

The Link

ST FRANCIS • OLD SARUM • LONGHEDGE

MARCH 24



WHAT'S ON AT HOPE CHURCH

Bible Brunch
Messy Church
Miracles!

MISSION FOCUS

Child of Hope

WHAT'S ON AT ST FRANCIS

Footsteps
Bereavement Journey
Dawn service on Easter Sunday
(at Old Sarum Cathedral Ruins!)

Contacts

St Francis Church
Hope Church

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“Miracles” at Hope Church

This term Hope Church are looking at “Miracles”. We will consider what miracles are and what the Bible tells us about them in both the Old Testament and the New. We will also look at present-day miracles and the implications for our faith.

Worship at St Francis www.st-francischurch.org.uk

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

9.30AM FRIENDLY TRADITIONAL SERVICE

11AM FAMILY SERVICE WITH CHILDREN'S GROUPS

REFRESHMENTS ARE SERVED FROM 10.30AM

7PM 1ST SUNDAY BIBLE FOCUS

7PM 3RD SUNDAY ENCOUNTER

(ENCOUNTER ALTERNATES WITH ST PAUL'S CHURCH)

3rd March 2024

Sustainable Finance to make Jesus known
2 Corinthians 9:6-11, Luke 14:25-34

BIBLE FOCUS 7PM

17th March 2024

Making Jesus known in all we do
1 Peter 4:1-11, 1 Corinthians 10:23-33

ENCOUNTER 7PM

10th March 2024, MOTHER'S DAY

Making Jesus known in our relationships
Eph 6:1-9, Colossians 3:12-17

24th March 2024, PALM SUNDAY

Making known what kind of King
Zech 9: 9-12, John 12: 12-19

HOLY WEEK

25th-27th March 2024, NIGHT PRAYER

29th March 2024, GOOD FRIDAY

11AM CITY WALK OF WITNESS
2PM REFLECTION, ST FRANCIS

31st March 2024, EASTER DAY

Jesus defeats death
Mark 16: 1-8, 1 Corinthians 15: 19-26





Dear Friends,

Spring is springing. I wonder, are you still finding any of the gifts you received at Christmas useful? I received a very practical gift this year; by December 2023 my sock drawer had descended into chaos, the pairings gone awry, with holes everywhere. So, when my wife asked what I would like for a gift, I replied that my Christmas would be made by an overhaul of black socks. And I'm happy to say the improvement is enduring into the Spring.

The Home Alone movies have become family Christmas staples. Christmas Eve traditionally ends with us gathered around the ingenious slapstick of Home Alone 1. We then watch one a day, through the franchise. Seeking an antidote to the slapstick (which after a while lost a little of its novelty), my wife and I searched for something else to watch. We happened upon the Tolkien movie. The film charts how Tolkien developed a love of words during childhood, with his mother reading him and his brother adventuresome stories by the fireside each evening. The interest became lifelong, with Tolkien inventing his own languages and going on to study and teach language. The film ends with reference to Tolkien's later success as a fantasy writer ("In a hole in the ground, there lived a hobbit"). The film has many dramas - an on-off-on relationship, the peril of the Battle of the Somme in which Tolkien fought. And from all of this, in the end a whole new world emerges through Tolkien's writing; lands and characters are brought to life through his imaginative prose and poetry.

The power of words is demonstrated by their ability to trigger our imaginations. Words are powerful in other ways, they can have a great effect in others' lives, for good or ill. The bible's book of proverbs contains lots of wise sayings collected and written by ancient Israel's greatest king, Solomon. One of these says 'Kind words bring life, but cruel words crush the spirit' (Proverbs 25:11) This is so true. A helpful piece of advice I heard as a teacher was 'notice the pupils doing it right.' I found this was often effective, pointing out good behaviours and attitudes usually led to their increasing. As days lengthen, and a little more sunshine gets in, let's use our words to bring sunshine in too – for 'kind words bring life'.

