

CHRISTMAS 2023



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St Francis Church
Hope Church

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www.st-francischurch.org.uk

Scout Christmas Post

Last Day of Posting **Wednesday 6th Dec 2023**

Delivered in the South Wiltshire area **only 30p**
using the *Scout Christmas Stamps*.

Post in the special boxes located throughout the area.

Support 23rd Salisbury Scout Group, buy your stamps from us.

Locations where Christmas cards can be delivered:

Aldbury, Allington, Amesbury, Barford St Martin, Berwick St James, Boscombe, Boscombe down, Bishopstone, Bowerchalke, Broadchalke, Britford, Bulford, Burcombe, Charlton All Saints, Cholderton, Clarendon, Codford, Coombe Bissett, Dinton, Downton, Durnfords, Durrington, East Grimstead, Ebbesbourne Wake, Farley, Figchellean, Firsdown, Ford, Fordingridge, Fovant, Gomeldon, Great Wishford, Hale, Hamptworth, Harnham, Homington, Idmiston, Landford, Langfords, Larkhill, Laverstock, Longhedge, Lopcombe, Lover, Morgans Vale, Netheravon, Nomansland, Netherhampton, Newton Tony, Nunton, Odstock, Old Sarum, Orcheston, Pitton, Porton, Quidhamton, Redlynch, Salisbury, Shrewton, South Newton, Stapleford, Stoford, Stratford Tony, Tilshead, West Dean, West Grimstead, Whaddon, Whiteparish, Wilsford, Wilton, Winterbournes, Winterslow, Woodfalls, Woodfords, Wylfe.

You can find out more information or buy your stamps from any 23rd Salisbury Leader or

- Emma Turner, Castlemere, Stratford Sub Castle, Salisbury, 07843 673788

- Rachel Squire, 1 Assisi Road, Salisbury, 01722 339006

- Co-Op, Castle Road, Salisbury

As we travel from 2023 into 2024, my mind turns over New Year's resolutions.

We live at a time when a top value of society is "maximising choice." That is, as far as possible, to express self-determination and control over our own lives. Undoubtedly, this has been very positive in many ways, however, it can also be a mask for selfishness. Whilst as individuals we all want to exercise choice, it has led to the fragmentation of society and particularly of families. The challenge for each of us is to be willing to exercise our rights without ignoring our responsibilities.

What might be a New Year's resolution simple enough for all, yet meaningful enough to make a change for the better? If I could encourage one change in families in Salisbury it would be this: **Eat a meal each day together around the same table.**

It's not hugely profound, but it's important. For thousands of years the table was a common meeting place for families. In our generation this has unravelled. As adults have increasing flexible working hours, as children have numerous opportunities for activities after school and independence, as convenience foods have enabled ever tighter deadlines to exist, families seldom eat together. Some no longer even want to eat together.

If we hope to get to know someone, it's a great idea to have a meal together. We have a shared enjoyment from the food, but also the opportunity to talk. The conversation doesn't need to be about anything in particular. It just happens and the spaces in conversation are a valuable backdrop that assures us that we are in a good place, where we don't have to be busy, just for a while. In those moments people can share important things about themselves and how they feel – things that are not necessarily *urgent*, but are *important*.

A New Testament writer encouraged the people he knew: "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another" (Hebrews 10.25).

Meeting and eating together is important and it is what Churches do every Sunday: meeting and eating, to share our lives, to share our faith, and to share bread and wine as we remember Jesus.

My New Year's resolution, is one that I hope others will also share, is to be hospitable and have time to listen to others around a table. This **Christmas Day** we have a shared Church Christmas Lunch (ask for details). I hope that all who come to worship, experience the welcome of God who in Jesus invited us to be his **companions** (which literally means "to share bread") at his Table, and to hear his voice "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him and he with me."

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and new year,

Jean de Garis

Vicar of St Francis, St Lawrence and Hope Church

www.st-francischurch.org.uk

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

Hope CHURCH

At Hope Church we have been continuing with the series of talks on the “I Am” claims of Jesus. On 12th November Messy Church considered Jesus’ claim to be the Way to God, using activities centred around compasses, and footprints. We also held a service on 5th November focussed on the International Day of Prayer for Christians throughout the world who are being persecuted for their faith. The week before that we tried a Big Bacon Buttie and Banana Brunch, which was much enjoyed by all present.

