

The Link

ST FRANCIS • OLD SARUM • LONGHEDGE

JUNE 23



WHAT'S ON AT HOPE CHURCH

Messy Church
Exploring the Lord's Prayer

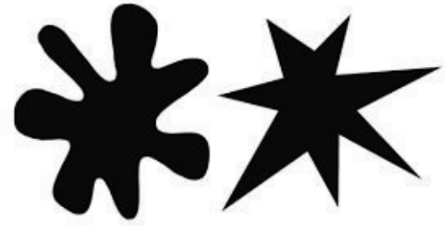
MISSION FOCUS

Alabare
Salisbury-Sudans
Partnership

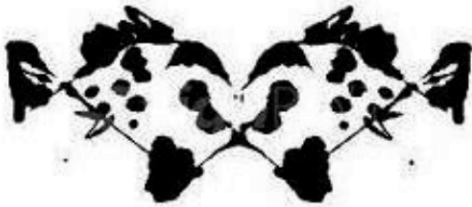
WHAT'S ON AT ST FRANCIS

Strictly Ladies History Trail
Join 50's and Beyond at Cabaret

One of these shapes is called **Bouba** and the other is called **Kiki**. No matter which language in the world we speak, we will almost certainly have decided which is which – and almost certainly it's the same as everyone else!



Part of being human means that we seek patterns and meaning. In the early twentieth century a Swiss psychiatrist called Rorschach found that most people could look at apparently random ink blots on a folded piece of paper and their brains would create meaning.



We can't help but "see" something we recognize in the shape – and this is a universal human quality.

It is like spirituality – finding meaning and patterns in our lives.

As I look back over my life, I cannot help but see the hand of God at work. Others might choose to say that at times I was "lucky" or "unlucky". But that's not how it feels to me. I believe and choose to trust that there has been a loving, good, generous, God watching over me and calling me to find him in all things.

Some years ago a person took a photo of a rocky mountainside covered with snow. It is a simple black and white image – then suddenly they could "see" an image of Jesus in it. As I have looked at this picture, I've found I can see him too. Can you?

It usually takes a bit of time as our brains try out different possibilities on the shape. And then there comes a moment of clarity. The face was there all along, I just couldn't see it at first.



Whether or not you can "see" Jesus in the picture really doesn't matter. But encountering God in our daily lives is the most sustaining and joyful thing we can experience. I believe it is what we were all created for – to know and enjoy the presence of God.

And in case you were wondering, Kiki is on the right.

Please be in touch with me if you'd like to find out more about **Life with God**.
With Christian greetings,

Jean de Garis

Vicar of St Francis, St Lawrence and Hope Church

www.st-francischurch.org.uk

01722 334214 / vicar@st-francischurch.org.uk

WHAT'S ON AT ST FRANCIS



FRIDAY CAFE

The Cafe is open every Friday from 9.30 - 11.30am and is open to anyone, offering fresh filter coffee, tea, home-made 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.



STRICTLY COME LADIES

16TH JUNE - HISTORY TRAIL



Meet in the Car Park at St Francis Church at 7.15pm to share lifts into town and enjoy a walk with an historical theme. We'll end the evening with refreshments in one of Salisbury's many pubs or cafes.

Please let Jacky Macleod know if you are coming and whether you need a lift or can offer lifts. (If it's very wet we'll meet in the Beatrice Room) Email jacky.macleod1@ntlworld.com Mobile 07981789601

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). Please contact Di Webb on 07733 433615 or the Church Office for more information



50s and Beyond

We hope you can make one of our next events which are coming soon. Don't forget to invite family, friends and neighbours; the more the merrier!

Tuesday 13th June 2:30-4:30pm

Free Vintage Cabaret Show in the garden of Arundells in the Salisbury Cathedral Close followed by a cream tea. This event is provided by Celebrating Age Wiltshire and is free. Bookings are required and can be made by calling 07955 249288 or email CAWSupport@wiltshiremusic.org.uk

We are a St Francis based fellowship and service group, focused on people 50+ in age. The events are open to all. To find out more, or to be added to the email distribution list, contact kris@richardson.net or any of the event organizers.



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



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



Yrs 6-9


Friday Night Youth 6pm to 7.30pm
Sunday AM discipleship during
Church @ 11am

Yrs 10-13

Friday Night Youth 7.30pm to 9pm
Sunday AM discipleship during
Church @ 11am
Sunday PM discipleship 7pm to 9pm

The 1st Sunday of every month we host life skills sessions from 5.30, dinner @ 6.30 and then a normal Sunday PM session thereafter.

