

The ongoing legacy of St Francis of Assisi

*From The Society of St Francis
to all churches and communities
named for St Francis or
St Clare of Assisi*

• FRANCIS 800 •

Dear friends,

*In 2026 the world will mark 800 years
since the death of St Francis of Assisi,
a man whose life still shines with
simplicity, peace, and joy.*

Francis lived the gospel of Jesus Christ in a way that spoke to everyone: rich and poor, young and old, believer and seeker. He discovered that when we open our hearts to God's love, we also find peace with one another and with all creation.

Today, our world faces deep divisions — fear between peoples and faiths, inequality between rich and poor, violence and war, and a growing wound to the earth itself. Yet the story of Francis offers a different path: a way of penitence (turning back to love), peace, reconciliation, and hope.

His life reminds us that change begins not with power, but with humility, kindness, and the courage to start again.

An Invitation to Walk with Us

*You and your community
can take part in many ways:*

- **Making Room for Christ**
Daily reflections for Advent 2025:
with intergenerational materials
- **Becoming Peacemakers
and Peacekeepers**
A project with schools and young people
exploring reconciliation and justice.
Available on line from February
- **Landscapes of Penance,
Peace and Reconciliation**
A Franciscan study course for Lent 2026.
With intergenerational materials :
Available in book and on line from February
- **On New Roads**
The 2026 Pilgrimage of Peace,
Reconciliation and Hope : a walking
pilgrimage across Britain from July to
September 2026



2026 FRANCISCAN
PEACE PILGRIMAGE

ON
NEW
ROADS

- **Resources and workshops on Pilgrimage:**
Online from January
- **St Francis' Song of Creation and a respect for the planet :**
Online from January
- **Interfaith Conversations and pilgrimage walks :**
Available from Spring
- **Prayer and Song**
Joining us in simple acts of worship and community music along the way.
Resources online
- **St Francis Day 4 • October 2026**
Hosting a local celebrations or services of thanksgiving
- **Francis 800 Newsletter**
Sign up for regular updates, resources and stories
- **Share Your Story**
Tell us how you plan to mark this anniversary; we'd love to hear from you

Why This Matters

The spirit of St Francis belongs not only to churches but to the whole world.

He reminds us that each person, creature, and place is loved by God. In celebrating Francis 800, we hope to build bridges between faith and community, between people and planet - between the past and the future.

Please share this invitation widely so that others may join in this movement of peace and renewal.

We would love to hear from you and how you might be thinking and giving thanks for the legacy of St Francis in 2026.

Who We Are

The Society of St Francis (SSF) is an Anglican Religious Order made up of men and women who live as brothers and sisters of the First Order, following a common life of poverty, chastity, and obedience; and members of the Third Order, married and single, who live a vowed Franciscan life in their homes and daily work. Together we seek to follow Christ in the footsteps of St Francis and St Clare — sharing in God's work of peace, reconciliation, and joy for the whole creation.

Find Out More



www.spiritoffrancis.com

(for programme details)

Email francis800@ssf.org.uk
to sign up for news or share your plans.

We follow current GDPR data-protection guidelines: your details will only be used for Francis 800 communications.



The Society Of
SAINT FRANCIS
SOCIETY OF ST FRANCIS • COMMUNITY OF ST FRANCIS

Doing Penance | Bringing Peace | Living Hope