









WELCOME

to the Benefice of

ST FRANCIS
LIFE WITH GOD

Hope CHURCH

Saint Lawrence Church
Stratford sub Castle

BENEFICE PROFILE

GREETINGS!

Good Shepherd

In this time of vicar vacancy, we know your heart is to continue to do good and wonderful things within St Francis, Hope and St Lawrence Churches.

In your wisdom would you inspire us to enjoy discovering collectively who we are as a church, who you are calling us to be and what our role is individually within our Church.

May we grow in faith, love and care for one another, for those who come into our church, and for those in the community around us.

Guide all those who are part of the discernment process, and be with the person you are calling, that together we may discover your way for the future and see your kingdom come.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Thank you for taking the time to read our benefice profile and to explore whether the benefice of St Francis and Hope Church, Salisbury, together with St Lawrence, Stratford sub Castle, might be the place where God is calling you to serve next. We are praying with anticipation for the leader He is preparing for us.

We are seeking someone who delights in nurturing spiritual growth — a leader who can inspire faith, encourage discipleship, and help people of all ages encounter the transforming love of Jesus.

This role will bring both challenge and joy. It calls for spiritual depth, wisdom, and resilient leadership, yet it also offers the opportunity to journey with three churches who are wholeheartedly committed to the life and mission of Jesus. Together, we are a benefice that treasures rich community across generations, worship styles, and backgrounds.

We hope this profile gives you a glimpse of who we are, what God is doing among us, and the hopeful, Spirit-led future we believe lies ahead. We are praying for you as you discern whether this might be the next step in your calling.

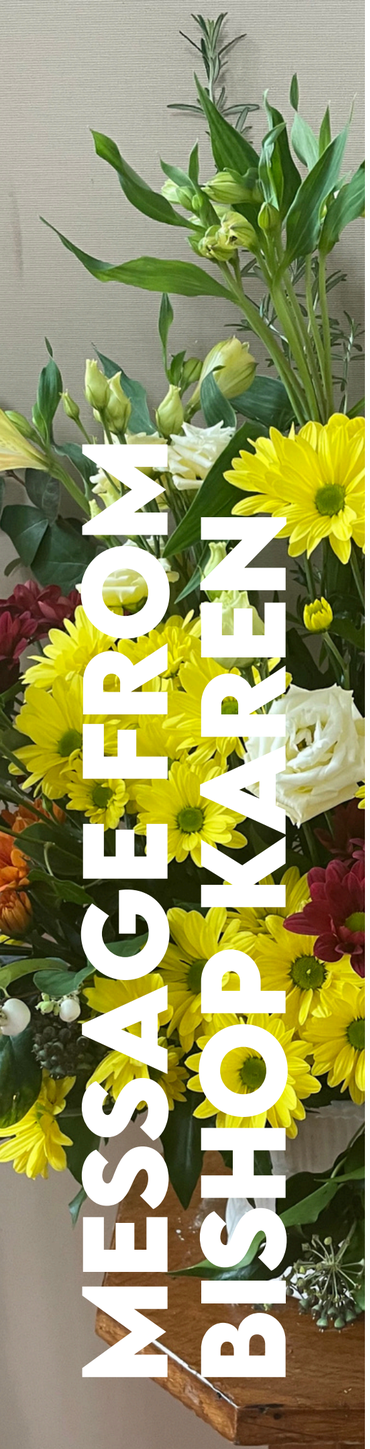


Liz Liversage & Tom Wilkins
Church Wardens St Francis PCC





Chris Lush & Jeff Long
Church Wardens St Lawrence PCC



MESSAGE FROM BISHOP KAREN



Thank you for your interest in this exciting opportunity within the Diocese of Salisbury.

The benefice of St Francis Salisbury and St Lawrence Stratford-sub-Castle, together with Hope Church on the Old Sarum estate, brings together communities that are distinctive in character yet united in their commitment to worship, discipleship and mission. Across the benefice there is a diversity of church traditions, generations, backgrounds and expressions of faith, alongside a shared desire to make Christ known and to serve their communities faithfully.

St Lawrence serves a welcoming village community shaped by its rural heritage and long-established identity beside the River Avon. St Francis is a vibrant evangelical and charismatic church with flourishing children's and youth ministries, a gifted staff team and an exciting future as one of the Diocese's developing Mission Hubs. Hope Church, the benefice's church plant on the Old Sarum and Longhedge estates, known for its warmth, hospitality and strong engagement with children and families, is seeking to clarify its future direction and establish a sustainable pattern of mission and ministry for the years ahead.

At the heart of the benefice is a supportive leadership team that is creative, encouraging, joyful in faith and committed to collaborative ministry. Together they are seeking a new incumbent with a deep personal life of prayer and discipleship, who can lead confidently and graciously, and who has the vision and energy to help develop the Mission Hub while nurturing the distinct gifts of each congregation.
As there has been considerable external investment in the benefice over recent years, we seek a mission minded incumbent who can bring renewed vision and direction, bringing out the best from each congregation and making the most of opportunities for growth and discipleship.

The benefice enjoys strong relationships with local schools, as well as links with care homes and community organisations. Salisbury is a wonderful place in which to live and minister, combining rich history and character with the warmth and accessibility of a thriving cathedral city, well connected to London and the wider South West.

The Diocese of Salisbury places a high value on the wellbeing, encouragement and support of its clergy. Should God call you to this ministry, you will become part of a committed and collaborative diocesan family in which clergy and lay people work together in the service of God's kingdom. We are also committed to partnerships for mission across and within deaneries and seek a priest who will build relationships, share resources generously and contribute to the wider mission of the Church.

If you would like to know more about the post, please arrange a discreet visit to the benefice or contact The Venerable Louise Ellis, Archdeacon of Wiltshire, for an informal conversation.

Be assured of my prayers as you discern God's call. We look forward to discovering whom God is calling to serve among these faithful and hope-filled communities.

