



Connect

News and Views, Notices and Events
at St Francis Church

October 2025

In this issue:

Centenary Patronal Festival

Sinfonia of Birmingham Concert

Centenary Dinner

Christian Aid Concert

Commemoration Service

The November edition of Connect will be circulated by email on 24 October and paper copies will be available in Church from Sunday 26 October. Please send all flyers and articles for this edition of the magazine to Carol by Thursday 16 October. Thank you.



For more information please visit our website:
www.bournvilleparishchurch.org.uk



Rachel Writes

Dear Friends,

Psalm 16:11

I recently had the opportunity to go on a day retreat. This is a day I selfishly guard as I relish the thought of having a whole day to myself where I can just 'hang out' with God.

During our prayer time together we were introduced to using a Labyrinth as an aid to praying. Some of you may have used a Labyrinth before but for those of you who haven't- this short description comes from the Diocese of Winchester Webpage <https://winchester.anglican.org/education-schools/resources-for-schools/labyrinths/>

Since ancient times, the labyrinth has been recognised as a sacred symbol for life's journey. In Christianity, the labyrinth's symbolic meaning is that life's journey is challenging, filled with highs and lows, ups and downs and when one feels lost along their path, God's salvation is at the centre of life



I don't know about you, but when someone says 'Let's pray', my mind immediately goes into overdrive and I often don't really end up praying. My mind wanders to all the things that I need to do, or have forgotten to do, and I can't really focus. It's hard to switch off from

daily life and spend that time with God. But prayer is such an important part of our worship, it's our communication with God. We need to remember that it is not a one-way call that prayer is an opportunity for God to speak to us. When stepping into the Labyrinth, it gives you the opportunity to move towards the centre, clearing your mind opening your heart and bringing the presence of God into focus. Knowing that this is the outcome, I find I can lay the earthly things at the entrance to the Labyrinth much more easily and can concentrate on the journey before me.

Labyrinths won't be for everyone, I have found them a very useful prayer tool. As we know Jesus himself prayed, and urges us to do likewise. If you find praying difficult, I'd like to encourage you to explore ways to pray as there is definitely not a one size fits all and there will be something that works for you.

With every blessing, Rachel

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Welcome to Worship

We extend a warm welcome to everyone who is worshipping with us.

Our church building is open for worship on Thursday mornings at 10.00 am for Holy Communion and on Sunday mornings at 10.00 am for Parish Communion, followed by refreshments.

On Sundays we also have a weekly service of Holy Communion or Morning Prayer at 8.15 am and a fortnightly Evensong at 6.30 pm. On the first Sunday of the month we have an All Together Service at 10.00 am and Rise and Shine breakfast service at 9.00 am in the church hall on the second Sunday of the month. Please check the welcome to worship pages or our weekly email for more details or any changes.

Weekday and Sunday Services

Sunday	8.15 a.m. Holy Communion/Morning Prayer (see dates below)
	9.00 a.m. Rise and Shine (monthly)
	10.00 a.m. Parish Communion/All Together Service
	6.30 p.m. Evening Service. Our evening service varies from week to week and alternates between New Vine, a reflective communion service, evening prayer and 'Be', an inclusive charismatic service.
Thursday	10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

Welcome to Worship

5th October (Feast of St Francis of Assisi)

8.15 a.m. Holy Communion

10.00 a.m. Parish Communion and Celebration of Feast of St Francis of Assisi

6.30 p.m. Be

Morning Readings: Joshua 22:1-6 and Luke 10: 17-24

Collect:

Lord of creation,
whose glory is around and within us:
open our eyes to your wonders,
that we may serve you with reverence
and know your peace at our lives' end,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

9th October (Thursday)

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

12th October (Trinity 16)

8.15 a.m. Morning Prayer

9.00 a.m. Rise and Shine

10.00 a.m. Parish Communion,

6.30 p.m. Holy Communion

Morning Prayer: Ps 144, Nehemiah 6.1-6, John 15.12-end

Parish Communion: 2 Timothy 2.8-15, Luke 17.11-19

Collect:

Gracious God,
you call us to fullness of life:
deliver us from unbelief
and banish our anxieties
with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Welcome to Worship

16th October (Thursday)

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

19th October (Trinity 18)

8.15 a.m. Holy Communion

10.00 a.m. Parish Communion

6.30 p.m. New Vine

Morning Readings: 2 Timothy 3.14-4.5, Luke 18.1-8

Collect:

God, our judge and saviour,
teach us to be open to your truth
and to trust in your love,
that we may live each day
with confidence in the salvation which is given
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

23rd October (Thursday)

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

26th October (Last Sunday of Trinity)

8.15 a.m. Holy Communion

10.00 a.m. Parish Communion

6.30 p.m. All Souls, Commemoration of the Departed

Communion Readings: 2 Timothy 4.6-8, 16-18

Luke 18.9-14

Collect:

Merciful God,
teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty,
that trusting in your word
and obeying your will
we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord.

30th October (Thursday)

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion



You are invited to come and
celebrate
**The Centenary of St Francis
Church
and the Dedication of our
Centenary Window**
with Rt Revd Michael Volland,
The Bishop of Birmingham
Sunday 5 October at 10.00 am

followed by refreshments
And the opening of an exhibition
of community contributions to the
design of the window from 11.45am

St. Francis Church Prayer Board

As you probably know, we have a prayer board in church on the wall near the Chapel. If you would like someone to be included in our church prayer list, please complete a card and attach it to the prayer board. Please use **CAPITAL** letters to ensure the name is spelt correctly and include the current day's date. **Please ensure that the person you add to the list agrees to be listed.**

If you can't get to church and would like your own name or that of someone you know to be included on the prayer or RIP list, please email Pam Thomas at pamralph@blueyonder.co.uk or contact Carol in the Parish Office.

Sinfonia
of birmingham

SYMPHONY
No. 6

TRAGIC OVERTURE

OBOE CONCERTO

BOHMS BRAHMS STRAUSS

OBOE Tommy Hill

CONDUCTOR Michael Seal

LEADER Julia Åberg

3PM • Saturday, 4 October 2025

Bournville Parish Church

Birmingham, B30 2AA

£17.50 • £15 • £5

sinfonia.org.uk/concerts



Sinfonia of Birmingham is registered charity N° 1059325

**making
music**

Bournville Heritage Open Day

We had a fabulous Heritage Day at St Francis Church on Saturday 13 September with almost 2000 visitors. We sold around 25lb of bacon, 320 sausages, 70 burgers and 300 bread rolls. We also sold approximately 150 jars of preserves and a huge amount of cake!

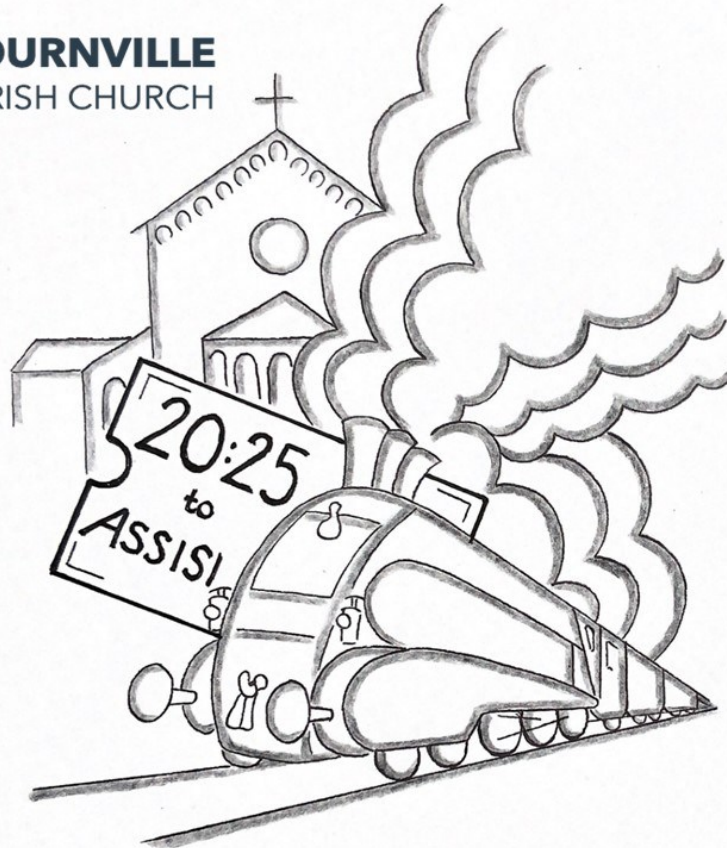
The book 'Celebrating Bournville and the Centenary of St Francis Church' sold well and Cadbury World delivered their chocolate model of the church. The centenary exhibition 'Secrets and Acquisitions' will remain displayed until 22 October and will be joined by the new stained glass window exhibition, showing its design development and manufacture, from 22 September until 5 November.