Sadly, we will not be able to hold our usual “Carols in the Hangar” service at Old Sarum airfield this year. Additional new aircraft have been placed in the hangar during the year and there is simply not room for us to gather there. However, Hope Church will be having a carol service at 10.a.m. on Sunday 17th December in the Community Centre, to which all are welcome. Also, on 3rd December we will be joining with St Francis Church for their annual Toy Service. As part of this, toys are brought and offered for children in the city who are otherwise unlikely to receive presents. Unwrapped new toys are welcomed, especially those suitable for children under 5.

The good news is that progress is being made with the recruitment of a new leader for Hope Church. Interviews are now scheduled for the end of November and we live in hopes that this will lead to a positive outcome. Watch this space!



what's coming up

NOTE: CHECK THE VENUE FOR EACH WEEK, SOME SERVICES THIS MONTH ARE BEING HELD AT ST FRANCIS CHURCH, BEATRICE ROAD, SALISBURY

SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER 11AM | TOY SERVICE AT ST FRANCIS

This week we are meeting at St Francis for the Toy Service. (Bring a new, unwrapped present for children and families in need this Christmas. We will take them to Social Services for distribution to those who need them!)

SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER, 10AM | MESSY NATIVITY

It's church but not as you know it. Church is way more fun when it's messy and this week is our **Messy Nativity!**

There'll be lots of activities, creativity and games for everyone.

SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER, 10AM | ALL AGE SERVICE 'CAROLS AT HOPE'

This is our special family carol service suitable for all ages.

SUNDAY 24TH | AT ST FRANCIS

3pm Crib Service (For families of toddler aged children)

6pm Candle Service (A very popular service for All Ages)

11pm Midnight Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY | AT ST FRANCIS

10am all age worship

SUNDAY 31ST DECEMBER | AT ST FRANCIS

11am Informal Worship

MISSION FOCUS

Alabaré



Alabaré has been supporting people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness for 32 years. Over the last year alone, with the help of our amazing supporters we have changed the lives of over 2,100 people. People like Tom. He was in a bad way when he arrived at our drop-in, having fled an abusive relationship at home. He was very hungry, anxious and soaked to the skin. Our staff were able to give him hot food, a shower and clean clothes. In time he started to talk about his experiences and he is now living in one of our homes where he is receiving the professional support he needs. He says he feels hopeful for the future. We passionately believe that everyone deserves the care and support they need, in order to build a bright future for themselves.

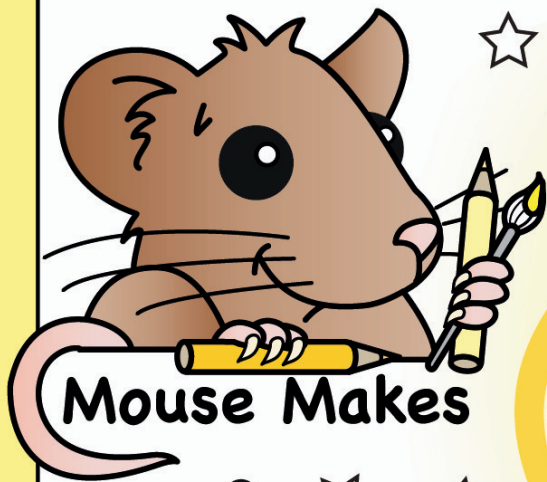
We know that life isn't always simple. We never know when we may be faced by a crisis, feel despair or need support. Sometimes we simply need someone to walk by our side. At Alabaré, that's what we do.

Through our network of homes, drop-ins and support services in Salisbury, across Wiltshire and the South West, we offer people who are homeless and vulnerable, accommodation and support so that they can live a safe and positive life of their choice. Our teams of staff, volunteers and chaplains are there each and every day to work with our young people, single homeless, veterans and adults with learning disabilities to ensure that each person is receiving the support they need in order to live the fulfilling life they wish for.

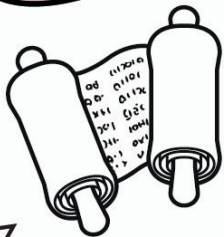
Thank you so much for all the support you give us. We know that times are tough and many people are finding it hard to make ends meet, which means that every gift we receive is all the more valuable as it helps us to be here for people in need. Do have a look at our new website where you can find more details about what we do and how you can get involved www.alabare.co.uk or do email me if I can help with anything else h.inglis@alabare.co.uk

Homelessness is not a lifestyle choice. Working together we can ensure that more people receive the help they need out of crisis. Thank you.

