

Welcome to our services today

18 May 2025

Fifth Sunday after Easter



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: 137, 150, 153, 159

Congregational Setting: Archer

Choir Music: Palestrina Missa Aeterna Christi Munera
Byrd Teach me O Lord

Readings: Acts 11: 1-18; Revelation 21: 1-6; John 13: 31-35

This week we pray for all who live and work in Barleycroft Road.

CHORAL EVENSONG, 6pm

Introit: Tallis If ye love me Responses: Leighton Psalm: 98
Canticles: Murrill in E Anthem: Stopford – In my Father's house
Hymns: 11, 23 Dismissal: Gould Easter

*Next service's readings: Acts 16: 9-15; Revelation 21: 10, 22 - 22.5;
John 14: 23-29*

Parish Office (mornings Wed - Fri): 01707 694191 admin@stfranciswgc.org.uk

This Church is currently in vacancy. New minister required!

St Francis of Assisi, (CoE) Church Road, WGC, AL8 6QJ Registered Charity No: 112984

Services & Diary Dates: this week

Tue 20 May	Said Eucharist, 7.30pm
Wed 21 May	ToddleTime Playgroup, 10am Said Eucharist, 10.30am Coffee for All, 10.30am Zoom online prayer group, 8pm
Thur 22 May	Thursday Lunches, 12 noon
Fri 23 May	Choir practice, 7pm
Sun 25 May	Said Eucharist, 8am Parish Communion, 9.15am

Our church thrives through volunteers - can you help?

URGENT: Anyone with basic calligraphy writing skills?

We desperately need someone to update names into our Book of Remembrance, located in the St Clare Chapel. This book remembers all who have had a final service connected to St Francis Church. This is not onerous work and is done at home, ideally 4 times to twice a year (minimum). All information is provided by the Parish Administrator. Please have a chat with Pui San to find out more.

News

Funeral Service of Carol Pankhurst takes place on Tuesday, 27 May, 1pm in (Welwyn Hatfield) Oak Hill Lawn Cemetery, Southway, Hatfield AL10 8HS. Eric and family invite you to the service and to the reception afterwards in WGC Golf Club, Manicotts.

Error in last week's listing - Funeral Service of Sheila Pilfold takes place in Harwood Park Crematorium on Monday, 30 June at **12noon**.

We are planning a 3-day Art Exhibition in church at the end of September, featuring work by local WGC or nearby artists. Would anyone who is an artist, or attends Art Classes or knows of people who do and might be interested in exhibiting, please contact Andrew Watkinson at andrewwatkinson@btinternet.com or 07913 923364.

A full list of our new PCC members is displayed on the porch noticeboard. If anyone wishes to voice a new idea, query, concern, or suggestion, please feel very welcome to speak to any PCC member. Should you wish to raise a PCC item for discussion, contact PCC Secretary on pcc@stfranciswgc.org.uk

18 May 2025
5th Sunday of Easter

Collect

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Acts 11: 1-18

The apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God.

So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?' Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying,

'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air.

I also heard a voice saying to me, *Get up, Peter; kill and eat.* But I replied, *By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.*

But a second time the voice answered from heaven, *What God has made clean, you must not call profane.*

This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven.

At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house.

He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, *Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.*

And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning.

And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, *John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.* If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God? When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.'

Revelation 21: 1-6

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.'

And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.'

Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.'

John 13: 31-35

During the supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him.

If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.

Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, *Where I am going, you cannot come.*

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

Next Readings: Acts 16: 9-15; Revelation 21: 10, 22 - 22.5; John 14: 23-29