

Welcome to our services today

25 January 2026
Conversion of Paul



SAID EUCHARIST, 8am, Presided by Revd Susan Marsh

PARISH COMMUNION, 9.15am
With BAPTISM of Fearne Amber Humphrey
Presided by Revd Richard Syms

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 parent volunteers:
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 thru the Parish Room)

There are various resources and activity bags in the Children's Chapel available for younger children.

Gloria: Archer

Hymns: 87, 532, 338, 558

Choir: Malcolm Missa ad Praesepe
 Sans Day Carol – arr. Rutter

Readings: Jeremiah 1: 4-10; Acts 9: 1-22; Matthew 19: 27-30

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

CHORAL EVENSONG, 6pm Presided by Revd Susan Marsh

Next Sunday'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

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

Services & Diary Dates: this week

Tue 27 Jan Said Eucharist, 7.30pm

Wed 28 Jan ToddleTime playgroup, 10am
 Said Eucharist, 10.30am
 Coffee for All, 10.30am

Thur 29 Jan Thursday Lunches, 12noon

Fri 30 Jan Choir practice, 7pm

Sun 1 Feb Said Eucharist, 8am
 Parish Communion, 9.15am
 'Frankie's @5' Informal worship service, 5pm

Services & Diary Dates: further ahead

Sun 8 Feb Said Eucharist, 8am

Parish Communion, 9.15am
(including the Baptism of Romee Miceli and Leo Sutovic)
Interment of Ashes - Malcolm Warwick, 10.30am

Sun 22 Feb Choral Evensong, 6pm

Our church thrives through volunteers. Can you help?

- Urgent need for more people to join with the Intercessions team, it's not a difficult task if one is already attending church services. Pui San would love to have a chat with anyone who may be considering this.
- Urgent need for someone to oversee the laundering of our large altar linen cloths. Please have a chat with Lynn Burling(now retired) and consider if this suits you.
- Volunteers for 2026's rota of serving Saturday concert refreshments. Dates are: 7 Mar, 18 Apr & 16 May. Thank you to our helpful elves who have already signed up but we need more! Please sign up on the main noticeboard.

News

Message from Sarah Ware, (Donald's daughter):

"For anyone who remembers Donald Ould - he attended St Francis from 1964 until moving to Norfolk in 2014, was a churchwarden for several years and involved with the Friends trustees.

Dad is 100 next Tuesday, 27th January. We would really appreciate it if you could add his name to this week's prayers.

Sadly Dad is now bed-bound in a care home, so not up to enjoying a special party. But he's looking forward to his card from the King, seeing immediate family and receiving many messages."

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Collect

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.

Jeremiah 1: 4-10

The word of the Lord came to me saying, ‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.’

Then I said, ‘Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.’ But the Lord said to me, ‘Do not say, *I am only a boy*; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.’

Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, ‘Now I have put my words in your mouth.

See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.’

Acts 9: 1-22

Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?’ He asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ The reply came, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.’

The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, ‘Ananias.’ He answered, ‘Here I am, Lord.’

The Lord said to him, ‘Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.’ But Ananias answered, ‘Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.’ But the Lord said to him, ‘Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.’ So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, ‘He is the Son of God.’

All who heard him were amazed and said, ‘Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?’

Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

Matthew 19: 27-30

Peter said to Jesus: ‘Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?’

Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name’s sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.’

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