

The Link

ST FRANCIS • OLD SARUM • LONGHEDGE

OCTOBER 2025



WHAT'S ON AT HOPE CHURCH

Harvest Lunch &
Talent Show

MISSION FOCUS

SALISBURY
FOODBANK

WHAT'S ON AT ST FRANCIS

Alpha courses
Social groups for
all ages

CONTACTS

Role	Name	Phone	Email
Vicar	Jean de Garis	01722 334214	vicar@st-francischurch.org.uk
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Hope Church Priest	Suzie Allen		revsuzieallen@gmail.com
Hope Church Office	Helen Gill		oldsarum@st-francischurch.org.uk
Parish Office	Jane Franchi	01722 413644	admin@st-francischurch.org.uk
Bookings Enquiries	Alan Goldie	07902 650129	bookings@st-francischurch.org.uk
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Life Groups St F	Sue & Phil George		sue.george23@gmail.com philgeorge60@icloud.com

WWW.ST-FRANCISCHURCH.ORG.UK

WORSHIP AT ST FRANCIS

Regular Sunday Services

- **9.30am Friendly traditional service / 11am Family service with children's groups**
- **Refreshments are served from 10.30am**

OCTOBER:

5TH - 9.30 & 11AM HARVEST

Deuteronomy 8.7-18 / Luke 12.22-31

7pm Bible Focus

12TH - 9.30 & 11AM BEING PEOPLE OF OUR WORD

Matt 23.16-23 / Matt 5.33-37

19TH - JESUS' WAY OF TAKING REVENGE

Romans 12.9-21 / Matt 5.38-42

7pm Encounter

26TH - LOVING THE HATERS

Isaiah 52.1-6 / Matt 5.43-46



EVENSONG AT ST LAWRENCE

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. October Evensong is on the 12th at 6pm

Letter from Rev'd Mary

Dear Friends,

The excitement of the victory back in July of England's Lioness team winning the Euro championships was the cause of much celebration, the St George flag being waved up and down the country. We wrapped ourselves in our national flag, we put up red and white bunting, and roared 'Come on England!' at the tops of our voices.



Our spirits were lifted as we aligned ourselves, along with our neighbours, in victorious celebration of all the hard work and training which bore fruit that momentous day; the St George flag symbolising our pride in England, a unifying emblem.

So I wonder if, like me, you have felt a bit uncomfortable about seeing the flag painted on mini roundabouts in Salisbury, or the red fabric pinned onto the Westbury white horse. Somehow these acts – described by Wiltshire Council as 'vandalism' - don't feel quite so unifying, but rather hint at the polarity and division within our country as we grapple with the question 'what does it look like to be a citizen of the United Kingdom in 2025?' as we grapple with fear, anger, welcome and hope.

Yet when I see the English flag, I see a cross. A powerful reminder of the sacrificial love that Jesus shows. A love that acknowledges our brokenness and frailty. A love that reaches out to the vulnerable and marginalised. A love that refuses to be shaped or influenced by power play. A love that continues to offer compassion and mercy. A love that calls us to be part of His story. A love that cares deeply about how we treat one another.



Therefore we at St Francis pray. We pray to a God who is building a kingdom that springs from His love. We pray for our government, our policy makers, ourselves; for wisdom and a working towards justice; for integrity and compassion; for the voices of the vulnerable to be heard amongst the hubbub; for a better way of listening to those who think differently; for a way of working that seeks to unify rather than divide the nation.

Do join your prayers with ours if you are able.

Blessings

Mary

mary@st-francischurch.org.uk

As the leaves begin to take on a russet hue and the evenings draw in, we turn our thoughts to harvest time. On October 5th from 11am - 1.30pm, Hope Church will be having a 'Bring and Share' Harvest lunch, but with a twist! Not only are you warmly encouraged to bring and share food and *bring a friend* - but also to *'bring your talent'*! Come and celebrate each other's talents with a Talent Show - it can be something that you have created (artwork or craft, perhaps something you have written or composed), or a magic trick, a song, many of you are gifted musicians ... or perhaps you are a budding comedian? No upper or lower age limit, but a maximum of four minutes.

Taking a moment to reflect on Summer holiday events, our 'Stay and Play' sessions, aimed at children aged 3-10, had a great atmosphere and were full of craft and play - please keep an eye on details of more to come at Old Sarum Community Centre.

