

## Services & Diary Dates

Monday	1 <sup>st</sup>	
Tuesday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1930 Said Eucharist
Wednesday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	1030 Said Eucharist 1100 Coffee for All 2000 Zoom Prayer Meeting
Thursday	4 <sup>th</sup>	1200 Thursday Lunches
Friday	5 <sup>th</sup>	
Saturday	6 <sup>th</sup>	
Sunday	7 <sup>th</sup>	0800 Said Eucharist 0915 Parish Communion

## News

Thank you to all our willing and faithful volunteers involved in so much that maintains our church life: Servers, Chalice, Music, YACC, Lesson Reading, Coffees, Lunches, Sacristry, Cleaning, Fundraising Events, Intercession Prayers, Gardening, Linen (small & Altar), Sidespeople, Flower Arranging, cooking/baking/soup making, lifts sharing, visits to the Sick and housebound, stewardship, charities, maintenance, etc.

Your service in so many varied ways enables SF church life, from worship to community outreach in a safe, thriving, inclusive and welcoming environment.

***If anyone would like to get more involved with any of the above or find out more, don't be shy, please speak to either the Vicar, Rev'd Canon Jenny or our churchwardens, Rob and Carol.***

Welcome

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

## FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Services Today

**8am SAID EUCHARIST**

**9:15am PARISH COMMUNION**

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

Youth & *Regular YACC sessions will resume in the new year.*

Children's  
Church

Congregational Setting: Lloyd

**Hymns: 44 73 76 63**

Music  
No Choir

This week we pray for all members of St Francis who live outside the parish.

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

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**31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**  
**First Sunday of Christmas**

**Collect**

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Isaiah 61: 10 - 62: 3**

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.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

**Galatians 4: 4-7**

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'

So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

**Luke 2: 15-21**

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.'

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

**Next Readings: Isaiah 60: 1-6; Ephesians 3: 1-12; Matthew 2: 1-12**