

## Welcome to our services today

26 January 2025  
3rd Sunday of Epiphany

### SAID EUCHARIST, 8am

### PARISH COMMUNION, 9.15am

Followed by refreshments and chat in the Hall.  
For part of this service during term time, young people are invited to join our age-appropriate activities led by our youth team:  
Groups for ages up to Year 5 meets in the Hall  
Years 5 to 7 in the Parish Room  
Years 8+ in the Cellar (access is through the Parish Room)  
There are various resources and activity bags in the Children's Chapel available for younger children.

Hymns: 534, (t.424), 489, 401, 411  
Congregational Setting: Tambling  
Choir Music: Sumsion in F  
Elgar Ave Verum

Readings: Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a;  
Luke 4.14-21

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

### CHORAL EVENSONG, 6pm

Introit: L'Estrange Lighten our Darkness      Responses: Mold  
Psalm: 33      Canticles: Dyson in F      Anthem: Aston For I went  
with the multitude      Hymns: 13, 55      Dismissal: Mold

*Next service's readings: Malachi 3:1-5; Hebrews 2: 14-18; Luke 2: 22-40*

Parish Office (mornings Wed - Fri): 01707 694191      admin@stfranciswgc.org.uk  
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## Services & Diary Dates: this week

Tue 28 Jan      Said Eucharist, 7.30pm  
Wed 29 Jan      ToddleTime playgroup, 10am  
                     Said Eucharist, 10.30am  
                     Coffee for All, 10.30am  
                     Prayer Group (online via Zoom), 8pm  
Thur 30 Jan      Thursday Lunches, 12 noon  
Fri 31 Jan      Choir practice, 7pm  
Sun 2 Feb      Said Eucharist, 8am  
                     Parish Communion, 9.15am  
                     "Frankie's at 5" informal worship service, 5pm

## Services & Diary Dates: further ahead

Sat 8 Feb      Felici Opera & Musical Theatre Gala, 7.30pm  
Sun 23 Feb      Choral Evensong, 6pm  
Fri 28 Feb      Memorial Service - Judith Claxton, 2.30pm  
Sun 3 Mar      "Frankie's at 5" informal worship service, 5pm  
Wed 5 Mar      Said Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes, 10.30am  
Ash Wednesday      Sung Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes, 8pm

## Our church thrives through volunteers - can you help?

*See foyer noticeboard for details and sign-up sheets.*

- Contributions of new or unused/unwanted Christmas gifts; toiletry/fragrance/candle sets, long shelf life alcohol (spirits/wines), toys/games/puzzles, candles, etc (not books, please). We need prizes for our upcoming fundraising events.
- The Flower Team would be very grateful for cash donations towards our Flower Fund. Please hand them in through the Parish Office, to Pui San. New: If you would like to dedicate a special flower memorial, you can contact joint team leaders Julie Lowes or Claire Meola on: [flowers@stfranciswgc.org.uk](mailto:flowers@stfranciswgc.org.uk)

## News:

(Zoe Jasko) Felici Opera's 10th anniversary (and farewell) gala features a varied programme; Mozart to Verdi, G&S to 'Hamilton', there's something for everyone. All monies raised will be shared between St Francis Church and Cancer Research UK. Tickets from Zoe: [www.feliciopera.com](http://www.feliciopera.com) or 07712 530550. *Tickets are selling fast – don't delay ...*

**26 January 2025**  
**3rd Sunday of Epiphany**

**Collect**

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10**

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel.

Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month.

He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up.

Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen,' lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law.

Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.'

**1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a**

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.

If the foot would say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body.

If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be?

As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.'

On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another.

If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues.

Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

**Luke 4: 14-21**

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country.

He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.' And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

Almighty God, who caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul: grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion may follow him in bearing witness to your truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

*Next Sunday: Malachi 3:1-5; Hebrews 2: 14-18; Luke 2: 22-40*