Many of the children who come to Hope had a super time at the St Francis Holiday Club. Many thanks to all concerned in organising and delivering such a rich and enjoyable event.

Looking forward, on 2nd November, Rev Jean de Garis will be running a special service at Hope Church, exploring 'difficult questions' about faith and the Bible - please submit your questions for consideration to:
oldsarum@st-francischurch.org.uk

Every Blessing,
Rev Suzie



Harvest Lunch & TALENT SHOW

5th October, 11am - 1.30pm
Old Sarum and Longhedge
Community Centre

- Bring a friend
- Bring and share
- Bring your TALENT

Come and eat together at our 'Bring and Share' Harvest Lunch and let's celebrate each other's talents - whether it is:

- something you have made,
- a song,
- a dance,
- magic tricks,
- telling jokes or
- playing an instrument

Showcase your talent in four minutes (or less!). - ALL AGES welcome!



ASK JEAN!

2ND NOVEMBER | 10AM

Do you have any questions about faith or the Bible?

Explore your 'difficult questions' together.

Submit your questions for consideration ASAP

email:

oldsarum@st-francischurch.org.uk



what's coming up October '25

Our Sunday services are held
at Old Sarum Community
Centre, Pheasant Drive, Old
Sarum SP4 6GH

SUNDAY 5TH OCTOBER AT 11AM-1.30PM

BIG HARVEST BRING AND SHARE LUNCH

Bring and share, bring a friend, bring your
talent

Theme: **Celebrate each other's talents.**

SUNDAY 12TH OCTOBER AT 10AM

MESSY CHURCH

Join us for our monthly all-age session of
food, faith and fun! The theme is:

**Really Royal, Fame and Fortune:
David, the King who loved to sing.**

SUNDAY 19TH OCTOBER AT 10AM

**SUNDAY GATHERING WITH HOPE KIDS
AND COMMUNION**

Frontline Sermon Series (4)

Theme: **Whoever we are.**

**SUNDAY 26TH OCTOBER AT 10AM
ALL AGE**

**With 'GAMEZONE' for kids, to allow adults
to get the most out of the Frontline
material.**

Frontline Sermon Series (5)

Theme: **Together we grow.**

NEW!

Harvest appeal

Salisbury
Foodbank
Together with Trussell



Help support your food bank this Harvest

In the three weeks leading up to Harvest, the food bank will provide over 550 food parcels for local individuals and families facing hardship.

Donate food



Donate an item or two from our shopping list, ensuring we can provide food for people facing hardship in your community.

Donate money



Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food, as well as developing sustainable projects.

Shopping list

Tinned meat/fish
Tinned potatoes
Tinned tomatoes
Tea/Coffee
Sponge/packet pudding
Rice pudding/custard
Jam
Fruit juice (long life)
Milk (long life)
Biscuits/ Snacks



Salisbury
Foodbank
Together with Trussell

Harvest, Help, and Hope: A Look at Our Busiest Month Yet

August 2025 marked our busiest month to date, with an incredible 626 people supported and 5,634 meals shared by our Foodbank. Almost half of these meals went to children, highlighting the growing need during the school holidays—a time when many families who usually rely on school meals face additional pressure to feed their children.

As we move into the Autumn, our focus shifts to Harvest Season, a time of giving and reflection. Our amazing Foodbank Manager, Maria is preparing for a packed schedule of school assemblies and visits throughout September and October.

Harvest is Maria's favourite time of year. It offers a special opportunity to talk with students and staff about the real struggles families face—often in silence. These visits are not just about donations but about raising awareness and encouraging compassion. As Maria says, it's a reminder that it's okay to ask for help and vital that we all try to "be there" for our friends and neighbours.

In return for these heartfelt school visits, students donate tins—continuing the beautiful tradition of Harvest giving. Maria fondly recalls asking her mum decades ago, "Where does the food go?" and being told it went to the old people's home. Now she knows the answer: it goes to our community, to those quietly in need—the people we pass in the street, serve us in shops, or sit beside us at church.

Can you help this Harvest?

We're especially in need of:

Tinned meat, potatoes, tomatoes, Tea/coffee

Tinned or packet desserts

Long-life milk and fruit juice.

Thank you for your continued generosity and kindness.

