



# The Link

ST FRANCIS • OLD SARUM • LONGHEDGE

MARCH 22

## WHAT'S ON AT HOPE CHURCH

Messy Church

## MISSION FOCUS

Women's Refuge

## WHAT'S ON AT ST FRANCIS

Multiplex services and  
Encounter Nights

## Contacts

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## Sundays at St Francis:

### *Equipped for Life with God*

6th March

Why & how can I resist evil?  
Genesis 3.1-15 / Luke 4. 1-13

13th March

Does God heal today?  
Exodus 15.22-27 / Mark 8.22-30

20th March

What about the Church?  
Matthew 16.13-20 / 1 Cor. 12.12-19, 27-31

27th March

Mothering Sunday (Multiplex)  
1 Samuel 1.21-28 / Psalm 127

## Service Times

Every week -

9.30am Friendly traditional service

11am Family service with children's  
groups

### Special services this month:

2nd March 7.30pm

Ash Wednesday Service at St Lawrence  
Stratford-sub-Castle

20th March 7pm

Encounter Night at St Francis

Dear Friends,

What is the best piece of advice you have ever been given?



"Never argue with a stupid person, they'll drag you down to their level and beat you with experience." Mark Twain. "Never, never, never give in." Winston Churchill. "If you want the rainbow, you've gotta put up with the rain." Dolly Parton. "Be the change you wish to see in the world." Mahatma Gandhi. "If you haven't got anything nice to say, don't say anything at all." My Mum.

I've been offered plenty of advice over the years, most of which I am grateful for. But recently I heard a familiar piece of advice that I am sure we've all heard a hundred times over - "just be yourself."

It has become a bit of a mantra of our times. "Be yourself" "follow your heart" "be true to yourself" "just be you".

Upon hearing it recently it made me stop and think. I can understand the sentiment but when you reflect on it, is it actually good advice? Will we find the answer to our questions and longings inside of us? Are there treasures to be found in each of us if we dig deep enough? Will we find the guidance and direction we need from looking inwards?

Writing in The Times recently the Bishop of Kensington used the analogy of artichokes and onions to explain further, 'We are encouraged to find our true selves hidden within, like a cook preparing an artichoke, peeling away the rough leaves to find the hidden tender heart inside.'

'Yet what if we are in fact more like onions than artichokes? What if, when we peel away the expectations of others, the roles we play in society, when we get to the centre, there is nothing there? What if there is no mysterious "self" waiting to be discovered, no essence of "me".'

When Jesus was asked the question "What is the greatest commandment?" he didn't say: "Be yourself." He said: "Love God and love your neighbour." Christian wisdom is that paradoxically we find our true self when we lose it, by being turned, not inwards in self-obsession, but outwards in love for the God - who made us and our neighbours - who need us.

This is the invitation of Christian faith: the invitation to lose your crippling self-interest and learn to love God and your neighbour - the person God has placed next to you, whoever they are - and to become truly happy in the process. You and I are onions, more flawed than we realised but loved far more than we ever dreamed.

With every blessing,

*Will*

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Will and his wife Sophie are  
Hope Church Pastors  
oldsarum@st-francischurch.org.uk

# Messy Church - What's That?

*Messy Church* – should I bring an apron? Some wet wipes? Just how messy are we talking here?

You may have seen the distinctive red 'splat' Messy Church logo around – after all the movement involves over 500,000 people in countries all over the world! Hope Church's Old Sarum and Longhedge Messy Church has been running since 2013. Messy Church often involves some physically messy activities (not an occasion for your Sunday best), but the 'mess' is really more about the fact that human beings aren't very tidy on the inside. We come together as less-than-perfect people and learn and grow together in a relaxed, fun setting.

Every Messy Church group is a little different, but all hinge on five core values: **Hospitality** ensures a warm welcome to all, and we emphasise the goal of eating together (when possible). This is a church for **all ages** where we do things all together. Our congregation mostly consists of families with pre-school and primary-aged children, but you don't have to come with youngsters. We look for opportunities for everyone to get involved in leading or helping with activities if they express an interest – young or old!





Most of the time in our session is taken up by **creativity**, be that art, craft, construction, play, music, experiments... every theme can be explored and enriched through the creative gifts that each of us possess. Messy Church is a community full of **celebration** – celebrating the significance of every individual in God’s eyes, and having a wonderful time together.

Right at the heart of everything we do is Jesus. Because we’re **Christ-centred**, Messy Church is more than just a craft club. Through Bible stories we get to understand more clearly who Jesus is and what our relationship with him truly means. Action songs and craft take-homes help the message seep into our lives. The loving ‘big family’ atmosphere we experience at Messy Church give us a taste of the Kingdom of God on earth!

