

The Link

ST FRANCIS • OLD SARUM • LONGHEDGE

FEBRUARY 23



WHAT'S ON AT HOPE CHURCH

Gatherings looking at Jesus
in the wilderness and the
temptations we face

MISSION FOCUS

CMS Hull - Ann and Chris

WHAT'S ON AT ST FRANCIS

Sundays looking at
Nehemiah
Ladies' craft evening on
17th Feb

Contacts

St Francis Church
Hope Church

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Worship at St Francis Service Times

5th February

Making a start

Psalm 127

Nehemiah 2. 11-20

19th February

Resisting intimidation

Luke 13.31-35

Nehemiah 4. 7-2

12th February

Resisting discouragement

Matthew 12.15-21

Nehemiah 4. 1-6

26th February

Managing conflict

Philippians 2.12-18

Nehemiah 5. 1-12

Regular Sunday Services

9.30am Friendly traditional service

11am Family service with children's groups

Refreshments are served at 10.30am

7pm 1st Sunday BIBLE FOCUS

7pm 3rd Sunday ENCOUNTER



CHANGE OF VENUE!

This month's Encounter Night is at St Paul's Church (SP2 7QW)

Encounter Nights are evenings where Christians from across the city come together to worship and pray. We meet at 6.45pm for refreshments ahead of a 7pm start.

EVENSONG AT ST LAWRENCE – at 4pm.

Fancy a change of air?

Every third Sunday in the month St Lawrence at Stratford-sub-Castle holds an Evensong Service which is supported by the St Francis choir. It is a joint service to which all parishioners from all our 3 churches in the benefice are very welcome, as they are any Sunday at 10am.

www.st-francischurch.org.uk

LETTER FROM THE CURATE

This month we both celebrate and remember two particular events. First, Valentine's Day, a festival celebrating love that has its roots in a tradition harking way back to the third century in Rome. Legend has it that Valentine was a priest who served during the reign of Emperor Claudius II who announced that single men made better soldiers than those with families and wives, and therefore outlawed marriage for young soldiers in order to keep the numbers up within his troops. Valentine went against this injustice and started performing secret marriages for young lovers. And so Valentine slowly became known as the saint of love, and now he is celebrated around the world in different ways.

If you are thinking that sending a card or bunch of red roses to your loved one, take a look at other national traditions: apparently South Korea celebrates love on the 14th of every month; in Romania couples wash their faces with snow as a sign of good luck while Ghana, with an eye to increasing tourism and revenue, has a chocolate theme pervading artistic performances, musical events and restaurant menus.



Sadly in stark contrast we remember the start of the war a year ago in Ukraine. We are still so deeply saddened and horrified by the atrocities that have been and are still being committed there and long and pray for peace with justice in that land. We continue to stand with our brothers and sisters as they endure immeasurable hardship and suffering.

We see in these two events both the height and depth of human achievement; love unites and gives of itself to others selflessly, while war interrupts and destroys.

Love and war have been part of the human story since time immemorial, whether within ourselves, or between individuals, tribes or nations. Yet the clear message of the Bible is that love is stronger and will eventually overcome war and endure for all eternity. Jesus, born into an occupied nation, taken by his parents as a refugee to Egypt, revealed a God of love and a way of living never seen before that can give us hope for today and tomorrow. In his life we see a compassion, a reaching out to others with the desire to reconcile and unite, not only humanity with each other but humanity with God too.

I pray that at this time, in all of our circumstances, together we may find hope and comfort in the enduring, everlasting love of God, displayed through Jesus.

Blessings,

Mary

Rev Mary Terry, Curate @ St Francis Church
01722 349886/curate@st-francischurch.org.uk
www.st-francischurch.org.uk

WHAT'S ON AT ST FRANCIS

STRICTLY COME LADIES

The group normally meets at St Francis in the Beatrice Room at 7.30pm on the third Friday of each month except August. We offer a warm welcome to ladies of all ages, a place to meet up with old friends or make new ones through joining in our varied programme of activities - meals, crafts, games, quizzes, reminiscence activities and most importantly, a good chat. We are a happy mixture of church members, friends and neighbours from the parish and wider community

PAPER FLOWERS

If you enjoyed Create for Christmas then why not come along to the Beatrice Room on Friday 17th February at 7.30pm when Jenny Pankhurst will show us how to make paper flowers. Materials and refreshments will be provided but it would be helpful if you could bring your own scissors. Everyone welcome. A donation of £2.00 would be appreciated. For more information contact: jacky.macleod1@ntlworld.com ; April Hall tel:414296; Jenny Pankhurst tel:328761

St Francis Community Singers




If you like singing come and join us at St Francis on Mondays from 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 (first session free)

50
and beyond...

