

Services & Diary Dates

Monday	29 th	
Tuesday	30 th	1930 Said Eucharist
Wednesday	31 st	1000 Toddletime Playgroup 1030 Said Eucharist 1100 Coffee for All 2000 Zoom Prayer Meeting
Thursday	1 st	1200 Thursday Lunches
Friday	2 nd	1900 Choir Practice
Saturday	3 rd	
Sunday	4 th	0800 Said Eucharist 0915 Parish Communion 1700 Frankie's at 5

Next week @5pm is our informal worship service 'Frankie's at 5'. Do come if you can.

On-going: Names read out during Sunday's (Intercessions) Prayers for the Sick - are updated as and when we receive news updates for e.g. they no longer wish to be prayed for aloud or if their condition improves.

Please do not worry unduly - they have not been forgotten nor have they died suddenly (not always) but some names do get transferred to the weekly prayers list and these are read by the ministry team during the week's prayers.

News

This morning we welcome Catherine Nguyen and Sophie Pates who will be admitted as full members of the choir.

Please bring your old Palm Crosses to church and place them in the box on the table at the back of the nave. They will be burnt to provide the ashes for the Ash Wednesday (14th Feb) services.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS Appeal: Any unwanted (new/unopened condition only): e.g. toiletry sets, toys, gift sets, in date (usu. alcohol

beverages). They'll be very useful for our early Spring socials/family events as prizes. Please consider re-gifting them to the church. Thanks.

Any CANDLES leftover from your Christmas or New Year celebrations? If you donate them to church, we can make use of them at a candlelit service. Please bring them and leave it, either in the Server Vestry or Parish Office.

More details on our **Lent 2024 Course** soon. It is connected to the "Deepening the Mystery 'unexpected treasures' of art" exhibition at The Focolare Centre. Intrigued? Help yourself to a leaflet.

Welcome

Sunday 28th January 2024

CANDLEMAS

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. **Years 5 & above - Meet in the Cellar**
Congregational Setting: Archer

Hymns: 516 360 94 494

Music

Choir: Leighton in D

Vaughan Williams O taste and see

6pm CHORAL EVENSONG

Choir: *Introit* Wood Oculi Omnium *Responses* Reading

Psalm 34 (1 - 10) Chant T.A. Walmisley

Music

Canticles Aston in F *Anthem* Stanford Beati Quorum Via

Hymns 604 398 *Dismissal* - Leighton/Harrison Festal

This week we pray for all who live and work in Barn Close and Barnside Court.

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/

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28th January 2024

Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

Collect

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Malachi 3: 1-5

Thus says the Lord God:

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight - indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness.

Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

Hebrews 2: 14-18

Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.

For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.

Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Luke 2: 22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

(as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.

It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.' And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day.

At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Next Readings: Proverbs 8: 1, 22-31; Colossians 1: 15-20; John 1: 1-14