



February 2026

LOVE: Saint Francis and his love for animals and creation



The stained glass window of Saint Francis of Assisi, erected in 1952 in memory of James Burroughs, which is located above to the children's toys in church

Teatime Church is our monthly Sunday Service for children and families. It's a very relaxed service with crafts, toys, messy play, LEGO, singing, story time and interactive prayer, followed by supper for all the children and refreshments for the adults. All are very welcome!

Our next Teatime Church is taking place at **4pm on Sunday 15th February**. At this service we will be thinking about **LOVE** – with a particular focus on the love that Saint Francis had for animals, creation and God. Children will be able to decorate Valentines cards, animal masks and colour stained glass windows and work together to create an earth collage (wear clothes to get messy in!).



Animal Search and Find Trail

We also have a brand new search and find trail in the church based on the animals shown with Saint Francis in the window. **You are welcome to visit the church when it's open to search for the animals.** For those of you who had a go at the Advent Star Trail and couldn't find the final star at January's Teatime Church, it was a bit camouflaged! Here it is by the right hand altar:

One day, Francis was riding down the road and he saw a leper. He was terrified of getting the disease, so he quickly turned to go in the opposite direction. But as he turned, something stopped him. Francis remembered the story of Jesus healing a leper in the Bible, and he knew that he couldn't just walk away. Francis felt compassion for this leper who had not been touched in years. He imagined what it would be like to have no one to hug you when you are sad, or pat your back when you are sick, or shake your hand to say hello — and he knew he could not simply walk away. Instead, Francis walked right over to the man, and embraced him. Then, Francis emptied his pockets and gave the leper all the money he had. Francis had remembered the stories of Jesus healing a leper in the Gospels and he wanted to show the same compassion and love.



Francis left the man but he always remembered him. Not long after that, he devoted his life to serving the sick and the poor and tried to live by the words of the Gospels. Eventually other people joined him and in time the order of Franciscan monks and the Poor Clare order of nuns were formed. They have helped many people to see and hear the love of Jesus.

Francis gave away all his fancy clothes and money. He had no permanent home and he ate only what people gave him. He travelled around the country telling anyone who would listen – even animals – about Jesus' love for them. He helped so many people and loved God so much that the church named him a Saint. We know him today as Saint Francis of Assisi.

Saint Francis of Assisi

Saint Francis of Assisi is the patron saint of animals, merchants and ecology.



Legacy

Saint Francis lived his life serving God and fulfilling the teachings of Jesus. He is remembered for living humbly and showing kindness towards all living things. He believed that God was reflected in nature and referred to animals as his brothers and sisters. Francis died in Assisi in October 1226. In 1228, he was canonised (made a saint) by the Roman Catholic church. Saint Francis is celebrated on 4th October, his feast day.

Early Life

Saint Francis was born in Assisi, circa 1181 to a wealthy family. He had a privileged upbringing and wanted for nothing. However, he felt that something was missing in his life.

A Vision

Francis took part in a military expedition c. 1202. He was captured and became a prisoner of war for one year. In 1205, he was due to take part in another battle. On his way there, he had a vision and believed that God wanted him to return to Assisi. Once home, he began to change the way he lived. He gave away all of his wealth and chose a life of poverty.

Religious Life

Over the next few years, Francis worked to help the poor and sick. He preached the word of God and encouraged people to follow the teachings of Jesus. Soon, people were joining Francis in his new way of life. In 1209, Francis and some of his followers travelled to Rome to seek approval from the pope to establish a new religious order (a community who live under religious vows). This was granted and the Franciscan Order was formed.



