

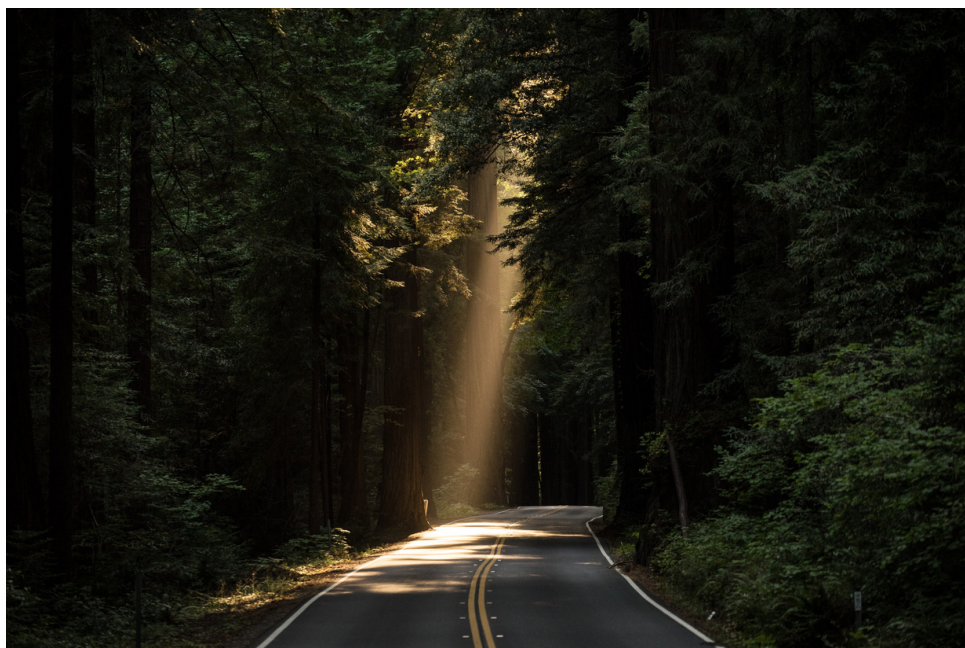
28th January 2021



St Francis Church
you're welcome here

St Francis Church, Valley Park (virtually)

Weekly newsletter



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Hope

I wonder if you caught the interview with the Archbishop of Canterbury on BBC Breakfast this week? He was interviewed as the UK passed 100 000 deaths from Covid this week and he had some wise words. First he was asked how we come to terms with such loss, and he reminded us of how precious every one to those people is, and that to speak of them and celebrate them and honour them even as we lament their passing is exactly right.

Then he was asked 'where do you find hope?' And he replied, 'I find hope in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, that God came into the midst of our sorrows.' He continued by saying that he sees that hope being worked out in what is good, in the love that is passed on and shared between families and friends but also in communities, in acts of kindness done by neighbours and even strangers.

Much as we may know these truths, it's good to be reminded at the moment, isn't it. Here's the link if you'd like to watch the full interview: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0957kcv>.

And talking of showing care in the community, our Basics Bank box achieved fame this week when items were stolen from it (see p 5). The best bit was that the son of an elderly man who had had spaghetti hoops thrown on his doorstep, subsequently made a very big donation to Basics Bank.

Love always wins!

Church family news

Connect

is back on February 3rd to kick off the new Lent course: 7.15 - 7.45 for prayer and praise; 8- 9.15pm for teaching which Cliff is leading. Join us whether or not you're part of a house group See next page for more details - and a Connect challenge!

Take Time

The next one is Wednesday February 3rd - 12pm on our Zoom link: Join us for a Christian meditation - an opportunity to find peace and to hear from God.

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.

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=L0tDaUxpOEIxdUVyemQwUWV2NFEzUT09>

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.



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St Francis Church Lent Course 2021

YOUR SHAPE FOR GOD'S SERVICE



DISPENSING COFFEE
WITH A TROWEL



TALKING TO THE PLANTS
ABOUT CHRISTIANITY



HANDING OUT REFRESHMENTS
FROM THE PULPIT

Join us as we look at the 'SHAPE' course together over Lent, starting off in Connect this Wednesday Feb 3rd (Prayer/praise 7.15 - 7.45, **teaching at 8pm lead by Cliff**), and continuing in our Sunday talks when we'll take a look at what the Bible says in relation to these principles.

Then there'll be the opportunity to look further in small groups, either existing house groups or groups just for the duration of the course.

(Continued on the next page)

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St Francis Church Lent Course 2021

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:

- **S**piritual Gifts (God's unique gifts to you)
- **H**eat's Desire (what motivates and excites you; what you love to do)
- **A**bilities (your talents, knowledge and skills)
- **P**ersonality (your character, personal qualities and strengths)
- **E**xperience (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.