Helen Inglis
Church Engagement Officer



Mouse Makes



GOD'S PROMISE

Isaiah 9:6-7

CHILD • BORN • SON
 GIVEN • WONDERFUL
 COUNCELLOR
 MIGHTY • GOD
 EVERLASTING
 FATHER • PRINCE
 PEACE • LORD



AN ANGEL MESSENGER

Luke 1:26-38

ANGEL • GABRIEL
 JOSEPH • MARY
 FAVOUR • SON
 JESUS • GREAT
 THRONE • REIGN
 FOREVER • HOLY
 SERVANT • WORD

ADVENT
 comes from
 the Latin
 'AD VENTO'
 which means
ARRIVAL

In Advent we
 celebrate Jesus' birth
 and look forward to
 the time when Jesus
 will come again.



A LONG JOURNEY

Luke 2:1-20

BETHLEHEM
 REGISTER • BIRTH
 MANGER • INN
 SHEPHERDS • FLOCK
 ANGELS • JOY
 GOOD NEWS • PRAISE
 SAVIOUR • CHRIST



THE BEST GIFT OF ALL

John 3:16

GOD • SO • LOVED
 WORLD • HE • GAVE
 ONLY • SON
 WHOEVER • BELIEVES
 ETERNAL • LIFE

V	R	P	R	I	N	C	E	L	R	O	D
W	O	R	D	C	F	A	T	H	E	R	E
J	A	G	M	A	N	G	E	R	G	E	B
O	W	H	O	E	V	E	R	W	I	I	J
S	J	O	Y	B	O	R	N	O	S	G	E
E	S	L	S	E	R	V	A	N	T	N	S
P	P	Y	J	C	H	I	L	D	E	P	U
H	R	O	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S
F	A	V	O	U	R	E	F	R	W	S	O
B	I	R	T	H	S	W	O	F	O	D	L
I	S	A	V	I	O	U	R	U	R	L	O
F	E	C	O	U	N	C	E	L	L	O	R
A	N	G	E	L	B	J	V	K	D	V	D
B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	G	E	S
L	A	N	G	E	L	S	R	G	O	D	V
I	G	A	B	R	I	E	L	T	D	S	M
F	P	G	I	V	E	N	A	H	U	O	A
E	E	H	G	A	V	E	S	R	W	N	R
S	A	E	G	R	E	A	T	O	N	L	Y
O	C	H	R	I	S	T	I	N	N	J	O
N	E	O	G	O	O	D	N	E	W	S	N
F	L	O	C	K	M	I	G	H	T	Y	B



CARDS FOR THE CAFE

This week if you visited our cafe on Friday, you may have been given a card together with a packet of seeds with love from the great kids in our youth group.

EXPLORING ST FRANCIS - THE BEATRICE ROOM (PART 2!)

In last month's Link, Jane wrote about the Beatrice Room and how it is used. Those who have used it might be interested to learn some of the background and the constraints on the design.

It was always the intention that the floor of the Beatrice Room should be at the same level as the church floor. There are three places where the two meet – the entrance beside the office, the entrance from the west end (where the electrically operated door is) and at the new double doors through what used to be the exterior wall of the church. What we didn't know was that there is a slope to the church floor – the east end is a few inches higher than the west end. Whether this was intended or is an error we cannot tell! So we had to put a slope in the Beatrice Room floor to match. That was not in itself a problem, except at the new double doors – how do you deal with a door on a slope? The door opening “downhill” would be OK, but the one opening ‘uphill’ has to have a large gap at the bottom when closed, otherwise it will get stuck as it opens onto the rising floor! Rising hinges were ruled out because the doors are too heavy. So we introduced a sort of false hinged wooden sill which can be lowered when the inner doors are closed, to block off the gap under the door and cut out the sound. On the Beatrice Road side we cheated and made the relevant section of the floor flat – which means that the slope has to be steeper in the rest of the area. Those people who think they are getting unstable because the floor doesn't seem level can relax – it's the floor's fault. Next time you are in the Beatrice Room have a look at the brickwork on what was the church's outside wall where it meets the floor, and you can see the slope of the floor. And see if you can identify the 'false sill' between the inner and outer double doors!

Curious About Faith?

Try Alpha.

Join a series of group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment.

At each Alpha session, you'll be hosted in a small group and watch an episode on a different question of faith.



Stay Curious
Try Alpha

Interested?

Join a new group starting at St Francis on Wednesday 17th January at 7.30pm.