+Karen
Acting Bishop of Salisbury


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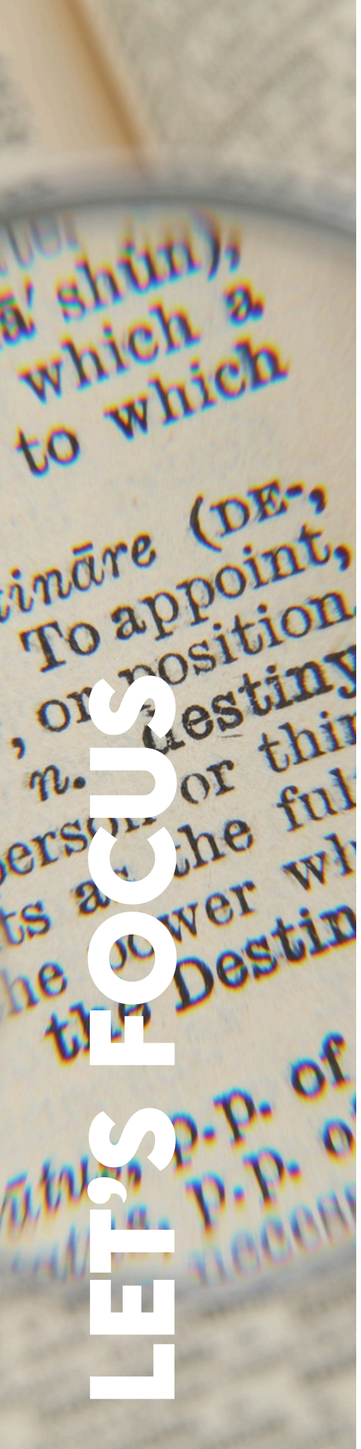

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WE ARE LOOKING FOR AN EXPERIENCED, VISIONARY MISSION-ORIENTATED PRIEST WHO:

- Has a deep, personal, devotional life of prayer and an active discipleship
- Is secure in their own faith and comfortable with others who are at different ages and stages of their faith journey
- Can lead confidently and grow teams of volunteers
- Is an excellent communicator who listens well and can preach with authority
- Has a pioneering spirit to reveal Christ afresh to the unchurched and de-churched
- Thrives on the breadth of liturgical and ecclesiological diversity of this role, enjoying creative, informal worship as well as good traditional liturgy
- Can identify, equip and release others to support growth and pastoral care
- Welcomes lay people and other clergy to share their gifts in collaborative ministry
- Is well-organised, self-motivating, confident in IT
- Enjoys being part of a supportive clergy and staff team
- Has the vision and drive to collaboratively take forward our Mission Hub bid and other action plans.

AS A BENEFICE WE CAN OFFER:

- A deep trust in God which is rooted in our personal and corporate devotional life
- Confidence in God's provision to us through his word, by the Spirit and in each other
- A supportive leadership team that is creative, encouraging, challenging and joyful in faith
- Two licensed clergy plus numerous retired clergy with PTO as well as 3 LPAs
- Committed and resourceful PCCs with sub-committees and Hope Navigation Group
- Beautiful and well-maintained buildings, grounds and resources for mission and ministry
- Churches that are financially sound that want to grow in numbers, discipleship and service
- Congregations that can cope well with change and can be flexible and open to new ideas
- A lovely home with a large garden

ANSWERS TO OUR CONGREGATION QUESTIONNAIRE: (APPROX. 200 PEOPLE ENGAGED WITH THIS)

Strong and visionary leadership By far the most common theme. People want someone who: Provides direction. Leads confidently. Articulates a vision. Can guide growth and change.

Team builder and delegator Respondents consistently requested: Collaborative leadership. Developing others. Delegating well. Encouraging volunteers and lay leaders.

Excellent communicator Frequently mentioned: Strong preacher. Clear teacher. Ability to communicate vision. Relates faith to everyday life.

Relational and Approachable People repeatedly asked for: Kindness. Humility. Compassion. Listening skills. Emotional intelligence.

Spiritually Mature Respondents wanted someone who is: Prayerful. Rooted in Scripture. Christ-centred. Open to the Holy Spirit. A model disciple.

Experience of Leading Complex Churches Many respondents preferred: Experience of larger churches. Managing staff and volunteers. Leading across multiple congregations. Navigating different traditions and viewpoints.

Passion for Mission and Young People Frequently requested: Evangelistic heart. Commitment to outreach. Interest in youth and families. Strong community focus.



ABOUT THE BENEFICE

The Salisbury St Francis and St Lawrence Stratford sub Castle benefice is part of the Diocese of Salisbury, in the northern part of the beautiful city of Salisbury in Wiltshire. We are two parishes within a united benefice, with two church buildings: St Francis (80-year-old, suburban church), St Lawrence (800-year-old rural church), and also Hope Church (6-year-old church plant which meets at Old Sarum Community Centre, serving two large new estates). On an average Sunday, we currently have the following attendance:

St Lawrence 29 adults & 2 children (71 on electoral roll) predominantly elderly, retired professionals (with a monthly Breakfast Church gathering on average 24, half of which are children from the locality).

Hope Church 25 (12 children) mainly young families

St Francis 174 & 43 children (216 on electoral roll, including 15 from Hope Church) with a wide age spread (but fewer in 20s/30s) mainly mid-income professionals.

St Lawrence Church, Stratford-sub-Castle, was designated a Grade I Listed Building in 2002 and has been a place of continuous worship for over 800 years. It serves a cohesive, caring village community of around 800 residents, located a mile north of Salisbury on the road to the Woodford Valley. The church is widely recognised for its open, welcoming, and inclusive ethos.

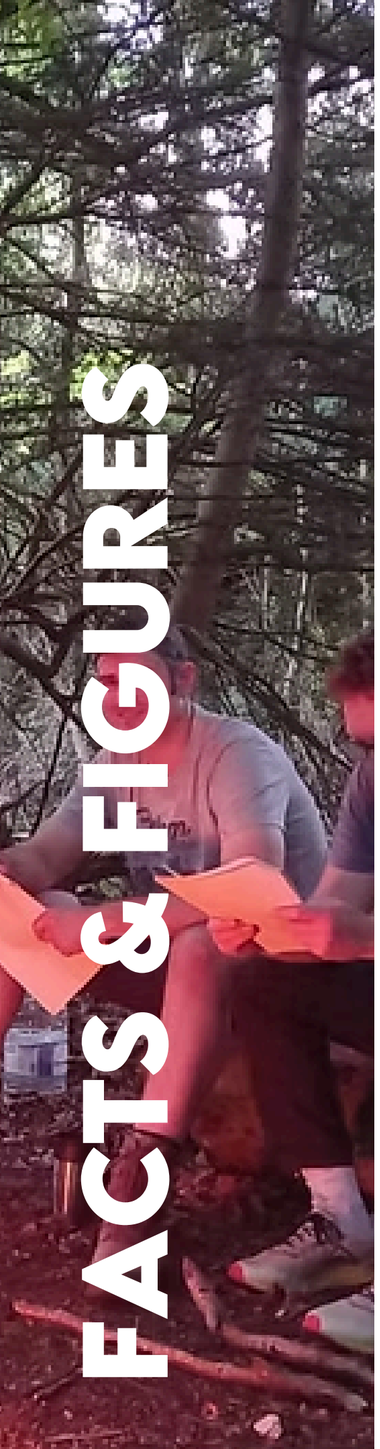
Hope Church In 2017, the boundaries of the parish of St Francis were very substantially extended to include the newly built housing estates. The Diocese purchased a five-bedroom house on the Old Sarum estate in which Rev Suzie Allen, our Pioneer Associate Priest for Hope Church and St Lawrence, lives. Hope Church began as a Pioneer Missional Community on the new Old Sarum and Longhedge housing developments, which together have added more than 1,500 homes to the parish — and continue to grow. It was planted as a church after years of a community missioner being present and was initially led by a dedicated lay couple who have since moved into ordained ministry. The church meets weekly on a Sunday at Old Sarum and Longhedge Community Centre.