With very best wishes,

Joe

Rev'd Joseph Stone

Assistant Curate at St Francis Church with Stratford sub Castle and Hope Church

Tel: 01722 703 786

EVENSONG AT ST LAWRENCE

Every second Sunday in the month at 4pm 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.saintlawrence.org.uk



Hope CHURCH

At Hope Church we are continuing to think about “Miracles”, looking at examples in the Bible from the Old and New Testaments. Last month’s highlight was probably the exciting crossing of the Red Sea by the Israelites fleeing from Egypt.

On 28th January we held a Bacon Butty and Bible Brunch. Everybody who came was welcomed with a bacon-filled bap, apple flapjack and a selection of fruit. When everyone was replete, we opened our Bibles and read about how the Israelites were miraculously fed with quail and manna as they wandered in the desert in search of the Promised Land. The gathering was rounded off with a song of praise and holy communion.

We hope that Bacon Butty and Bible Brunches will be a regular occurrence on 4th Sundays in the month. However, in February this was not the case, as we had a special visitor - the Bishop of Ramsbury on 25th February. This was his first visit to Hope, so a very special Sunday for us.

Why not come and join us one Sunday and see for yourselves?



Holiday Apartment
Available to rent in Trebetherick
North Cornwall
Easy walking distance to beaches
Sleeps 5
From April to October
Enquiries to Francesca on 01980 619171



Old Sarum Community Centre, Pheasant Drive,
Old Sarum SP4 6GH

what's coming up March '24

SUNDAY 3RD AT 10AM | ALL AGE WORSHIP

Join us for informal family worship which is suitable for all ages.
This week our theme is: The Miracle Master

SUNDAY 10TH AT 10AM | MESSY CHURCH

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

SUNDAY 17TH AT 10AM | SUNDAY GATHERING

At our Sunday Gatherings we look into a theme.
There's a talk for the adults and kids go to their group.*
This week our theme is: Miracles that Mend

SUNDAY 24TH AT 10AM | ALL AGE BIBLE BRUNCH & COMMUNION

Join us for bacon butties followed by all age bible study based
on the theme Miracle Messiah, then we will share family
Communion together.

SUNDAY 31ST AT 10AM | ALL AGE WORSHIP

Easter Sunday - The Miracle of Miracles!

*Hope Kids is a group that is tailored to 3 - 7 year olds
with lots of fun, creativity, and stories.

IN RETROSPECT

LUKE, A GOSPEL JOURNEY

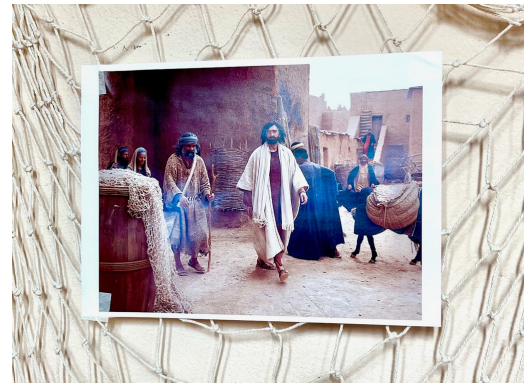
11 - 25 FEBRUARY

ST FRANCIS

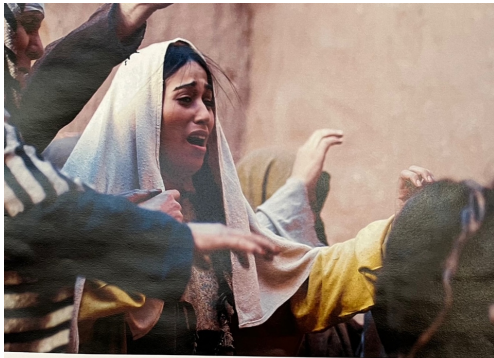


At the beginning of Lent, members of the public and the church took time to learn and reflect about the life of Jesus, told through an exhibition called 'Luke, a Gospel Journey'.

The walkthrough story, beautifully curated by Graeme Brown, included photographs, artefacts and labelled Bible readings to allow people to experience the journey of Jesus.



The exhibition culminated in an Empty Tomb space, which provided a calm space to reflect.



A waste? . . . A disappointment? . . .
A tragic end?
Everyone thought so.

What now?