50s and Beyond is a St Francis based fellowship and service group, focused on people 50+ in age. We have 10-12 events per year which are open to the community. We do not have an event planned for February, but are planning to go to the movies in March. Please contact kris@richardson.net to be added to the email distribution list or find out more.



The 50s and Beyond Christmas Tea in December filled with lots of treats, singing and Christmas cheer.



The Bereavement
Journey

ST FRANCIS

2023

Are you grieving the death of a loved one or struggling with the long term effects of loss? A six session course will soon be running at St Francis. If interested, please contact Rev Mary Terry curate@st-francischurch.org.uk or 07732203452



ST
FRANCIS
LIFE WITH GOD



PARENTS OF LITTLE ONES (P.O.L.O.)

A safe, warm, homely community for fellowship and encouragement; sharing the highs and lows of discipleship as parents.

Tuesdays in term-time

9.45am -11am
St Francis Church - Chapter Rm

YOUTH THIS SPRING



ST.F
YTH

YRS 6-9

- FRIDAY NIGHT YOUTH IN THE LOUNGE 6PM TO 7.30PM
- SUNDAY AM STARTING IN CHURCH @ 11AM HEADED TO THE YOUTH LOUNGE FOR BREAKFAST AND DISCIPLESHIP

YRS 10-13


- FRIDAY NIGHT YOUTH IN THE LOUNGE 7.30PM TO 9PM
- SUNDAY AM STARTING IN CHURCH @ 11AM HEADED TO THE BEATRICE ROOM FOR BREAKFAST AND DISCIPLESHIP
- SUNDAY PM DISCIPLESHIP IN THE LOUNGE @ 7PM
- 1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH - LIFE SKILLS IN THE LOUNGE FROM 6PM, DINNER AND DISCIPLESHIP

This term we have Breakfast, Juice & Jesus on a Sunday morning – exploring mental health, playing games and discussing what positive mental health looks like and who you can speak to/what you can do when you're feeling low.

On Sunday Nights we are sharing meals, playing games and exploring faith together.

On Friday Nights – £1pp entry - great fun playing board games, crafts, team sports, pool, xbox, arcade machine and table tennis – there is something for everyone and everyone is welcome.

Look out for info on DJ Jozzy @ the Chapel on February 24th!



Check out the What's On tab at www.st-francischurch.org.uk for upcoming events

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.

what's coming up

SUNDAY 5TH FEBRUARY, 10AM | ALL AGE SERVICE

Have you ever faced temptations? Join us as we explore temptations Jesus faced. There'll be lots of games, fun and creativity as we worship together in our service.

SUNDAY 12TH FEBRUARY, 10AM | MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church is messy and loads of fun! There will be the usual craziness, creativity, food and craft all in a safe and welcoming environment for all ages. We're exploring the theme 'God is love'.

SUNDAY 19TH + 26TH FEBRUARY, 10AM | SUNDAY GATHERING

For both these Sundays we get to look into a theme deeply. 2-6 year old's will have the opportunity to go to Hope Kids - a group that is tailored to this age group with lots of fun, creativity, and stories. We will all be exploring Jesus in the wilderness and the temptations we face.



We had so much fun at the annual Carols in the Hangar and at our Christingle service. It was great to see so many of you there! We hope you had lots of festive fun too!

We're back into our usual rhythm for Sundays. Keep an eye out on our social media for our Easter Egg Hunt happening early April.

Hope
CHURCH





CHRISTIAN AID QUIZ NIGHT

Delve into your brain banks of trivia – for a good cause!

Friday 3rd February, 7 for 7.30pm start

St Mark's Church, Salisbury

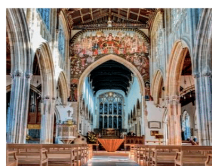
St Mark's Avenue SP1 3DL. Parking is delimited in the surrounding streets in the evening.

Bring your own drinks; nibbles are provided.
Tea/coffee available in the interval.

Teams of 6; £5 per ticket

Please form a team, then team leaders contact
Clare Tawney (christianaidquiz1@gmail.com
or 01722 414855) to book a table.