St Francis Church, Salisbury was built in 1938 and reordered in 2006. St Francis church began as a wooden hut at the bottom of Hudson's Field, a new parish serving the developing residential area around Victoria Park and Paul's Dene. The growing desire for a more permanent place of worship, backed by substantial contributions from local people in time, money and labour, led to the opening of the present church in 1940. The church continues in the 1940 building with services also taking place on the green behind the church and with church groups fully utilising the community hall and Beatrice Room annex added in 2017, across the week as well as on Sundays.



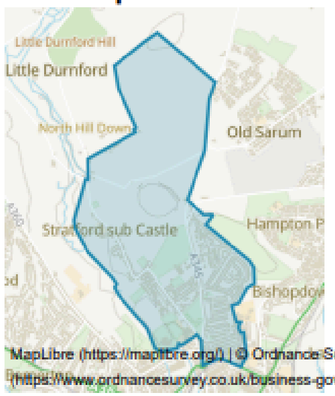






Salisbury St Francis & Stratford

Area map



Population

2024

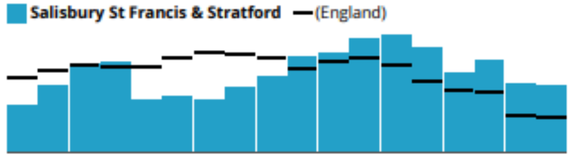
5,432

people

58,620,101 people in England

Age profile

2024



0 years — 85+

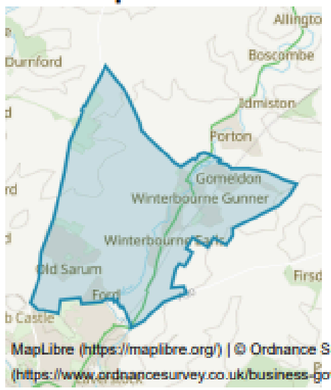
% of all people, 5 year age bands

Source: ONS – Mid-year estimates

Small area: Output area

Old Sarum & Lower Bourne Valley

Area map



Population

2024

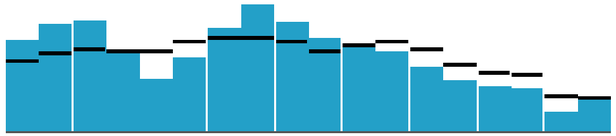
7,011

people

58,620,101 people in England

Age profile

2024



0 years — 85+

% of all people, 5 year age bands

Source: ONS – Mid-year estimates

Small area: Output area

OUR FINANCES

St Francis' finances are very sound, supported by generous monthly giving from the majority of the regular congregation and significant income from room hire. We have always paid our Parish Share in full, although the projected rise in the share going forward will present significant challenges.

Hope Church's finances are included with those of St Francis, as part of the same parish.

St Lawrence's finances are also sound, meeting our full Parish Share. We have generous supporters, however the parish is relatively small and has a Grade 1 listed church to maintain. Whilst we have adequate reserves for the immediate future, we are running at a loss year by year which is a matter of concern.

Full account information can be found on the Charity Commission's website, under our registration numbers which are 1130133 for St Francis and 1144745 for St Lawrence.

SAFEGUARDING

The benefice takes its responsibilities surrounding the safeguarding of children, young people, and adults who may be at risk very seriously, and works in partnership with the Diocese of Salisbury to ensure that we work in accordance with best practice at all times.

As a benefice we have a safeguarding team including the safeguarding officer from each church, clergy and staff who meet together three times a year to share good practice and to ensure that all our safeguarding requirements, including safer recruitment are met. We run regular training and are part of the Salisbury deanery safeguarding group.





OUR PLACE IN THE COMMUNITY

THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE

The benefice covers four distinct yet closely connected communities in north Salisbury: Stratford-sub-Castle, St Francis, Old Sarum and Longhedge; it is a benefice marked by demographic variety, strong community assets and significant opportunities for relationship-building and mission.

Stratford-sub-Castle is a historic village beside the River Avon, shaped by its rural identity and long community history. The village is centred around the Reading Room (owned and run by the church as a well-used village hall), a Church of England primary school, local green spaces and a number of historic buildings. Its eastern boundary meets Old Sarum, giving the village a unique connection to one of England's most important archaeological and Christian heritage sites. The village has a stable population with strong neighbourly networks. Community life is active, with events, local groups and a clear sense of belonging.

St Francis Area Developed in the twentieth century, it is home to a wide mix of households and ages. The area has long demonstrated an ability to welcome new residents and respond to changing community needs. Local facilities include schools, green spaces, shops and good links into Salisbury. The demographic profile is varied, with families, older adults, commuters and home-workers all represented.

Old Sarum is both an extraordinary historic landscape and a substantial modern residential community. The hillfort, Norman castle and original cathedral site give the area a remarkable sense of place and heritage. The residential area is family-oriented, with many households having moved into the community relatively recently. Local facilities include the Old Sarum & Longhedge Community Centre, primary school, green spaces and nearby retail. Social connectivity is still developing, making community-building an important opportunity.

Longhedge is a rapidly expanding new housing development with a strong family demographic with many new to the area, who may not yet have established networks or connections. Facilities include a convenience store, Post Office, community centre access, local employment areas and planned further development. The neighbourhood planning process has highlighted both the strengths of local amenities and the pressures on GP and pharmacy provision.

Across the benefice, the population is diverse in age, household type and circumstance. The newer communities include substantial numbers of children, young families and people who have moved into the area recently. The population is predominantly white British, with increasing diversity in the newer developments. The parish also includes people experiencing financial insecurity, loneliness, family pressures and hidden poverty, even within otherwise prosperous neighbourhoods. This makes pastoral care, practical support and community-building essential.

