

Services & Diary Dates

Monday	21 st	0930 Morning Prayer
Tuesday	22 nd	0930 Morning Prayer 1930 Eucharist 2100 Online Compline
Wednesday	23 rd	0945 Morning Prayer 1030 Eucharist 2000 Zoom Prayers
Thursday Christmas Eve	24th	0930 Morning Prayer 1600 Online Christingle Service (via Zoom) 1800 Outdoors Carol Service 2300 Midnight Mass
Friday Christmas Day	25th	0830 Said Eucharist 1000 Family Communion
Saturday St Stephen	26 th	Outdoors Christmas Display (until 31st Dec)
Sunday St John	27th	0800 Said Eucharist 0915 Parish Communion

News

Outdoors Christmas Display 2020

Thank you to our tireless efforts of our Christmas Tree Display (and our guests; uniformed groups, local schools and nurseries) and YACC teams and all the willing (and shyly talented!) families for making it all possible. Your wonderful trees and nativity scenes will bring much 'Comfort and Joy' to all our visitors.

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.

The Flower Team would be very grateful for donations towards the Christmas flowers. Please give contributions directly to Diane Hemmings or hand into Parish Office.

A huge Thank You to our regular groups, led by our able leaders and teams of volunteers who have worked so tirelessly and had to adapt flexibly to meet with COVID-19's guidelines. We give thanks especially to our Music Team for all their hard work.

The Sunday 8am Said Eucharist continues to be video recorded for web-streaming at 12noon.

Welcome

Sunday 20th December 2020

4th Sunday of Advent

8am

Said Eucharist

9:15am

Parish Communion with Nativity Play

Youth &

There are no groups meeting today as the children will present

Children's

their Nativity Play including 2 Makaton (hand signing) carols;

Church

'Little Donkey' and 'It Was On A Starry Night'.

(YACC)

Please feel welcome to bring up a lit tea light and place it on the altar Crib display.

Music

No Hymns to be sung by the congregation

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

Choir: Come thou redeemer / O come, O come Emmanuel

Jackson in G

Harrison - The Angel Gabriel

Organ: Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland J S Bach (1685-1750)

Ricercar pro Tempore Adventus J K F Fischer (1665-1746)

5pm OR

Nine Lessons & Carols Services

7pm

Free to attend either services 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.

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.

Notices for pew leaflets for weeks beginning 27th Dec & 3rd Jan 2021:

Please submit well in advance, latest by Wed 23rd Dec.

Both the Parish Office (Wed to Fri) and YACC Office (Mon to Tue) will be closed between Christmas and New Year. We will re-open both offices from Mon, 4th Jan onwards.



This week we pray for all who live and work in Howardsgate, Howard Centre, Howard House, Denmark House and Windsor House.

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 20th December 2020
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Collect

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

Now when David, the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.'

Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.' But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in?

I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle.

Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?'

Now therefore you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you, David, that the Lord will make you a house.

Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

Romans 16: 25-27

To God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith - to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

Luke 1: 26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.

He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.

He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'

Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'

The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Next Readings: Sunday 27 December 2020

Isaiah 61: 10 - 62: 3; Galatians 4: 4-7; Luke 2: 15-21