A FUNDRAISING EVENT by
The Friends of St Lawrence Church
Registered Charity 1063271



St Thomas's Church, Salisbury, has one of the finest Doom paintings in this country.

Chris Daniell

a historian with a special interest in medieval paintings, will speak about the fascinating history of

“The Doom and the Virgin”



on Friday 24th February 2023 at 7.30 pm

in the Reading Room

Stratford sub Castle SP1 3LL

Tickets £10 members, £15 non-members

includes wine/soft drink after the talk.

Under 16's free if accompanied by a ticket-holder.

Please contact: Rosemary Winson 01722 325183
or email rosemary.winson@gmail.com



Life Recovery Course

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of addictions

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friendly support group
offering hope, help and community with
the possibility of breaking free and
remaining free



Starts Monday January 30th 2023 (for 12 weeks)
4:30pm– 6:00pm

Meeting Room Harnham Parish Hall Lower Street,
West Harnham, Salisbury, SP2 8EY

Based on Christian
principles but open to
anyone

Each week we will look
at strategies and tools
to break the habit
cycle setting you on a
pathway to freedom
and recovery

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refreshments followed
by time together in a
relaxed and friendly
way

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sessions, sharing
relevant topics and
techniques

Contact us if you would like to explore if the course is right for you
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morningstarsalisbury@gmail.com
www.morningstarsalisbury.co.uk



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to your favourite songs
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2.00 - 2.45
3.00 - 3.45

at
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Stratford Road, Salisbury, SP1 3JR
Why not come along for a free taster session

Email: sarumukeslg@gmail.com
Tel: 01722 414299





Anna and Chris Hembury

Link Letter no. 38 | December 2022

Contact details:
hemburys@gmail.com



Location: Britain



What we do: Sharing life with people on the margins and supporting them to connect with themselves, each other, the planet and God.

Dear friends,

Stabilisers

Walking back from Breakfast Club one day, we were watching our friend's toddler gleefully propel himself along the pavement ahead of us on his balance bike – essentially a starter bike with no pedals, just using feet on the ground for momentum and steadying. Our friend, a keen cyclist, explained that it was a far better way for children to learn to ride a bike than using stabilisers, as it helps them to trust their own body and find their balance rather than relying on exterior support. When the stabilisers are removed, alongside a good deal of fear and trepidation, they may learn to ride the bike but usually find it harder to have an innate sense of balance.

This seems like a metaphor for community development and for mission: are we helping people to grow their capabilities, tap into their God-given potential and find fullness and flourishing? Or are we positioning ourselves as stabilisers, encouraging so much leaning into our support that they never see trusting in their own capabilities as a reliable option? Jesus can sometimes seem more direct and less nice than we would like him to be in his encounters with those who need support. But when he says “Go, your faith has healed you”, this sounds a lot more to do with liberating people to trust what is within than maintaining a sense of their own lack or inadequacy. Please pray that our coming alongside people, in support and in discipling, would be liberative and not foster an unhealthy over-reliance.

Park life

Although we don't think we imagined we would remain here in Hull as long as we have, the longer we've been here the more sense it has made to stay. Long term relationships are good places in which to build the kingdom of God – trust, mutual support, rough and smooth times, living the joy and pain in the journey together. Small but significant things confirm the calling to stay put: parents who attended the Breakfast Club as youngsters, now bringing their own children to the club; a young man who came to the weekly Godly Play session while at primary school, now 17 and a regular at Saturday morning Circuit Breaker; young people we first got to know at our after-school club now helping in leadership roles at summer camp. We are encouraged by the difference being here for the duration makes. The sense-making our faith somehow offers has been called upon for births, baptisms, marriages, funerals and the ordinary in between stuff.

While walking in the park the other night, a little worn down and just trying to survive a tough season,



Finding balance.

Support Anna and Chris Hembury:
churchmissionsociety.org/hembury

**With Jesus
With each other
To the edges**



three shadowy figures approached; the distinctive aroma of weed had already hit us before they called out, "Chris! Anna!" Now all in their twenties, we had known them individually in separate contexts for many years – one from Breakfast Club, one from youth club and the other from our time in schools doing mentoring. Collectively, they represented a lot of years of ministry. We had no idea they knew each other. We walked together

for a while and they quizzed us on how we were, how's our children, how's the clubs going? It felt like we were being ministered to, with each one trying to outdo the others with stories of our good times together. We had walked into the park with heavy shoulders, and a certain weariness. We walked out laughing and reminiscing and somehow reassured in our calling. Give thanks for these three lads, and pray for our continued ministering to each other.