The benefice serves communities that are a mix of historic, suburban and newly developed. This creates a rich and varied mission field: long-established village identity, stable suburban life, and rapidly growing family-oriented neighbourhoods.

There are natural meeting points, places for friendship, and opportunities for the Church to support wellbeing, community life and practical needs.

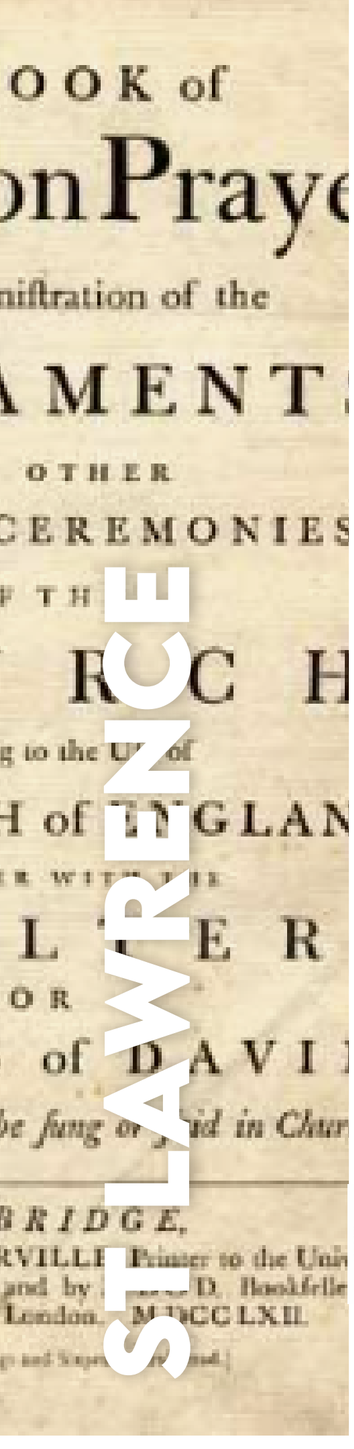

Stratford School






Reading Room


Old Sarum Primary School



ST LAWRENCE

Worship at St Lawrence creatively pairs contemporary Common Worship services to engage younger generations with traditional 1662 Book of Common Prayer services (Holy Communion, Matins, and Evensong). Nurturing faith across generations is a key priority; consequently, the church offers two monthly all-age services: Together in Worship and Breakfast Church, specifically designed for families.

The parish, which currently has 72 people on its Electoral Roll, remains central to village life. It enjoys a strong relationship with the local Church of England Primary School, whose pupils attend regular seasonal services at the church. The community also benefits from active social groups like the Stratford Guild, Garden Club, Bell Ringers, and the Friends of St Lawrence. Community (church-owned) spaces include the 1880s Reading Room (the village hall) and the Tompkins Room, a modern multipurpose space used for meetings, school activities, and as an office for the Associate Priest.

Within the wider benefice, St Lawrence operates largely as a distinct entity. The Priest exercises a high degree of autonomy and chairs the PCC, while connection to the benefice is maintained through shared ministry, weekly staff meetings, regular clergy catch-ups, and mutual cover during busy periods.

As well as traditional eucharistic worship, the monthly liturgical pattern includes an all-age service, Breakfast Church, Matins and Evensong. This breadth of worship is greatly valued by the congregation and considered a real strength. Main services are live-streamed to those unable to join in worship. There is a genuine warmth in the fellowship and friendships at St Lawrence. Many villagers who do not join in worship feel strongly that it is 'their' church and support it. There is a wealth of committed, gifted and generous people who want to see the church grow numerically, in age range (growing younger), and in spiritual health to bless the community. St. Lawrence have a total of 79 volunteers serving our church in 151 roles

Community cohesion at Stratford is supported by five interlocks - Church, Reading Room (village hall), Primary School, Parish Magazine, and Village Websites.

In South Sudan, Juba School pupils enjoy sustained support from the PCC and individual sponsorship of Student Bursaries, especially important to the education of girls. See page 19 for more information on this. The church also provides half the funding for a Bridge Chaplain at Stratford-sub-Castle Primary School.



Rev. Suzie Allen

"We are a small core of mainly elderly people who value traditional services, whilst keeping open minds to innovation, many of whom volunteer in various roles to keep the much loved community alive."

Saint Lawrence Church
Stratford sub Castle

www.saintlawrence.org.uk

















Hope Church gathered for its very first act of worship the week before the first national lockdown, which means it is only six years old. During lockdown, worship continued faithfully over Zoom, and from that rhythm a weekly pattern of worship emerged. Services have since moved into the local Community Centre, and Hope Church has gradually developed its own distinctive style of worship — one that continues to evolve.

Hope Church is a special community, with mission at its heart. It is known for its warmth, welcome, and hospitality. Most of the congregation are families with young children — around half of those attending are children — and this brings a unique vibrancy to our fellowship. It has shaped our worship so that everyone, whatever their age, can access, engage with, and learn about Jesus and what it means to live out our faith.

As a church, Hope actively seeks to connect with those living on the estates. Relationships are being built through The Pantry (a foodbank-style provision), through the local community school, and through our toddler group. We also run seasonal initiatives and mission activities throughout the year. Our Pioneer Priest, Rev Suzie Allen, has pastoral responsibility for Hope Church and lives on one of the estates, oversees and leads this work. Suzie's is a 3-year post, half-funded by the Aldhelm Fund, which, at time of interview, will have four months left to run.

Recently, our main focus has been helping Hope Church become known across the estates — and getting to know the people who live there. Our vision is that people will come to Hope to explore who Jesus is, and stay because they discover a community where they truly belong. We long to see Jesus known widely in this area.

Looking ahead, there is an opportunity and a need for re-imagining of Hope Church as a worshipping community, alongside a desire for Hope Church to grow closer to its mother church, St Francis. We hope our new Vicar will help us move towards this future together.

"Hope Church accommodates young families; it is creative, flexible, unconventional and not afraid to try new things."

Hope
CHURCH

www.Hopechurchsalisbury.co.uk









St Francis parish was established just before World War II, to serve the developing residential area around Victoria Park and Paul's Dene. The church building had a major renewal in 2006, and an extension was built in 2017. This gives flexible space with an office and three kitchen points, both for church use and to hire out.

The hall was rebuilt in 2012 following a fire. The rebuild enabled us to offer a multi-use space to a wide range of organisations. Uniformed groups use the hall, which is also hired out for parties and to small businesses. There is a youth lounge and sports court where our teenagers hang out, which is also used by groups such as Mencap for their young people. There is a dedicated nursery school, Ladybirds, which is a pre-school during the week and then becomes space for our pre-schoolers on Sundays. Upstairs there is a staff office. Both buildings are easily accessible for wheelchairs and there are eight toilets on site.