**Please move to
the font area**



MISSION



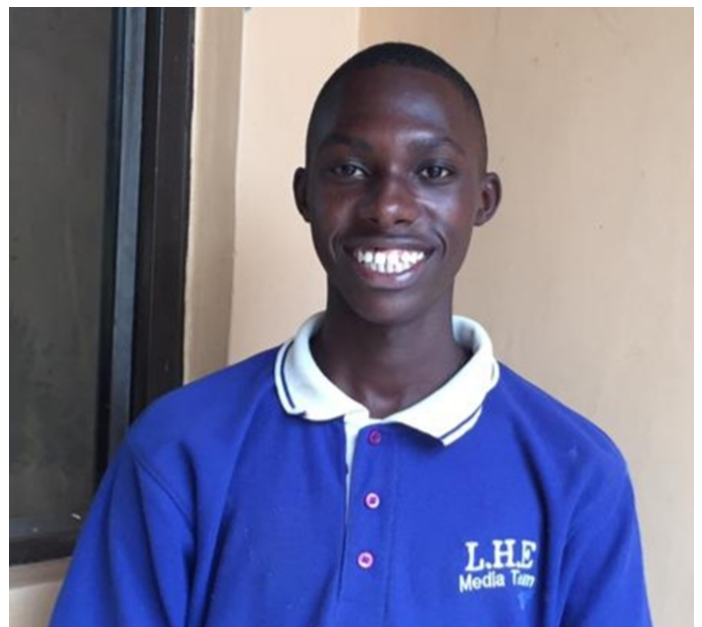
I visited Child of Hope way back in 2012. At that point there was a half-built nursery/primary school on site catering for many children in the slums of Namatala, Mbale, in eastern Uganda. In the twelve years that have followed, the build has been completed, a secondary school has been added (with the help of donations from St Francis), and a nursery school has been established in another district.

Child of Hope helps one child from each family that they support which ensures far more families are impacted: over 650 and counting. Because there is no healthcare or social care provision in the slum, Child of Hope steps in to help provide this support. Their team conducts home visits, provides counselling, and offers training for parents/carers, along with school nurse services and local clinic care if needed. They also provide food for the most vulnerable children. And it does not stop there: micro-finance projects help mothers start small businesses, ranging from selling charcoal and rice to running local-style restaurants and produce stalls at the local market. These businesses in turn enable the mothers to invest in their own families; leading to better housing, nutrition, and education for all of their children.

If you would like to find out more about the charity, take a look at their website www.childofhopeuganda.org and their 'Child of Hope Uganda' YouTube channel. Our family enjoys watching the videos, particularly when we see Julius, a teenage boy that we sponsor. His incredible dance moves are easy to spot!

I first met Julius as a quiet 6 year-old, all those years back when I visited Child of Hope and have written and received letters ever since. Now I have children of my own, our whole family enjoys writing him letters. I asked Julius to share a few words with you: "Child of Hope has helped me very much. It has provided food to my family members whenever we lacked. It has provided me with studies. If it was not for Child of Hope, I would not have even learnt perfect English and would not have the dream of being a vet. I would not have the confidence I have now." Like hundreds of others, Julius is quite literally a child of hope

Emily Stone



Julius (above)

TOP SECRET MISSIONS OF KINDNESS

Do you enjoy spy stories where the brave heroes are given secret missions to save the planet? Now is your chance to have a secret mission of your own... you may not be leaping from helicopters, but you will be enriching our community.

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, (and we hope you do!) is to choose to complete secret acts of kindness. These are not things you do to receive praise or rewards, but quietly for the joy of it.

Not sure what kind of mission of kindness to complete? It's amazing what difference small adjustments to our routine can make to those around us. Here are a few ideas:

- 1) Let someone go ahead of you in a queue.
- 2) Draw or write a note for an adult at home.
- 3) Leave a kindness note for a friend somewhere where they'll find it.
- 4) Smile at everyone for a day - it's contagious!
- 5) Sit next to someone who looks sad or upset.
- 6) Give away gently used treasures that you never use.
- 7) Make a card for someone in a residential nursing home, or in hospital.
- 8) Help carry something, run an errand or help with chores for someone.
- 9) Do something small for someone, to make them realise that they matter in the world... this might be as simple as giving someone a well-deserved compliment.
- 10) Write three kind notes and leave them around your home, your school, church, or youth group.