Summer lovin'

Each summer we take a bunch of children and young people away on camp for a week's holiday. It's an opportunity for them to experience a real soaking in the fullness of life: the challenge of new activities and experiences, the opportunity to develop new friendships with people from other places, a clear telling of the gospel in words and a chance to mull it over and make sense of it all in the context of a loving community that "spells it out" in the way we are with each other. After a three-year hiatus (two camps off during lockdowns), we were apprehensive about our own energy and enthusiasm for what is always an intense week. But the week was as magical as ever. Handing over the responsibility of Crew Leaders to young adults who had come as campers and watching them flourish, seeing children from some painfully difficult circumstances enjoying unbridled laughter and carefree fun, watching young people from our youth club fast forward in growth and maturity before our eyes, even singing terribly cheesy action worship songs with "cool" teenagers who decided to let their guard down – the whole week was a blessing and a reminder of another possible world (maybe with some different songs!). Give thanks for the team who make camp happen and please pray for the children and young people who came with us from Hull, that their first steps on their faith journeys might be nurtured and nourished through the year.

"I have never been very religious but I do believe there is a God. The first few nights I didn't really find it very interesting, but it got to Monday and I got really interested in what they were saying. When we left I had more of an understanding about faith and Jesus which was quite interesting." D., young person from Hull

Shalom,

Anna & Chris



Photos from top to bottom: Breakfast Club family bonfire night; Toasting marshmallows; Trying new things at camp; The Hull posse: campers, crew, young and old leaders!

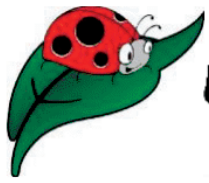


Going further with Church Mission Society

Stories from the edges: Find out how God is meeting people on the edges around the world through CMS people in mission. Go to churchmissionsociety.org/stories

Please note that opinions expressed in link letters are those of mission partners, not necessarily of Church Mission Society.

If you would like to discuss your mailings with us or to receive this link letter on a regular basis, please email supporter.care@churchmissionsociety.org or call 01865 787400. Church Mission Society is a mission community acknowledged by the Church of England. Registered Company No. 6985330 and Registered Charity No. 1131655 (England and Wales) and SC047163 (Scotland).



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



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THANK GOD FOR.....FRESH STARTS AND NEW BEGINNINGS

I'm writing this just after New Year's Day when the world seemed full of happy people and exploding fireworks. Perhaps you were part of these celebrations – or maybe you preferred to go to bed at the usual time on New Year's Eve and leave the junketings to other people. It really doesn't matter: 2023 arrived on time just as expected.

Whether or not you celebrated on New Year's Eve, the start of any new year marks a time to take stock and reflect. It's about looking back and thinking about what went well and not so well in the previous year and it's also a time for deciding on priorities for the next few weeks and months and trying to plan ahead. 2022 was a difficult year for many of us but the beginning of a new year always marks a fresh start, with new hopes and opportunities.

Maybe it's the chance to have a longed-for holiday or an opportunity to meet up with a friend not seen for a number of years: or perhaps it's the time to start a new hobby or interest. Whatever it is for you, be sure you act on it: don't spend the rest of your life thinking "I wish I had done that."

Of course, the ultimate new beginning is the chance of a new life offered by Jesus – and that can happen at any time of the year. If you ask, He will not only help you decide what to do with the year ahead but will also help you do it! So let's thank God for the chance He offers to us to make a fresh start when we need to, whether it's at New Year or another time.

SCRAMBLED!

Here are the names of 20 characters from the Bible in anagram form. Can you unscramble them to find out who they are?

- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| 1. NODIGE | 2. AHOJSU | 3. REDWAN | 4. IVADD |
| 5. HASLIE | 6. OYMTIHT | 7. SBHATAHEB | 8. NOLOOSM |
| 9. NRABBSAA | 10. MUESLA | 11. SHEETR | 12. SMESO |
| 13. CEUCZAHS | 14. INCA | 15. LADEIN | 16. MOTSAH |
| 17. OANH | 18. ROJABEMO | 19. THUR | 20. ATHMRA |

The Link is delivered by a wonderful group of volunteers. There are 10 editions a year (we don't print January or August editions). Our aim is to reach every household in our parish but we are currently reducing to 4 editions a year in Old Sarum and Loghedge as we do not have enough people to deliver there. If you would like to deliver to a road or two we would love to hear from you!

admin@st-francischurch.org.uk / 01722 413644

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ANYONE FOR SOUP?

