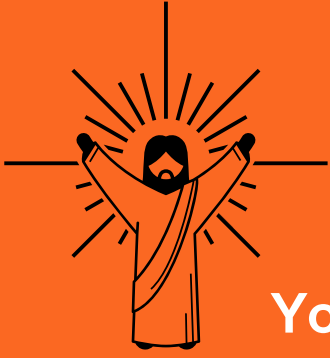


October 2024

children@stfranciswgc.org.uk

www.stfranciswgc.org.uk



## Youth & Children's Church Newsletter

Welcome to our October edition!

**Our under 10's Children's Church on Sundays during the 9.15 service, meet in the hall. We start with worship action songs, followed by adding our TSP prayers (Thank you, Sorry & Please) onto the board, hear the Bible reading & watch an animated story video of the reading. We will then do a craft/build/play games linked to the reading. We then discuss some questions linked to the reading & close in prayer. There is always a break downspace for under 3's in our group and parents are very welcome to stay in & join us for the session and mix with other parents.**

**This month we will be exploring the following Bible readings:**

**Sunday 13th October:**

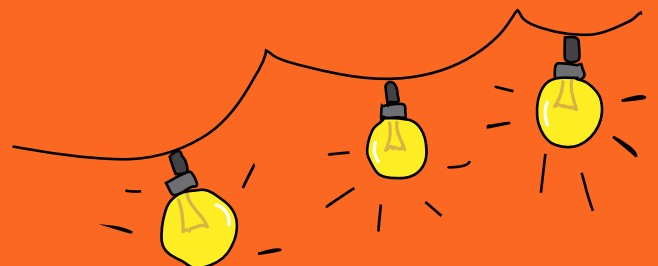
**The rich & the kingdom of heaven: Mark 1 v 17-31**

**Sunday 20th October:**

**The request of James & John: Mark 10 v 35-45**

**Sunday 27th October & Sunday 3rd November:**

**Half term no groups**





## **Nikki, our Children's & Families' Worker**

You can contact me on email: [children@stfranciswgc.org.uk](mailto:children@stfranciswgc.org.uk)

My main working days are Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday

**It has been great being back and at Church and catching up with you all!  
This month's edition is focusing on Jesus and being the light of our world.**

**I've included some activities that you can do at home as a halloween alternative and towards the end of the month i'll post up on the website a light party worship music session so you can watch, dance and sing or have it playing at home whilst you craft.**

### **Let's pray:**

**Jesus, you are the Light that lasts forever, you guide us through the darkness and help us to be the best we can be. We pray for the lights that are burning, especially for those people that are low on light, we ask you to keep them burning bright and let those people know that you are always present and with them. We ask you to help those who are feeling weak, sad, or sick so they can be filled with your Holy Light. We pray for you to help us to follow your light so we may live in the light of your love.**

**We ask you to help us to invite our family and friends to walk in your light and become lights to the world and each other. Help us to spread your light to our community so we may see St Francis youth & children's church grow in number so we can enjoy each other's fellowship as we learn more about you**

**In Jesus' name we pray**

**Amen**



# Follow that trail!

Have you tried out our monthly trails?

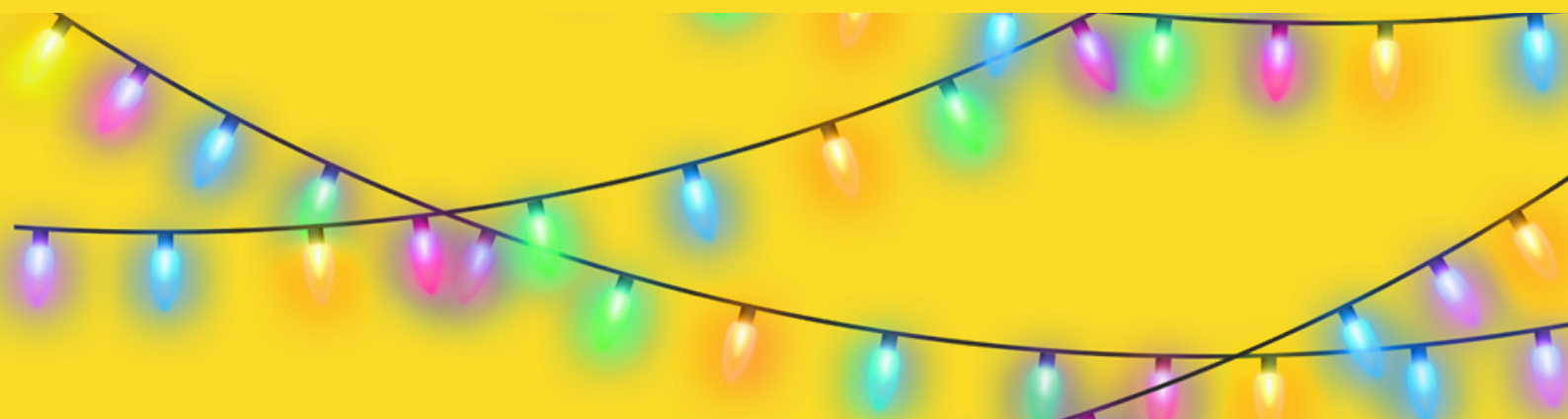
Every month we will put up a new trail around the Church grounds, there are 10 frames to find!