We hope to see you there. If you have any questions please be in contact with Sophie at youth@st-francischurch.org.uk



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. Licensed Zumba instructor.

what's coming up

SUNDAY 4TH JUNE, 10AM | ALL AGE SERVICE

Join us as we explore the Lord's prayer. There'll be lots of games, fun and creativity for all ages as we gather together.

SUNDAY 11TH JUNE, 10AM | MESSY CHURCH

It's church but not as you know it. Church is way more fun when it's messy! There will be lots of activities, creativity and games for everyone.

SUNDAYS 18TH + 25TH JUNE, 10AM

SUNDAY GATHERING

For these Sundays we get to look into a theme deeply. Adults hear a talk and kids get to go to their group, Hope Kids - a group that is tailored to 2-6 yr olds with lots of fun, creativity, and stories. We will all be exploring prayer.

TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS | CONNECT GROUP

Connect Groups are a informal space to chat and get to know one another and discover more about faith, the Bible and God. Get in touch if you would like more information.

GOODBYE TO WILL AND SOPHIE



It's now nearly 7 years since Will and Sophie Burditt moved into the diocesan house in Robin Road, Old Sarum, and became "Community Pastors" for Old Sarum and Longhedge. What a lot of changes there have been since then!

In 2016 the Longhedge estate had barely been started but now it is nearly complete. The role of "Community Pastors" was overtaken by the beginning of Hope Church, which took place in 2020, just before the first lockdown and which has been run by Will and Sophie ever since. The Burditt family has also grown with the arrival of Phoebe in late 2016 and Amber in 2019.

Now, sadly, it's time for us to say goodbye to Will, Sophie, Phoebe and Amber, as they move to Blandford Forum. Over the last 7 years Will has completed a degree in Theology and trained for ordination into the Church of England, no mean feat alongside looking after Hope Church and raising 2 small children! Will is due to be ordained in Salisbury Cathedral on Sunday 2nd July and will then take up a curacy at St Peter and St Paul Church, Blandford Forum.

Under Will and Sophie's leadership Hope Church has continued to go from strength to strength – in spite of 2 lockdowns. On Sunday mornings the Community Centre at Old Sarum is thronged with people, many of whom are young families. Each Sunday is different, as Will and Sophie try new ideas for worship and for us to learn about God. Messy Church, on the second Sunday of each month, is thriving, regularly attracting newcomers happy to join in with the action songs and craft activities with the children. On the other Sundays a good balance has been struck between meeting the needs of the adults and children. The church is happy and growing!

As they take their leave at the end of May, we wish Will, Sophie and their family, every happiness in Blandford and thank them for all the hard work and love they have put into making Hope Church what it is today.



WELCOME TO JOE STONE, OUR NEW CURATE



I write this from Oxford's Bodleian library. Beside the Radcliffe Camera stands St Mary's, the church where Archbishop Thomas Cranmer preached the Reformation doctrines of the Church of England in the mid-1500s, and where John Wesley did the same nearly 200 years later. I have particularly enjoyed studying Hebrew and the Old Testament here, despite the challenge of learning an ancient language.

My family and I are looking forward to our upcoming move.

We know the Salisbury area well. When my wife and I were engaged, I lived with the Curate from St Mark's church. After we were married, we moved to closer to Shaftesbury. I then taught at Wilton Park, a school for children in the Plymouth Brethren Church. My wife taught at Wyndham Park Infants' School.

Hobbies-wise, I am a keen pianist. I have been involved with music at my placement church in Oxford, supporting with piano/singing and working with musicians to craft new songs for worship. I am passionate about praise and worship; I value taking the time to 'press-in' in this area, contending for the life of God's kingdom.

The lockdown brought out the hiker in me, and my sons and I enjoyed many long hikes in the Wiltshire countryside. I'm happy to say I have kept the hiking going and looking forward to moving and to roaming the Wiltshire countryside once more.

Some pictures from the 50s & Beyond "Lunch with the Vicar"



WHAT'S HAPPENINGJUNE

After all the celebrations we saw in May with the new King Charles' coronation, June brings still more. June sees Fathers' Day and the Summer Solstice. June 21st/22nd is the Longest Day in the Northern Hemisphere and some see it as the start of summer with plays of Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream* making the rounds. In the early Christian church, however, it was also the day when John the Baptist was remembered. John was a miracle baby for Zachariah and Elizabeth, and as a man he prepared the people's hearts for Jesus, they repented, were baptized and then John baptized Jesus himself. The Gospel of Matthew Chapter 3 v 16 and 17 (NKJV) says "When He had been baptized, Jesus came immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased'."