We are currently applying for our silver Eco Church award following the installation of solar panels over the whole church roof together with batteries for energy storage.

Currently, our Associate Priest, Rev Suzie Allen, oversees the work of Hope Church and St Lawrence so, inevitably, much of the Vicar's time may be spent working in and from St Francis. The following pages give a more in depth look at the work of St Francis Church.

Father, we pray thee so to fill this house with thy pure Spirit,
that all who enter here may be touched thereby.
Here may the strong renew their strength and seek for their
working lives a noble consecration.
Here may the poor find succour and the friendless friendship.
Here may the tempted find power, the sorrowful find comfort,
and the bereaved find the truth that death hath over their
beloved no more dominion.
Here let the fearing find a new courage,
and the doubting have their faith and hope confirmed.
Here let the careless be awakened,
and all that are oppressed be freed.
O Thou who makest the morning and the midday
and the evening of life,
hither let children love to come
and old folk as thy children to praise thee.
Hither each age in turn may be drawn by thy love
and go hence with their doubts resolved, their fears at rest,
their courage high, their purpose firm, their sins
dispelled and their hearts aflame;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Rev. Wyons Mauleverer
01.11.1930



The prayer of Wyons Mauleverer, the first vicar of St Francis, sums up beautifully the spirit in which the church was founded and continues to make an impact to this day.

ST FRANCIS
LIFE WITH GOD

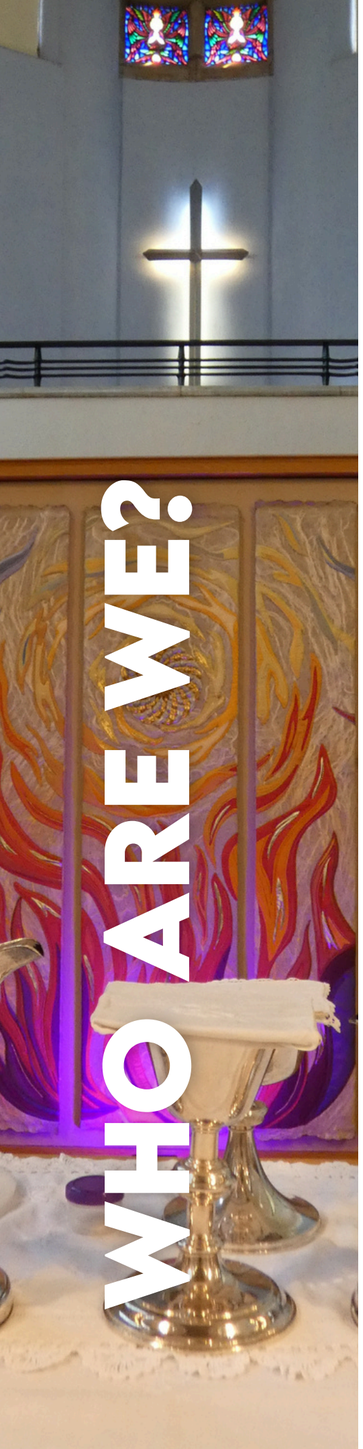
www.st-francischurch.org.uk











WHO ARE WE?

St Francis is an evangelical, charismatic, missional church, with the opportunity to access Mission Hub Funding to build on relationships across the city and beyond. We are part of the New Wine Network and the Evangelical Alliance. The leadership team consists of two clergy (one stipendiary (Suzie), and one part-time, self funded (Mary)), and six paid staff (most part-time), with around 150 proactive, committed volunteers active in all areas of the church.

Our Sunday teaching programme is designed to grow resilient, animated followers of Jesus. This is supported by encouraging personal accountability and deep, supportive relationships in our 12 mid-week Life Groups.

St Francis holds two main services on a Sunday: a traditional service with choir at 9.30 a.m. followed by an 11 a.m. informal worship in church, with a full programme of children's and youth groups in church and in the community hall. We serve refreshments between services so that the two congregations can chat and catch up. Once a month there is a 7 p.m. gathering called 'Encounter' , which is an extended time of worship and space to be in God's presence, to pray, prophesy and listen to God together. Churches from across the city join us for this. We also run Mothers' Union Communion services, Bible Focus evenings and Iona Communion services once a month, and an additional outdoor all-age Sunday service through the summer holidays.







"I have always been impressed by the welcome and care for each other in this church. Also the variety in services and activities allows me to find my own niche to worship and serve."













CHILDREN AND FAMILY

Sunday Groups

Throughout the academic year, excluding all-age services and special occasions, we run three vibrant children's groups that welcome babies through to Year 5:

Family Time — Meeting in the Chapter Room, this group offers a gentle, nurturing space for babies through to pre-schoolers and their parents. Led by a committed team of volunteers and youth helpers, this Family Time space blends storytelling, play, craft and prayer together to help our youngest children feel safe and loved.

Younger Kids Group — Based in Ladybirds Pre-school, this group serves Reception to Year 2. Using Urban Saints Energize resources, our leaders and helpers engage our children in creative Bible teaching, crafts, games and prayer that helps them explore faith in a safe, joyful and welcoming environment.

Older Kids Group — Meeting in the hall, this group welcomes Year 3 to Year 5. Facilitated by two volunteers a week, this group runs in tandem with the younger group, aiming to provide lively sessions that encourage deeper thinking, friendship and growing confidence in following Jesus.

Seasonal & Community-Focused Ministry

During the summer holidays, Church on the Green offers an interactive, outdoor, forest-church-style gathering. Everyone loves its relaxed, nature-based approach, and it has become a highlight of our summer rhythm. Throughout last year, Men Behaving Dadly brought together dads, grandads and their children for bacon butties, laughter and hands-on activities. It creates a brilliant space for building friendships and strengthening family bonds.

Midweek Groups

Teddybears — for families with pre-schoolers each Thursday. Our expanded volunteer team provides a vital doorway into church life for the local community. At Hope Church, Tots Together and Stay & Play offer additional spaces for babies, toddlers and primary-aged children to play, create and connect, helping us reach families across Old Sarum and beyond, building trust and offering support where it's most needed.

Supporting Parents & Building Community

Family picnics give parents and carers the chance to connect and build friendships, strengthening the sense of belonging across our congregations. We regularly run Parenting for Faith courses, equipping parents to nurture their children's spiritual lives with confidence and creativity. One-to-one meetings build deeper connections and explore family dynamics.

