

## Services & Diary Dates

Monday	26 <sup>th</sup>	
Tuesday	27 <sup>th</sup>	1930 Said Eucharist
Wednesday	28 <sup>th</sup>	1000 Toddletime Playgroup 1030 Said Eucharist 1100 Coffee for All 2000 Zoom prayer group
Thursday	29 <sup>th</sup>	1200 Thursday Lunches
Friday	1 <sup>st</sup>	1900 Choir Practice
Saturday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	
Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	0800 Said Eucharist 0915 Parish Communion 1700 Frankie's at 5

**10<sup>th</sup> Mar @10am Mothering Sunday**

Family Communion Service for all

**Sat, 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar** from 9:30 to 11:30am  
Annual Spring Clean

**28<sup>th</sup> Mar @8pm Maundy Thursday**  
Sung Eucharist

**29<sup>th</sup> Mar @12noon Good Friday**  
Service of Music & Reading

**31<sup>st</sup> Mar @10am Easter Sunday**  
Family Communion for All

**Did you know?** In 2023, we supported the Utange Orphans Charity in Kenya and Isabel Hospice. **This year, we will donate to Resolve,** adult drugs & alcohol treatment & homeless charity based in Hatfield and the **Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO).**

## News

**The Electoral Roll will be revised from 10<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> March.** All worshippers are encouraged to be on the Roll. If you have any queries please contact the Electoral Roll Officer, Barbara Pavyer.

**2024 Lent Course** Held during Sunday services, is **“Deepening the Mystery ‘unexpected treasures’ of art” from The Methodist Modern Art Collection** of artworks depicting scenes featuring the life of and teachings of Christ, from renown artists. This travelling art exhibition (25 pieces) is now at The Focolare Centre (2<sup>nd</sup> Mar to 7<sup>th</sup> Apr). **Free admission!** Please take a leaflet.

**Sunday Parish Coffee Rota:**

**We urgently need more volunteers to join our Sunday Coffee teams** as we have several gaps. Please contact churchwarden, Carol Jager: carol\_jager@yahoo.co.uk

**Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Mar WG Concert Club in church features ‘Red Priest’ baroque extravaganza.** We’ve been informed this is going to be a very popular concert, so we urgently need 2 more helpers for refreshments. Please contact: Pui San.

Welcome

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

*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: None

**Hymns: 470 110 262 627 (tune 227)**

Music

Choir: Oldroyd Missa Ave Jesu

**6pm CHORAL EVENSONG**

Choir: *Introit* Bairstow I sat down under his shadow

*Responses* Byrd *Psalm* 135 verses 1 – 15 Chant J. Turle

*Canticles* Byrd Tones with Fauxbourdons *Anthem*

Bairstow My soul there is a country **Hymns 97 455**

*Dismissal* - Naylor Ferial

This week we pray for all who live and work in Farm Close and Lanefield Walk.

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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**25<sup>th</sup> February 2024**  
**Second Sunday of Lent**

**Collect**

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Genesis 17: 1-7,15-16**

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.' God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

**Romans 4: 13-25**

The promise that Abraham would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents

of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations') Abraham believed in the presence of the God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations,' according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him,' were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in God who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

**Mark 8: 31-38**

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

**Next Readings: Exodus 20: 1-17; 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25; John 2: 13-22**