

11th 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 (3)

We're all working from road maps these days! So what about ours, here at St Francis? Of course we'll need to be flexible with any plans we make - but we're getting good at that! And we will only open when it's safe to do so and in line with government guidance. But just to give you an idea of where we're heading, here are a few decisions taken by the ministry team and Council in the past week:

- we'll restart our 0845 Communion service on Palm Sunday March 28th
- we won't go back to the 10am service until we can all fit in the building - which will be when restrictions end; at earliest June 27th. But we'll continue to live stream that service going forward, as you'll have read in our AV strategy (see page)
- Joe gets ordained priest (yes! it's a two stage process!) on July 3rd. We're tentatively planning a barbecue after the 10am service on July 4th - pencil it into your diaries and watch this space.

*Next week:
'Twin your jab'
and support
Unicef's
vaccine fund.*



*Surely you
didn't think
I'd miss the
album cover
opportunity?!*



Church News

Take Tme Meditation

The next one is this Wednesday March 17th at 8pm on our usual church Zoom link: www.bit.ly/SFCzoom An opportunity for peace in the middle of a busy day and an opportunity to hear God speak into your situation - do give it a try, you'd be really welcome!

Lawn mower!

Does anyone have a lawn mower they could spare for church? Glen Setterington who cuts the grass says that the current mower is on it's last legs! We'd need a large cut - 16" minimum, rotary, petrol mower. Please contact admin@sfpv.org.uk if you can help.

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

It maybe over, but 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

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PARISH OF ST FRANCIS, VALLEY PARK

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@sfvp.org.uk



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

11th March 2021

Men's Weekend 2021 – A date for your diary...

This time of year we'd usually be heading off for the annual Men's Weekend, as Google helpfully reminded me during the week by showing last year's photos.

"Remember this day...?" - how could I forget! Within 2 weeks of returning we were in national lockdown.



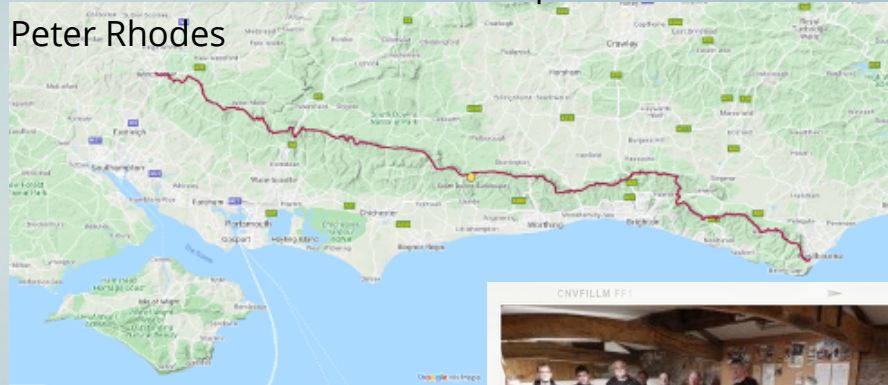
So a date for the diary now may seem a bit ambitious, and if it proves to be we'll just change the plan, but in the meantime do make a note of **17th to 19th September 2021**.

We'll be staying closer to home, at an excellent bunkhouse in Houghton near Arundel. This gives us great access to the South Downs Way 10 minutes walk away – see www.southdownsbunkhouse.co.uk. It's closer to home than we normally go, so those unable to make the whole weekend would be welcome to join in for just one of the days or even just an evening meal.

The aim of the weekend is just to get away and share time together. On the Saturday and Sunday there'll be walks, not too demanding and with options for those preferring a less active route – the views from the Downs out to sea there are superb. Shared meals are a high point, particularly Saturday evening after a day of fresh air, and there's always plenty of local beer. There'll be some devotional time each day led by one of the church worship leaders, accessible to all even if not a church regular. For those preferring not to walk there's plenty else to do, with Arundel (castle, cathedral, river, cafes), Chichester (cathedral, gallery, museum, shops) and the coast all within easy reach by train or car.

If you've not been on the Weekend before do consider joining us this year. There are always a number who don't come to St Francis so there'll be a warm welcome for all, regulars and first-timers, and it's a great opportunity to invite friends, neighbours, partners and family – teens to 90's!

To find out more or to reserve a place contact PeterRhodes.21@BTinternet.com.



11th 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 [here](#)** 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!'

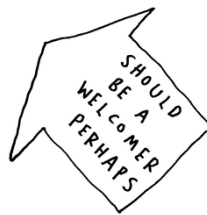
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stfrancisvalleypark/>

11th March 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.

11th March 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

March 14th: Fourth Sunday of Lent, Mothering Sunday

10am: Virtual Morning Worship - usual Zoom link.

SHAPE Course 5: "Spiritual Gifts"

Speaker and leader: Sarah McClelland

Reading: 1 Corinthians 2

Live on Outreach radio this week? Yes.

Monday March 15th: 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

Points for prayer this week

From the World Council of Churches: Denmark, Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden

We pray for:

- the poor and marginalized who struggle in these rich countries
- personal and investment practices that support environmental sustainability
- growing openness to becoming more multi-ethnic, multi-faith societies
- those who are affluent that they will contribute to making the world and their societies more just for all.
- a Church that is prepared to be a voice in the struggle for indigenous people rights.

Church Life:


Our Education Team, supporting us and our schools in the Church of England's vision for education, 'Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good'.

Our local Community:

- Pray for the residents of Calshot Drive and Basing Way.
- 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 all young people at this time as they have to cope with Lockdown and are badly affected economically, socially and educationally.

11th March 2021

St Francis Church information



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Answerphone		02380271152
Facebook		@stfrancisvp
Website		www.stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk
Instagram		stfranchischurchvalleypark
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.



11th 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.