Schools Outreach

The benefice includes two primary schools; however, we also have a connection with another local CofE primary school, where we have led whole-school assemblies and parents' prayer sessions — there is much more potential here to be explored.

"We like the biscuits and snacks, the Sunday school and the crafts. That we sing songs we know and that you know our names."









FLOURISHING YOUTH

St Francis has a thriving youth ministry of 75 young people, each engaging in ways that reflect their faith journey, life stage and gifting. Whether they are exploring faith for the first time, growing in discipleship, or stepping into leadership, our desire is that every young person tastes and sees the goodness of God and the richness of church community.

A Growing, Multi-Layered Youth Community

Our youth ministry includes:
Church Youth Group — 25 young people who gather for discipleship, worship and community.
Community Outreach Youth — 40 unchurched teens who attend our Friday youth group, with several now exploring Youth Alpha.
Young Adults Transition Group — 10 young adults meeting regularly with our Associate Priest and Youth Pastor for food, faith discussions and ongoing connection.
This layered approach allows us to meet young people where they are, offering belonging, challenge and opportunities to grow.

Discipleship & Formation

Last autumn we partnered with Salisbury Baptist Church and St Paul's to run a city-wide Youth Alpha, drawing 100 young people from across Salisbury. It culminated in a powerful worship and social event at St Francis, marking a significant moment of unity and mission.
Discipleship continues throughout the year through Sunday youth meetings, two youth-led discipleship groups and an annual weekend retreat. These spaces help young people explore Scripture, encounter God and grow in confidence as followers of Jesus.

Youth Leadership & Service

Our young people are not just attendees — they are active contributors to the life of the parish. Youth serve on rotas across ministries. We are trialling a youth led service at St Francis in November and they are already leading services at Hope Church and as young leaders at Kids Summer Camp. This helps them discover their gifts, develop leadership skills and see themselves as vital members of the church family.

Outreach & Mission

Youth outreach is bold, creative and relational. It includes street leafleting for Youth Alpha, school-based Alpha, carol singing in care homes, CU involvement and church internships.
On Fridays we welcome 40 unchurched teens, many of whom are now exploring faith more deeply through church attendance or Youth Alpha.

City-Wide Collaboration

Youth ministry at St Francis is strengthened by cross-church socials, shared trips and an ecumenical prayer community that gathers youth pastors from across Salisbury. This collaborative approach widens horizons, builds unity and supports young people with a network of relationships beyond their own church.

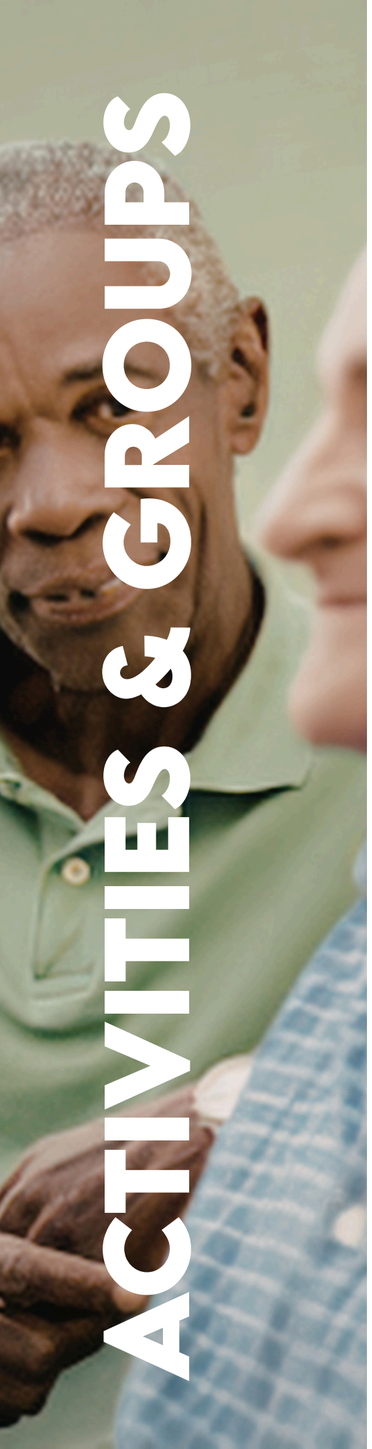
"I love the community and opportunities to serve, as well as the events for young people together with other churches."







ACTIVITIES & GROUPS



Community Show

'Bake, Grow, Make, Show'







FRIDAY CAFÉ @ ST FRANCIS



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



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.







50's and Beyond



THE CHURCH STAFF TEAM

The staff team is a wonderfully supportive group who genuinely enjoy working together and seeing one another excel in their ministries and lives. Each week they gather to pray, plan and share honestly with one another, creating a rhythm of encouragement that keeps ministry grounded and joyful. There is plenty of laughter, cake, and a real commitment to maintaining a healthy and Christ-like culture; ideas are tested, burdens shared, misunderstandings ironed out, and wins celebrated. The team seeks to work hard, cheer one another on, and make space for each person with the gifts, background, and perspective they bring.



Left to right: Charlie Davies (Caretaker), Jane Franchi (Operations Manager),
Mary Terry (Associate Priest), Suzie Allen (Associate Priest), Cat Evans (Worship Pastor),
Alan Goldie (Bookings Admin/Relief Caretaker)
In front: Sophie Stokes (Youth Pastor), Jacinta Blunt (Children & Families Pastor)

Most posts are part-time appointments



HELEN GILL (HOPE CHURCH ADMIN)



ELLA LIVERSAGE (ST LAWRENCE ADMIN)



MISSION ACTION PLAN

At St Francis we articulate our primary purpose through our church logo ST FRANCIS LIFE WITH GOD

We aim to grow whole-life disciples who model and enjoy their lives lived closely with God and one another.
Our church life is expressed in "**3 Es**". Every ministry and activity serves one or more of our core purposes to:

ENCOUNTER
God, the source of truth, light and love

EQUIP
followers of Jesus to live fruitful lives

ENGAGE
deeply with the world to be salt and light and make a difference in our communities

To this end, over the last two years, the church staff team, congregation, and PCC have created a Mission Action Plan (MAP), with working groups that meet regularly to grow intentionally in the areas of: Outreach and Evangelism, Worship, Community, and Training.

Our top priority is to increase our opportunities for local evangelism and connection, by modelling attractive personal lives of faith in our community and through dedicated programmes that can become pathways for new disciples to be made. We want our communities to discover and increasingly taste and see the goodness of God and church community.