We are currently operating through pre-booking only and sign up is available through our Hope Church Salisbury Facebook page, or email [oldsarum@st-francischurch.org.uk](mailto:oldsarum@st-francischurch.org.uk) if you’re not on Facebook.



The Salisbury Women's Refuge is a large house providing secure accommodation for women who have been subjected to domestic abuse. This is also the name of the charity that runs it. This charity was founded in 2005, as a successor to a "Mother and Baby" unit. It is not specifically a Christian charity, but it is supported by the Diocese, who own the house and let the charity use it rent free; they also nominate one of the Trustees who oversee the charity.

**Accommodation.** The house is a large Victorian building, with a more modern extension. It provides 12 bedrooms of varying sizes, for single women and those with up to 3 children; each family has to share a single room. There are shared bathrooms and toilets, a large and recently refurbished kitchen, and communal spaces including a residents' lounge and a playroom. The house has a garden with some play equipment for children and garden chairs and tables for adults.

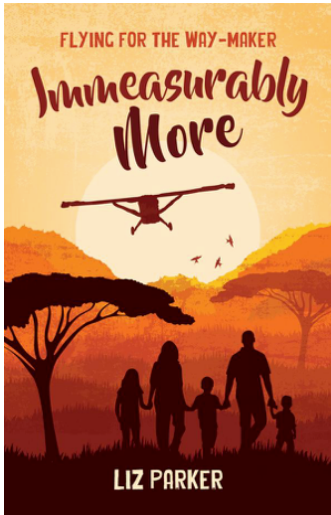
**Staff.** The charity employs a manager, 4 key workers, a book-keeper, a housekeeper and a caretaker - all women, except the caretaker. We used to operate 24 hours a day, but financial pressures meant that we could not continue to do this, and the Refuge is now staffed from 08.00 to 20.00 weekdays, with a nominated staff member on call during the rest of the time. Governance is by a board of up to 9 Trustees (we are 8 at present).

**Services.** We provide secure accommodation, but also support and assistance to the residents who come to us. Ladies are referred by the police or by social services, and we normally do not accept people who live locally (it would be too easy for a perpetrator to find them). We help with getting children into school, with debt counselling when necessary, we liaise with local social services, and, using a recognised formal course, we try to prepare the ladies so that they can move on confidently to their own accommodation in due course. A normal stay in our Refuge is a few months.

Colin Reed, Treasurer and member of the congregation of St Francis.

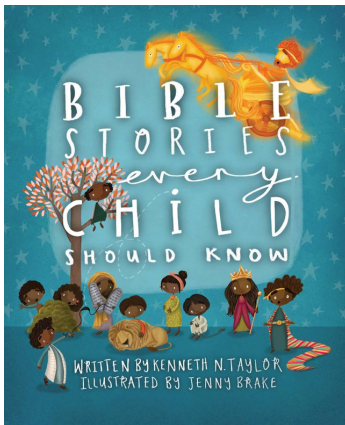


# BOOK CORNER



**Immeasurably More: Flying for the Way-Maker**  
By Liz Parker, 10Publishing, £9.99

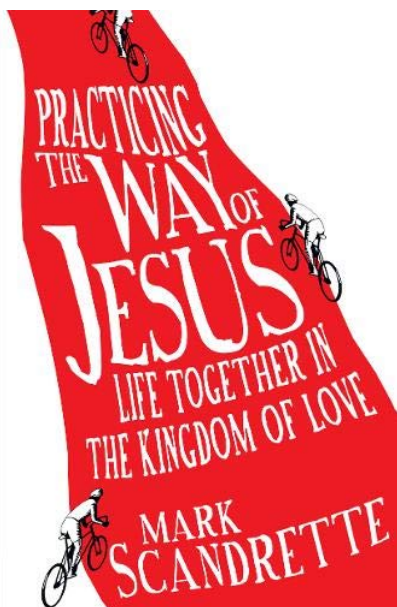
When Liz Parker was growing up in a Liverpool vicarage, she never in her wildest dreams imagined that she would one day marry a missionary pilot and eventually serve with him in Uganda. This is the story of their family's travels from their four-year preparation in South Africa, to sun-drenched Tanzania, to the unexpected conflict of South Sudan and to the fast-moving busyness of Kenya.



**Bible Stories Every Child Should Know**

By Kenneth N. Taylor and Jenny Brake, 10Publishing, £16.99

This newly illustrated collection of more than 120 Bible stories from Kenneth N. Taylor's Classic Bible Storybook present the truths of the whole Bible in a language that is understandable for children. Reading this book will help young ones love the stories of the Bible and may even help adults fall in love again with God's Word.



