

## Services & Diary Dates

Monday	20 <sup>th</sup>	
Tuesday	21 <sup>st</sup>	1930 Said Eucharist
Wednesday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	1030 Said Eucharist 1100 Coffee for All 2000 Zoom Prayer Meeting
Thursday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	1200 Thursday Lunches 1500 Funeral Service - Marion Minchinton
Friday	24 <sup>th</sup>	1900 Choir Practice
Saturday	25 <sup>th</sup>	
Sunday	26 <sup>th</sup>	0800 Said Eucharist 0915 Parish Communion with Baptism of Joshua Lucas

### **Giftcard Appeal 2023 (not shoebox!)**

**'Herts Welcomes Refugees' charity supports refugee families locally.**

They'd welcome £10 value giftcards from Sainsbury's or Co-op (Shoplands, Cole Green Ln & Hall Grove) as a practical way of distribution according to need. You are welcome to donate more than one card or even give us the cash equivalent and we'll buy them on your behalf. Full poster soon.

### **HELPERS to serve concert refreshments appeal is still on-going!**

This rota is displayed on the main notice-board.

## News

### Christmas Tree Festival

9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> December

Sign up sheets are in the

foyer for the various jobs/stalls. **Donations needed**

**(Fairtrade products are**

**especially encouraged):**

**RAFFLE HAMPER (Carol Jager &**

**Cathy Bloye) see list of items**

advertised in the foyer.

**TOMBOLA goods (Montse Day)**

(not bric-a-brac or jumble, please)

Kindly leave your donations in the named boxes at the back of church.

To our homebakers & crafters (handicrafts, knit, crochet, etc),

**HANDICRAFTS Stall is led by Alison**

**Paterson) and HOMEMADE CAKES**

**by Fiona Burke.**

We will be supporting the **New Zion**

**Food Bank again with The Giving**

**Tree** - more details in the foyer.

### **Loan of artificial Christmas Tree?**

This year we have many more new first time exhibitors wanting to hire trees — **we need a few more c1.5m trees on loan for 2 weeks.**

As ever, please speak to **Graham**

**Bloye: [stfranciscf@outlook.com](mailto:stfranciscf@outlook.com)**

if you like more details.

25<sup>th</sup>



Welcome

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**2nd Sunday before Advent**

Services Today

**8am SAID EUCHARIST**

**9:15am PARISH COMMUNION**

Followed by Parish Coffee in the Hall - All are welcome.

Youth & *YACC sessions take place in their usual age groups:*

Children's **Age 2½ to Reception and Years 1 & 2, 3 & 4 - Hall**

Church (Younger ones incl. babies who are accompanied are very welcome too.) **Years 5 and above in the Cellar**

Congregational Setting: Lloyd

**Hymns: 40 448 (Tune 502) 169 571**

Music

No Choir

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

St Francis of Assisi, CoE  
Church Road, WGC, AL8 6QJ  
Church open (M-F): 0930 - 1200

Charity No: 1129849

Vicar: The Revd. Canon  
Jenny Fennell

01707 320960

[vicar@stfranciswgc.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stfranciswgc.org.uk)

### **OPENING HOURS (0930 - 1200):**

*YACC: Mon to Wed* Parish Office: Wed to Fri  
01707 694191 [admin@stfranciswgc.org.uk](mailto:admin@stfranciswgc.org.uk)

[www.stfranciswgc.org.uk](http://www.stfranciswgc.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/stfranciswgc/](https://www.facebook.com/stfranciswgc/)

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**19<sup>th</sup> November 2023**  
**Second Sunday before Advent**

**Collect**

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Zephaniah 1: 7, 12-18**

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests.

At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, 'The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm.'

Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.

The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

**1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11**

Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you.

For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security,' then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape!

But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness.

So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night.

But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

**Matthew 25: 14-30**

Jesus said to his disciples, 'The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents.

In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.

Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents."

His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."

And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents."

His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."

Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours."

But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.

So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

**Next Readings: Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24; Ephesians 1: 15-23; Matthew 25: 31-46**