



United Benefice of
Cudham and Downe



St Francis of Assisi – Patron Saint of Animals

**WELCOME TO OUR
SERVICE CELEBRATING
ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI DAY
AND BLESSING OF ANIMALS**

3PM

**SUNDAY 1ST OCTOBER AT
CHRISTMAS TREE FARM
CUDHAM ROAD, DOWNE**

Welcome and the service is introduced

Opening prayer

May God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
who is wonderful in all his works, be with you all.

And also with you.

Hymn

*All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.*

Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours,
He made their tiny wings.

All things bright and beautiful...

The purple-headed mountain,
The river running by,
The sunset, and the morning
That brightens up the sky.

All things bright and beautiful...

The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
He made them every one.

All things bright and beautiful...

He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.

All things bright and beautiful...

Saying sorry

For times we have hurt or teased animals in our care
Heavenly Father,

Forgive us and help us

For the times we have neglected or forgotten to look after
animals that depend on us,
Heavenly Father,

Forgive us and help us

For the times we have seen animals in distress and done
nothing to help,
Heavenly Father,

Forgive us and help us

For the times when we have failed to protect the environment
in which animals live, here and across the world,
Heavenly Father,

Forgive us and help us

Words of Forgiveness

Hear again the words of Jesus: 'Neither do I condemn you.
Go, and sin no more'.

We thank you, Lord God, for your full and free forgiveness.
Thank you that you give us the chance
to start again with a clean slate.

Help us to be loving,
reliable and attentive with the animals in our care,
as well as responsible and courageous
when we see animals in distress.

We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Hymn

If I were a butterfly,
I'd thank You, Lord, for giving me wings.
And if I were a robin in a tree,
I'd thank You, Lord, that I could sing.
And if I were a fish in the sea,
I'd wiggle my tail and I'd giggle with glee;
But I just thank You, Father,
For making me 'me'.

*For You gave me a heart
And You gave me a smile,
You gave me Jesus
And You made me Your child,
And I just thank You, Father,
For making me 'me'.*

If I were an elephant,
I'd thank You, Lord, by raising my trunk.
And if I were a kangaroo,
You know I'd hop right up to You.
And if I were an octopus,
I'd thank You, Lord, for my fine looks;
But I just thank You, Father,
For making me 'me'.

For you gave me...

If I were a wiggly worm,
I'd thank You, Lord, that I could squirm.
And if I were a billy goat,
I'd thank You, Lord, for my strong throat.
And if I were a fuzzy-wuzzy bear,
I'd thank You, Lord, for my fuzzy-wuzzy hair;
But I just thank You, Father,
For making me 'me'.

For you gave me...

Bible reading Job 12 verses 7-10

“But ask the animals, and they will teach you, the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you, and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? In God’s hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being.” NRSV

This is the Word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God**

Talk Kim Curle, *Licensed Schools and Families Evangelist*

Hymn

Make me a channel of Your peace.
Where there is hatred let me bring Your love;
Where there is injury, Your pardon, Lord;
And where there’s doubt, true faith in You.
Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of Your peace.
Where there’s despair in life let me bring hope;
Where there is darkness, only light;
And where there’s sadness, ever joy.
Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of Your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving to all men that we receive,
And in dying that we’re born to eternal life.

The Prayers

God said 'Let the waters bring forth living creatures,
And let birds fly across the sky'.

We thank you for the teeming life of the seas,
And the flight of the birds.
Help us to protect the environment
So that all life may flourish.

God of life: **Hear our prayer**

God said, 'let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind'.

We rejoice in the variety of animal life.
Grant us grace to treat all animals with respect and care;
To protect endangered species,
To preserve the variety of habitats,
And to honour the delicate balance of nature.

God of life: **Hear our prayer**

Heavenly Father, you have filled the world with beauty:
Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works;
That, rejoicing in your whole creation
we may learn to serve you with gladness,
for the sake of him through whom all things were made,
Jesus Christ our Lord,

God of life: **Hear our prayer**

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil;
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory
For ever and ever. Amen.**

Act of Commitment

**We commit ourselves to care for the world God has given us;
to care for all creatures;
to cherish and provide for the pets and animals in our care;
to protect any animal we find in distress.**

Heavenly Father giver of all life,
Fill our hearts with generosity and love
That we may fulfil what we have promised;
Bless, O Lord, these creatures,
and all who are involved in their care and protection.
May our awareness of their needs
make us sensitive to the needs of every creature,
for we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing of Animals

*The leader says the following prayer with hands outstretched
or may touch and bless each animal.*

Bless, O Lord, these animals here today, and fill our hearts
with thanksgiving for their being.

For all the animals in creation:

we give thanks!

For the animals which have been in our lives

we give thanks!

For all the fun and friendship we have with animals:

we give thanks!

For these animals we love in God's wonderful world:

we give thanks!

Hymn

All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing:
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam:
*O praise Him, O praise Him,
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!*

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise Him, hallelujah!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice:
*O praise Him, O praise Him,
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!*

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
Make music for thy Lord to hear,
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
That givest man both warmth and light:
*O praise Him, O praise Him,
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!*

And all ye of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part,
O sing ye, hallelujah!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and on Him cast your care:
*O praise Him, O praise Him,
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!*

Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him, hallelujah!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three-in-One:
*O praise Him, O praise Him,
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!*

A Prayer for Peace

Even as we celebrate our animal friends our world suffers and groans under the effects of war and natural disaster; we pray for peace, that our minds may be reminded of peace by the animals of this world. **Amen.**

The Blessing

As we prepare to leave and embrace the challenges of our lives and our world, let us ask for God's blessing.

