

## Services & Diary Dates

Monday	4 <sup>th</sup>	
Tuesday	5 <sup>th</sup>	1930 Said Eucharist
Wednesday	6 <sup>th</sup>	1030 Said Eucharist 1100 Coffee for All 2000 Zoom Prayer Meeting
Thursday	7 <sup>th</sup>	1200 Thursday Lunches
Friday	8 <sup>th</sup>	1900 Choir Practice
Saturday	9 <sup>th</sup>	1200 Christmas Tree Festival 2023
Sunday	10 <sup>th</sup>	0800 Said Eucharist 0915 Parish Communion 1200 Christmas Tree Festival 2023

### 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 (both in Hatfield) 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 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 2023.

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

## News

**CTF2023 is next Saturday!**

**DONATIONS URGENTLY needed:**  
*(Bring them in now, latest by Fri!)*

**RAFFLE HAMPERs contents:**

Wines, spirits, long life juices, chocs, crackers, biscuits, crisps, 'lux seasonal goodies or staples (rice, pasta, sauces, jams, tea, coffee, hot choc, condiments, preserves etc) .

**TOMBOLA:** (led by Montse)  
(not bric-a-brac or jumble, please)

**New or unused goods:** toiletries, wines, boxed or wrapped chocs/sweets, decorative ornaments, novelties, giftpacks, children toys...

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

**HANDICRAFTS** (handcrafted works - contact Alison Paterson

**CAKES** (Fiona Burke) **Whole or loaf cakes** - please include list of ingredients/allergens to your bakes.

**In date long life GROCERIES -**

**The Giving Tree** in aid of New Zion Food Bank.

**Christmas Tree Loan** - Bring your labelled trees in by Thursday 4pm, please (store in St Clare Chapel).

Any queries, contact **Graham Bloye:**  
**stfranciscctf@outlook.com**

Welcome

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023

**ADVENT SUNDAY**

*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: 26 36 492 31**

Music

Leighton in D

Chilcott God so loved the world

**6pm ADVENT CAROL SERVICE**

This morning we congratulate Edward Apling, Freya Nwokoro and Bernadette Peters who are being admitted as full members of the choir.

This week we pray for all who live and work in Honeycroft and Parkway Gardens.

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/



**3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023**  
**Advent Sunday**

**Collect**

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Isaiah 64: 1-9**

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you!

For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.

Since ancient times no-one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.

You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

No-one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and made us waste away because of our sins. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be angry beyond measure, O Lord; do not remember our sins for ever.

Oh, look upon us we pray, for we are all your people.

**1 Corinthians 1: 3-9**

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way - in all your speaking and in all your knowledge - because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

**Mark 13: 24-37**

Jesus said: *"In those days, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.*

At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

Now learn this lesson from the fig-tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

No-one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back - whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: *Watch!*"

**Next Readings: Isaiah 40: 1-11; 2 Peter 3: 8-15a; Mark 1: 1-8**