

Welcome to our services today

26th July 2026
Eighth Sunday after Trinity



Both services presided by Revd Canon Jenny Gray:

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:

For ages up to Year 5 - meet in the Hall (mixed ages)

We may not be running all year groups during the summer holidays.

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

Congregational Setting: Lloyd

Hymns: 494, 460, 408(2nd tune), 534(tune *Lyngham*)

Choir on summer break

Readings: 1 Kings 3: 5-12; Romans 8: 26-39;
Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

This week we pray for all who live and work in Longcroft Lane.

*Next Sunday's readings: Isaiah 55: 1-5; Romans 9: 1-5;
Matthew 14: 13-21*

Parish Office: Wed to Fri mornings 01707 694191

admin@stfranciswgc.org.uk

This Church remains in vacancy until 7 September 2026.

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 Jul	Said Eucharist, 7.30pm
Wed 29 Jul	Said Eucharist, 10.30am Coffee for All, 10.30am
Thur 23 Jul	Thursday Lunches, 12 noon
Sun 2 Aug	Parish Communion, 9.15am

Services & Diary Dates: later on

Mon 7 Sep	Licensing and Installation Service, 7.30pm
2 to 4 Oct	Arts Festival, 11am-6pm
Sat 3 Oct	Artists' Desert Island Discs, 7pm

News

We are delighted to share with you that, three of our candidates are currently being prepared for confirmation, with support from Revds: Ryan and Susannah. **Bishop Rob Wickham will confirm them, this evening (6.30pm) in a Choral Evensong with Baptism and Confirmation Service at Welwyn St Mary's Church. Please support them and uphold them in your prayers: Charlie Sudell (baptised in the same service), Callum Burke and Edward Apling.**

Choir Week 2026 takes place in Salisbury Cathedral from 17 to 23 August. Monday, 17th to Saturday 22nd; Choral Evensong services at 5.30pm (note: Choir has the day off on Thursday, 20 Aug) and choir also sings on Sunday 23rd: Eucharist - 10.30am and Choral Evensong - 4.30pm.

Please feel very welcome to join our choir in these worship services in this historic 800 year old early English Gothic cathedral setting.

Reminder: Strictly no parking on the kerb. We would appreciate everyone's co-operation to help us remind casual visitors too. And to keep at least 10 feet of unhindered access at both exit points of the driveway.

Open invitation to the Licensing & Installation Service - Revd Tricia Reed as Interim Priest-in-Charge, 7.30pm on Mon 7 Sep.

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Collect

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

1 Kings 3: 5-12

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I should give you.'

And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this.

God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.'

Romans 8: 26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family.

And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else?

Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad.

So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.'

And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

Next Sunday: Isaiah 55: 1-5; Romans 9: 1-5; Matthew 14: 13-21