**: Items for the pew sheet by Wednesday morning please: elizabeth\_bligh@hotmail.com

Hazel’s day off is Monday

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
| Tuesday: | 8 am Morning Prayerat St Mary’s2 pm Prayer and Bible Study Group |
| Wednesday: | 9.30 am Morning Prayer10.45 am Holy Communion |
| Thursday: | 9 am Morning Prayer |
| Friday: | 9 am Morning Prayer at St Mary’s10 am – 12 noon – Place of Welcome |
| Saturday: | 9 am Quiet Hour10.30 – 11.30 Action Aid Coffee Morning4 pm The Big Christmas Sing for Christian Aid |

**Sunday, 8th December 2019 – Advent Sunday**

8 am Holy Communion – Richard Ford

10.45 am Holy Communion– Richard Ford