Here we not only see Jesus as God's son but also that God is a Father. In the Old Testament, God the Father is referred to as Father approximately 13 times, but in the New Testament God as Father is mentioned by Jesus over a hundred times as well as in the letters in the New Testament. I love how God states, clearly that Jesus is His Son and that He is pleased, happy. It reminds me of the beginning of the Bible when God is creating Earth and God saw "it was good" - Genesis Ch 1 v 10, v12, v 18, v21, v25, v31. As a parent with three children completing exams, I remind myself daily to tell them how proud I am of them. It can be a stressful time for young people with hormones and the need to "get it right"! I can't take the exams for them or take it away from them, but I can say how pleased I am with them and that they're amazing!

L.Woodward



PRAYERS FOR EXAMS

June continues to be exam time for many... whilst I have told my children it's just a time to "show off", it can still be stressful, anxious and worrying time which just steals their joy and happiness. A word that can often be used to try and describe how we feel at these stressful times is "overwhelmed". Below are some scriptures we use to help us; I pray they help you and your families too.

"From the end of the earth I will cry to You, when my heart is overwhelmed;
Lead me to the rock that is higher than I" Psalm 61:2 NKJV

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" Philippians 4:13 NKJV

"But we have the mind of Christ"! Corinthians 2:16 NKJV

An anonymous prayer from medieval times is still relevant today: -

GOD BE IN MY HEAD
AND IN MY UNDERSTANDING
GOD BE IN MY EYES
AND IN MY LOOKING
GOD BE IN MY MOUTH
AND IN MY SPEAKING
GOD BE IN MY HEART
AND IN MY THINKING
GOD BE AT MY END
AND AT MY DEPARTING

L.Woodward



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



CORONATION CELEBRATIONS AT ST FRANCIS!

Church members gathered to watch the Coronation together, dressed in their finest on Saturday 6th May



THE SALISBURY-SUDANS PARTNERSHIP

The Salisbury-Sudans partnership is amongst the most active in the Church of England.

St Francis church supports South Sudan through many individual sponsorships of pupils at Juba Diocesan Model Secondary School - and in prayer.

In March the Partnership held its annual 'Sudans Day' at St Francis church.

Canon Ian Woodward, Chairman of the Salisbury Sudans Partnership shares this encouraging extract from the day:

"The issue of greatest concern is the continuing ethnic conflicts in both countries: South Sudan and Sudan.

"After a welcome from Bishop Stephen, Her Excellency Ambassador Agnes Oswaha (the South Sudan Ambassador to London) outlined her government's plans for peace and the nationwide elections to be held in 2024 and the opportunities for people across the country to take part in more localised government. The UK Government, with the United States and Norway, known as the Troika are guarantors of the peace agreement that led to the division of Sudan and South Sudan.

"Dr Anna Butchart (the Deputy Head of the Sudans Unit in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office) updated participants on UK's continuing brokerage efforts to bring an end to the fighting, for without peace our efforts in education, health care and development can so easily come to nothing.



"Robert Hayward gave a presentation on his recent visits to Khartoum, Juba and Abyei reporting on the needs of the Episcopal Churches in Sudan and South Sudan and how and where our funds are being spent there.

"Dr Karen Mounce and Mrs Anne Salter updated the group on our flourishing Sudans Medical Link. They recently spent two weeks in Western Equatoria visiting the 16 clinics which the Medical Link supports with dispensing basic drugs and the training of midwives and clinical assistants.

"Canon Jeremy Cresswell outlined our work with four theological education colleges and a number of Church Schools that we support, and Dr Eeva John shared the progress being made with the Episcopal University in Rokon in South Sudan.

"Deanery Links are at the heart of the partnership's thinking and Sarah Musgrave gave a refreshing presentation on forming Marlborough's link with an agricultural project in the Diocese of Morobo on the border with Uganda.

"So the Salisbury – Sudan partnership remains ever more engaged and active, as it has over the past 50 years."

Taken from the Diocese of Salisbury website & Grapevine 23 March 2023

*In March, St Francis church hosted the Salisbury-Sudan's Day –
we were called to pray about
“the continuing ethnic conflicts in both countries: South Sudan and Sudan”.*

Summarised from the Diocese of Salisbury Grapevine 20 April 2023 ...

Archbishop of Sudan evacuates Cathedral amid fighting



Archbishop Ezekiel Kondo, primate of the Episcopal Church of Sudan, Aug. 6, 2022. By Neil Turner/The Lambeth Conference

Until recently there was optimism ... in Sudan ... for an abiding peace after more than 30 years of conflict.

However very serious fighting broke out in Khartoum and other parts of Sudan early on Saturday morning 15th April, forcing thousands of civilians to flee ... Both forces have substantial artillery ... extensive damage to the airport in Khartoum ... more than 200 people have been killed and more than a thousand injured.