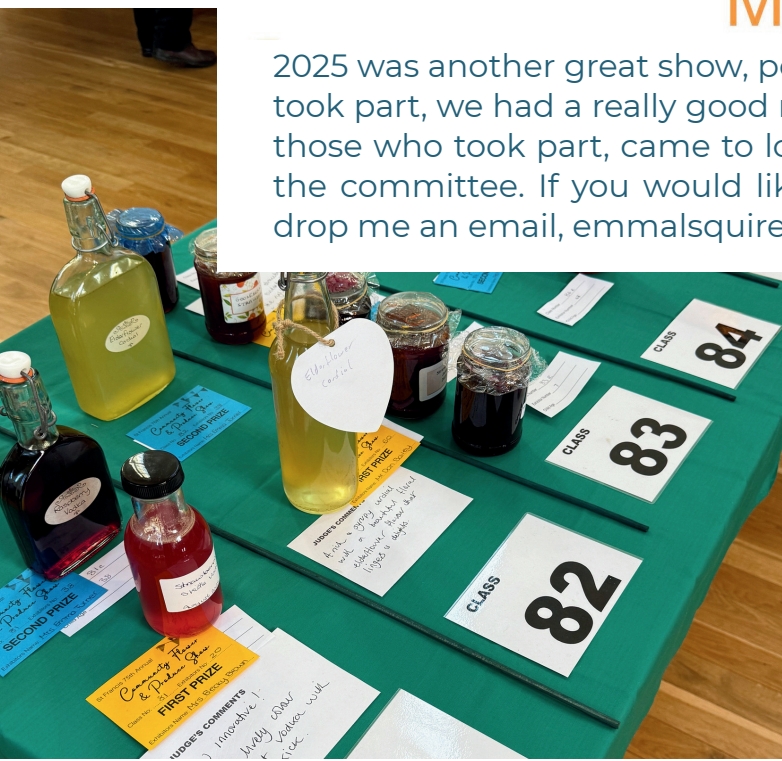
Donations for Salisbury Foodbank can be made at St Francis' Harvest services on Sunday 5th October



Community Show

'Bake, Grow, Make, Show'

2025 was another great show, people from all over the community took part, we had a really good number of entries. Thank you to all those who took part, came to look in the afternoon and of course the committee. If you would like to be involved next year please drop me an email, emmalsquire@yahoo.co.uk



Salisbury Men's Shed

Salisbury Men's Shed opened in 2018 and it provides an opportunity for men and women over the age of 18 to meet , make things , mend things and socialise. Currently most members are retired men but others are welcome.

The shed group meet at the premises of the charity Alabare on Wednesday and Thursday mornings between 9.30 and 12.30. Members may have work of their own that they wish to do . We also have a number of projects for local charities , other groups and individuals that members can get involved in. Much of the work that we do involves working in wood but there is scope for other kind of projects. Some of our members are retired tradespeople but no specific skill level is required to join , simply enthusiasm and a willingness to get along with other people.

Membership costs £20.00 per year and members will usually attend on either a Wednesday or Thursday rather than both days. We welcome everyone but we are particularly keen to attract those who wish to take an active part in the organisation of the shed , including building links with local businesses , sourcing wood supplies and promoting the shed in the local community.

If you want to take a look just make contact through our website and someone will get back to you. We look forward to seeing you at Salisbury Men's Shed.
<https://salisburymensshed.wordpress.com/>



Salisbury
flower shed

Fresh Flowers for all occasions

59G Old Sarum Business Park

Salisbury. SP4 6DZ

Tel: 01722 701041

salisburyflowershed@gmail.com

www.thesalisburyflowershed.co.uk

STRATFORD-SUB-CASTLE GARDEN CLUB

The club meets on the last Thursday of the month – September – November & January –June.

