

## Welcome to our services today

26 April 2026  
Fourth Sunday of Easter



Today's services are presided by Revd Sue Stilwell.

### 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 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.

Congregational Setting: Lloyd

Hymns: 140, 711, 233(1<sup>st</sup> tune), 764

Choir: Shephard Wiltshire Service

Loving shepherd of thy sheep - Rutter

Readings: Acts 2: 42-47; 1 Peter 2: 19-25; John 10: 1-10

This week we pray for all who live and work in Downfields and Stacklands.

### ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING, 10.45am

### CHORAL EVENSONG, 6pm

*Next Sunday's readings: Acts 7: 55-60; 1 Peter 2: 2-10; John 14: 1-14*

Parish Office: Wed to Fri mornings 01707 694191

[admin@stfranciswgc.org.uk](mailto:admin@stfranciswgc.org.uk)

**This Church is currently in vacancy.**

Enquiries on Funerals or Burials, 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 28 Apr Compline Service, 7.30pm

Wed 29 Apr Toddletime Playgroup, 10am  
Said Eucharist, 10.30am  
Coffee for All, 10.30am

Thur 30 Apr Powerhouse of Prayer, 2.30pm  
Thursday Lunches, 12noon

Fri 1 May Choir practice, 7pm

Sun 3 May Said Eucharist, 8am

Parish Communion, 9.15am

'Frankie's @5' Informal Worship Service, 5pm

### Services & Diary Dates: this week

Sat 9 May Choir Quiz Night, 6pm

Thur 14 May Sung Eucharist for Ascension Day, 8pm

### News

**Quiz Night on 9 May@6pm.** Do get your teams together (6 persons per table) for this wonderful fun night and help raise monies for our choir. Ticket price includes hot meal, Adult: £10, Under-16s: £5. BYO snacks & drinks. Sign up sheet in on the noticeboard. Card/cash on the night, don't forget to support our Raffle too!

**URGENT:** We really need 3 volunteers for serving refreshments for the 16 May concert. Please sign-up on the noticeboard.

*"The Powerhouse of Prayer meetings continues till 30<sup>th</sup> April. Thank you to all who have already committed to come. Please keep spreading the word."* Marcia.

Reminder: Thursday 7 May is national Polling Day, so the Hall is in use as a polling station all day until 10pm.

If anyone would like to commemorate a special celebration/anniversary or event through donating flowers in church, please e-mail (anytime): [flowers@stfranciswgc.org.uk](mailto:flowers@stfranciswgc.org.uk) The team would be delighted to help.

**Reminder: APCM meeting today!** Do attend if you can. APCM Group Reports and Annual Financial Statements are available on our church website. Some paper copies are available at the back of church. We still have these vacancies: PCC members, Deanery Synod and Churchwardens. Any queries, please speak to Churchwarden Carol.

**26 April 2026**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**Collect**

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Acts 2: 42-47**

Many were baptized and were added to the community. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles.

All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

**1 Peter 2: 19-25**

Brothers and sisters:

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval.

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. 'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.'

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

**John 10: 1-10**

Jesus said to the Pharisees:

'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.'

Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.

All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them.

I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.'

*Next Sunday: Acts 7: 55-60; 1 Peter 2: 2-10; John 14: 1-14*