

4th March 2021



St Francis Church
you're welcome here

St Francis Church, Valley Park (virtually)

Weekly newsletter



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The long and winding road (2)

It was in Tesco's in Poole, that I discovered what reverse culture shock was, following six months working as a doctor in Nepal. After months away, I was suddenly confronted with a huge choice of food items to buy, and I couldn't quite cope! The moment has stayed with me and highlighted how I'd changed and wouldn't look at the world the same way again. Settling back wasn't as easy as I'd expected, despite all the good things I was returning to.

It's interesting to read articles suggesting that emerging from a pandemic may hit us a bit like that. As well as the joy of seeing family and friends again, we may find ourselves overwhelmed with choice, realising that none of us are quite the same, and working out, in the face of so many possibilities, what we want to do and how we want to be. So, how shall we navigate that?

A bit like a Nepali mountain road (above), I would suggest - carefully! But also, it will be good to draw on all we're learning from the SHAPE course - that we will all work things out differently, noticing each others' gifts and abilities and affirming them. As Paul the apostle puts it in his letter to the Thessalonian church:

'So speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you'll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind. I know you're already doing this; just keep on doing it (1 Thess 5:11 Msg).'

4th March 2021

Welcome Caroline!



It's great to welcome Caroline James who started work in the church office, in real life, on Monday of this week. She's currently working there 10 - 2pm Monday - Thursday.

Below, Caroline introduces herself:

"Hello, my name is Caroline and I am the new Church Administrator for St Francis Valley Park. I am very excited to start and am looking forward to meeting everyone, hopefully in the not too distant future! I have recently relocated from Leeds to be nearer family who live in the Winchester area.

My background is in nursing. I trained in London and specialized in neurosurgery and intensive care before moving to work in Saudi Arabia. After travelling, I returned to the UK and did my children's training at Manchester Children's Hospital and eventually moved to Leeds where I trained as a Health Visitor.

For the last 20 years I have worked for Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group as a Case Manager but have recently retired. In Leeds, I attended my local Church of England church as well as a larger city centre church, and volunteered with a Christian community called, 'Lighthouse West Yorkshire'. Lighthouse works with adults who are homeless, in addiction or who have mental health issues. In this new stage of my life and I am excited to see where God leads me and hope that I will be a good support to the team at St Francis Valley Park."

Church News

Church Electoral Roll

The church electoral roll will be revised shortly - there's a formal notice on the next page. If you'd like to be added, the form will be attached to forthcoming notice sheets and the website.

Annual Church Council Meeting

This will be after our morning service on April 25th, on Zoom. Do join us as we review 2020 (it was quite a year!), look ahead and elect folk to the new Church Council. Interested in being on Council? Email Sarah, and please check you're on the electoral roll!

Fair-trade Fortnight

We're in the middle of it! Angela has a Traid Craft Catalogue and would love to assist you with your order (buying in bulk is more eco-friendly) - do contact her:

Tel: 02380271150

Email: angelarwmorris@gmail.com

Mens' Weekend 2021:

A date for your diaries: Sept 17th - 19th at Houghton near Arundel on the South Downs Way. More info to come; email Peter Rhodes on peterrhodes.21@btinternet.com.

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PARISH OF ST FRANCIS, VALLEY PARK



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REVISION OF CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

Notice is hereby given

that the Church Electoral Roll of the above parish will be revised by the Parochial Church Council, beginning on Saturday the 20th day of March 2021, and ending on Tuesday the 6th day of April 2021.

After the revision, a copy of the Roll will be published by the Parochial Church Council by posting in the church for at least 14 days and a copy of the Roll will be available for inspection on a reasonable request being made to the Council.

Under the Church Representation Rules any lay persons are entitled to have their names entered on the roll if the person is—

- (a) is baptised,
- (b) is aged 16 or over, and
- (c) has made one of the following three declarations and duly applied for enrolment.

The first declaration is that the person is a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with it and is resident in the parish.

The second declaration is that the person is a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with it, is not resident in the parish, but has habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months.

The third declaration is that the person is a member in good standing of a Church which is not in communion with the Church of England but subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and is also a member of the Church of England and has habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months.

