

The Link

ST FRANCIS • OLD SARUM • LONGHEDGE

FEBRUARY 22



WHAT'S ON AT HOPE CHURCH

Monday Monkeys
Messy Church and more!

MISSION FOCUS

Read the latest from
Christian Aid

WHAT'S ON AT ST FRANCIS

50s and Beyond
Friday Cafe
Teddybears

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THIS MONTH AT ST FRANCIS CHURCH ON SUNDAYS:

Equipped for Life with God

6th Feb

Why & how can I pray?

1 Tim 2.1-8 / Matthew 6.5-15

13th Feb

Why & how can I read the Bible?

Luke 4.14-21 / 2 Tim 3.10-17

20th Feb

How does God guide us?

Acts 16.6-15 / Romans 8.9-17

27th Feb

Why & how can I tell others?

2 Kings 7.3-11 / Romans 10.9-14

Service times

Every week -

9.30am Friendly traditional service
11am Family service with children's
groups

In addition on 20 Feb only -
7pm - Encounter Evening

For more information go to
www.st-francischurch.org.uk

I've never been to Athens – but I know that it is a city steeped in history and culture. It's a city famous for its thinkers.

When St Paul visited there (recorded in Acts 17) he met some of the locals to talk about the meaning of life.

Three hundred years earlier in Athens there had been two very prominent philosophers who gathered followers around them. They were called "Epicureans" and "Stoics." Their influence was still keenly felt by Paul. **Epicureans** believed that there was no God. They believed the world was random and the best we could hope for in human life was to get as much happiness as we could - because we'd all soon be dead. It might have been Epicureans who coined the catchphrase "Eat, drink, for tomorrow we die."



Stoics on the other hand thought that if there were no God, and that the world was intrinsically meaningless, the best we could hope for was to become free from all human emotions and be resigned to the direction the universe choose to take us.

When Paul got into conversation with members of these groups, they found that they had some common ground about the meaning of life. Neither Epicureans, Stoics nor followers of Jesus believed that the meaning of life could be contained in a religious building no matter how grandly it had been built – whether the temple in Jerusalem or the Parthenon in Athens.

But for Paul, the key determining fact in the whole of human history was the resurrection of Jesus – which had happened just a few years earlier. It changed Paul for ever.

It is still the resurrection that makes all the difference. There are many things that no one understands. But God has made his redemptive purposes clear for the world in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Many people today (without knowing it) are Epicureans or Stoics. They would say that the best we can hope for is to maximize our happiness or to become immune to our pain. I believe that this is understandable, but actually untrue.

I want to invite you to our Sunday morning services in this new year. In the weeks leading up to Easter we are doing the **Alpha Course** in our morning services. Many of the churches in Salisbury are also sharing in a **Zoom Alpha** (Wednesday evenings – contact me for details). We are united in proclaiming that, in Jesus, God still answers the big questions of life. Meeting Jesus is an invitation to life.

Every blessing,
Jean de Garis

Vicar of St Francis, St Lawrence and Hope Church
01722 334214 vicar@st-francischurch.org.uk

www.st-francischurch.org.uk

what's coming up

SUNDAY 6TH FEBRUARY, 10AM | **ALL AGE SERVICE**

Join us each Sunday this month as we explore the gospel of Luke looking at the life of Jesus and his friends. All our services are at Old Sarum Community Centre. To help keep everyone safe we ask that you sign up to save your seat. The link can be found on our facebook page.

SUNDAY 13TH FEBRUARY, 10AM | **MESSY CHURCH**

Messy Church is back in the building and in person! There will be the usual fun, creativity, food and craft all in a safe and welcoming environment for you and your household to enjoy.

SUNDAY 20TH + 27TH FEBRUARY, 10AM | **ALL AGE SERVICE**

MONDAY MORNINGS, 9:15-11AM | **MONDAY MONKEYS**

Monday Monkeys is a baby and toddler group offering opportunities for children to learn and play alongside their parents or carers every fortnight. At Old Sarum and Longhedge Community Centre. Term time only.

TUESDAY NIGHTS | **CONNECT GROUPS**

Connect groups are places of friendship and support, Recently we've all had to learn to live isolated from one another and learned that it is difficult going through life on our own! Connect groups are there because we need one another. They are groups of 8-10 and meet every fortnight, to catch up, encourage, read the bible and pray for each other. If you want to find out more, email oldsarum@st-francischurch.org.uk or message us.