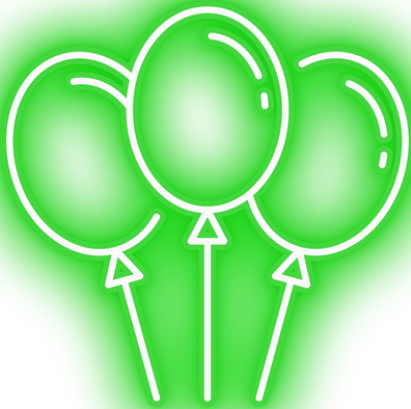
This month's trail is:



Light



# Light party activities to try at home



**GLOW IN THE DARK VOLLEYBALL:**  
CLEAR A LARGE SPACE SO IT IS SAFE TO PLAY. PUT A FEW GLOW STICKS INSIDE A BALLOON AND BLOW IT UP. GIVE PLAYERS HIGH-VIS JACKETS TO WEAR.

## Worship party:

Use glow sticks or battery candles to decorate a space. Listen, sing and dance to your favourite worship songs to praise God



## Glow bowling:

Save up 6 plastic bottles, 500ml are perfect. Rinse & dry them. Add a few glow sticks inside and set up a bowling area and see how many you can knock down

**Glow in the dark playdough prayers:**  
Make your own playdough and add in some glow in the dark paint.

Model out your favourite 'light' verse or use it to model and pray.



# Light party activities to try at home



**Pumpkin carving:**  
Carve crosses, hearts or words like love, light, faith, hope in your pumpkin

**Light lantern:**  
Using card or using a jam jar you can make a lantern light to shine God's light in the darkness

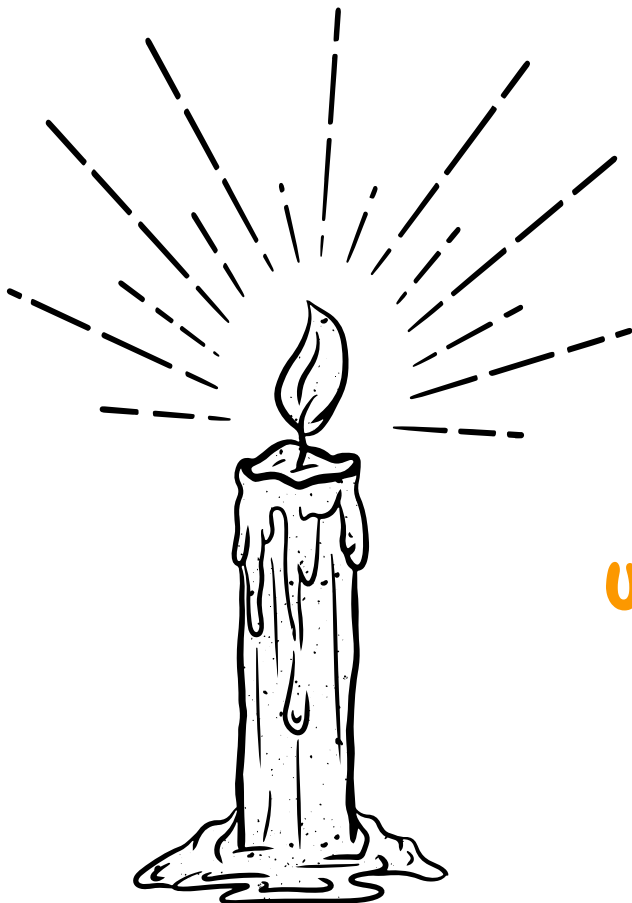


**LIGHT PARTY**

*crafts & games*



**Decorate a candle:**  
Using permanent markers, gluesticks and sequins decorate a tall white candle





**We need  
your help  
so our  
Church can  
grow....**



# Children's chapel resources needed

We are looking for the following if  
anyone is having a clear out:

- \*Thats not my..... books
- \*Hardback baby books
- \*Puzzles
- \*Large floor puzzles
- \*Christian story books
- \*Christian games /puzzles
- \*Children's story books
- \*fabric cube storage boxes