Thanks to everyone who helped with this!





BOURNVILLE
PARISH CHURCH



As part of our centenary, we are delighted that a new play with original music about the life of St Francis will be performed in St Francis Church, Bournville on Friday 14th November 7.00 pm and Saturday 15th November 2.30 pm.

Suitable for 12+

Admission : Over 16 £8, under 16 £5, family 2 adults 2 under 16s £20. Payment by card possible at the door.

Information about tickets from Carol Glynn at the church office 0121 472 7215 option 2, between 8.30 am - 4.00 pm Tuesday to Friday.

You are welcome to leave a message about obtaining tickets with your contact details and we will get back to you as soon as possible

email: parishadmin@stfrancisbournville.org.uk

Tickets available at the door for each performance.

Commemoration of the Departed

**A service celebrating the lives of those we love
who have died**

Sunday 26 October at 6.30 pm

St Francis Church, Bournville

**If you would like the name of your loved one read out at the service, please add
their name to the list in Church, or contact Carol in the Parish Office**



**BOURNVILLE
PARISH CHURCH**

Bournville Folk Dance Club presents

A BARN DANCE/CEILIDH

Saturday 1st November

7.30-10.30 pm

Bournville Quaker Meeting House B30 1JT

Music by Fiddlers Elbow

Caller Mandy Nayak

Bring and Share Supper

Adults £8 Children £4 Family £18

Tickets on the door

or call Mandy 07531661066



THE BOURNVILLE SOCIETY

‘Building in Bournville between the Wars’ Wednesday 5th November at 7.30pm

Dr Michael Harrison, former Deputy Head of the School of Theoretical and Historical Studies in Art and Design at Birmingham City University and author of the book *Bournville, Model Village to Garden Suburb*, will be making a return visit to give an illustrated talk on Building in Bournville between the Wars.

Meetings are held at Dame Elizabeth Hall, Firbank Close, off Oak Tree Lane, Bournville

On Sunday 12th October there will be a harvest collection for the B30 and South Birmingham Foodbank.

Their website has up to date details of what they need, but just to add no fresh produce please!

Thank you.