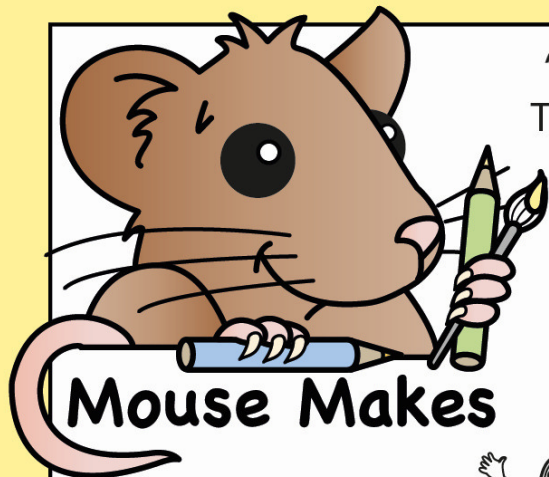
The reason for these Secret Missions of Kindness is not just because being kind is good for us, the Bible also teaches us that kind thoughts and words are very important, but what we DO also matters:

Dear Children
let us not love with words
or speech, but with
actions and in truth.
1 John, 3:18

You could write down your favourite completed missions and leave a note in the Top Secret Missions of Kindness box on the table in the entrance to St Francis Church. Keep an eye on next month's edition of The Link - maybe your mission will be in our report!

Good Luck, secret agents! Your safety is the most important thing, so do not speak to strangers as part of your missions.





Mouse Makes

Matthew 21:1-11

1. Which city did Jesus ride into?
2. What did he ride on?
3. What did the crowd shout?
4. What clothes did they put down?
7. What did they cut down to spread on the road?



Matthew 26:17-29

15. What feast did Jesus celebrate?
12. Who did he celebrate it with?
11. What did Jesus break to eat?



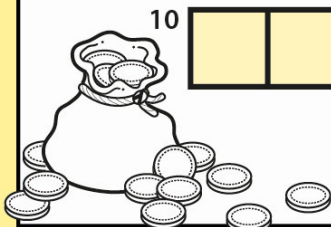
Matthew 26:36-75

6. What did Jesus go to do at Gethsemane?
18. Who denied Jesus?



Matthew 26:14-16

- 8d. Who betrayed Jesus?
10. How many silver pieces was he paid?



"I am the **resurrection** and the life.
The one who believes in me will live
even though they die."

John 1:25



READ the Bible passages to find the answers to the crossword clues

A crossword puzzle grid with the following clues and illustrations:

- 1** (Down): "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live even though they die." (John 1:25)
- 2** (Across): Jesus' mode of transport.
- 3** (Across): What the crowd shouted.
- 4** (Across): Clothes put down on the road.
- 5** (Across): What was cut down to spread on the road.
- 6** (Across): Jesus' feast.
- 7** (Across): Who Jesus celebrated with.
- 8a** (Across): What Jesus broke to eat.
- 8d** (Across): Who betrayed Jesus.
- 9** (Across): What Jesus was crucified on.
- 10** (Across): How many silver pieces Jesus was paid.
- 11** (Across): What Jesus broke to eat.
- 12** (Across): Who Jesus celebrated with.
- 13** (Across): What they wrapped Jesus' body in.
- 14** (Across): Whose tomb Jesus was buried in.
- 15** (Across): Who denied Jesus.
- 16** (Across): What they rolled in front of the tomb.
- 17** (Across): What Jesus went to do at Gethsemane.
- 18** (Across): Who denied Jesus.
- 19** (Across): What happened to Jesus.
- 8a** (Across): Mary was full of fear and ...?

Illustrations include: a mouse, a woman with a palm branch, a donkey, a crowd, Jesus, a chalice, a bag of coins, a crown of thorns, a cross, and a tomb with a rolled stone.

