

*"A living, loving church without walls"*

## Notices for the week beginning Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2023



We welcome everyone to our Service of Holy Communion on this 3rd Sunday before Lent this morning. Please do stay for refreshments and a chat after the service.

Both of today's readings are from the New Testament- the **Epistle** is taken from the first book of Corinthians, Chapter 2, verses 1-12 and can be found on page 178 in the pew Bibles. The **Gospel** is taken from Matthew, Chapter 5, verses 13-20, and can be found on page 4 in the pew Bibles.

**The Collect for today:** Eternal God, whose Son went among the crowds and brought healing with his touch: help us to show his love in your Church as we gather together, and by our lives as they are transformed into the image of Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Points for your prayers**

We pray for a just and fair resolution to the disputes in our public services; for peace in Ukraine and the other places of conflict in our world; for all in of our world where people are threatened with starvation, and for all in our country who are struggling with the cost of living.

*The funeral of Margaret Davis, a long-standing member of the congregation at St Francis, will take place at St Francis at 11.00am tomorrow, 6<sup>th</sup> February, followed by a service at the crematorium at 12.30pm. Please remember Christine Davis and family in your prayers.*

## Dates for your diaries:



*Many thanks to all who came to the Coffee Morning at Gill and Michael's home yesterday. This was in aid of church funds, and the amount raised will be published in next week's newsletter.*

**More fundraising events will be taking place during the next few months- watch this space to find out what's happening!**



**A service of Evensong to celebrate Candlemas will be taking place at St Mary's Willesborough at 4.00pm today- all welcome.**



*Midweek Communion at St Francis- the next one will be this Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> February at 12.00 noon. Why not take some time out of your week to come along for this?*



### Coming up...

*Cathie will be introducing the plans for a Lent Course at this morning's service.*

*The Ash Wednesday service of Holy Communion with Ashing to mark the beginning of Lent will be taking place on 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 7.00pm. (There will also be a service on Maundy Thursday at 7.00pm with a simple supper in the Village Hall beforehand- more details nearer the time.)*

## ***From Cathie...***

God continues to be amazingly at work ! I had a phone call at lunchtime on Thursday asking me to go to the Park Farm Tesco Shop because they had some food for me! When I arrived, I was greeted by the two Community Workers - members of staff at Tescos and taken to the back part of the shop. There I was given this trolley full of non-perishable food which they had saved for Makelunch, from the boxes at the exit where customers put food for the community.

Then I had a phone call from Radio Kent asking me to be part of their programme on Thursday, talking about 'warm spaces, Makelunch and the churches' support for the vulnerable in our community! I have also been asked to be part of their Sunday programme in March.

God is doing amazing things in our midst!

Here is the trolley!



## ***"Come on and Celebrate"***



We will be remembering everyone with a birthday or other special celebration in February after our service today, with a piece of delicious chocolate cake (personally approved!) with our tea or coffee after the service- don't miss out!

## **Want to know what's happening in the rest of the parish?**

Make sure that you read "Good News for Ashford" which is usually published via email each Friday; to get on the mailing list just type in [info@ashfordchurches.co.uk](mailto:info@ashfordchurches.co.uk) Libby Varley is our church administrator and can be contacted by phone: 01233

620433 or 07583 418386, Mon - Fri 9.00am - 5.00pm, or by email on [libby.varley@ashfordchurches.co.uk](mailto:libby.varley@ashfordchurches.co.uk)

- Please do take this notice sheet home with you. It is also published on the new Ashford Parish website in full colour.
- Please remember that the newsheet can only be as good as the information that I receive. (*Don't worry if you think someone else will have told me - better twice than not at all!*)
- To access both current and past notices, type in [www.ashfordtownparish.co.uk](http://www.ashfordtownparish.co.uk), then click on the three lines in the top right-hand corner, then on "Our Churches". Click on "Great Chart", then scroll down to "Latest Notices". Click on that, and the current notice sheet will appear. (Previous notice sheets are available below that.)
- If you have anything that you'd like included, please email me, Tony Shaw, at [tony.shaw53@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tony.shaw53@hotmail.co.uk), or telephone 01233 634355 to leave a message - thank you.

**N.B. The closing date for copy for the next notice sheet is Thursday 9th February at noon!**

*Next Sunday morning will be our service of Informal Worship at the usual time of 10.00am. All welcome!*

*And finally...*