For more information or to book contact Joe Stone: joe@st-francischurch.org.uk or the Church Office on 01722 413644

Then you have a chance to share your thoughts and hear what others think. You can say anything you like, or nothing at all.

Everyone's welcome. You're invited, no matter your background or beliefs. It's free and there's no pressure to come back.



SIMPLE CHRISTMAS CRAFTS FOR THE TREE

You will need:

- Pinecones
- Tiny pom poms
- String or ribbon
- Hot glue gun

Start by adding a small glob of hot glue to the underside of the pinecone "branches".

Then stick a tiny pom pom onto the dab of glue.

Repeat for all the the pinecone tips. Then take about 11" of string or ribbon and hot glue it to the top of the pinecone. Job done!



by Debbie Chapman, (One Little Project)

PAPER TREE DECORATIONS

1. Cut one piece of 8 1/2" x 11" paper into 1" strips (oriented landscape so you end up with 11 strips).

2. Stack them and staple them once in the center, then fold the stack in half to form a little book. (If the strips are too long for your stapler to reach the center, either trim them a bit shorter or swing your stapler open and staple the stack on a magazine or cutting mat. Then bend the staple closed.)

3. Put a little piece of double-stick tape at the tip of the first "page." Then bend it inward toward the center and stick it down. Repeat for every "page" until you have a circular flower shape.

4. Hang with invisible thread. (Yes, there is such a thing! You can buy clear thread at a fabric store.) by Jessica Jones (How about Orange)



BUTTONS

Create a trunk by threading three or four brown buttons together – make sure they are smaller than the largest green button.

Once you've threaded the trunk, start adding your green buttons – largest to smallest – to create your tree shape. Finish by tying a knot at the top, leaving enough spare thread for the next step.

Thread a star-shaped button from back to front and adjust the thread so that the star stands upright. Finally, create a loop, so you can hang your finished decoration onto your Christmas tree. And that's it!

by Holly Spanner, (Gathered.how)





CHRISTMAS GOODIES

Not everyone likes the richness of a traditional, fruity Christmas cake, especially children. So here are some other possible things to try. The children could help to make them, as well as eat them!

SNOWMAN CAKE

150g margarine

For the butter icing

150g caster sugar

75g margarine

3 eggs

200g icing sugar, sieved

200g self-raising flour

30ml (2tbsps) milk

30ml (2tbsps) hot water

75g desiccated coconut

1. Cream the margarine and sugar, beat in the eggs and then fold in the flour.
2. Put $\frac{1}{4}$ of the mixture into a $\frac{1}{2}$ pint greased pudding basin and the rest into a $1\frac{1}{2}$ pint pudding basin.
3. Bake at 170C (Gas mark 3) for 45 mins for the smaller and $1\frac{1}{4}$ hours for the larger cake. (Test them with a skewer).
4. Turn out the cakes and trim the bases to make the snowman's head and body.
5. Make up the butter icing and use a little to sandwich the head and body together. Cover both cakes with the remaining icing.
6. Sprinkle both cakes with coconut. Decorate with currants for the snowman's face. If desired, a scarf and hat can be added made from almond paste.

PARTY CANDLES (Makes 8)

Chocolate Swiss roll (bought or home-made)

8 chocolate Flakes

Can of mandarin oranges or peach slices

A small quantity of vanilla butter cream icing

2 glace cherries

1. Cut the Swiss roll into 8 even slices.
2. Stand a Flake in the centre of each, sticking it through the cake.
3. Drain the juice from the fruit and arrange the mandarin segments or peach slices on the cake around the base of the "candle".
4. Pipe dribbles of butter icing on the tip of each "candle", letting it drip down the side.
5. Cut the cherries into 4 and stand one piece upright on the top of each candle to represent the candle flame.

(From "The Creative Chocolate Cookbook" by Patricia Dunbar)

WHAT'S ON AT ST FRANCIS

UPHOLSTERY CLASS

New to St. Francis Church Hall

Traditional upholstery class, taught by Susanne, a practising professional upholsterer.

A course is six weeks, to be held in term time on a Monday, with either a morning or afternoon session. If interested please email susanne@bysusanne.co.uk for an information pack



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.

PILATES with KATE



Classes Salisbury & Wilton

Private tuition available on request

For more details please contact Kate Martin

Mobile or WhatsApp: 07736 843020

Email: katemartinpilates@gmail.com

@katemartinpilates Pilates with Kate



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. Term-time only.