BOOK CORNER

IT'S NOT YOUR TURN

When you read St. Paul's letters in the Bible you find his heart, mind and soul are embedded in the storylines. Also when you read "Its Not Your Turn" you also discover the author's heart, mind and soul are interwoven into the text from the get-go of the first to the last page. This book is written with a kind heart and a strong mind.

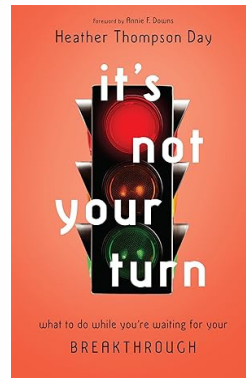
I have chosen to emphasize this book and hopefully persuade people into reading it via selecting 3 quotations as follows,

1. On social media, "the people we compare ourselves to are the best versions of those other people, not even who they really are". Comparison is the thief of joy.

2. "I am going to start asking you to do something. I want you to start asking God for a new mind."
Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12v2 (NIV)

It's Not Your Turn – What to Do While You're Waiting for Your Breakthrough by Heather Thompson Day who also publishes a podcast called Viral Jesus on Christianity Today, Viral Jesus | Podcasts | Christianity Today



3. "Because at the end of the day, all we have in life is our integrity." The storyline of this book is cultivating integrity when nobody is watching.

In conclusion, people will spend more of their time waiting for stuff to happen than the stuff dreamed of actually happening. Let this eminently readable and easily digestible book enlighten you to thrive in the waiting.

Heather Thompson Day's – "Its Not Your Turn" effortlessly blends the thoughtful, wise, practical and humorous into a book relevant for our time. Once finished it deserves to be reread at a less frantic pace (a symptom of our modern western world), marking the relevant thoughts with highlighting pen in hand.



World Day of Prayer

FRIDAY 1 MARCH 2.30pm

St Osmund's Church

Exeter Street

Pray with us for Palestine

Everyone welcome

MINI EGG CHEESECAKE

By Benjamina Ebuehi
BBC Good Food



Ingredients

For the base

250g/9oz chocolate digestives

80g/2¾oz unsalted butter, melted, plus extra for greasing

For the filling

680g/1lb 8oz full-fat cream cheese, at room temperature

90g/3¼oz icing sugar

1½ tsp vanilla bean paste

320ml/11fl oz double cream

320g/11½oz sugar-coated chocolate mini eggs, roughly chopped, plus extra to decorate

For the chocolate nest

30g/1oz Shredded Wheat cereal

70g/2½oz dark chocolate, broken into small pieces

15g/½oz salted butter

Method

To make the base, line the bottom of a 20cm/8in springform or loose-bottomed cake tin with baking paper and lightly grease the sides. Add the biscuits to a food processor and blitz until fine. Alternatively, add them to a food bag, seal and bash with a rolling pin. Pour the biscuits into a bowl and stir in the melted butter. Tip the biscuit mixture into the tin and use the back of a spoon to press down firmly and evenly. Place the tin in the fridge to chill.

To make the filling, place the cream cheese, icing sugar, vanilla and half of the double cream in a large bowl and beat until smooth and thick. Stir in the chopped chocolate eggs. In a separate bowl, whip the rest of the double cream until it forms stiff peaks. Fold this into the cream cheese mixture. Pour the filling into the tin and level the top. Leave to chill in the fridge for at least 6 hours or overnight.

To make the chocolate nest, crush the wheat cereal in a bowl and set aside. Set a heatproof glass bowl over a saucepan of gently simmering water, making sure the water does not touch the bowl, and add the chocolate and butter. Stir occasionally until the chocolate is completely melted. Pour the chocolate onto the wheat cereal and stir until completely coated. Line a small bowl with cling film and spoon in the chocolate nest mixture, pressing firmly up the sides to create a nest shape. Place in the fridge to chill until solid.

When ready to serve, remove the cheesecake from the tin. Unmould the chocolate nest and place it on top. Fill the nest with mini chocolate eggs, letting some spill over onto the cheesecake before serving.



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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t: 01722 417873 | e: sales@ahs-heating.co.uk



www.ahs-heating.co.uk

FOOTPRINTS SERVICE

SATURDAY 2ND MARCH
2.30PM

FOOTPRINTS:

If you have been affected by childlessness, or the loss of a child before or after birth, you are invited to this reflective service.

