

Welcome to our services today

28 December 2025
First Sunday of Christmas



This morning we welcome The Right Revd Dr Jane Mainwaring,
Bishop of Hertford

PARISH COMMUNION, 9.15am

Followed by refreshments and chat in the Hall.
There are no Youth and Children's Church sessions.
We offer various resources and activity bags in the Children's Chapel,
available for younger children.

Congregational Setting: Archer
Hymns: 73, 60, 55, 57
Choir on holiday

Readings: Isaiah 63: 7-9; Hebrews 2: 10-18; Matthew 2: 13-23

This week we pray for all who live and work in Stanborough Green and
all members of St Francis who live outside the parish.

*Next Sunday's readings: Isaiah 60: 1-6; Ephesians 3: 1-12;
Matthew 2: 1-12*

Parish Office (mornings Wed – Fri): 01707 694191

This Church is currently in vacancy.

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

admin@stfranciswgc.org.uk

Services & Diary Dates: this week

Wed 31 Dec Said Eucharist, 10.30am

Coffee for All, 10.30 am

Sun 4 Jan Morning Prayer, 8am

Parish Communion, 9.15am

Our church thrives through volunteers. Can you help?

- Volunteers for 2026's rota of serving Saturday concert refreshments. Please sign up on the main noticeboard.
- Urgent need for someone to oversee the laundering of our large altar linen cloths. We give our grateful thanks to Lynn Burling who has faithfully done so for so many years and has now retired. Please have a chat with Lynn and see if this suits you.
- **Volunteers** are always needed for all our various groups, as older members retire, we need others to come forward. Is there anyone who has yet to consider; we have varied roles, ad-hoc tasks and jobs either regularly on a rota or flexibly from home.

Just approach any of our tireless team leaders (names in brackets) below and find out more: Sidespeople (Barbara), Servers (Anthony), Sacristy / Small Linen (both Jan), Lessons Reading (Karen), Parish Coffee (Carol), Wednesday Coffee for All (Sally), Thursday Lunches (Rob & Clare Smith), Intercessions (Pui San), Flowers (Julie & Claire), Sound desk (Montse), Youth & Children's Church (Carol).

It is only through all of us doing our own bit, that together we can maintain and enjoy a full and thriving St Francis Church life. If you have any idea/suggestion – please speak to churchwardens, Rob/ Carol.

News:

The Christmas flowers in church have been generously donated by several anonymous donors including memorial tributes from:

- 1) Anne Woolmington for beloved mother, Vera Taylor.
- 2) Janet Turnbull for beloved husband, Bill.

Updates:

- No Tuesday Said Eucharist on 30 December.
- Wednesday ToddleTime playgroup re-opens on 7 January.
- Thursday Lunches re-opens on 8 January.
- Parish Office re-opens on Friday, 2 January.

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Collect

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Isaiah 63: 7-9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, 'Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely'; and he became their saviour in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Hebrews 2: 10-18

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.'

And again, 'I will put my trust in him.' And again, 'Here am I and the children whom God has given me.'
Since the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.

For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.

Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Matthew 2: 13-23

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.'

Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.

Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel.

But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

Next Sunday: Isaiah 60: 1-6; Ephesians 3: 1-12; Matthew 2: 1-12