

Welcome to our services today

14 December 2025
Third Sunday of Advent



We welcome Revd Sue Stilwell this morning to preside over our services.

SAID EUCHARIST, 8am

PARISH COMMUNION WITH NATIVITY PLAY, 9.15am

Followed by refreshments and chat in the Hall.

There are no separate Youth and Children's Church sessions today to enable everyone to enjoy the Nativity play, presented by our young families together.

We continue to offer various resources and activity bags in the Children's Chapel (younger children).

Hymns: 34, 28, 476 (*No gradual*)

Choir: Oldroyd Missa Ave Jesu

Poston Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

Readings: Isaiah 35: 1-10; James 5: 7-10; Matthew 11: 2-11

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

*Next Sunday's readings: Isaiah 7: 10-16; Romans 1: 1-7;
Matthew 1: 18-25*

Parish Office (mornings Wed – Fri): 01707 694191

This Church is currently in vacancy.

admin@stfranciswgc.org.uk

Enquiries on Baptisms, Funerals, etc. to be directed to: Parish Administrator, c/o Parish Office

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

Parish Office will close between 24 December to 2 January 2026

Services & Diary Dates: this week

Tue 16 Dec	Said Eucharist, 7.30pm
Wed 17 Dec	Said Eucharist, 10.30am Coffee for All, 10.30am Zoom online prayer group, 8pm
Thur 18 Dec	Thursday Christmas Lunch, 12noon
Fri 19 Dec	Choir Practice, 7pm
Sat 20 Dec	Family Carols Service, 4pm (<i>With hot chocolate & gingerbread at the end</i>)
Sun 21 Dec	Said Eucharist, 8am Parish Communion with Nativity Play, 9.15am Nine Lessons and Carols Service, 6pm (<i>With mulled wine and mince pies at the end</i>)

Services & Diary Dates: further ahead

Wed 24 Dec	Crib Service with Christingles, 5pm Midnight Mass, 11pm
Thur 25 Dec	Christmas Family Communion, 10am

THANK YOU!

On Friday, we sent off 179(!) wrapped Christmas gifts to The WGC Foodbank. Thank you so very much.

To our inspirational Chief Elf Graham (officially retired!) so if there's anyone or with a team willing to consider taking it on for 2026, please have a chat with him. We also need someone to lead our Crafts Stall.

To all our exhibitors, volunteers and generous contributors, the leaders and youngsters from 1st WGC(St Francis) Scout Grp for another record St Francis Christmas Tree Festival!

Well done to all worthy winners and to our trebles for winning in the 'most creative' category

Can You Donate:

- 1) **Mince pies** please bring them in anytime from now onwards.
- 2) **Christingle Oranges** - Collection box on the back church table. Carol will lead a working party to prep these oranges on Tue, 23 Dec between 10 to 12noon. Please join in if you can.
- 3) **Cash for Christmas Flowers** would be gratefully received by the Flower Team. Please hand in via the Parish Office.

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Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Isaiah 35: 1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

James 5: 7-10

Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains.

You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors!

As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Matthew 11: 2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to Jesus, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?'

Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.

And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?

What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces.

What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

Next Sunday: Isaiah 7: 10-16; Romans 1: 1-7; Matthew 1: 18-25