St Francis, St Lawrence, and Hope Church are parish churches, with our congregations primarily drawn from the benefice. Our church life is rich and multigenerational, yet we are keenly aware of those who don't engage with church through traditional rhythms and programmes, such as Sunday services, Alpha, or toddler groups, and who may be unsure of how to walk through the doors of our churches. Our intention is to seek out, open the door, and wholeheartedly welcome everyone in.

PRIORITY ONE
OUTREACH & EVANGELISM

To develop outreach opportunities, lifestyles and programmes to share faith effectively in our local community

PRIORITY TWO
OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

To build more opportunities into church life for individuals and groups to interact and get to know each other better

PRIORITY THREE
TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

To identify and prioritise the training needs of different individuals and groups. To expand opportunities by increasing the range of training available

PRIORITY FOUR
WORSHIP

(Anywhere/any way people gather to encounter God) To offer an appropriate range of worship and opportunities for groups and individuals to respond to God



MISSION HUB BID

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YOUTH WORK – we want to expand this critical ministry, by serving and empowering the next generation in discipleship, outreach and evangelism

SERVING THE VULNERABLE – we want to serve the physical, mental and spiritual needs of vulnerable adults, supplementing the work of other health professionals in the city, aligning with other pastoral pathways in our benefice by recruiting a Parish Nurse.

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DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS IN MISSION – by continuing and increasing our collaboration with churches and agencies across our city

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EVANGELISM – through further resourcing Hope Church (our church plant) for evangelism on the Old Sarum and Longhedge estates and growing in digital outreach to connect with the younger generations in the places they predominantly engage.

See here for more information on mission hubs in the Diocese of Salisbury

The challenges and opportunities of our benefice, as identified by our congregations:



STRENGTHS

Across St Francis, St Lawrence and Hope Churches, the benefice is described as warm, welcoming and rooted in strong community life. People value the friendliness of the congregations, the breadth of worship styles, and the thriving youth and children's work.

WEAKNESSES

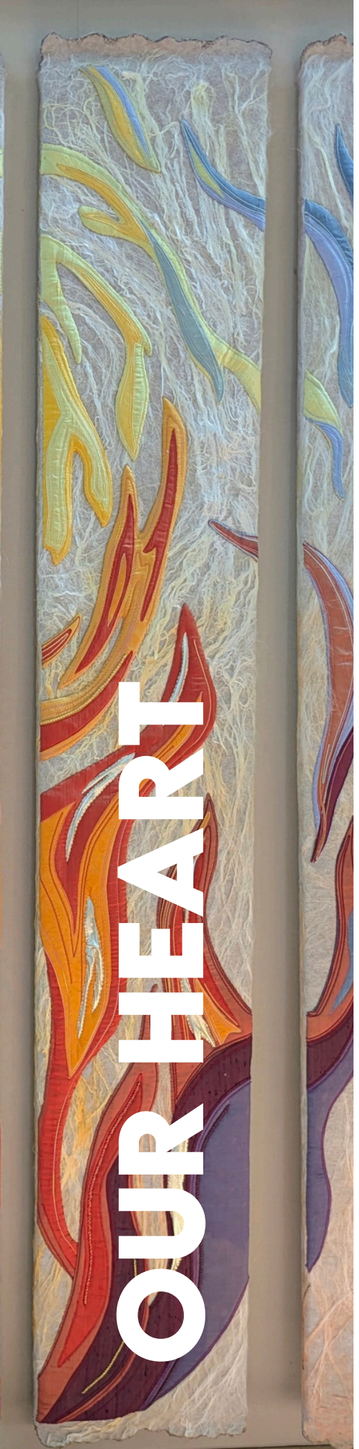
Key needs include strengthening pastoral care, addressing loneliness, supporting families and younger adults, and ensuring volunteer capacity is sustainable. There is a desire for deeper unity across the benefice.

OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities lie in new housing areas, growing interest among unchurched people, digital engagement, and the momentum of recent youth initiatives.

THREATS

Challenges include ageing congregations, financial pressures, cultural polarisation, and reliance on a small number of volunteers.



As a benefice and as congregations, we value and support rich community that spans generations, worship styles, theological perspectives, and backgrounds. Our members worship and serve in diverse ways that reflect their gifts and seasons of life, and we welcome people to belong just as they are. We believe this inclusiveness is distinctive to us and adds to the depth, vibrancy, and many initiatives that thrive within our communities.

We are guided by the Holy Spirit to be in our community; we have close links with St Mark's, Stratford and Old Sarum Primary Schools and teams of people run services in the local nursing homes: Braemar Lodge, Fairfax House, Avonbourne and Old Sarum. All of this is in addition to the visiting teams which support those who cannot come to church with home visits.

Both St Lawrence and St Francis produce parish magazines which are distributed to every home in the relevant parish.

2026 sees the 76th St Francis Community and Produce Show, a fiercely competitive occasion and community event where anyone can submit entries.

Members of our congregations volunteer and/or serve professionally with the Street Pastors, Alabaré, the Trussell Trust and Morning Star. Many school workers for the Bridge Youth Project belong to our congregation, and a number of our parishioners serve local schools as teachers and governors. We also run mother and toddler groups both at St Francis and on the Old Sarum estate.

Part of the DNA of St Francis Church is to tithe not only our annual income, but also any money raised for projects. In 2006, we made a critical contribution which enabled the building of the Diocesan Model Secondary School in Juba, South Sudan (JDMSS). In 2025 we donated more than £35,000 to our Mission Partners (see our website for the charities that we support).



Child of Hope Outreach Uganda

STREET PASTORS

150 YEARS Join us, Join in

UK A ROCHA Caring for God's Earth

christian aid

THE BRIDGE Youth Project

ALABARÉ Homes. Hearts. Minds.