We would also love feedback from  
both the children & parents on what  
we could do to improve the Children's  
chapel



Elfie  
Selfie



£2.50 per child  
(Includes a gift  
from the elves)

**Elfie Selfie needs your help!**

**We are looking for donations of:**

**Mini packs of sweets**

**Mini packs of chocolate coins (nut free)**

**New or in great condition party bag style toys**

**New or in great condition children's Christmas story books**

**Please drop off all donations in the  
labelled box by the YACC office by  
Sunday 24th November**



# Where will your faith lead you to share your talents?

We need adult and teenager volunteers to join the following established committees:

**Events**

Thursday lunches

Intercessions

Inclusive Church

House groups

Refreshments at WGC

Concert Club events

**Website & Sound desk**

**Eco Church**

**Garden team**

**Children's work**

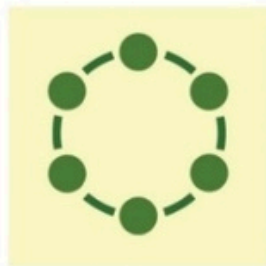
**Youth Group**

**Wild Church**

**Wednesday coffee for all**



Speak to Carol & Rob, our Church wardens



## PARISH GIVING SCHEME

**We are changing how we manage Gift Aid to manage our finances more efficiently.**

### **Why the change?**

- Bank charges are increasing.
- This scheme has no cost to us
- Gift Aid received monthly (now annually)
- Fully compliant with HMRC requirements
- Secure and easy to use

### **What does it mean for Standing Order givers?**

- Sign up for the scheme with this QR code, by going to [www.parishgiving.org.uk](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk) or by calling 0333 002 1271
- Payments will be made by Direct Debit
- Cancel your current Standing Order (important!)
- It really is that easy



For more information, speak to Graham or Sally in the finance team and they can help you make the change.

Our current bank account will be closed in November

We've made it easier to support the church financially.



Thank you for your generosity.



**NEW!**

Monthly Direct Debit giving.  
Straight from your bank account.  
Easy to set up, and secure.  
We get Gift Aid paid monthly.



**JustGiving™**

Secure debit or credit card payments.  
Ideal for ad hoc or regular giving.  
Great for fund raising events, too.  
We get monthly Gift Aid.



 **easyfundraising**

Simple registration.  
Over 7,000 brands online.  
Small commission-share from each purchase  
No cost to you!  
We get Gift Aid paid monthly.



**payaz®**

The contactless screen in the foyer.  
Secure payments of any value.  
**ALL** worldwide cards accepted!  
We claim Gift Aid once a year.

*giftaid it*

For more information on any of these, use the QR codes or speak to Graham Bloye, our Treasurer.

Save  
the  
Date



Welwyn Garden City

# Wild Church

**Sunday 13th October at 3pm**

**Come and join in our last Wild Church of the year  
Sherrardspark wood, Roundwood Drive entrance**

**Please bring a drink and dress for the weather.**





# **TALENT SHOW**

**09 NOV AT 7:00 PM**

**@ St Francis Church**

**A fun night for all ages to enjoy!**

**Come along and watch or show us what you've got and grab your chance to shine!**

**Entries must register their interest by emailing or filling out the sign up sheet in the Church Foyee. Each act must be a maximum of 2 minutes long.**

**Closing date is 31st October**

**REGISTER NOW**

**[children@stfranciswgc.org.uk](mailto:children@stfranciswgc.org.uk)**

# Christmas Tree Festival



Mulled Wine, Food, Hamper  
Raffle, Elfie Selfie, Tombola,  
Handicrafts  
and Cakes

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>  
& Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>  
December 2024**

12 – 5pm

Admission £3.50 (under 12s free)

St Francis of Assisi Church  
Church Road  
Welwyn Garden City  
AL8 6QJ

Applications for trees open NOW  
Contact [stfrancisctf@outlook.com](mailto:stfrancisctf@outlook.com)  
for more details



Supporting St Francis of Assisi Church and the  
1<sup>st</sup> Welwyn Garden City (St Francis) Scouts

