

Services & Diary Dates

Monday	25 th	1000 Family Communion for Christmas
Tuesday St Stephen	26 th	
Wednesday John, Apostle & Evangelist	27 th	1030 Said Eucharist 1100 Coffee for All 2000 Zoom Prayer Meeting
Thursday 28 th The Holy Innocents		
Friday	29 th	
Saturday	30 th	
Sunday	31 st	0800 Said Eucharist 0915 Parish Communion

The Flower Team thanks all generous contributors who have donated towards the Church's Christmas flower displays. Some of these donations are personal tributes in loving memories of:

'Winifred Clarke and Amy Trevette' from Elizabeth Chamberlain, 'Vera Taylor' from Anne Woolmington and family

News

THANK YOU from the 'Herts Welcomes Refugees' charity to the congregation of St Francis Church and friends. Together we raised a generous sum of £590 in supermarket gift cards to be given to refugee families in need.

No Said Eucharist on Tue, 26th Dec.

Wednesday Coffee remains open throughout the holiday season (with thanks to Sally and her dedicated team).

Thursday Lunches resumes on 4th Jan 2024.

The Parish Office is now closed and reopens on Friday, 5th Jan 2024. closed.



A very happy, holy and blessed Christmas to all.

Welcome

Sunday 24th December 2023

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (CHRISTMAS EVE)

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: None

Hymns: 49 58 32 231

Music

Darke in E minor Coll. Reg

Trad. This is the truth

5pm CRIB / CHRISTINGLE

11pm MIDNIGHT MASS

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

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/stfrancischurchwgc/

www.twitter.com/stfranciswgc/



24th December 2023
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 (Midnight Mass): Isaiah 52: 7-10; Hebrews: 1-4, 5-12; John 1: 1-14

Next Readings (Christmas): Isaiah 61: 10 - 62: 3; Galatians 4: 4-7; Luke 2: 15-21