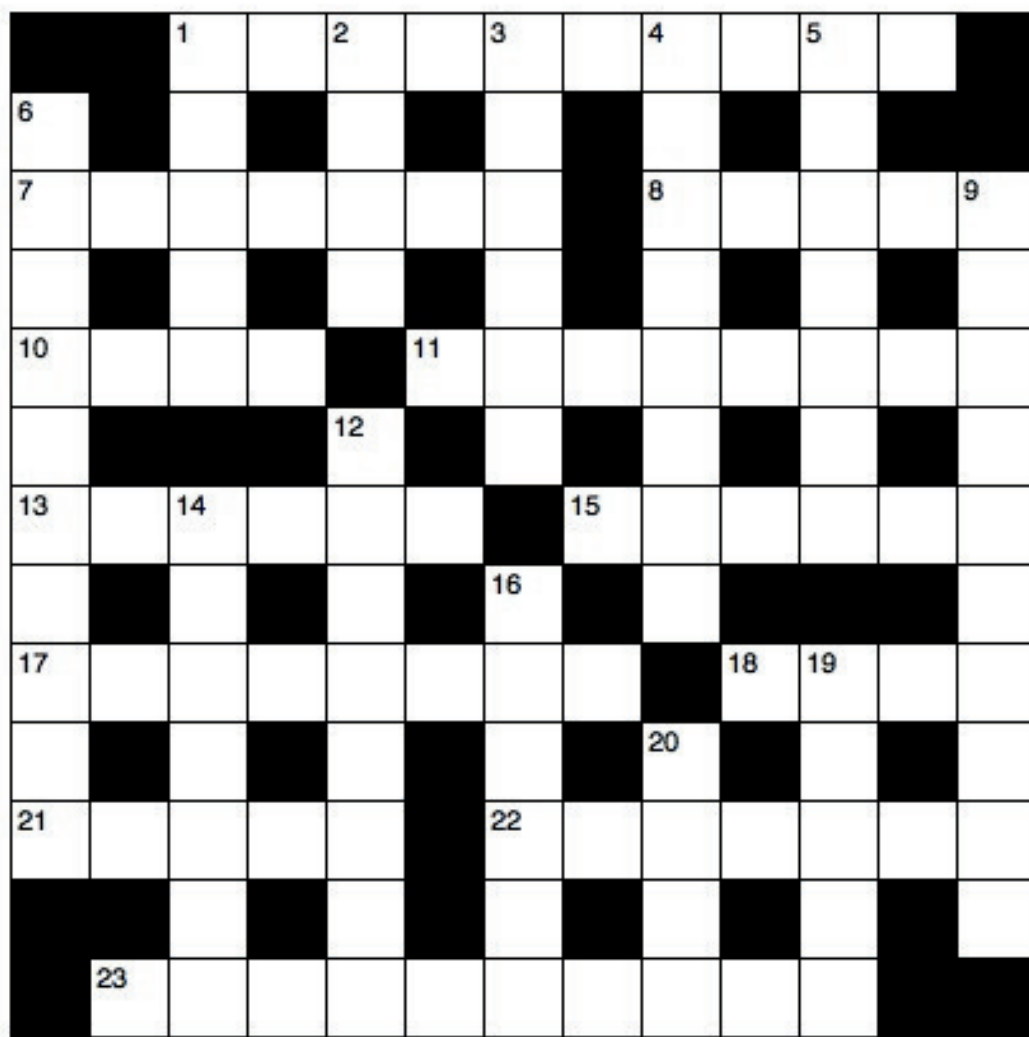
We meet in the Reading Room in Stratford-sub-Castle – 7.15pm for 7.30pm.

Membership is £18.00 per year and visitors £4.00 per meeting.

New members and visitors are always most welcome.



Contact: Jeff Long, 01722 324421.



ACROSS

- 1 He was replaced as king of Judah by his uncle Mattaniah (2 Kings 24:17) (10)
 7 'Let us fix our eyes on Jesus... who for the joy set before him — the cross' (Hebrews 12:2) (7)
 8 Relieved (5)
 10 Impetuous (Acts 19:36) (4)
 11 Surprised and alarmed (Luke 24:37) (8)
 13 'It is — for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God' (Mark 10:25) (6)
 15 Directions for the conduct of a church service (6)
 17 One of the acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19) (8)
 18 and 20 Down 'She began to wet his — with her tears. Then she wiped them with her — ' (Luke 7:38) (4,4)
 21 'We will all be changed, in a flash, in the twinkling of an — , — the last trumpet' (1 Corinthians 15:51-52) (3,2)
 22 'But he replied, "Lord, I am — — go with you to prison and to death"' (Luke 22:33) (5,2)
 23 Third person of the Trinity (2 Corinthians 13:14) (4,6)