50S AND BEYOND

Saturday, December 9th, 2:30pm

Come and get in a festive mood at our Christmas Tea in the Beatrice Room, St Francis Church. We will have carols, Christmas cookies, tea and even mulled wine! Please purchase a £3 ticket ahead of time from one of the committee members, Melanie Squire, April Hall, Catheryn Turrell or contact Kris Richardson at 01722 500274 kris@richardson.net.

Saturday, December 16th, 1:00 pm

Pantomime for all ages by 'Tor Theater' Duo in The Reading Room, Stratford-Sub-Castle followed by cake and tea. This is a free event sponsored by Celebrating Age Wilshire. However, reservations are required either by phone 07955 249288 or email CAWSupport@wiltshiremusic.org.uk.



Christmas Lunch Anyone?

This year, we are excited to be offering the opportunity to share Christmas lunch together on Christmas Day. Would you like to join us? Or perhaps there is someone you know who would appreciate an invitation who might otherwise be on their own? The lunch will take place at Church at 12.30pm. You will be welcomed with drinks and then enjoy a fantastic, full Christmas dinner with all the trimmings. Then we will watch the King's Speech together before returning, happy and replete, to our homes. We would ask for a donation of £10 per ticket, and spaces will be limited. Tickets available from Jane in the office. We also need a super team with big hearts and broad smiles who can serve on the day- no cooking skill/experience necessary! Please contact Sarah Pix at revsarahpix@yahoo.co.uk if you would like to be on the team.

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.

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

 Home Instead
To us, it's personal

STRICTLY COME LADIES

DECEMBER 15th - 'Movie Night' with minced pies, mulled cranberry and other seasonal treats. Friends and neighbours welcome

JANUARY 19th - 'Games Night' Did you get a new game at Christmas? Still prefer your old favourites? Bring them all along to share with others for an evening of fun. Warning- it might be hilarious! Friends and neighbours welcome.

Both meetings 7.30pm in the Beatrice Room. More info from April Hall 414296, Jenny Pankhurst 328761, jacky.macleod1@ntlworld.com

TOY SERVICE



SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER
ST FRANCIS
11AM

IF YOU BRING AN UNWRAPPED TOY ALONG TO THE ST FRANCIS FAMILY SERVICE AT 11AM ON DECEMBER 3RD WE WILL MAKE SURE IT IS DELIVERED TO A CHILD WHO MIGHT NOT OTHERWISE HAVE A PRESENT THIS YEAR.

TOYS FOR AGES 0-5 PARTICULARLY WELCOME

CAFÉ

Saturday
2nd December 2023
11.00 am – 2.00 pm

Reading Room
Stratford sub Castle SP1 3LL

From 11am onwards

Morning coffee & tea
Mince pies, Stollen,
Biscuits, Hot Chocolate,
Mulled wine

Lunch from 12 noon

Homemade Soup,
Bread, Cheese & Chutney

Also available

Christmas produce and crafts
Raffle



For further information: www.stratfordsubcastle.org.uk (under Groups)



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.

9.45am -11am
St Francis Church - Chapter Rm



Are you grieving the death of a loved one or struggling with the long term effects of loss?

A seven session course will soon be running at St Francis.

If interested, please contact
Rev Mary Terry
mary@st-francischurch.org.uk
or 07732203452

ST FRANCIS



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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- ◆ Highly efficient heating solutions designed & installed.
- ◆ Bespoke swimming pool heating solutions provided, with smart controls.
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t: 01722 417873 | e: sales@ahs-heating.co.uk



www.ahs-heating.co.uk

SPECIAL CHURCH SERVICES

THIS DECEMBER:

3RD 9.30AM TRADITIONAL AT ST FRANCIS
11.00AM TOY SERVICE AT ST FRANCIS

10TH 9.30 & 11AM AT ST FRANCIS
10.00AM MESSY NATIVITY AT HOPE
AT OLD SARUM COMMUNITY CENTRE

17TH 10.30AM ST FRANCIS FAMILY CAROLS
10.00AM CAROLS AT HOPE
AT OLD SARUM COMMUNITY CENTRE

24TH 9.30 TRADITIONAL AT ST FRANCIS
3.00PM CRIB SERVICE AT ST FRANCIS
(FOR FAMILIES OF TODDLER AGED CHILDREN)
6.00PM CANDLE SERVICE AT ST FRANCIS
(A VERY POPULAR SERVICE FOR ALL AGES)
11.00PM COMMUNION AT AT ST FRANCIS

25TH 10AM ALL AGE WORSHIP AT ST FRANCIS