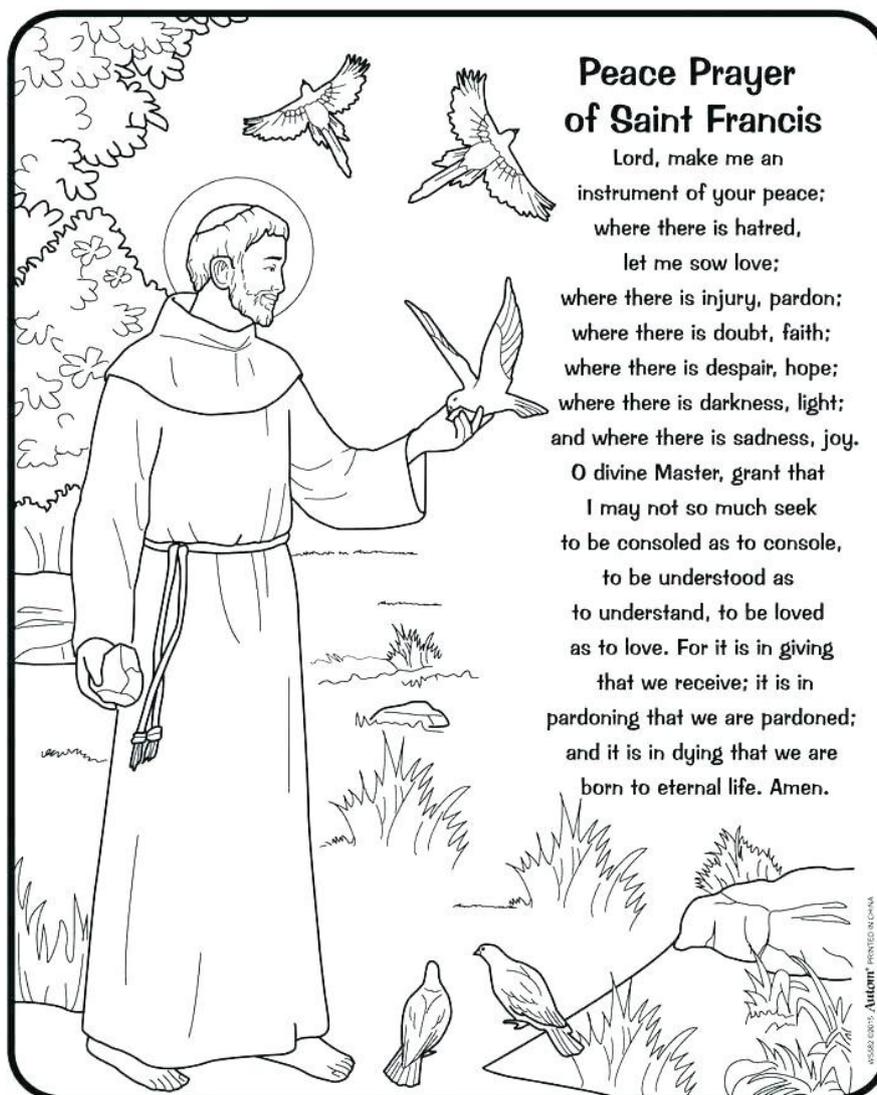
Please click on the following link for more information about the life of Saint Francis:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKoF4Xxi6vk>

There is also a timeline activity at the end of this newsletter, which tells you more about the life and character of St Francis.

Our monthly prayers



**Peace Prayer
of Saint Francis**

Lord, make me an
instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred,
let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.
O divine Master, grant that
I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as
to understand, to be loved
as to love. For it is in giving
that we receive; it is in
pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are
born to eternal life. Amen.

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Loving God, help us all to follow in the way of Saint Francis by loving all of creation with our whole hearts and caring for those in need.

Amen

Community information

Toddlers Together: Our parent and toddler group



Toddlers Together, our parent and toddler group held at Westbury-on-Trym Methodist Church Hall, runs every Thursday 10-11:15am during term time. Details can be found on our website <https://www.westbury-parish-church.org.uk/youth-and-family/parents-and-toddlers/>. This term runs until 12th February and then starts again after half term on 26th February.



During half term, a Messy Church event is being held at Westbury-on-Trym Methodist Church Hall 19 February, 10.30 - 12.30. Please e-mail Marion marioncollis@ymail.com to book your place.

Messy Church

Westbury-on-Trym Methodist Church

Join us for crafts, games, interactive worship and food! Something for all the family. Join us for our next event ...

Lent

Thursday, 19th February 10:30 - 12:30

For bookings and information please contact:
marioncollis@ymail.com



All of our children's services and events have started the new year with great success and we are always looking for volunteers to support us with our work in this area. We always need volunteers to help us with the following:

- Monthly Teatime Church Service (helping with crafts or with supper)
- Toddlers Together (helping with crafts or in the kitchen)
- Open the Book (a storytelling project where Bible stories are shared in school assemblies in a fun, interactive and memorable way)
- Barton Camp Annual Trip

For all volunteer roles in the church it is a PCC requirement that new volunteers go through a safe recruitment process. The safe recruitment process ensures that everyone is properly equipped to carry out their role. As well as safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, it helps to protect both the volunteer and the church. The process involves reading and signing a Volunteer Role Description, undergoing a DBS check and undertaking Safeguarding Training. Church Leaders will be able to guide you through this process if support is needed.