On these chilly winter days, with energy bills so high, it can be hard to stay warm. So why not try warming yourself from the inside with a bowl of hot soup? Root vegetables are plentiful and cheap at this time of year, especially if you shop at the market. So here are two vegetarian recipes for carrot-based soups which are low in salt, sugar and fat: they are also gluten-free. Both include fruit for added vitamins. What more could you ask for?

Both soups make enough for 4-6 people. They also freeze well.

CARROT AND APPLE SOUP

- 1 tbsp cooking oil
 - 1 onion, peeled and chopped
 - 450g (1lb) carrots, peeled and sliced
 - 2 medium parsnips, peeled and chopped
 - 1.2 litres (2 pints) vegetable stock
 - 2 medium cooking apples, peeled, cored and chopped
 - Pepper and salt to taste
1. Pour the oil into a large, lidded saucepan. Add the onion, carrots and parsnips. Cover and cook over a low heat for about 10 minutes, shaking the pan occasionally.
 2. Add the stock and apples, bring to the boil and simmer for 30 minutes.
 3. Allow to cool slightly and then liquidise until smooth.

CARROT AND ORANGE SOUP

- 1 tbsp cooking oil
 - 900g (2lbs) carrots, peeled and sliced
 - 2 large leeks, trimmed and sliced
 - 850ml (1 ½ pints) vegetable stock
 - Zest of 1 orange
 - Juice of 2 oranges
 - 2 tsps sugar
 - Salt and pepper to taste
1. Pour the oil into a large, lidded saucepan. Add the carrots and leeks, cover and cook over a low heat for about 10 minutes, shaking the pan occasionally.
 2. Mix the stock, orange juice and zest, and the sugar. Add to the pan and bring to the boil.
 3. Cover and simmer for 30 minutes or until the carrot is soft. Liquidise until smooth.



WHAT IS LENT?

Lent is the period of six weeks (40 days not including Sundays) leading up to **Easter**, the most important festival in the Christian calendar.

Lent starts on **Ash Wednesday**. The last week of Lent is called **Holy Week**.

When is Lent?

In 2023 Lent begins on **Wednesday 22 February** and ends on **Thursday 6 April**.

Lent is an old English word meaning 'lengthen'. Lent is observed in spring, when the days begin to get longer.

What is the story of Lent?

Jesus went into the desert to fast and pray, before beginning his work for God. Jesus was tempted several times by Satan, but was able to resist.

Lent allows Christians to remember Jesus's fasting in the desert. It is a time of giving things up and a test of self-discipline.

There are many foods that some Christians do not eat in Lent, such as meat and fish, fats, eggs, and milky foods. Some Christians just give up something they really enjoy, such as cakes or chocolate.

How is Lent celebrated?

Shrove Tuesday

In western Christian churches, the day before Lent starts is Shrove Tuesday. This is also known as **Pancake Day**. This day was traditionally the last chance to use up the foods Christians would not be eating during Lent.

Ash Wednesday

On Ash Wednesday many Christian churches hold services during which Christians are marked on the forehead with a cross of ashes. This is a sign of saying sorry to God for any wrong-doing.

Pancakes

Pancakes became associated with Shrove Tuesday as they were a simple meal that could use up all the eggs, fats and milk in the house with just the addition of flour.

Shrove comes from the verb 'to shrive' which means to confess sins.

Article originally produced in www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize



Answers to "Scrambled!"

1. Gideon 2. Joshua 3. Andrew 4. David 5. Elisha

6. Timothy 7. Bathsheba 8. Solomon 9. Barnabas

10. Samuel 11. Esther 12. Moses 13. Zaccheus 14. Cain

15. Daniel 16. Thomas 17. Noah 18. Jeroboam 19. Ruth

20. Martha



The Cafe is open every Friday from 9.30 - 11.30am and is open to anyone, offering fresh filter coffee, tea, homemade cakes and biscuits, all for £1 per item, including free refills. We have customers of all ages and both men and women, so if you fancy a local, good, cup of coffee, why not try us, and meet some new friends at the same time. You will see the “Friday Cafe” boards outside the Church entrances, to show the way in. If you have any questions, please ring Penny on 01722 504326.



A Job That Gives Back

We are looking for wonderful people in Salisbury to help an older person to stay in their own home. Pay starts at £12 per hour with paid wait and travel time.

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