 SF SF

ALL ARE WELCOME TO OUR  
**FAMILY NATIVITY SERVICE**  
SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER @9.15



**Come dressed as you are, in a festive jumper  
or in a Nativity costume of your choice & join in the fun!**

St Francis Church, Church Road, WGC





# Join us for our *Family Christmas* Carol Service

**SATURDAY 21ST DECEMBER 4PM**

St Francis Church, Church Road WGC



**FOLLOWED BY HOT CHOCOLATE & COOKIES**



# CHRISTINGLE MAKING SESSION

**SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER  
@9.15 YACC SESSION**

## Christingle

**ORANGE**  
the world

**RED TAPE**  
God's love for the world



**CANDLE**

Jesus - he shows us what God is like

**4 COCKTAIL STICKS**  
4 corners of the world

**SWEETS**  
the good gifts God gives us

<https://lucvathome.co.uk>

**COME AND JOIN US MAKING THE  
CHRISTINGLES FOR OUR  
CHRISTINGLE & CRIB SERVICE!  
A GREAT WAY TO GET INTO THE  
CHRISTMAS SPIRIT AND LEARN MORE  
ABOUT CHRISTINGLES AND WHAT THEY  
REPRESENT!**

**EMAIL NIKKI TO SIGN UP:  
CHILDREN@STFRANCISWGC.ORG.UK**



**YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN US AT ST FRANCIS CHURCH  
THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON**

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\* SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES

**SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER: 6PM ADVENT CAROL SERVICE\***

**SATURDAY 7TH & SUNDAY 8TH DECEMBER  
12-5PM CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL\***

**SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER: 9.15 FAMILY NATIVITY SERVICE \***

**SATURDAY 21ST DECEMBER: 4PM FAMILY CAROL SERVICE \***

**SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER: 6PM NINE LESSONS SERVICE**

**CHRISTMAS EVE, TUESDAY 24TH DECEMBER:  
CHRISTINGLE CRIB SERVICE @ 5PM \*  
11PM MIDNIGHT MASS**

**CHRISTMAS DAY : 25 DECEMBER  
10AM FAMILY COMMUNION\* : ALL ARE WELCOME**

*Merry Christmas*

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May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Mary and Joseph, and the peace of the Christ Child be yours this Christmas.

[www.stfranciswgc.org.uk](http://www.stfranciswgc.org.uk)



**Join us  
at our  
weekly  
groups..**

# Join us for toddletime

Come along and meet Nikki, Joan & Cynthia

WEDNESDAYS 10-11.30 ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

Wednesday 11th, 18th & 25th September

Wednesday 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd October

Wednesday 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th November

\*No sessions running throughout December\*

Join us for fun, exploring through play,  
friendship, stories & songtime.

Suitable for confident walkers up to 4 years old.



Suggested donation: £2 for 1 adult & child 50p extra child. Card payment only please

Please walk where possible as parking is very limited

St Francis Church, Church Road WGC



St Francis Church, Church Road, AL8 6QJ

# Thursday Lunches

Everyone is welcome!

Join us every Thursday 12-1pm

For a homemade soup, bread & cheese,  
with a hot cup of tea.

A great space to chat & meet new people



A spiritual hub for the community, making God's love known to all.

Wednesday coffee for all



St Francis Church, Church Road, AL8 6QJ

Everyone is  
welcomed.  
Wednesdays  
10.30-12

Join us for a hot drink, biscuits and great conversation in the Parish room, back right handside of Church through the double doors.

## Churches In Welwyn Garden City

# WARM HUBS IN WGC

Looking for warmth and company this winter?  
Why not join us? It's free and you are welcome.

The Lounge - Tuesdays 1.30-3pm.  
Christchurch Peartree, Tewin Road

Mary and Isabel's Compassionate Cafe, Tuesdays,  
11-1pm, St Mary Magdalene's Parish Centre, Hall Grove

Teapot Tuesdays, 2-4pm, United Reformed Church  
Parkway

Coffee For All, Every Wednesday 10.30am- 12 noon  
St Francis Church, Parkway

Body and Soul Cafe - Weds & Thurs anytime  
11-2pm Christchurch Parkway, 110 Parkway

Thursday Lunches, 12 noon-1pm, St Francis Church  
Parkway

Coffee Pot at St John the Evangelist Digswell  
every Friday morning 9:00am - 12 noon

The Hub Cafe at St John's, Monks Rise  
every Saturday morning 9:00am - 12 noon



## Church contact details:

Parish Office: Open Wed-Fri, 9.30am-noon  
St Francis of Assisi Church, Church Road, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6QJ  
Phone: 01707 694191 Email: admin@stfranciswgc.org.uk

Vicar: The Reverend Jenny Fennell  
Phone: 01707 320960 Email: vicar@stfranciswgc.org.uk

Nikki, Children's & Families' Worker  
Email: children@stfranciswgc.org.uk

Check out our  
YACC webpage  
& keep up to  
date with all the  
Sunday Church  
materials to do  
at home :

<https://stfranciswgc.org.uk/youth-and-children/>

Join our Zoom Prayers  
on Wednesdays at 8pm  
Email vicar@stfranciswgc.org.uk  
to receive the details



@stfranciswgc



@stfrancischurchwgc



@stfranciswgc