We are also looking for members of the 10am congregation to attend Baptism Services. The Baptism Supporters will make promises on behalf of the church congregation and hand out the special Baptism Bears. The Baptism dates remaining for this year are:

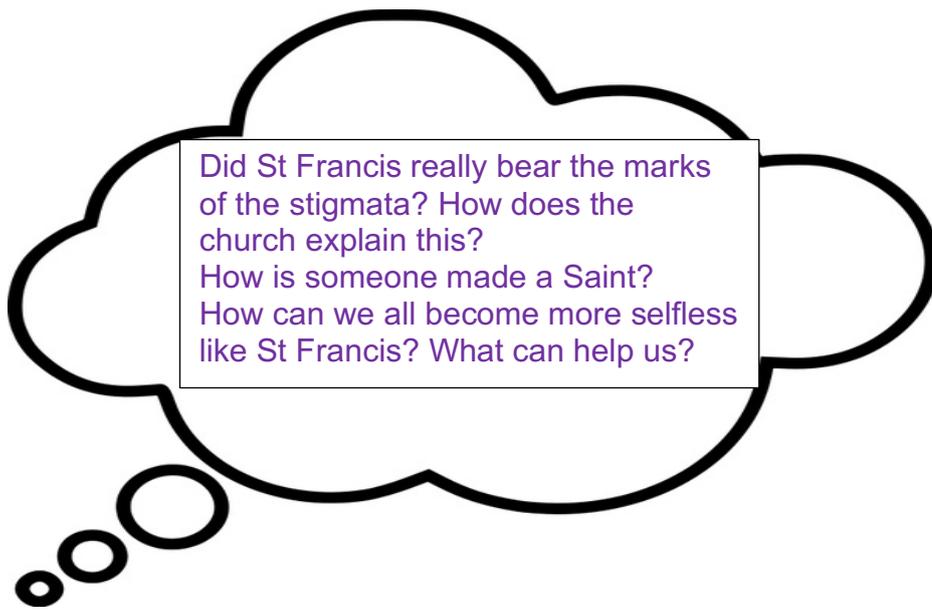
26th April
24th May
14th June
19th July
13th September
11th October
22nd November

They are all on Sundays, starting at 12.15pm.

Please email me if you would like more information about volunteering at our children's services or groups or becoming a Baptism Supporter familyworker@westbury-parish-church.org.uk.

Please contact volunteerrecruitment@westbury-parish-church.org.uk if you have any questions regarding safer recruitment and safeguarding at Holy Trinity Church

Some questions for the whole family to think about at home...please do come to Teatime Church with any questions that you have!



Please click on the following link if you would like to donate to Westbury on Trym PCC to support the work and mission of Holy Trinity Church, Westbury-on-Trym. Thank you

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/westbury-on-trym-holy-trinity-bristol/>

From Georgie and the Youth Team
familyworker@westbury-parish-church.org.uk

Saint Francis of Assisi

Cut out the cards and place them in order on the timeline.

1181/2

Born and named Giovanni in Assisi, Italy and later given the nickname 'Francesco' by his father.

1230

Francis' remains were taken to the Basilica of Saint Francis, built in Assisi in his honour.

1212

Clare became a follower of Francis. She began the Second Order of St Francis, also known as the 'Poor Clares'.

1203

Francis' release from prison was paid for by his father. Shortly afterwards, Francis becomes seriously ill.

1223

Francis set up the first Christmas nativity scene.

1195

He left school. Francis was a rebellious, privileged teenager.

1224

He had a vision that left him with the stigmata of Christ – marks resembling the wounds Jesus Christ suffered when he died on the cross.

1202

He fought in a battle between Assisi and Perugia. Francis was captured and imprisoned for one year.

1204

Francis set out to participate in a crusade. On the way, he had a religious vision which directed him back to Assisi to seek God's will.

1210

The Franciscan Order was founded. Francis and his followers preached on the streets and lived simple lives.

1228

He became a saint.

1226

Francis died and was buried at the Church of San Giorgio in Assisi.

1205

Francis began giving generously to the poor and looked after the sick. He repaired ruined churches and preached repentance and peace. Other men left their families and possessions to go and join him.



HOLY TRINITY
WESTBURY ON TRYM - BRISTOL

TEATIME CHURCH DATES 2026



Teatime Church is our monthly Sunday Service for children and families. It is a very relaxed service with a range of crafts, toys, LEGO corner, baby area, interactive songs, story and prayer. This is followed by supper for all the children and refreshments for the adults. There is plenty of opportunity to move around the church and make some noise whilst learning about God's love for everyone. All are very welcome!

Teatime Church is held at the back of Holy Trinity Church in Westbury-on-Trym from 4 - 5:15pm but you are welcome to join us during any part of the service.

The dates for 2026 are:

11th January
15th February
8th March
April: Good Friday Crafts (see website)
17th May
21st June
12th July
20th September
4th October: Harvest (see website)
15th November: In Westbury College
6th December

<https://www.westbury-parish-church.org.uk/teatime-church/>

Email Georgie at familyworker@westbury-parish-church.org.uk