We spoke to Archbishop Ezekiel Kondo the Primate of the Episcopal Church in his Cathedral compound last Saturday (15th April) ... his family and clergy and their families were in lockdown but felt secure though much fighting was localized ...

Tuesday (18th April) ... a harrowing message from His Grace ... ‘Due to the seriousness of the situation, we have evacuated the Cathedral with all the children, 42 persons in number! ... They destroyed cars, cafeteria, store ... breaking one of the offices. I believe they will break (into) family houses ...’

Wednesday ... Archbishop Ezekiel said they had escaped from the compound and walked for more than an hour and a half until they reached relative safety.

... imagine the terror of such a walk ... constant noise of gunfire and air attacks, picking their way through smoke and rubble ... they have water but very little food ... the only power is in short supply ... just enough to recharge his phone.

The World Food Programme has suspended food distribution following the death of three workers.

... The next few days are crucial ...

By the time of this Link publication, there will have been more news from Sudan - the request from Archbishop Ezekiel Kondo and Salisbury Diocese remains:

Please pray for Sudan and indeed South Sudan too.

An abiding ceasefire is essential, then a political resolution and harmony in the wider region and we will bend our minds to how we can help heal the wounds.

EASY CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES FOR FATHERS' DAY.

Ingredients:

120g butter, softened

75g light brown sugar

75g golden caster sugar

1 medium egg

1 tsp vanilla extract

180g plain flour

½ tsp bicarbonate of soda

150g dark chocolate, cut into chunks



Method:

STEP 1

Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4 and line two baking sheets with parchment. Cream the butter and sugar together until very light and fluffy, then beat in the egg and vanilla. Once combined, stir in the flour, bicarb, chocolate and ¼ tsp salt.

STEP 2

Scoop 10 large tbsps of the mixture onto the trays, leaving enough space between each to allow for spreading. Bake for 10-12 mins or until firm at the edges but still soft in the middle – they will harden a little as they cool. Leave to cool on the tray for a few mins before eating warm, or transfer to a wire rack to cool completely. Will keep for three days in an airtight container.

Recipe from BBC good foods.

Ben Woodward

Do you know of a family or someone in need of a break who would welcome the opportunity just to get away from it all and unwind?

As one of our community projects, we own and manage a holiday home at Rockley Park in Poole. Situated in lovely surroundings, it is available to hire between March and October at very competitive prices. Details of assisted funding options for referred families are also available on enquiry.

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.

Call us to find out more 01722 443 559
or visit our website www.homeinstead.co.uk/salisbury-and-romsey



Our well equipped holiday home has comfortable spacious accommodation that sleeps 6, with access to free facilities onsite, including swimming pools, gym, children's play park and evening entertainment as well as the beach, harbour and nature reserve nearby.

For further information and booking form please contact us on 07981 743 627 or email murockleyholidayhome@gmail.com



Alabaré's Boots on the Ground programme

Local charity Alabaré provides support and accommodation for people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless across Wiltshire and the South West.

Alabaré's Boots on the Ground programme is supporting both young people and veterans, providing mental health support by delivering a range of outdoor activities, and by providing volunteering opportunities on community projects. The team have recently taken a group of young people for a residential week in the New Forest where they joined in with activities such as outdoor cooking, animal tracking and team-building. Some of Alabaré's veterans are also involved with developing the Community Garden at Arundells in Salisbury. Those who are taking part in all these activities are finding it of huge benefit to their wellbeing, confidence and self-esteem. As resident Ryan says, "I don't usually go out much due to social anxiety but Boots on the Ground allows me to meet new people in a comfortable environment. It helps me to interact with people and pursue my interests which will hopefully lead to employment soon."

Knowing the positive impact this work has on the mental health and wellbeing of their residents, Alabaré is keen to ensure that as many as possible are given the opportunity to join with a wide range of outdoor activities. If you'd like to find out more about how you can support them, including the many ways you could volunteer, do have a look at the website www.alabare.co.uk.

Helen Inglis h.inglis@alabare.co.uk



Community Show

'Bake, Grow,
Make, Show'

SAVE THE DATE - Saturday 9th September 2023

St Francis Church, Beatrice Road, Salisbury

Do you enjoy baking? Got a good holiday photo? Have you been growing vegetables? Taken up a new hobby? Fancy having a go at flower arranging?
Then have a go, all abilities and ages welcome

Schedules will be available July 2023 from
St Francis Church, 1 Assisi Road or Castlemere, Stratford Sub Castle.
For more information email emmalsquire@yahoo.co.uk

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