DOWN

- 1 He betrayed Jesus (Matthew 27:3) (5)
 2 Paul's assurance to the Philippian jailer: 'Don't — yourself! We are all here!' (Acts 16:28) (4)
 3 'Fear God and keep his commandments, for this — the whole — of man' (Ecclesiastes 12:13) (2,4)
 4 The sort of giver God loves (2 Corinthians 9:7) (8)
 5 Sun rail (anag.) (7)
 6 Naboth, the ill-fated vineyard owner, was one (1 Kings 21:1) (10)
 9 Paul said of young widows, 'When their sensual desires overcome their — to Christ, they want to marry' (1 Timothy 5:11) (10)
 12 This was how Joseph of Arimathea practised his discipleship 'because he feared the Jews' (John 19:38) (8)
 14 Mop ruse (anag.) (7)
 16 Foment (Philippians 1:17) (4,2)
 19 Where Joseph and Mary escaped to with the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:14) (5)
 20 See 18 Across

WHAT'S ON AT ST FRANCIS



JOIN OUR PRESCHOOL FAMILY

LADYBIRDS PRESCHOOL



Open Monday to Friday 8.30am - 3.15pm Wiltshire
Term Time Only. Beatrice Rd, Salisbury, SP1 3PN



COMMUNICATION

We believe that every member of our preschool family has the right to express themselves openly with confidence and feel valued



SUPPORT

We always support every member of our preschool family and put our children at the heart of everything we do.

QUALITY TIME

By providing high quality experiences, our children thrive in an environment that is secure, safe and loved



WHY JOIN US?

Because we are a small, family feel preschool that treats everyone as individuals in their own right
Because Every Child Matters & Every Child Counts
Because we are big enough to matter, but small enough to care

OFSTED Rated as GOOD,
Children aged 2-5 years of age, 15 & 30 hour free funding, childcare vouchers accepted

Book a visit today
01722 502234 or email
ladybirdssp1@gmail.com



50S AND BEYOND

Hope you can join us in Octoberber. Don't forget to invite family, friends and neighbours; the more the merrier. 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 organisers.

THURSDAY 16 OCTOBER, 12:00 PM

We are going to have a Pub Lunch at the Old Castle Harvester, Old Castle Road SP1 3SF. We will need to prebook the meals by October 9th, but pay on the day. Please contact Gordon Stack at copsewood02@btinternet.com or 07708 835303 or Melanie Squire at 07813 193660 melaniesquire@gmail.com to reserve your place and prebook your meal by October 9.

HARVEST



ST FRANCIS
9.30 & 11AM
SUNDAY 5TH OCTOBER

Ladies Together

invites ladies from St Lawrence, St Francis and Hope Churches to meet one another socially on the second Thursday of the month. Meetings are in a variety of locations and for a range of activities - always with time for a coffee and a chat! 10am unless advised otherwise.

9th October 10am 4 Victoria Road

An introduction to "neuro art" kindly led by Cindy Demain-Griffiths. There will be the opportunity to have a go! Or just come for a coffee and a chat at about 10.30.

StLawLadies@gmail.com for any queries.

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



FRIDAY CAFÉ @ ST FRANCIS

The cafe is open to anyone, every Friday 9.30 - 11.30am. Offering fresh filter coffee, tea, cakes and biscuits, all £1 per item, including free refills.

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.

ZUMBA



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

STRICTLY LADIES

FRIDAY OCT 17TH 7.30 P.M.
ST FRANCIS BEATRICE ROOM

For more information contact
April Hall Tel 01722 414296 or
Email ad.hall51@btopenworld.com or
Jacky Macleod Tel 01722 500659

This is an event where ladies can meet for a chat and make new friends whilst exploring a variety of activities .

The theme for October's meeting is Autumn Arts, Crafts and Traditions.

Refreshments will be provided.

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES



Last year we had an extremely successful collection for House of Opportunity Shoe Boxes. To spread the load we collect every week until nearer the time we need to fill them. A box will be in the Beatrice Room and suggestions for donations each month. Please remember it all has to fit into a shoe box!! Do check the House of Opportunity website or Facebook to see what other amazing work is done. <https://houseofopportunity.org/>

This month we'd love donations of soap, toothpaste, flannels, hair brushes, toys (not cars) and colouring pencils. All items must be new please.

**Tickets
£7.50 to include
crafts & refreshments**

for Christmas *Create*

**A fun ladies evening to try some Christmas crafts
Friday 21st November 2025
7:30-9:30pm at St Francis Church**

Please book by Fri **14th November** on ChurchSuite or contact
Jacky Macleod 07981 789601,
Emma Turner emmalsquire@yahoo.co.uk
or Jane Franchi admin@st-francischurch.org.uk

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ACROSS: 1, Jehoiachin. 7, Endured. 8, Eased. 10, Rash. 11, Startled. 13, Easier. 15, Rubric. 17, Impurity. 18, Feet. 21, Eye at. 22, Ready to. 23, Holy Spirit.