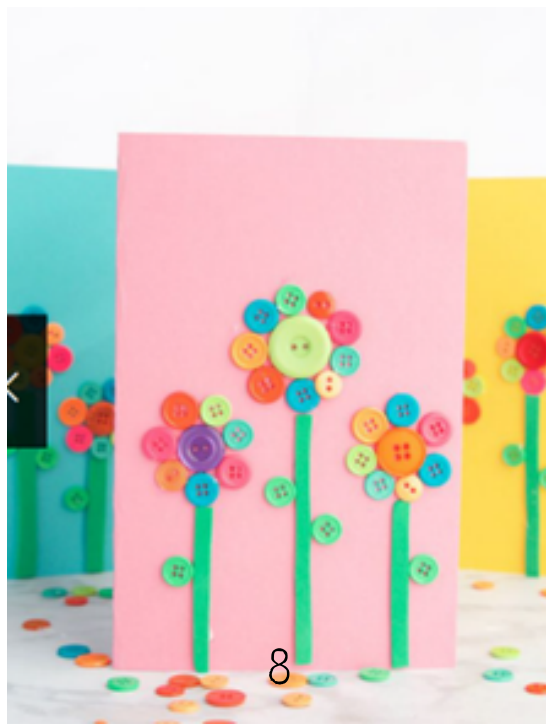
**Practicing The Way of Jesus: Life Together in the Kingdom of Love.**

By Mark Scandrette IPG £9.66

So many of us want to live in the way of Jesus-- pursuing a life that is deeply soulful, connected to our real needs and good news to our world. Yet too often our methods for growth are individualistic, information driven or disconnected from the details of every day life. How can we close the gap between how we want to live and how we actually live? This book explores how to rediscover a sense of immediacy and action in our spiritual lives.



Looking for Mothering Sunday craft ideas?  
Why not have a go at one of these?





## THANK GOD FOR.....SPRING BUDS AND SHOOTS



(On this page we like to celebrate and give our thanks to God for some of the small, often overlooked, things that can bring a smile to our faces even in the darkest of times)

I must confess that, like Monty Don, I don't much care for winter. It's dark, often cold and gloomy and there are almost no flowers. Certain shrubs, such as viburnum, sarcococca and witch hazel, manage to brave the cold and wet, pushing out small but beautifully scented blooms in the depths of winter, but most plants hunker down into dormancy at this time of year.

But at the end of January or the start of February there's a change. The bulbs planted last autumn are at last making an appearance in the form of green shoots and, even if there are as yet no flowers, there is the expectation that there soon will be crocuses, daffodils and tulips to gladden the heart. Snowdrops are usually the first on the scene and there is always a thrill to see the very first one to open.

As the soil slowly warms in the early spring sunshine, swelling buds are also appearing on the trees and shrubs. The hellebores and wallflowers too are on the verge of flowering. But reserve a smile for the plants that have become confused by climate change and seem to be flowering at totally the wrong time. As I write there is a cowslip in the garden in full flower - a full 3 months early - and very welcome it is. So let us thank God for the spring buds and shoots that lift our spirits each year!

## OUT AND ABOUT IN THE PARISH.....STATUE OF SIDNEY HERBERT



Tucked away in Victoria Park, next door to the children's play area, is a statue that was once prominently displayed in Guildhall Square. Apart from the name - Sidney Herbert - there is nothing to say who this statue commemorates or anything about his life. In fact he was one of the Pembroke family and ran the Pembroke estates from Wilton House for most of his adult life. He was also president of the Salisbury Infirmary in Fisherton Street between 1842 and 1861.

Herbert entered the House of Commons as a Conservative MP for a division of Wiltshire in 1832. He held minor offices under Prime Minister Sir Robert Peel and was responsible for the War Office during the Crimean conflict. He was a friend of Florence Nightingale and during the Crimean War he asked her to lead a team of nurses out to Scutari to improve conditions for the troops there. He and Nightingale led the movement after the war for Army health and reform of the War Office: indeed his help was key in enabling her to become the stuff of nursing legend. But the hard work this entailed led to the breakdown of his health and in 1861 he had to resign from government office: he died soon after, in August of the same year.

In 1863 a statue of Herbert was installed in Guildhall Square, where it remained until 1953, when it was removed to Victoria Park to make room for the Queen's coronation celebrations. Another, more famous, statue of him can be seen in Whitehall, near to the Cenotaph and adjacent to a statue of Florence Nightingale.



## What's on at St Francis

Encounter Nights at St Francis are on the third Sunday of every month (20th March this time) at 7pm. The heart for the evening is to have an extended time of worship and a space to be in God's presence, pray and listen to God together.

Everyone is welcome - even if you don't feel confident listening to God's voice.