HOPE CHURCH UPDATE

Hope Church had an interesting Christmas, with the usual Carols in the Hangar on 5th December, a Donuts special gathering to eat free donuts and enjoy the Christmas displays and the snow machine at the Community Centre on 12th December, and a Christingle service on the 19th December.



Christmas windows, the nativity and snow machine at Old Sarum Community Centre, 12th December. Free donuts included!

The usual programme of meetings resumed on 2nd January with a well-attended all-age service based on the theme of the church as a family. Since Covid is still with us, we are sitting in family groups and have resumed mask wearing.

The pattern of future meetings will continue as follows:-

1 st Sunday in the month	All-age service
2 nd Sunday	Messy Church
3 rd and 4 th Sundays	All-age services
5 th Sunday (when applicable)	Social event

All services take place in the Old Sarum Community Centre at 10.15a.m., with refreshments (Covid permitting) at 10.00a.m. All are welcome to come and join us.



Christian Aid was founded in 1945. The first annual Christian Aid week was in 1957. In 2021 Christian Aid week raised £5 million despite the pandemic. The total from our parish was almost £2,000. Christian Aid is the official relief and development agency for 41 Christian churches in the UK and Ireland. It is a Christian organisation but works to help people of faith and no faith. It works in more than 50 countries in South and Central America, the Caribbean, Asia and Africa.

For every £1 raised:-

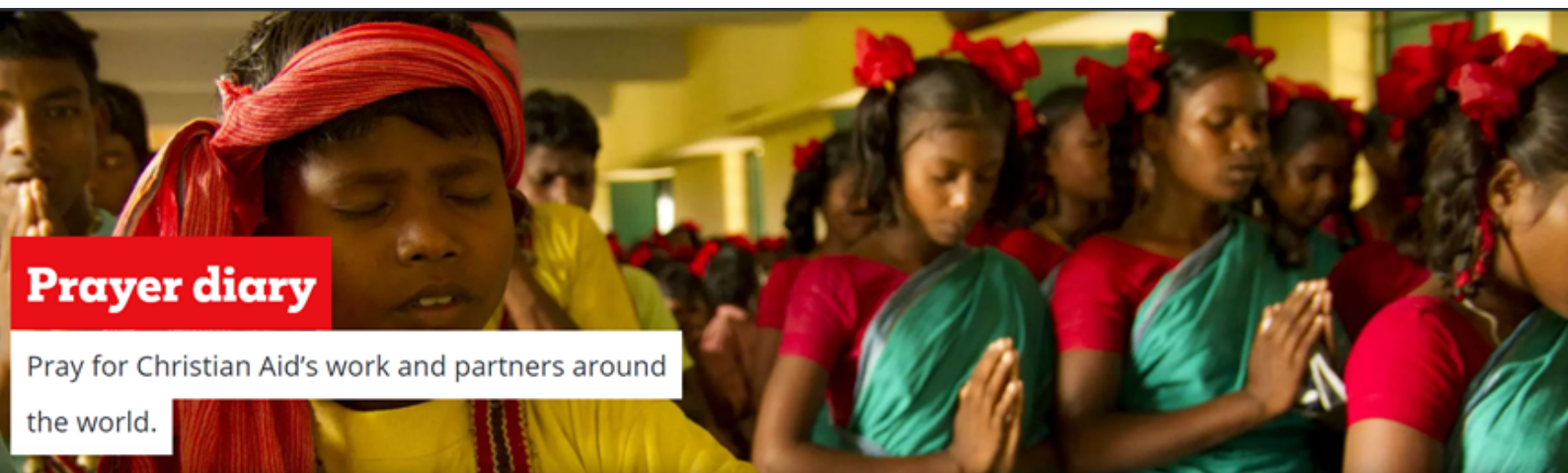
- 43p helps long term sustainable projects managed by trusted local partners (not governments)
- 35p goes to disaster and humanitarian emergencies, sometimes channelled through DEC (the Disasters Emergency Committee)
- 8p goes to campaigning for justice and tackling climate change, plus education
- 14p goes to fundraising

Tackling climate change is intrinsically tackling poverty.

