



4th February 2021

St Francis Church, Valley Park (virtually)

Weekly newsletter



Contents:

Church Family News.....	p2
Lent Course Info.....	p3
Prayer for the week and notice.....	p4
Worship this week.....	p5
Outreach Radio.....	p6
Points for prayer.....	p8
Who's Who.....	p9

Pray for the nation

The Archbishop of Canterbury (I know, he got a mention last week too...) is calling us to prayer throughout the month of February. In response to the tragic milestone of 100 000 deaths from Covid he wrote the attached letter to the nation. In it he says:

'Therefore, we need to support each other. We do this by following the guidelines. But we also do it by reaching out to each other with care and kindness. One thing we can all do is pray. We hope it is some consolation to know that the church prays for the life of our nation every day. Whether you're someone of faith, or not, we invite you to call on God in prayer. Starting in February we invite you to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6pm each day. More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love.

Resources are available on www.ChurchofEngland.org/PrayerForTheNation and each week in February you'll find a specific prayer in this newsletter (this week on p 4) and also on Facebook. Let's continue in prayer for our world our nation, and each other.

Lent 'SHAPE' course

Have you signed up yet? If you're already in a home group there's no need, but if you'd like to join for a 6 week course please email Sarah as soon as possible. It would be great to have the majority of our church family joining in with the course, as we look at what God has in store for us, journeying out of pandemic! And it will be a good project to focus on in the meantime. More details on page 3.



Church family news

Lent course

We'll be running one in home groups and providing extra groups for any who'd like to join for Lent - email Sarah if you'd like to take part.

Ash Wednesday

There'll be a short online service for Ash Wednesday on Feb 17th at 7pm, on our usual Zoom link and before:

Take Time

The next one is Wednesday February 17th at 8pm on our Zoom link: Join us for a Christian meditation - an opportunity to find peace and to hear from God.

International Café

International Cafe - Frederick and Maryline in Strasbourg are hosting an International Cafe! They would love us to join them along with their local church; on Thursdays from 11am French time on the following Zoom link. They are looking forward to chatting with you!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86063980212pwd=L0tDaUxpOEIxdUVyemQwUVV2NFEzUT09>

Meeting ID: 860 6398 0212, Passcode: 568175

New website

It's still a work in progress and comments are welcome - email Sarah. You'll find the newsletter there as well as the 'Donate' button and service recordings. If you'd like to help look after the new website, please let Sarah know.

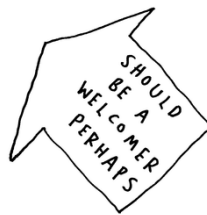


4th February 2021

St Francis Church Lent Course 2021

Join us as we look at the 'SHAPE' course together over Lent, in our Sunday talks and small groups- there are some just for Lent if you'd like to join.

YOUR SHAPE FOR GOD'S SERVICE



HANDING OUT REFRESHMENTS FROM THE PULPIT

We'll be thinking about what shape we are for serving God - an opportunity to grow in confidence that we're where we're called to be, or to look at where might be a better fit.

The aim:

Your SHAPE for God's Service aims to enable church members to understand the unique SHAPE God has made them, the gifts he has given them and how he might want to use them. This is so that God's Kingdom may be built up as each person finds the ministry to which God is calling them in the Church and in the world. Hopefully this will enable participants to live and serve with more joy, satisfaction and fruitfulness. This should build a healthy growing church, and will affect the way each person engages with their family, friends, job, local community, and voluntary / leisure activities.

The core topics:

Your SHAPE for God's Service has a holistic approach. The sessions involve looking at your:

Spiritual Gifts (God's unique gifts to you)

Hear's Desire (what motivates and excites you; what you love to do)

Abilities (your talents, knowledge and skills)

Personality (your character, personal qualities and strengths)

Experience (your life experiences and what you've gained from them) for God's Service

- and to make the most of this opportunity, there'll be a short reflection for you to do (by yourself) in between sessions.

