

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

24th July 2022: Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Hazel writes:

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Ukraine Welcome Evening on Tuesday night, including those who donated clothes or food, those who volunteered at the event, and those who worked so hard getting it set up. We had about 30 Ukrainian women and children (and one or two men), who brought borscht and other Ukrainian delights to eat. The clothes had been ironed and displayed on hangers and tables by a team from St John's during the day. It was a great event that enabled Ukrainians to meet up and make connections with each other, some for the first time.

There were lots of clothes left at the end which will be sent to Link to Hope for forwarding onto Eastern Europe. The guests all took something away with them and £1,200 was raised in donations for Link to Hope. Messages that I have had since the event were those such as:

We would like to say « Thank you! » to you and to all team;) for this support and help, we very much appreciate it!!!

Here is a link to our Facebook page where there's a write up and some pictures:

<https://www.facebook.com/StFofA>

This pew sheet covers three weeks. The next one will be for the week starting Sunday 14th August. Pew sheets will be distributed on the Sunday or Monday after the services have been held at the churches in the morning.

Next **Sunday 31st July**, we will have Holy Communion services at 8am and 9.15am in St Mary's Church and at 10.45am in St Francis' Church.

Our next **Action Aid Coffee Morning** will be on Saturday 6th August from 10.30-11.30am in St Francis' Church.

On **Sunday 7th August**, we will have Holy Communion services at 8am in St Francis' Church and a joint service at 10am in St Mary's Church.

The **Bereavement Support Group** will meet on Wednesday 10th August at 2.30pm in Emmanuel Church, The Grove.

Messy Church is on Friday 12th August at 3.45pm in St Mary's Church.

On **Sunday 14th August**, 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.

Morning Prayer is normally held each week in St Francis' Church on Wednesday morning at 9.30am (although **NO** morning prayer this week – 27th July), followed by the church being **open for private prayer** from 10.30-11.30am. It is also held at St Mary's Church on Thursday morning at 9am.

Resources and updates for the week ahead – This week our service will be livestreamed on YouTube from St Mary's at 9.15am. 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.

Following our **focus on lay ministry** last week, there are two opportunities to think a bit more about learning and development in this area:

- The popular Bishop's Certificate in Discipleship enables an exploration of mission, ministry and vocation of all God's people without any need to commit beyond studying for ten months. This begins in September running on different evenings and mornings at the diocesan offices or online.
- On September 11th we will have a focus on Christian adult education in a service where we will hear from Brian and Debbie about what it is to be teaching and learning in this context.

Please do use these two opportunities as a way of thinking anew about what else God might be calling you to become involved in.

Our next **lunchtime concert** will be a very special event: Felicity Cliffe, conductor with the Hayes Symphony Orchestra, is bringing her own orchestra to play for us. This will be a great opportunity to hear some wonderful music in a setting with good acoustics. Do put the date in your diary - Thursday 18th August at 12.45pm in St Francis' Church.

We have been given a very detailed **marquetry picture of Jesus** (made using different woods to form the picture). Here's a photograph of it. If anyone would like a closer look – maybe a present or something for yourself, do let Hazel or Richard know.



The **Rotary Clubs of Bromley** are organising a Fun and Fundraising day for Ukraine

Independence Day on Wednesday 24th August at The Warren. Join in with family games from 1-4pm (bring your own picnic) and then there is a fundraising dinner in the evening from 7pm with entertainment. More details and tickets for £50 each can be obtained from <https://www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/page.php?PgID=872719&ClubID=699>

The **Children's Society Coffee Morning** last week raised £400. Thanks once again for the wonderful variety of cakes and support on the day. *Christine Morton*.

Please bring **Foodbank donations** to the Vicarage or St Francis' Church. Currently they require soup, toilet rolls, cooking sauces, tinned cold meat, squash, coffee, surface spray cleaner, toothpaste and washing up liquid. They are well stocked with 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.

Oak Lodge School are looking for volunteer **community governors** who play an important role in supporting the school and holding it to account for standards. You don't need to be an expert in education or have links with the school, but you must be committed to the successful running of the school. This means being available to give your time to be in school and to attend meetings at various times throughout the year. In return, you'll find that being a governor is hugely rewarding and that you develop new skills and knowledge. As a school that is committed to building a diverse community, we're particularly keen to hear from people from underrepresented groups and with protected characteristics, particularly older people and those with disabilities. For more information or to express an interest please contact the Trust Governance Manager, Joyce Munro at governance@compassacademytrust.org.

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 at St. Mary's this week have been provided by Phil and Gifty Nortey for their anniversary and have 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

Creator God, you made us all in your image: may we discern you in all that we see, and serve you in all that we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

First Reading:**Col.2: 6-15**

⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. ⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹² when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and the

uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

Second Reading:**Luke 11: 1-13**

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.' ² He said to them, 'When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. ³ Give us each day our daily bread. ⁴ And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial.

⁵ And he said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, "Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him." ⁷ And he answers from within, "Do not bother me;

the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything." ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹ 'So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? ¹² Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.

Post Communion Prayer

God of our pilgrimage, you have led us to the living water: refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Collect

Generous God, you give us gifts and make them grow: though our faith is small as mustard seed, make it grow to your glory and the flourishing of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

First Reading:

Col.3:1-11

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. ⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷ These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸ But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and

abusive language from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹ In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

Second Reading:

Luke 12:13-21

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, ‘Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.’ ¹⁴ But he said to him, ‘Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?’ ¹⁵ And he said to them, ‘Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.’ ¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: ‘The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷ And he

thought to himself, “What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?” ¹⁸ Then he said, “I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.” ²⁰ But God said to him, “You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?” ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.’