A Case Study – Afghanistan

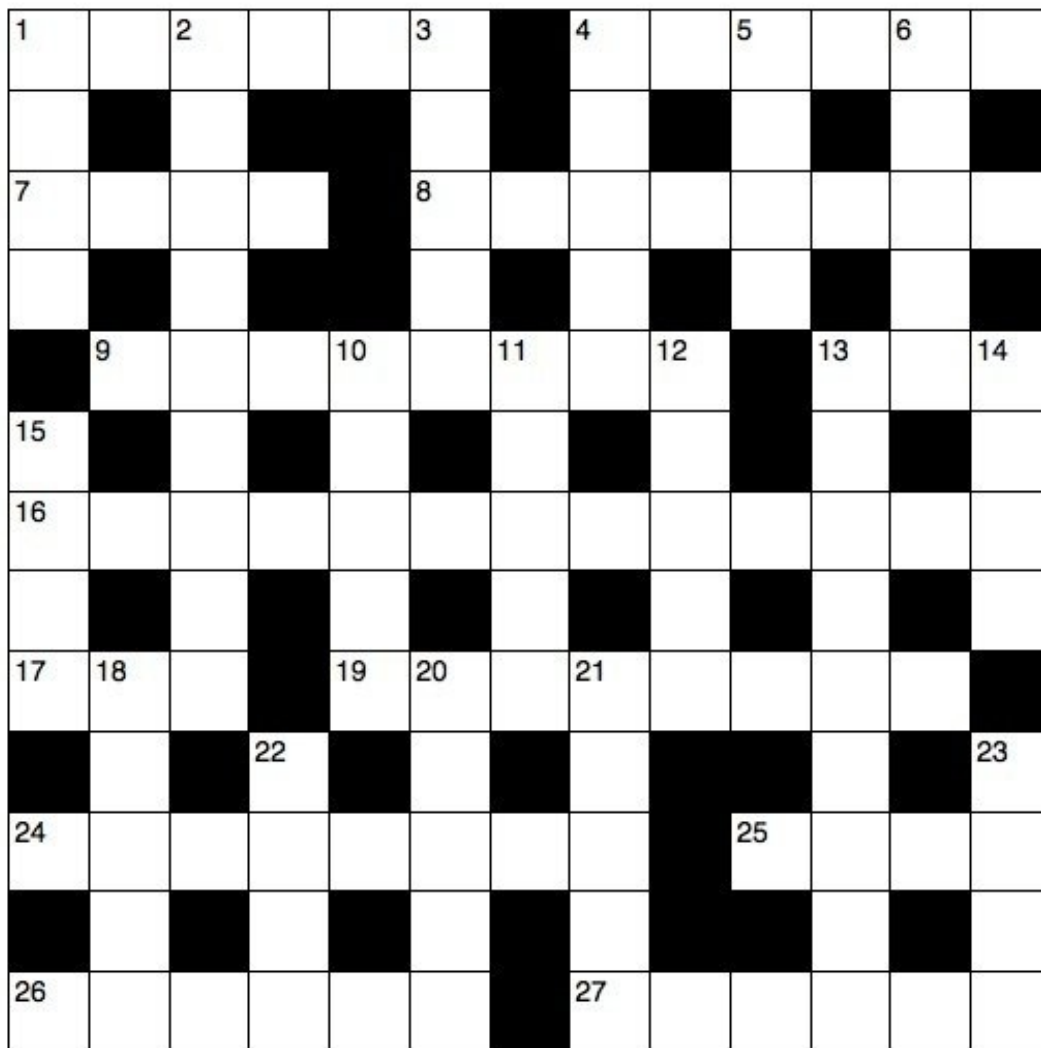
Afghanistan has suffered more than 4 decades of internal conflict with foreign involvement, poverty, a COVID-19 pandemic and take-over by the Taliban. In addition there has been the worst drought for 27 years. There has been an economic collapse and rising food prices plus a near breakdown of health services. People are hungry and at least 8 million are on the brink of famine this winter. Christian Aid are working with two or three trusted local partners, whose identity is protected, in four different areas. Some 17,000 food packages have been distributed and as a result 850 pregnant women, new mothers and their infants have received nutritional support.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK IN 2022 IS 10TH MAY – 16TH MAY



Prayer diary

Pray for Christian Aid's work and partners around the world.