Once the revision of the electoral roll begins, Application Forms for enrolment can be obtained from the Church Electoral Roll Officer or the church website, and will be sent out with the newsletter.

In order for a person to be entitled to attend the annual parochial church meeting and to take part in its proceedings, an Application Form for enrolment must be returned by the date shown above for the ending of the revision of the Church Electoral Roll by the Parochial Church Council.

Any error discovered in the Roll should at once be reported to the Church Electoral Roll Officer.

Dated this Third day of March 2021

Signed: Linda King, Church Electoral Roll Officer

Address: St Francis Church, Pilgrims Close, Valley Park, SO53 4ST

Email: electoralroll@sfpv.org.uk



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

4th March 2021

Building the Church: Audio-visually

Technology enables us to be together as a church family at the moment!

It's thanks to our AV team that we've been able to gather over the past year through Zoom. We'll continue meeting at 10am in this way until we no longer need to keep socially distant (though we hope to back for communion at 0845 soon).

So far, they've done this with minimal equipment, mainly borrowed or repurposed, and as a Church Council and Ministry team we have been looking to the future.

The Church Council has recently approved a new strategic vision for the use of audiovisual technology within the life of St Francis Church.

Essentially this vision is to:

- **Provide remote services for all unable to attend in person** including post-pandemic.
- **Enable extended access to our services such as:**
 - Availability of recordings weekly for later reflection or catch-up
 - Broadcast on local radio monthly or more – live if possible, otherwise of a recorded service.
 - Live stream of baptism, wedding and funeral services, where requested, and not to professional standards
- **Enable use of AV as a form of ministry & outreach** - giving an opportunity to pop in on line before doing so in person, home groups without baby sitters etc

The council also approved the project to begin to assemble the equipment and technology necessary to enable this vision to be fulfilled. **The cost of this project is estimated to be in the region of £13,000.**

Some twenty years ago, the church had a vision to extend its ministry and outreach through better use of its buildings by embarking on an ambitious building extension program at a cost of close to £200,000. The benefit of that program has been manifest in numerous ways.

This new vision is seen to be once again looking forward to the probable needs for our church to serve our community over the next twenty years. Although the project has been given the go ahead, we now need to raise the funds for its completion. As before, the council have envisaged this as requiring its own fund raising, separate to our ongoing annual budget.

This vision has been developed over several months by an experienced team, and in expectation of its adoption, some donations have already been received. These will become the start of an account which the finance team will manage over the coming months. Any donations specifically for the project will be most welcomed by the finance team on behalf of the Church Council. **Please give via our website 'donate button'** or contact our treasurer Andy: treasurer@sfvp.org.uk.

Do you use easy fundraising? Every time you shop online you could contribute - it's 'free money!'

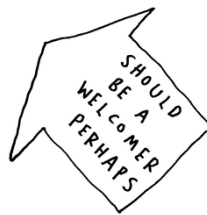
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stfrancisvalleypark/>

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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.

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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

March 7th: Third Sunday of Lent

10am: Virtual Morning Worship - usual Zoom link.

SHAPE Course 4: "Abilities and Heart's Desire" Speaker: Joe Sweetnam

Leader: Sarah McClelland

Reading: Romans 15: 15 - 20

Live on Outreach radio this week? Yes.

Monday March 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

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Points for prayer this week

From the World Council of Churches: Ireland; United Kingdom: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales

We pray for:

- the healing of scars and memories that linger after times of colonization
- overcoming barriers so that all might experience welcome as these countries become more genuinely multi-ethnic and multi-faith
- resolving differences and political tensions over how Great Britain should relate to the rest of Europe
- dealing with the challenges of increasing secularism and the emergence of new ways of expressing religion and spirituality.

Church Life:

Our Diocesan Finance Team, our parish treasurers and those who encourage us in generous and wise stewardship as disciples of Christ.

Our local Community:




- Pray for the residents of Highclere Way and Warblington Close
- For all we know who are unwell, especially those on our prayer chain.
- For our methodist minister, Sue Keegan von Allmen who is currently unwell.
- 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 pupils and teachers as they all return to school on Monday.
- For all young people at this time as they have to cope with Lockdown and are badly affected economically, socially and educationally.

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St Francis Church information



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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:

Caroline James
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: Post vacant.

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

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

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 March 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.