

Services & Diary Dates

Monday	27 th	
Tuesday	28 th	1930 Said Eucharist
Wednesday	29 th	1030 Said Eucharist 1100 Coffee for All 2000 Zoom Prayer Meeting
Thursday	30 th	1200 Thursday Lunches
Friday	31 st	1900 Choir Practice
Saturday	1 st	
Advent Sunday	2 nd	0800 Said Eucharist 0915 Parish Communion 1800 Advent Carol Service

Gift Card Appeal 2023 (not shoebox!)

We are supporting 'Herts Welcomes Refugees' charity who work with refugee families in Hertfordshire.

They'd welcome **£10 value gift cards** from Sainsbury's or Co-op (Shoplands, Cole Green Ln & Hall Grove), Tesco & Asda too.

This is best for them to distribute according to need. You are welcome to donate more than one card. Or give us the cash equivalent and we'll buy them on your behalf. Please bring them to the Parish Office by 17th Dec 2023.

Reminder: We are not collecting filled shoebox as gifts, just **£10 GIFT CARDS!**

News

**Christmas Tree Festival
9th & 10th 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: stfranciscctf@outlook.com** if you like more details.



Welcome

Sunday 26th November 2023

Christ the King

Services Today

8am SAID EUCHARIST

9:15am PARISH COMMUNION with BAPTISM of Joshua Lockley LUCAS

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

Youth & Children's Church *YACC sessions take place in their usual age groups: Age 2½ to Reception and Years 1 & 2, 3 & 4 - Hall (Younger ones incl. babies who are accompanied are very welcome too.) Years 5 and above in the Cellar*

Congregational Setting: Lloyd

Music **Hymns: 163 497 731 455**
Cooke in E minor
Bruckner Christus factus est

This week we pray for all who live and work in Marsden Green, Marsden Close and Springfield House.

The flowers in church have been generously donated by:

- 1) Paul and family in memory of Marion Minchinton
- 2) Joshua Lucas's family in celebration of his baptism today

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

OPENING HOURS (0930 - 1200):

Parish Office: Wednesday to Friday
01707 694191 admin@stfranciswgc.org.uk

www.stfranciswgc.org.uk

www.facebook.com/stfranciswgc/

www.instagram.com/stfranchischurchwgc/

www.twitter.com/stfranciswgc/



26th November 2023
Christ the King

Collect

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out.

As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.

I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land.

I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel.

I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God.

I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep.

Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd.

And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

Ephesians 1: 15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with

the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.

And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Matthew 25: 31-46

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."

Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?"

And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?"

And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me."

Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?"

Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

Next Readings: Isaiah 64: 1-9; I Corinthians 1: 3-9; Mark 13: 24-37