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

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Collect

Lord God, your Son left the riches of heaven and became poor for our sake:

when we prosper save us from pride, when we are needy save us from despair, that we may trust in you alone; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

First Reading:

Gen. 15: 1-6

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' ² But Abram said, 'O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' ³ And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' ⁴ But the word of the LORD came

to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' ⁵ He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' ⁶ And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Second Reading:

Heb. 11: 1-3, 8-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. ⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out

for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, 'as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.' ¹³ All of these died in faith without having

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received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴ for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Gospel Reading**Luke 12: 32-40**

³² 'Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for

yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ³⁵ 'Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶ be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷ Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸ If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹ 'But know this: if the owner of the house had

known at what hour the thief was coming, he^l would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.'

Post Communion Prayer

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have taken holy things; may the ears which have heard your word be deaf to clamour and dispute; may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit; may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love shine with the light of hope; and may the bodies which have been fed with your body be refreshed with the fullness of your life; glory to you for ever.

REFLECTION – Hazel O’Sullivan

Last week we were reflecting on how we are looking to bring God’s kingdom into a place through our ministry. That’s what the Good Samaritan did by helping the victim of robbers and that’s what we’re always looking to do in ministry. We ask for this to happen each week when we pray the Lord’s Prayer. I wonder if you’ve ever thought what we’re asking for when we say: ‘Your Kingdom come’.

I want to explain how (in a very small way) I found an answer to this prayer on Tuesday this week.

It started with a pile of clothes in the middle of the floor of the hall at St Mary’s. This pile was huge – made up of about 30 or 40 bags and boxes. I left Milly and others from St John’s beginning to iron and hang these out for the Ukraine Welcome Evening that night, and I went to St Francis’ for the pre-school graduation. By this time the heat was increasing, and it would have been preferable to escape home. However, having promised the children I’d be there, I dutifully sat at the back of the hall to witness a very quick ceremony followed by photos with the children wearing mini graduation gowns. I was stunned when two of them came to give me some flowers to say thank you for coming in to see them and supporting their new manager, Kelly during the year. So, what to do with these flowers? As I was walking back to St Mary’s I felt a nudge of the Holy Spirit tell me to offer them for the event in the evening, so when I got there, I

did so and was surprised when someone said that was an answer to prayer. They had forgotten to buy some flowers to put in the changing room that we were providing (also known as the Choir Vestry – here’s a picture). So, that was what happened to the flowers and now they are placed in the churches as a reminder of God’s kingdom.



Now, this was a very small contribution compared to the huge amount of clothes donated, and the time and effort put in by so many people, but the reason that this bunch of flowers tucked away in a side room at St Mary’s illustrates it’s about God’s kingdom is the way that it was recognised as God’s work, rather than as the outcome of anything that any individual or group of people had done. And I hope that this was also the spirit in which anyone involved in the evening saw it – as the outpouring of God’s

love for families who have had so much taken away from them. It was great to see people from three churches welcoming Ukrainians who had brought traditional food with them and hosts who have very generously opened up their homes to these families, as well as people who were offering haircuts, manicures and career advice.

There was no us and them involved – until you spoke to someone, it was impossible to know who they were. And so many new connections were made between hosts, between refugees and for future working together between so many different people. What happened on Tuesday was that we turned a women's event into a ministry opportunity. A church social turned into God's kingdom.

This is what we pray for in the Lord's Prayer when we say, 'Thy Kingdom Come'. We may not have a clear idea of what will happen and the contribution I've told you about was miniscule in comparison to others. However, I hope that in telling you about it you're more able to spot an opportunity to bring God's kingdom about in the future or to comment on when you see it happening, so that others see it too.

Amen

Prayer Pointers

Thank God that through Jesus, he gave us the Lord's Prayer to be a pattern to base our prayers on. Help us to pray every day and not give up when our prayers seem to go unanswered. Pray for all those in St Mary's and St Francis' who compose and deliver the intercessions in our worship.

Pray for those whose homes have been destroyed by fire in the heatwave last week, especially the people of Wennington in East London. Pray for all those across the world who daily have to deal with such temperature extremes - those who have no place to find retreat and rest from the heat.

Pray for Rishi Sunak and Liz Truss seeking to be the next Prime Minister that they do so with justice, honesty and compassion, seeking an agenda for all and not just for themselves - listening to the needs and voices of the marginalised and the dispossessed.

Pray for governments and regimes around the world who find themselves in turmoil. Pray especially for the people of Sri Lanka where the Government has collapsed and for a peaceable solution to the war in Ukraine.

Pray for those in our own country who are hungry and struggling to make ends meet. Pray that they find the kindness and support of neighbours and strangers, of foodbanks and more, to feed not just their bodies but their minds and their souls.

Hold before God all those we know who are sick and those caring for them in our local hospitals and GP surgeries. Pray especially for all those undergoing surgery, chemotherapy and other treatments for cancer. In our congregations we pray for those struggling with ill health – especially Vicky Pearce, Mike East, Pat Allegacone, Jane Smith, Graham Stone, Daphne Dack – and those known to God alone.

Pray for all who have died recently and for all who we have loved and yet see no longer. Pray that in times of pain, confusion and grief the bereaved may find comfort in God, in family, friends or neighbour, in a touch, a word, a smile or companionable silence.

Offer our own personal prayers and thanksgivings. We entrust to God 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.