Across

- 1 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6)
- 4 'They threw the ship's — overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)
- 7 The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)
- 8 He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)
- 9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)
- 13 Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3)
- 16 What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)
- 17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)
- 19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1-2) (5,3)
- 24 Simon had (anag.) (8)
- 25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)
- 26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)
- 27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

Down

- 1 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)
- 2 Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)
- 3 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5)
- 4 Belief (5)
- 5 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant — ' (Exodus 30:23) (4)
- 6 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)
- 10 A seer (anag.) (5)
- 11 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)
- 12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)
- 13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)
- 14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of
- 16 Across, — and Dolls (4)
- 15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)
- 18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)
- 20 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)
- 21 The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5)
- 22 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13) (4)
- 23 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end' (Daniel 5:26) (4)

BOOK CORNER

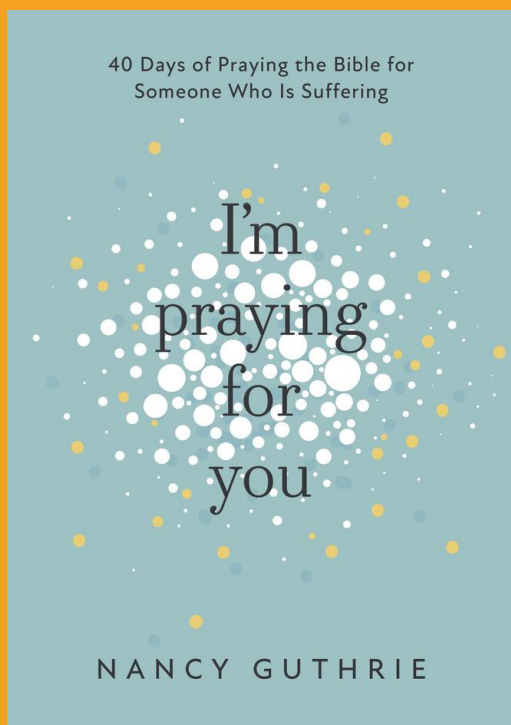


God's Plan for Your Wellbeing

By Dave Smith, CPO, £8.93

Perhaps you're feeling that one or two areas of your life need to be redirected and refocused. The good news is...you can achieve greater wellbeing in every area of your life! And it's all connected.

This book shows you how to improve each of the dials on the dashboard of your life. It covers your levels of physical energy and health; your emotional freedom and peace; your sense of satisfaction in your relationship with God; your connectivity and harmony with others; your financial margin, peace and means for generosity; and your role-based sense of motivation and creativity.



I'm Praying for You – 40 days of praying the Bible for someone who is suffering

By Nancy Guthrie, 10Publishing, £6.99

When we hear that a friend is struggling, it can be easy to say, 'I'm praying for you', but harder to know what you can actually pray!

Through forty carefully chosen Scripture passages, Nancy Guthrie opens up the wealth of scripture to teach us how to pray for those who are hurting. She shows us how the Bible provides us with a vocabulary for prayer that enables us to ask God to achieve what He intends in and through suffering. Nancy teaches us to see how God's purposes are revealed even in our darkest days, and encourages us to pray for His will to be done in difficult situations.

Each chapter includes a passage, a short explanation, and a prayer for your friend. Using the QR code at the end of each prayer, you'll be able to load and send a personal text message to the person you're praying for so that he or she will know not only that you are praying, but exactly what you are praying.

OUT AND ABOUT IN THE PARISH -

A BURIED CANNON AND A MEMORIAL STONE

You may or may not have noticed a large upright stone set in the line of the hedge on the A345 opposite Old Sarum Castle. It was originally erected in 1967 by Master Masons (Freemasons) between Old Sarum and the Beehive roundabout.

The writing on the stone is rather strange and largely indecipherable but says: "In 1794 a line from this site to Beacon Hill was measured by Capt. W Mudge of the Ordnance Survey as a base for the triangulation of Great Britain."