DOWN: 1, Judas. 2, Harm. 3, Is duty. 4, Cheerful. 5, Insular. 6, Jezreelite. 9, Dedication. 12, Secretly. 14, Supremo. 16, Stir up. 19, Egypt. 20, Hair.



Jamie Oliver Vegan Chilli

This is a flavourful, wholesome dish that's packed with colourful vegetables, hearty beans, and warm spices. This meat-free chili is perfect for cozy dinners, meal prep, or a satisfying lunch. It's nutritious, filling, and easy to make, making it a wonderful option for anyone looking to enjoy a healthy, plant-based meal. It tastes even better the next day and stores well.

1 large onion, diced	1 can (400g) chopped tomatoes
2 cloves garlic, minced	1 tablespoon olive oil
1 red bell pepper, diced	1 teaspoon ground cumin
1 yellow bell pepper, diced	1 teaspoon smoked paprika
1 courgette diced	1/2 teaspoon chilli powder (adjust to taste)
1 carrot, diced	1 teaspoon dried oregano
1 can (400g) kidney beans, drained and rinsed	Salt and pepper to taste
1 can (400g) black beans, drained and rinsed	Fresh coriander, chopped (optional, for garnish)
1 can (400g) chickpeas, drained and rinsed	Lime wedges for serving (optional)

Step 1: Sauté the Onion and Garlic

In a large pot, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add the diced onion and cook for 5 minutes until softened. Add the minced garlic and sauté for another minute until fragrant.

Step 2: Add the Vegetables

Add the diced red and yellow bell peppers, courgette and carrot to the pot. Cook for about 5-7 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables start to soften.

Step 3: Add the Spices

Stir in the ground cumin, smoked paprika, chili powder, and dried oregano. Toast the spices for 1-2 minutes to bring out their flavor.

Step 4: Add the Beans and Tomatoes

Add the kidney beans, black beans, chickpeas, and chopped tomatoes to the pot. Stir everything together and season with salt and pepper to taste. If the chili looks too thick, add a splash of water or vegetable broth.

Step 5: Simmer the Chili

Bring the mixture to a simmer, then reduce the heat to low and let it cook for 20-25 minutes, stirring occasionally. This allows the flavors to meld and the vegetables to become tender.

Step 6: Serve

Ladle the chili into bowls and garnish with fresh cilantro if desired. Serve with lime wedges on the side for an extra burst of freshness.