## MULTIPLEX

What is a MULTIPLEX service? On the last Sunday of the month the 11 am service is a MULTIPLEX: after our band-led worship, we chose how to engage with God's word. We can stay in for a sermon, join others on the Green outside (dress warm!) for family godly play, or join a seminar on topics such as healing. We sometimes have an opportunity to draw or paint or to go on a prayer walk. There's not a separate youth programme on "Multiplex" weeks: young people can join any activity. The next Multiplex will be on Mothering Sunday, 27th March.

## The Human Race

Throughout the years, not much has changed  
The winners have it all arranged

You've joined us for the Human Race  
I wonder who will take first place?

The route's the same for everyone  
It's all uphill - a mad-tough run.  
We cannot see the end from here  
The final stretch is never clear.

With millions on the starting line.  
Not everyone is looking fine.  
Some children still try to compete  
Though they've got nothing on their feet.  
While others wear smart running shoes.

It's not as if they get to choose.

There's barriers to overcome.  
This one is carrying her Mum -  
Picks her up each time she drops her.

This one has a helicopter.

The crowd won't let the girls take part.  
Their disappointment breaks my heart.

And, this one said he had a dream  
He assembled quite a team!  
Together they were looking hot.  
Perhaps that's why that man got shot.

Throughout the years, not much has changed.  
The winners have it all arranged:  
From their great height they get to choose  
The few who win  
And all who lose.

It takes much more than skill and speed  
For any poor child to succeed.  
The winners won with things this way  
And that's they way they're sure to stay.

DECEMBER 26, 2021  
ALIBAILEY

# CONNECT @ ST FRANCIS

## STRICTLY COME LADIES

March 18th 7.30pm Beatrice Room at St Francis. We are looking forward to an 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 contact us -

jacky.macleod1@ntlworld.com; Jenny Pankhurst Tel: 328761. April Hall Tel:414296



## 50

*and beyond...*

We hope to see you at our March event. The events are open to all, so feel free to invite a neighbour or friend!

Tuesday, March 15th, 12:00pm  
Meet us at Hampton Inn (Table Table) near the Premier Inn, Pearce Way off London Road, SP1 3GU for a Pub Lunch.

For reservations and more information, please contact Kris Richardson at kris@richardson.net , 01722 500274 or 07963 500331.

## ST FRANCIS COMMUNITY SINGERS



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

## Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

We meet on the second Wednesday of the month in the Beatrice Room at St Francis from 9.45am to start our meeting at 10am. There is a different theme each time we meet, after which we have coffee and biscuits and some socialising. Communion (open to all) follows at 11am.



## Ladybirds Pre-School

Ladybirds Pre-school is your local childcare setting that has long established ties within our community located in St Francis Church hall. We are a free flow setting, this allows the children to decide where they want to learn, be it in our indoor area where their imaginations and creativity are inspired or in our exciting outside space.

We currently have spaces so please get in touch using the contact information below if you would like more information or to arrange a visit.



Ladybirdssp1@gmail.com 01722 502234



## Zumba

Dance yourself fit to a fusion of Latin and international music, combined with a heart-pumping cardio workout that's easy to follow and fun to do! St Francis Church Hall, Beatrice Road - Wednesday 9.45-10.45am / £7. For class details contact Lisa Brewer 07941307683. Licenced Zumba instructor.



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# what's coming up

## **SUNDAY 6TH MARCH, 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 MARCH, 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 MARCH, 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.

## **SATURDAY 23RD APRIL | OLD SARUM AND LONGHEDGE SPRING CLEAN**

Save the date. We're organising a community wide spring clean that anyone and everyone can join in with. All equipment will be provided and refreshments will be served too. More details to follow.



# Community Show

'Bake, Grow,  
Make, Show'



**SAVE THE DATE - Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**St Francis Church, Beatrice Road, Salisbury**



*We are looking for new committee members. This is a great community show for all ages and abilities and its time to have some different faces involved with some new ideas and enthusiasm.*

*We are also looking for Patrons who would like to support the show.*

**For more information call Susan Carey on 01722 324811**



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**old sarum  
and  
longhedge**  
*Community  
Cafe*

Do you like making cakes? Or helping out in your community?

We are looking to restart the Community Cafe on Tuesday afternoons at Old Sarum and Longhedge Community Centre and need volunteers.

If you are available to help in any capacity we'd love to hear from you.

Email: [oldsarum@st-francischurch.org.uk](mailto:oldsarum@st-francischurch.org.uk)

Call: 01722 237318

IT'S TIME TO GET TEDDY OUT OF THE BOX!

**TEDDYBEARS  
TODDLER  
GROUP**

THURSDAY  
MORNINGS  
10AM

St Francis Church

£2 per family

[family@st-francischurch.org.uk](mailto:family@st-francischurch.org.uk)