MAF

Salisbury Foodbank Together with Trussell

Parish Nursing Ministries UK

CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY

WHERE YOU WILL LIVE



THE VICARAGE

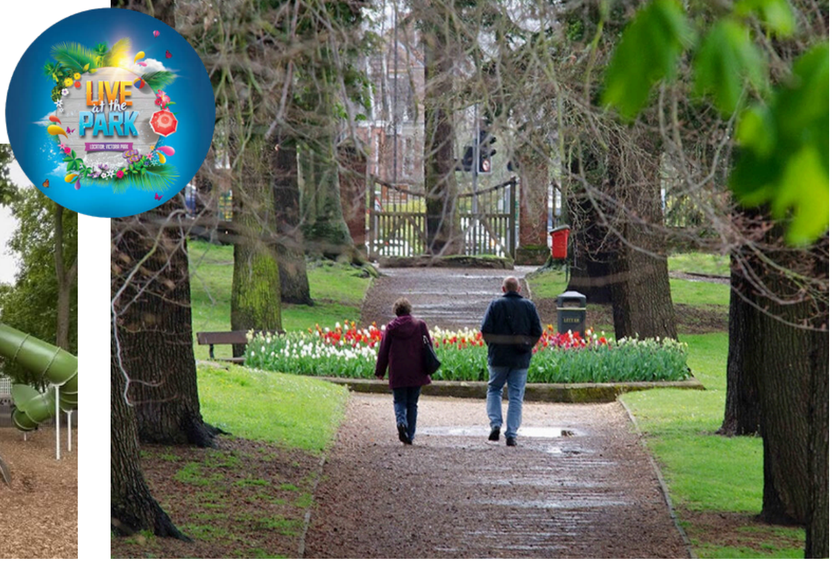
The vicarage is an attractive and spacious detached four-bedroom family home located within easy walking distance of the church. The house is blessed with a large, up-to-date kitchen and a substantial study. The vicarage has been modernised over the last few years, including new carpets and a remodelling of the downstairs lounge to accommodate larger gatherings. There is also a large garden, including parking for several cars at the front. The house is situated on a private road overlooking Victoria Park, a five-minute walk from St Francis.

Victoria Park is owned and run by the Council and used year round by a wide range of people. Some enjoy a leisurely walk among the mature trees, some play tennis on the six courts, with four of them lit at night, with changing rooms and refreshments on offer, while families love the playpark. The park hosts a number of events including an annual live music event - Live in the Park.

Just up the road is the Co-Op offering a good range of food items, while your more substantial supermarkets, Lidl and Waitrose, are only a ten minute walk into Salisbury.

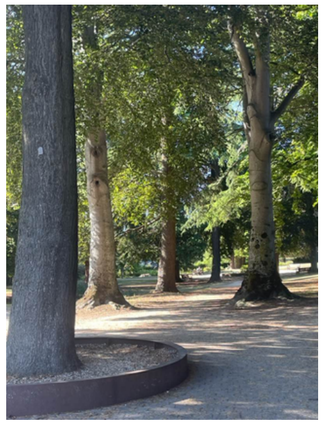
Further down Castle Road into Salisbury you will find a full sporting complex at Five Rivers, offering a range of classes, squash courts, gym, a full sized swimming pool, and one for learners.

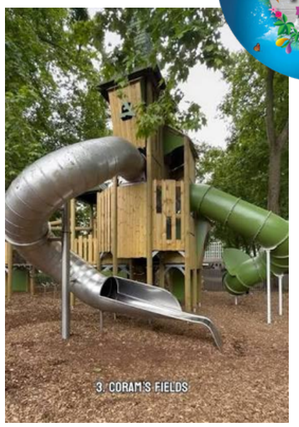














Welcome to Salisbury

Salisbury is a wonderful place to live and offers a rare mix: the character and history of a cathedral city combined with the easy, welcoming feel of a large town. It's compact enough to walk almost everywhere, yet well-connected to the rest of the South West and London.

At the heart of Salisbury is its medieval street grid, where historic timber-framed buildings stand alongside modern high streets. The city is famous for Salisbury Cathedral—home to the tallest spire in the UK—and its serene Cathedral Close. Uniquely, large green spaces and river paths extend right into the centre; the new River Park along the Avon provides a scenic walking and cycling route into town from the north.

For a city of around 45,000 to 50,000 residents, Salisbury has a strong local culture with an active local arts scene anchored by the Salisbury Playhouse, an arts centre, local cinemas, and plenty of live music options. Under its ancient charter, Salisbury holds a twice-weekly market in the city centre complemented by a mix of national retailers and independent shops. There is also a good selection of independent cafes, traditional pubs, and varied restaurants scattered throughout the historic streets.

The magnificent Cathedral building dominates the city, but Salisbury has a strong spiritual tradition and today has a wide variety of lively churches covering most of the theological spectrum; they co-operate remarkably well in Salisbury Churches Together. The Cathedral also boasts a rather splendid coffee shop with outstanding views, but you'll be spoilt for choice in excellent eateries in Salisbury.

Families are well catered for with a wide range of state and independent schools, including two highly regarded grammar schools (Bishop Wordsworth's and South Wilts) and dedicated sixth-form options. Active residents can take advantage of local rugby and football clubs, tennis courts, Five Rivers Leisure Centre, and community events like the weekly Park Run. If brave, skydiving is available at the WW1 airfield at Old Sarum!

Our parishes differ widely physically; St Lawrence is in the village of Stratford-sub-Castle, now formally part of Salisbury, but with a definite village feel; a glance at the village website indicates how lively it is. The original parish of St Francis is largely residential, with two significant green spaces; Victoria Park, a traditional park just over the main road from the church, where events such as church picnics are held, and Hudson's Field, a substantial area, incorporating a camp site and a number of football and rugby pitches. This space often hosts a variety of community events. Hope Church serves the two thriving new housing estates of Old Sarum and Longhedge, which at present has a small number of shops but is missing a doctor's surgery and pharmacy.

Direct train links connect you easily to London Waterloo, Exeter, Bristol, and Portsmouth. Plus, with the New Forest, the South Coast, and Stonehenge just a short drive away, you have immediate access to some of the finest countryside in the UK.

The Benefice Profile – a Brief Summary

Our benefice needs a new Vicar -
The previous one has retired -
Committees were duly assembled,
to research and write down what's required.

They filled several pages with history,
Statistics about what we do,
Leading on to describe our ambitions,
And what we're expecting from you.

Then one of the team called out "Stop it!
While I value the work that you've done,
You could find all of that on our websites;
What we need is a Vicar who's fun".

Closing date for applications: 30 October 2026
Interviews: 23 / 24 November 2026
For an application form contact
lynne.archer@salisbury.anglican.org
For an informal discussion please contact
the Archdeacon of Wilts on 01722 438662

Diocesan website: www.salisbury.anglican.org
St Francis website: www.st-francischurch.org.uk
Registered charity no: 1130133
St Lawrence website: www.saintlawrence.org.uk
Friends of St Lawrence Church Registered charity no: 1063271

hopechurchsalisbury
oldsarum@st-francischurch.org.uk







Why not COME and visit?

ST FRANCIS
LIFE WITH GOD

Hope CHURCH

Saint Lawrence Church
Stratford sub Castle

St Francis Church Registered Charity no: 1130133

Friends of St Lawrence Church Registered Charity no: 1063271



MISSION HUB BID (WAITING FOR YOU TAKE FORWARD!)

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The challenges as identified by our congregations: (being replaced by SWOT)

