

Welcome to our services today

3 May 2026
Fifth Sunday of Easter



Today's services are presided by Revd Susan Marsh.

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: Tambling

Hymns: 2, 321, 165, 731

Choir: Leighton in D

Now the green blade riseth – Lawrence

Readings: Acts 7: 55-60; 1 Peter 2: 2-10; John 14: 1-14

This week we pray for all who live and work in The Quadrangle and Handside Green.

*Next Sunday's readings: Acts 17: 22-31; 1 Peter 3: 13-22;
John 14: 15-21*

Parish Office: Wed to Fri mornings 01707 694191

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 5 May Said Eucharist, 7.30pm
Parochial Church Council Meeting, 8pm
Wed 6 May Toddletime Playgroup, 10am
Said Eucharist, 10.30am
Coffee for All, 10.30am
Thur 7 May *Hall is in use as a Polling Station*
Fri 8 May Choir practice, 7pm
Sat 9 May Choir Quiz Night, 6pm
Sun 10 May Said Eucharist, 8am
Parish Communion, 9.15am

Services & Diary Dates: this week

Thur 14 May Sung Eucharist for Ascension Day, 8pm
Sat 16 May Welwyn Garden Concert Club, 7.30pm
Sun 24 May Pentecost – Family Communion Service, 10am

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 is on the noticeboard. Card or cash on the night, don't forget to support our Raffle too!

URGENT: We desperately need 2 volunteers for serving refreshments for the 16 May concert. Please sign-up on the noticeboard.

Church Flowers: 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 The team would be delighted to help.

WANTED! Plant Seedlings: Have you sown too much or bought more than you can use. If so, can you spare your surplus plants for St Francis Church garden, where everyone could enjoy them too? Please speak to Anthony Packer, anytime.

VOLUNTEERS: This church thrives on volunteers. We give thanks for all who are already serving in so many capacities. If there is anyone unsure or think they can help in a small way or perhaps only occasionally, we have roles or needs that may suit. Don't be shy, please speak to Churchwarden Carol.

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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 7: 55-60

Standing before the high priest and the council, Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!'

But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him.

Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.'

Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

1 Peter 2: 2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation - if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight.

Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: 'See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,' and

'A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.' They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

John 14: 1-14

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.

In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?'

Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.'

Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"?

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.

Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.

I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.'

Next Sunday: Acts 17: 22-31; 1 Peter 3: 13-22; John 14: 15-21