Bournville
Parish Church



Please join us for a Centenary Dinner

St Francis Church, Bournville

Saturday 18 October at 7.00 pm

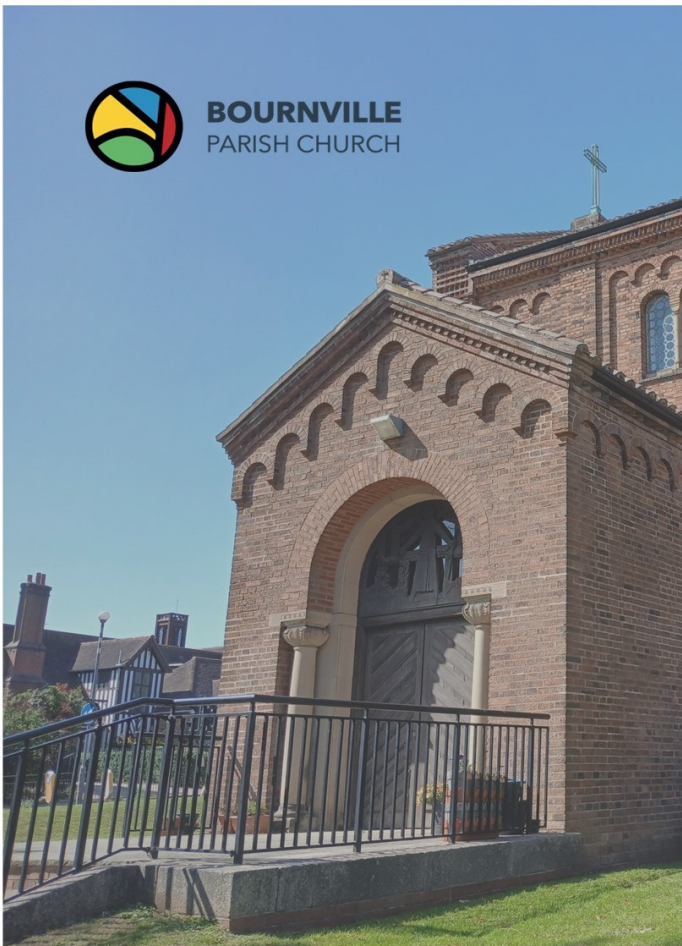
3 Course Meal, Quiz and Music

Come and celebrate with us!

Please pick up an order form in Church



BOURNVILLE
PARISH CHURCH



Christian Aid Concert

**Sunday 19 October
at 2.00 pm in Church**

**Come and support this fundraising
concert performed by local
musicians in aid of the work of
Christian Aid**

Donations welcome!



A Service of Thanksgiving
for the life of
Revd Canon Keith Withington



Tuesday 18th November 2025
at 2:00pm
St Francis Church Bournville

CONCERT

Saturday 22 November 6pm
St Francis Church, Bournville
Birmingham B30 2AA

BIRMINGHAM
BACH
Choir
Inspiring Performances

Let there be Light

Beautiful music by Rutter & Kodaly
Including Rutter's Requiem

Birmingham Bach Choir

Paul Spicer: conductor

Ciará Preston Myakicheff: soprano

Martyn Rawles: organist

*"profoundly moving &
expertly crafted"*

(Review 2025)



Tickets: www.birmingham.bachchoir.com

Contacts - How to get in touch

Vicar

Canon Richard Wharton
vicar@stfrancisbournville.org.uk

Readers

Mandy Nayak
T: 0121 243 8867

Malcolm Morse
M: 07941 061396

Curate

Revd Clare Gladstone
curate@stfrancisbournville.org.uk
M: 07984 349049

Church Warden

Elaine Rose
elainemrose82@gmail.com

Deputy Church Wardens

Roger Barber: 07896 798447
Allan Cook: 07434 894521
Patrick Penrose: 0121 608 2170

Stewardship and Gift Aid

Jo Else
T: 0121 472 7215 ext 5
finance@stfrancisbournville.org.uk

Principal Organist

Trevor Workman
T: 01564 200 686

Co-Director of Music

Laura Joy Godwin
M: 07817 617923
godwin_laura@hotmail.com

Youth & Children's

Development Worker and Safeguarding Co-Ordinator

Rachel Fasham
M: 07398 552390
youthandchildrens@stfrancisbournville.org.uk

Parish Administrator

Carol Glynn
T: 0121 472 7215 ext 2
parishadmin@stfrancisbournville.org.uk

Over 50s Community Development Worker

Helen Crisp
m: 07436 021333
communitydevelopment@stfrancisbournville.org.uk

Church School

St Francis CofE Primary School
Telephone: 0121 459 5548



QR code for Bournville
St Francis page on
Parish Giving Scheme.
Scanning the code will
allow users to make a
one-off or regular gift
to the Church.