May God bless us with strength to seek justice. **Amen.**

May God bless us with wisdom to care for our earth. **Amen.**

May God bless us with love to bring forth new life. **Amen.**

Come, Lord Jesus. **Amen, Come Lord Jesus.**

May the God of all creation, who created the animals of this earth to support us, continue to protect and sustain us with the grace his blessing brings, and may the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon us and remain with us always. **Amen**

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

We thank Christmas Tree Farm for allowing us to hold our service here this afternoon. The Refreshment kiosk is open until 4pm.



Meditation

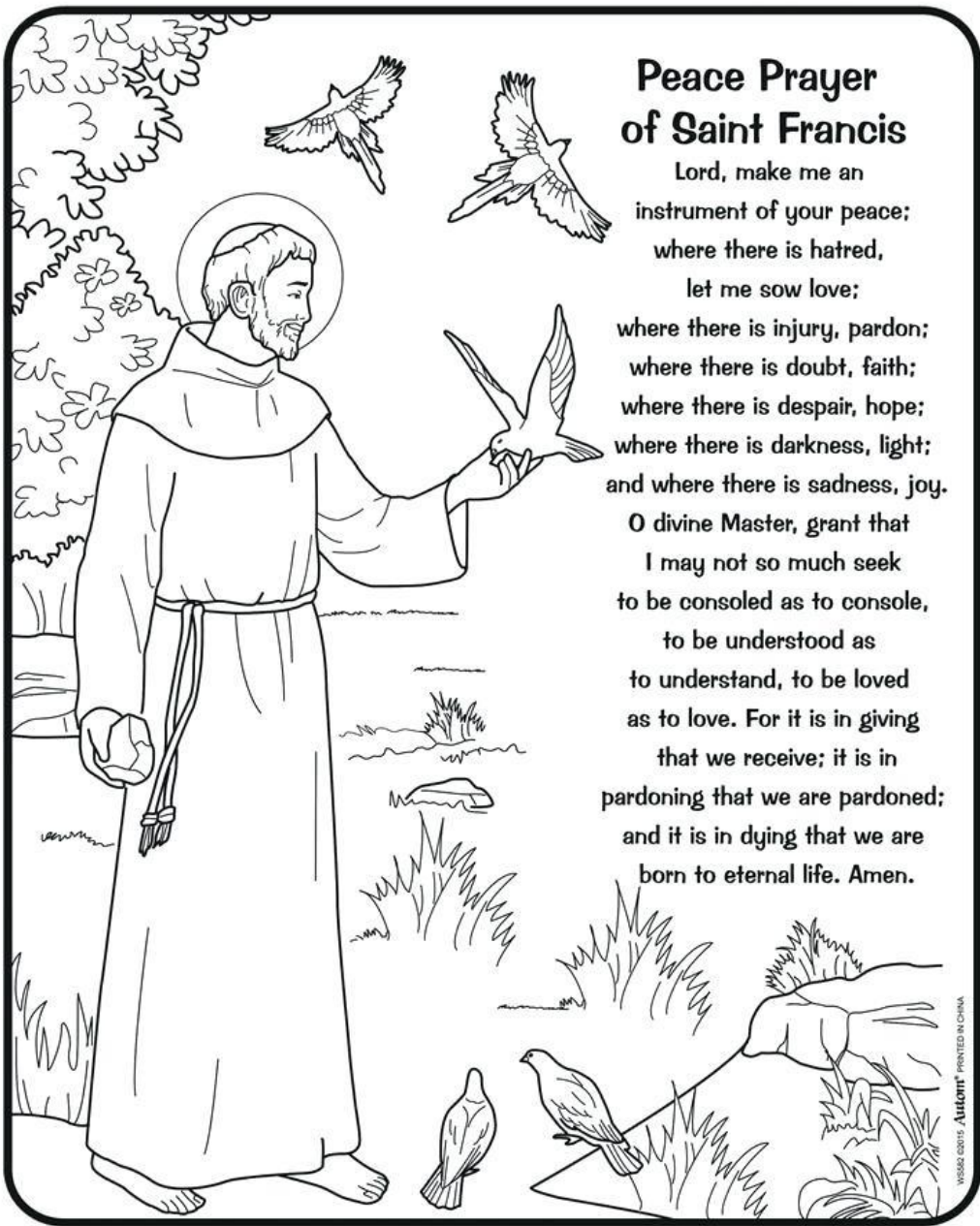
Let everything that has life,
let everything that has breath
give all the glory and honour
and praise to the One who
overcame death.

Let every living thing
sing of the mercies of our God.
Let us exalt Him wherever we live
with thanksgiving and joy
in our hearts.

If we don't praise Him,
the mountains will.
If we don't exalt Him,
the rocks will cry out
in our stead,
'God is not dead!'

Let every living thing
sing of the mercies of our God.
Let us exalt Him wherever we live
with thanksgiving and joy
in our hearts.

Lawrence Chewing



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.

St Francis of Assisi colouring page



More information about our forthcoming services, events, activities, prayer times, together with our weekly notice sheet can be found on our churches website www.pcd.org.uk

Our pastoral care team is available should you feel the need to speak to someone about anything, whether it's just for a chat or if something is troubling you.

You can contact them on 07942 354533 or email pastoral.team@pcd.org.uk