**SERVICES OF REMEMBERING, THANKSGIVING,
HOPE AND LAMENT
AT ST FRANCIS CHURCH, SALISBURY**

2 NOVEMBER 3PM – ALL SOULS SERVICE

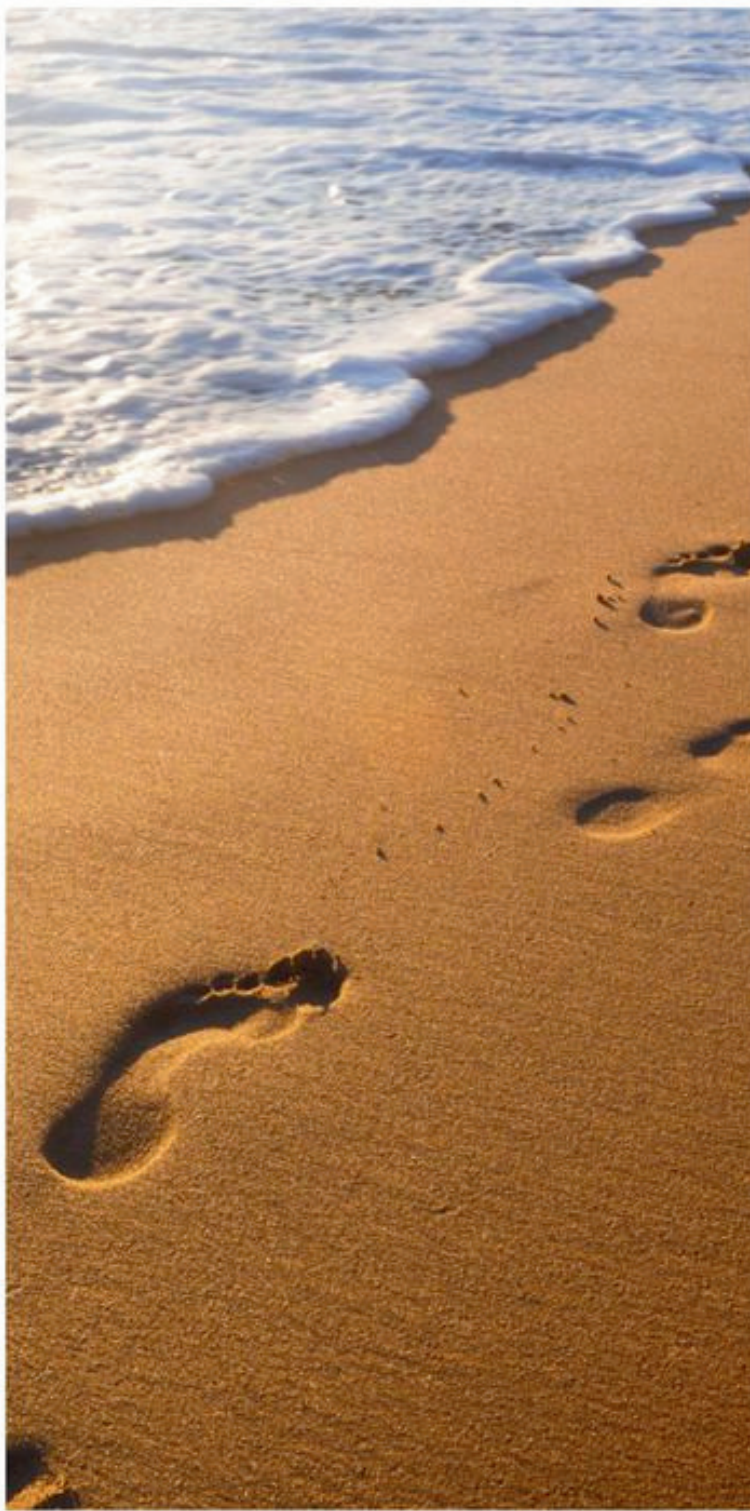
You are invited to this reflective service to remember those whom we love but see no longer, to give thanks for the life we shared with them, to celebrate precious memories, and to draw strength from God and support from each other as we face the future.

MARCH – FOOTPRINTS SERVICE

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. The Name, Footprints Service, comes from the poem Footprints, a reminder of God's love and faithfulness to us in the darkest of times, even in the absence of his felt presence.



FOR FURTHER DETAILS, PLEASE CONTACT
THE VICAR ON VICAR@ST-FRANCISCHURCH.ORG.UK
OR
REV MARY TERRY ON 07732 203452
OR
LEAVE A MESSAGE AT THE CHURCH OFFICE ON 01722 413644



Footprints in the Sand

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the LORD. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life.

For each scene he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand: one belonging to him, and the other to the LORD.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand.

He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he questioned the LORD about it:

"LORD, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me."

The LORD replied:

"My son, my precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

Mary Stevenson


A church-run bereavement course is having a "profound and wide-reaching impact on adults of all ages," according to a recent independent evaluation.

The Bereavement Journey, run by the Christian charity AtaLoss, is "addressing a national need for bereavement support", and is "ideal for the significant majority — 85-90 per cent — of bereaved people who do not require or will not benefit from a clinical intervention".

AtaLoss was founded in 2016 by the Revd Yvonne Tulloch, a former Canon for Mission at Coventry Cathedral, whose husband died suddenly in 2008. She says: "We are a society where people have grown up not expecting death and where we have lost the art of support."

The course is made up of seven sessions of films and peer-group discussion. It is currently being run by churches in more than 400 communities across the UK.

The St Francis Bereavement Journey Team will next be running a course in the Spring. If you'd like to know more please contact Rev'd Mary Terry mary@st-francischurch.org.uk



QUIZ NIGHT!

and Open Evening!

Come and find out about our
exciting new pioneering
work with children and
young people!

Friday
17th October

at St Paul's Church
(SP2 7QW)
Event starts at: 7pm
Evening ends: 9pm

**SUGGESTED
DONATION ON
THE NIGHT**

£10 per person/
including
welcome drinks &
cheeseboard!



Book a table of up to 8!

Please **BOOK ONLINE** at...

www.the-bridge.org.uk/quiz