Through song, word, light, music and quiet, this is a time to acknowledge our lament and hope.

Tea and cake will follow the service.

ST
FRANCIS

LIFE WITH GOD



Please contact
Rev Mary
Terry if you
would like
more details,
or to come to
this service:

mary@st-francischurch.org.uk



07732203452



St Francis Church
Beatrice Road
SP1 3PN



WHAT'S ON AT ST FRANCIS



50S AND BEYOND & STRICTLY COME LADIES JOINT EVENT

Friday March 15th 6:00 for 6:30 pm start

Join us for Fish and Chips and a movie in the Beatrice Room at St Francis. Tickets are £10 for a small fish and chips, and soft drinks.

Please purchase tickets by 12 March from Kris Richardson at kris@richardson.net 07963 500331; or Melanie Squire 07813 193660 at melanie.squire@gmail.com; or Jacky Macleod at 07981789601 jacky.macleod1@ntlworld.com



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

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.

9.45am - 11am
St Francis Church - Chapter Rm

Friday Café @ St Francis 9.30 - 11.30 AM

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. .

WELCOME TO EMILY!



Hi, my name is Emily and I am the new Children and Families Pastor at St Francis. I moved to Salisbury last summer with my husband Joe, a curate at St Francis, and our two boys. Although our lastest move was from Oxford, I had previously taught at Wyndham Park for ten years leading up to 2020 so am familiar with the area. It has been fun to bump into children I taught and their families and to meet with former colleagues again.

I have been a teacher for almost two decades in a handful of schools. A few years back I volunteered in a school in Uganda for two years and I am a keen supporter of a charity in Uganda that St Francis partner with called Child of Hope. Currently, I'm home educating our children and thoroughly enjoy learning along with them, whether it be studying composers, artists, the Bible, nature, history or playing tennis.

I don't know about you, but I love to journey alongside other people in life! I love the opportunity to chat with others, to encourage each other and pray together. I am looking forward to meeting more of you at St Francis and in the local community. May I extend a warm welcome to you at Teddy Bears, our Thursday morning term-time group for 0-5 year olds, and our Sunday morning 11am service which welcomes families and offers fun kids' groups. Please email me on family@st-francischurch.org.uk with any questions.

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.

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



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.

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

UPHOLSTERY CLASS

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

MARCH 2024

WHAT'S ON

EVERY WEEK:

MONDAYS St Francis Community Singers 2.30pm

TUESDAYS POLO (Parents of Little Ones) St Francis 9.45am

WEDNESDAYS Alpha Course at St Francis Lounge 7.30pm

THURSDAYS Teddybears Toddler Group 10-11.30am

FRIDAYS Friday Cafe at St Francis 9.30 - 11.30 am

Friday Night Youth at St Francis 6-7.30pm (school years 6-9) 7.30-9pm (10-13)

FRIDAY 1 MARCH 2.30pm World Day of Prayer St Osmond's Church

SATURDAY 2nd March 2.30pm FOOTPRINTS St Francis

SUNDAY 3RD

HOPE 10am All Age (at Old Sarum Community Centre)

St Francis 9.30, 11am, 7pm Bible Focus & 7pm Youth (years 10-13)

SUNDAY 10TH

HOPE 10am Messy Church

St Francis 9.30 & 11am

St Lawrence Evensong 4pm

WEDNESDAY 13th Mothers' Union 9.45 St Francis

SUNDAY 17TH MOTHERING SUNDAY

HOPE 10am Sunday Gathering

St Francis 9.30, 11am & 7pm ENCOUNTER (Youth supper at 6pm)

PALM SUNDAY 24TH

HOPE 10am Sunday Gathering

St Francis 9.30 & 11am

GOOD FRIDAY 29TH 11AM WALK OF WITNESS

(Cathedral Close to Market Square)

EASTER SUNDAY 31ST

OLD SARUM CATHEDRAL RUINS 6am followed by breakfast at St Francis

HOPE 10am All Age

St Francis 9.30, 11am