4th February 2021

In response to the pandemic, for the month of February, we're invited to call on God in prayer for our world, nation and communities:

Gracious God,

as we remember before you the thousands
who have died,
surround us and all who mourn with your
strong compassion.

Be gentle with us in our grief,
protect us from despair,
and give us grace to persevere
and face the future with hope
in Jesus Christ our risen Lord.
Amen.

Week One



Churches Together in Chandler's Ford Lent Studies

As in previous years, CTiCF is organising a series of Lent studies. It is an opportunity to spend some time exploring issues of faith and our experiences, with Christians from other churches in Chandler's Ford. This Lent we are using again the course *Not a Tame Lion* based on the writings of C.S. Lewis. Using extracts from the films *The Lion*, *the Witch and the Wardrobe* and *Shadowlands* the study examines the issues of living with uncertainty, the apparent absence of God, the unbelief of ourselves and others, and the gift of the present in Christ. Five weekly sessions will be held starting in the week commencing Monday 22nd February. For more details please contact David Gurr 02380255389.

4th February 2021

Worship this week.

Worship in Lockdown 3.

Whilst it is legal to meet together in person for worship, Sarah and the wardens have agreed that we will share Sunday worship together on line only for now, in light of the new, more virulent virus variant and the extreme pressure on the NHS at this time. We will revert to live streaming from our homes. The exception is for funerals which will still take place in the church building on request and within the strict guidelines.

We're so grateful that we can still worship together in this way - thank you to all who make it possible.

Services this week

February 7th: Second Sunday before Lent

10am: Virtual Morning Worship - usual Zoom link.

Speaker: Cliff McClelland

Leader: Sarah McClelland

Reading: Acts 2: 42-47 and 4:32-35

Monday February 8th : Morning prayer

10am - usual Zoom link.

Link for services

Here's the super quick link that takes you to
all of our Zoom services and events:

www.bit.ly/SFCzoom

4th February 2021

The logo for Outreach Radio features the words "OUTREACH RADIO" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The text is centered and overlaid on a dark blue background. Surrounding the text are numerous overlapping squares in various colors, including orange, yellow, green, purple, pink, and light blue. Some squares are solid, while others have a white border, creating a vibrant, pixelated effect.

OUTREACH RADIO

Have you tuned in yet?

Formerly Lockdown FM, now broadcasting on DAB Digital Radio to South Hampshire, the South Coast & the Isle of Wight, and until mid-March on 100.7 FM to Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, North Baddesley, Romsey & Surrounding Areas.

Outreach radio began life as Lockdown 100.7 FM, a zero revenue voluntary service broadcasting under a temporary licence for radio stations supporting local communities during the Coronavirus pandemic & lockdown in March 2020. Outreach FM continue the story, 'Our licence was twice extended by OfCom, allowing us broadcast continuously for nearly six months, until the 5th September 2020, at which point our licence expired with no further allowance for extension. Our coverage during this time reached Romsey, Eastleigh, Chandlers Ford, North Baddesley, Hedge End and other surrounding areas.

During our time on FM and online, we developed an amazing and overwhelming level of interest and support from listeners of all ages, local businesses, charities, voluntary groups, churches and local authorities, which led us to seek a way to continue this work and establish ourselves as a permanent radio service. We rebranded following the lockdown, and continued broadcasting via the Internet whilst establishing OUTREACH COMMUNITY RADIO C.I.C. as a not-for-profit, commercial community organisation, represented and led by local people.

We then applied for a permanent licence which was awarded to us by OfCom on the 1st October 2020, and broadcasts recommenced via DAB Digital Radio to South Hampshire, the South Coast and the Isle of Wight in mid-November. This ability to serve our communities and go from a small-scale service to a commercially capable entity with immense coverage in approximately eight months, in the middle of a pandemic, gives an insight into our values and ethos, and the lengths we will go to in supporting our communities and listeners.'

On Sunday mornings at 9am, DJ Rich Lawrence presents the Songs of Worship Show and really enjoys connecting with his listeners around the beautiful music and themes. Rich says, "If I can bring a smile to people faces, give them company and move them, then I have achieved all I want to do". Being part of the Outreach Radio family is a true blessing and adventure!!