What was so special about that? The date is important, as, at the time, England was anticipating a French invasion. There was an urgent need to map the south coast and thereafter to extend the map to cover the rest of the country. Captain William Mudge, a second lieutenant in the Royal Artillery, was the Ordnance Survey's second most senior official at that time. He had been appointed Deputy Director of the Survey on its foundation in 1791.

Mudge chose this site at Old Sarum to make the first baseline for his maps. He selected Beacon Hill, which is approximately 7 miles north east of Old Sarum, as the other end of this baseline and, using just his theodolite and two metal chains, he laboriously determined the distance to be 36,574 feet (11,253 metres). To mark the exact position of the start of the Old Sarum end of the baseline, a cannon was buried in the ground, muzzle up. The end of this can sometimes still be seen today in the field behind the stone. The cannon is commemorated by the Ordnance Survey on their maps, as "Gun, End of Base" to this day.

THANK GOD FORTHE SONG OF THE BLACKBIRD

During the first Covid lockdown in 2020 a lot of people commented that they had, for the first time, really begun to appreciate birdsong. Perhaps this was because the world was a quieter place or maybe it was because we all had a lot less to occupy us when we couldn't go to work or school, or even to most of the shops. Whatever the reason, we could hear the birds singing loud and long – and it made our hearts glad.



To me, the most beautiful song is that of the blackbird, with the robin a close second. Most of us will have a blackbird or two in and around our gardens, since they are still fairly common garden birds. The males have pitch-black plumage and a yellow bill, also a yellow ring around each eye. The females are a slightly spotted brown. They eat worms, insects and fruits and prefer to nest in shrubs and bushes. Mostly they skitter about the garden, stirring up soil and leaves (sometimes making a terrible mess!) uttering a “chack chack” alarm call if frightened.

But early in the morning and, also towards the end of a long summer day, the males seek out a high perch and sing to proclaim their territory. Then all around you can hear the most beautiful, mellifluous song, which may go on for ten minutes or more without repeating a single phrase. It is well worth stopping to listen to enjoy this free recital: it never fails to cheer. So let us thank God for the song of the blackbird.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION
ACROSS: 1, Credit; 4, Tackle; 7, Cain; 8, Kenaniah; 9, Strength; 13, Beg; 16, Salvation
Army; 17, ARC; 19, Every day; 24, Admonish; 25, Dire; 26, Sneeze; 27, Bronze.
DOWN: 1, Cock; 2, Epistollic; 3, Taken; 4, Tenet; 5, Cane; 6, Leave; 10, Erase; 11,
Guide; 12, Honey; 13, Barbarian; 14, Guys; 15, Asia; 18, Rod in; 20, Voice; 21, Rahab;
22, Hope; 23, Mene.

The Clewer initiative - County Lines

One form of Modern Slavery that has grown during the last 18 months, and seems to have thrived during Covid restrictions, has been County Lines. For this reason, we focussed attention on this subject during 2021, providing training to many youth workers, police, local authority staff and church workers. We felt that parents and carers of young people should also be informed and so during the County Lines Police Intensification Week in October we ran a short awareness raising session for Mothers' Union members. We have decided to provide extra sessions in January, February and March for anyone who might be interested and have children/grandchildren.

Booking is at
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/230291256347>

The session will be offered on three dates during spring 2022, please sign up for one session per person. Tickets are available to book on the following dates:

- Thursday 10th February 10am-11am
- Thursday 17th March 10am-11am

Each session will cover:

- What is county lines?
- Why should parents/grandparents/guardians be aware of the issue?
- How can we spot the signs?
- What can we do about county lines and how can we talk to our children about it?

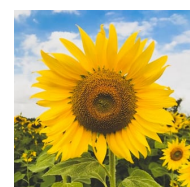
Please do join us for one of these sessions.

Caroline Virgo
Director, The Clewer Initiative



STRICTLY COME LADIES

We have decided that with the current surge in Omicron we will NOT meet on February 18th. Please put March 18th 7.30pm on your calendars as if the situation is improving and we can meet, I think we will have a very interesting and enjoyable evening with Gwen Leslie wearing her National costume and sharing stories about growing up in Norway...If anyone would like to join us for this particular evening, please email me to check that the meeting is going ahead or phone Jenny or April. -
jacky.macleodl@ntlworld.com;
Jenny Pankhurst Tel: 328761.
April Hall Tel:414296



MODERN SLAVERY IN CHILDREN

SPOTTING THE SIGNS

DID YOU KNOW?

