

Services & Diary Dates

Monday	14th	0930 Morning Prayer
Tuesday	15th	0930 Morning Prayer 1930 Eucharist 2100 Online Compline
Wednesday	16th	0945 Morning Prayer 1030 Eucharist 2000 Zoom Prayers
Thursday	17th	0930 Morning Prayer
Friday	18th	1900 Junior and Mens' Choir Practice
Saturday	19th	Outdoors Christmas Display (18th to 31st Dec)
Sunday	20th	0800 Said Eucharist 0915 Parish Communion with Nativity Play 1700 9 Lessons & Carols 1900 9 Lessons & Carols

We are still in urgent need of a PCC Secretary. If you feel you may be able to help (you do not need to be a PCC member already), please do talk to Rev'd Jenny.

The Sunday 8am Said Eucharist continues to be video recorded for web-streaming at 12noon. Please access our church website: www.stfranciswgc.org.uk for the latest updates as we have plenty of services, reflections and prayers online.

The Church is OPEN for private prayer on Mondays to Fridays from 09:30 to 12:00.

The Flower Team would be very grateful for donations towards the Christmas flowers. Please contact Diane Hemmings.

News

We congratulate our youngest trebles; Helena Dunstan, David Fennell, Eloise Jasko and Matthew Porter admitted as Choristers today.

The Refugee Council, London - Supermarket Gift card Appeal 2020

Thank you for the gift card donations - they will be presented for blessing at the altar today and registered post next week.

Outdoors Christmas Display 2020

Please feel welcome to invite friends and families to visit our church grounds any-time from 18th to 31st December. Or to any of our many services, in church or virtual. We thank the Christmas Tree Display & YACC teams and our friends from local schools and uniformed groups for their inspirational and creative efforts.

Could you help? Help yourselves to the following items; decorating and returning them for display:

- 1) Tree Bauble (remembrance) of departed loved ones for The Prayer Tree outside.
- 2) Praying Hands template to form a colourful paper chain in church to mimic all those steps undertaken in the first 'Journey to Bethlehem'.

Sadly, **Rachel Jackson** has passed away suddenly but peacefully on Friday, 27th Nov. The private funeral service will take place in church on 17th Dec.

Welcome

Sunday 13th December 2020

3rd Sunday of Advent

Services Today

8am Said Eucharist

9:15am Parish Communion with Admission of Choristers

Youth & Children's YACC sessions take place in their usual age groups within the Govt's COVID-19 guidelines.

Church (YACC) Age 2½ to Reception and Years 1&2, 3 to 5 - Hall

(Younger children including babies who are accompanied are very welcome)

Years 6 upwards in the Song School

Music No Hymns to be sung by the congregation

Congregational setting: (The Choir will sing the Sanctus and Benedictus)

Choir: Hark a thrilling voice is calling / People look East

Darke in F

Buck - Into this world of sorrow

Organ: Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Rorate Caeli

Jeanne Demessieux (1921-1968)

'Merton'

Gordon Thorne (b.1950)

This week we pray for all who live and work in Valley Road.

20th Dec: Nine Lessons & Carols Services 5pm & 7pm Free to attend but you need to book your tickets online. **To book: go to our church website**, click on the 'What's On' tab and then click on the active weblink shown on the Nine Lessons & Carols Services poster, this takes you directly to Eventbrite's booking site.

St Francis of Assisi, CoE
Church Road, WGC, AL8 6QJ

Charity No: 1129849

Vicar: *The Revd. Jenny Fennell*

01707 320960

vicar@stfranciswgc.org.uk

Current Office Opening Hours: 9:30am to 12noon
YACC: Mon to Tue Parish Office: Wed to Fri
01707 694191 admin@stfranciswgc.org.uk

www.stfranciswgc.org.uk

www.facebook.com/stfranciswgc/

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Sunday 13th December 2020
Third Sunday of Advent

Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

The servant of the Lord said:

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion - to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

My brothers and sisters, Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Do not quench the Spirit.

Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

John 1: 6-8,19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?'

He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.'

And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.'

'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said,

'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord,'

as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptising if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?'

John answered them, 'I baptise with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.'

This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptising.

Next Readings: Sunday 20 December 2020

2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16; Romans 16: 25-27; Luke 1: 26-38