St Francis Church is now Outreach radio's resident morning service provider! They will be joining and broadcasting our 10am service from time to time. Welcome, OUTREACH listeners!

Points for prayer this week:

For the world:

- For the ongoing effects of the pandemic throughout the world and for leaders making decisions to contain it
- **From the World Council of Churches:** Andorra, Italy, Malta, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Vatican City

We pray for:

- the preservation of the fragile environments and shorelines in this region.
- an end to economic and political turmoil.
- stable governments that end corruption and serve the common good.
- policies that relieve disparities between those who are rich and poor.

Church Life:

- Diocese School of Mission which supports our discipleship, discernment, calling, training and equipping in ministry and mission.
- For interviews at St Francis for a new church administrator this Saturday Feb 6th.

Our local Community:


- Pray for the residents of Burley Down and Burley Close
- For all we know who are unwell, especially those on our prayer chain.
- For all those who are struggling at this time financially, emotionally; those who are alone; those who are home schooling, those in care homes, and all frontline staff in the NHS, education, prisons, and all key workers.
- For the chaplaincy department of Winchester prison and all with whom they come into contact
- For all young people at this time as they have to cope with Lockdown and are badly affected economically, socially and educationally.

4th January 2021

St Francis Church information



St Francis Church
you're welcome here

Answerphone		02380271152
Facebook		@stfrancisvp
Website		www.stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk
Instagram		stfranchurchvalleypark
Zoom		www.bit.ly/SFCzoom
Twitter		@FrancisValley
YouTube		St Francis Church Valley Park

Who's Who

Church Administrator:

Post vacant

admin@sfpv.org.uk , Tel:
02380271152

Church Cleaner: Ann Daly

(usual time to clean:
Saturday afternoon)

Junior Church Lead:

Debbie Reed -

juniorchurch@sfpv.org.uk

Youth Contact: Cliff

McClelland -

youth@sfpv.org.uk

Pastoral Lead and Prayer

Chain: Fiona Grove -

pastoral@sfpv.org.uk

Lead minister: Sarah

McClelland -

rev@sfpv.org.uk (Usual day
off Friday)

Curate: Joe Sweetnam -

curate@sfpv.org.uk (Day
off Friday)

Methodist minister: Sue

Keegan von Allmen

URC minister: Mark

Robinson

Church Council

Church Wardens: Alison Rhodes and Fiona Grove

Pro (Deputy) Warden and Gift Aid secretary: Geoff Roberts

Plus 1 vacant prowarden post

Safeguarding officer: Helen Kelso - safeguarding@sfpv.org.uk

Church Council Secretary: Liz Bolton

Treasurer: Andy Grove - treasurer@stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk

Church Council Members: Debbie Reed, Graham Shankland, Phil
Watts, Rogerio Ramos.

Plus 2 vacant posts

Deanery Synod Reps (ie Church of England Reps): Peter

Rhodes, Steve Williams and Brian King

Methodist Church rep: David Gurr

Plus 1 vacant post

URC Rep: Chris Hill.



4th February 2021

Would you like someone to pray with you?

God does extraordinary things when we pray. And prayer's not just a solitary activity, we're to pray for one another. Can we pray for you at the moment? Members of our prayer ministry team would be delighted to pray with you over the phone or on Zoom - please just ask; contact Sarah, Joe, or Fiona Grove in the first instance.

'Pray for one another, so that you may be healed.'

James 5: 16

Thanks for reading!

As ever this comes with my prayers and love in Christ.
Sarah

Sarah McClelland

Lead Minister, St Francis' Church.

A Local Ecumenical Partnership of the Church of England, Methodist Church and United Reformed Church.

Pilgrim's Close, Valley Park, Eastleigh SO53 4ST

www.stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk

rev@sfvp.org.uk

T: 023 8048 6298

Usual day off: Friday

This message was sent BCC to all on our church mailing list. If you'd prefer not to receive further mailings please let me know.