

## Services & Diary Dates

Monday	5 <sup>th</sup>	
Tuesday	6 <sup>th</sup>	1930 Said Eucharist
Wednesday	7 <sup>th</sup>	1000 Toddletime Playgroup 1030 Said Eucharist 1100 Coffee for All 2000 Zoom Prayer Meeting
Thursday	8 <sup>th</sup>	1200 Thursday Lunches
Friday	9 <sup>th</sup>	1900 Choir Practice
Saturday	10 <sup>th</sup>	
Sunday	11 <sup>th</sup>	0800 Said Eucharist 0915 Parish Communion

## Funeral Services:

### Diane Hemmings:

Funeral mass in church on Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb @11:30am with reception afterwards (location TBC, once confirmed next week, the family would appreciate if people could confirm numbers attending the reception so they can finalise with the caterer. (Please confirm via our Parish Office, Pui San)

### Revd Margaret Cotton:

Funeral service takes place in St John's Digswell on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> Feb @1200.

## News

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 (14<sup>th</sup> Feb) services.

**Our Lent 2024 Course** is held during Sunday services starting 18<sup>th</sup> Feb, theme is **"Deepening the Mystery 'unexpected treasures' of art" from The Methodist Modern Art Collection.** These 25 artworks depict scenes featuring the life of and teachings of Christ, part of the main collection, from renown artists such as Graham Sutherland, Elisabeth Frink and Maggi Hambling. This travelling art exhibition on-going since 60 years ago is now at The Focolare Centre (from 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar to 7<sup>th</sup> Apr). **Free admission!** Help yourself to a leaflet.

*"Art speaks to everyone and there is something for all at this exhibition."*

## VOLUNTEER AS A STEWARD?

If anyone is interested and would like to volunteer as a steward during the exhibition. Please check out the poster on the main notice-board. Training will be provided.

## Welcome

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024

## SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE 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: Tambling

**Hymns: 546(omit vs 3 & 5) 474 478 502(omit \* verses)**

Music

Choir: Darke in E minor Coll. Reg.

Byrd Sacerdotes Domini

**5pm Frankie's at 5**

This week we pray for all who live and work in Elm 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/



**4<sup>th</sup> February 2024**  
**Second Sunday before Lent**

**Collect**

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever.

**Proverbs 8: 1, 22-31**

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice?  
The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago.  
Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.  
When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water.  
Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth - when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil.

When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

**Colossians 1: 15-20**

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers - all things have been created through him and for him.  
He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.  
He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.  
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in

heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

**John 1: 1-14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.  
He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.  
What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.  
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.  
There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.  
He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.  
He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.  
The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.  
He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.  
He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.  
But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.  
And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

**Next Readings: 2 Kings 2: 1-12; 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6; Mark 9: 2-9**