- in 2019 almost half of victims of Modern Slavery identified in the UK were exploited as children
- of those over half were British nationals
- children are never able to give informed consent to engage in exploitative activity



SCHOOL AND SOCIAL LIFE

- Behaviour not typical of their age.
- Have no friends their own age.
- Have no access to education.
- Have no time for playing.
- Persistently missing from home and / or school.
- Decline in school performance.



LIVING SITUATION

- Unfamiliar with the local area.
- Unsure of where they live.
- Live somewhere inappropriate.



MOOD AND BEHAVIOUR

- Withdrawal and / or sudden change in personality or behaviour.
- Unwilling to explain their whereabouts.
- Found out of area and / or travelling to locations they have no obvious connections with.
- Travel unaccompanied by adults.



OTHER WARNING SIGNS

- Engaged in work that is not suitable for children.
- Unexplained money, clothes, accessories or mobile phones.
- Receive excessive texts or calls.
- Have multiple phones and / or sim cards.
- Gang association or isolated from peers.

WHO TO CALL

If a child is in immediate danger call the police on **999**
or if it's not an emergency call **101**
or call Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111**

Modern Slavery & Exploitation helpline **08000 121 700**

NSPCC Helpline **08008 800 5000**

CONNECT @ ST FRANCIS

TEDDY BEARS TODDLER GROUP

THURSDAY
MORNINGS
10AM

St Francis Church
£2 per family
family@st-francischurch.org.uk



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

In February the Mothers Union prayer and fellowship group will be observing the Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer. This will continue the wave of prayer that member groups observe all around the world. We will meet at 9.45 For 10.00 on Wednesday 9th February. You are welcome to join us, or join us for coffee at 10.40 before Communion at 11.00.

50

and beyond...

February, 2022

We have decided to take a more cautious approach and limit our interactions to one on one walks and Zoom teas in February. We hope March will allow for more personal interaction. Both Zoom and the outdoor walks have proven to be very enjoyable ways to connect during the pandemic. We hope you can join us in one or the other!

Tuesday February 15th at 3pm
Zoom Tea and a Chat – Bring your tea and sit down for a chat. No need to book, just turn up! Contact Kris or John Smith at Kris@richardson.net with any questions.

Zoom Tea Link

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82518139304?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82518139304?pwd=SmoyZC9LQlk1OEhJYIRzNXgzZG5KZz09)
pwd=SmoyZC9LQlk1OEhJYIRzNXgzZG5KZz09

Meeting ID: 825 1813 9304 Passcode: 451703
Dial in +44 131 460 1196 or +44 203 051 2874 or
+44 203 481 5237 or +44 203 481 5240 or +44 203
901 78

JUST CONNECT

Connect with someone to chat or take a walk.
Contact April Hall to volunteer to meet up with someone or if you are interested in finding someone to meet up with! You can contact April at 01722 414296 or ad.hall51@btopenworld.com

ST FRANCIS COMMUNITY SINGERS ARE MEETING AGAIN!

If you like singing, come and join us at St Francis on Mondays 3.00pm - 4.00pm
Tea and biscuits beforehand at 2.30pm
We have a super, well qualified, young bubbly leader who always gets us laughing! It's all very informal No audition! £5 a session
For more information call Di on 07733 433615





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St Francis

Believing in our community

Our text for St Francis Church 2022

Matthew 9

³⁶ When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'

- How do we instinctively respond to **crowds** of people?
- Do we have **eyes** to see when people are lost?
- Which harvest fields are you in **most often**?
- Will you **ask** the Lord of the Harvest to send out workers?
- Are you willing to be **sent out** to help bring in the harvest?
- How can we help other people to **encounter** Jesus?

Youth



Apprenticeship to Jesus for Salisbury

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for regular updates!

Sunday Youth Programme

At St.Francis Youth we are passionate about creating spaces for young people to grow in their faith and **life with God**. We talk a lot about "Apprenticeship to Jesus" because we believe that being a Christian is more than simply knowing our Bible and turning up to church on a Sunday. Instead it's about learning to live with God at the centre of our lives by practising the way of Jesus together.