Your first SHAPE challenge from Cliff!

Consider this and bring your answer to Connect on
Wednesday:

'Would you rather have feet for hands or hands for feet?'

(you didn't expect it all to be serious, right?!)

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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!

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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

January 24th: the fourth Sunday in Epiphany

10am: Virtual Morning Worship - usual Zoom link.

Speaker: Joe Sweetnam

Leader: Sarah McClelland

Monday February 1st : Morning prayer

10am - usual Zoom link.

Wednesday February 3rd : Connect

7.15 - 7.45 Praise and Worship

8pm : Teaching with Cliff - setting the scene for the Lent course

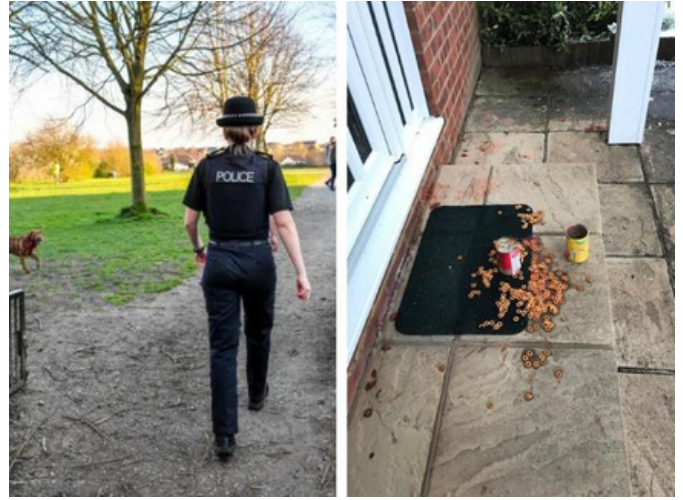
Link for services

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

www.bit.ly/SFCzoom

The Raglan Close Basics Bank Box made it to the Romsey Advertiser! Here's the article:

"27th January 2021: Hampshire police launch hunt for hooligans for stealing from mobile food bank.



A HUNT has been launched for hooligans who stole tins from a mobile food bank and poured them over residents' gardens near Romsey on Saturday. A group of youngsters snatched cans from the St Francis Church donation box in Raglan Close, Eastleigh, around 5.40pm before throwing food on pavements.

Liberal democrat Alan Dowden is calling on Hampshire police to bring the "despicable" culprits to justice, claiming they fled the scene once they were confronted by neighbours. "It is mindless; they knew what they were doing was wrong, because they probably knew it was a mobile food bank, which was on Sarah McClelland's driveway [the lead minister at St Francis Church]," Mr Dowden said.

Cllr Dowden said he was alerted to the gang's behaviour on Sunday morning when he received a call from a concerned woman after her father-in-law's doorstep was targeted by vandals. He explained: "A daughter-in-law told me some youths had dumped a tin of spaghetti hoops all over her father-in-law's doorstep, who is more than 90-years-old." "When they were doing this a neighbour saw them and they were chased off, but they must be from the area because at the end of Raglan Close there is a footpath, which leads to a woodland so they dispersed from there." He added: "These young people need to have some liberties taken away from them for taking tins that would go to deprived families." I want people who have any information about this to come forward, because we have to try and get these culprits."

Hampshire police confirmed an investigation has been launched in a bid to track down the thieves. **Sarah McClelland's husband, Cliff, told the Advertiser he was not shocked by the incident, adding: "[The donation box] is an easy target for a couple of teenagers who are bored, but let's get hold of them, find out who they are and work to support them.**" He added this incident has never happened in their neighbourhood before and they will keep the box outside of their house unless the situation worsens.

A police appeal said: "Were you in the area at the time? Did you see what happened? Perhaps you have dash-cam footage at the time of the incident?" Anyone with information is asked to call 101, quoting 44210027907. Alternatively, you can contact independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111."

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:** Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Western Sahara, Tunisia.

We pray for:

- all the people of these countries: Muslims, the tiny remnant of Christians, those of other faiths who continuing bearing witness to their faiths and for all people of good will.
- an end to political violence.
- an end to how dominating powers have fought over these lands and their resources through the years.
- for those suffering exploitation and mistreatment as they travel through these countries.

Church Life:

Our Vocations Team and all in our diocese involved in encouraging, nurturing and discerning vocations to both lay and ordained ministry.

Our local Community:

- Pray for the residents of Salcombe Close and Thirlstane Firs
- 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 young people who stole from the Basics Bank box and 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



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:

Heather Parsons -
admin@sfpv.org.uk (usual
office hours: Mon - Fri 9 -
12), 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.



28th January 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@sfpv.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.