



# St Francis Church

# NEWSLETTER

OCT 2025

## ST FRANCIS DAY

On Saturday 4 October is St Francis Day, so churches across the world remember him on this day. St. Francis reminds us that holiness is not found in grand gestures, but in the simplicity of loving God and neighbour with our whole being. Born into wealth, Francis lived a carefree youth until war left him wounded and imprisoned. After his release, while praying in the ruined church of San Damiano, he heard Christ's call: "Rebuild My Church." From that point Francis chose poverty, discovering freedom in letting go of possessions and pride. His life was marked by radical trust in God—mending broken churches stone by stone, welcoming outcasts, and rejoicing in creation as a gift from the Creator.

His humility and compassion continue to challenge our restless pursuit of status and wealth, offering instead a life rooted in joy, gratitude, and service. Declared the patron saint of ecology, Francis speaks powerfully to our age, calling us to care tenderly for creation and one another. His witness whispers that true discipleship is a "condition of complete simplicity—costing not less than everything."

For you this month what does that look like? How is God calling you into a deeper relationship with him? What does simplicity and sacrifice look like for you?

## HARVEST

We'll be collecting food donations for Eastleigh Basics Bank at this Sunday's Harvest Service.

For a list of their 'wanted items' check out their website [eastleighbasicsbank.co.uk](http://eastleighbasicsbank.co.uk)

## HIGHLIGHT

**SERVICE OF  
REMEMBERING**

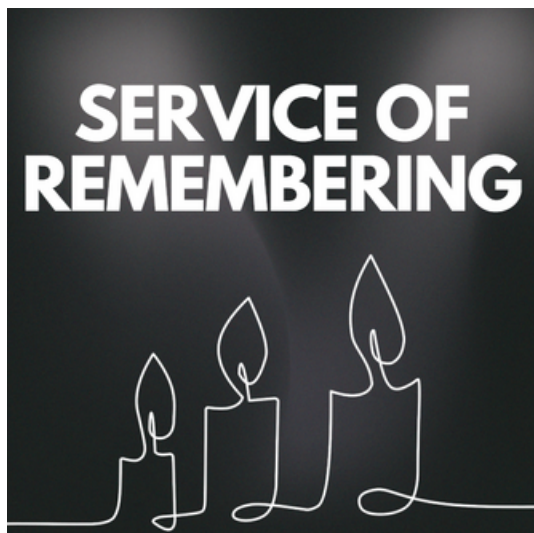
**MESSY  
CHURCH**

**MISSION  
PARTNER  
FLEDGE**

**YOUR STORY**



# HIGHLIGHT



## SERVICE OF REMEMBERING

Whether you've lost someone recently or longer ago, maybe you carry a different pain or grief, you are welcome to join us for our Service of Remembering. It will be a chance to pause and remember loved ones in our hard times.

There will be a chance to sing, pray, hear from the bible and light a candle.

All are welcome to join on Sunday 2 November at 6:30pm.

## MESSY CHURCH

Our next Messy Church is just around the corner! We'll meet again on Sunday 19th October at 3pm for a great afternoon of family fun. We'll dive into the wonderful Bible story of The Lost Sheep to explore the theme of God's BIG love for us all.

As always, the afternoon will be packed with crafts, activities, story, singing, a dedicated sensory space, and plenty of cake!

It's a fantastic chance for your family and friends to worship, pray, and enjoy cake together in a relaxed setting. We can't wait to see you there!



## FLEDGE

As a church we give away some of our income to support six mission partners. One of them is Fledge which is a local charity working in the Eastleigh area nurturing vulnerable and homeless young people by providing a home environment, offering long-term support and encouraging healthy relationships.

Phil and Liz Watts, members of our church, have been involved for many years in different ways. Most recently Phil as Chair of Trustees and Liz as Treasurer. At the end of September, they stepped down from their roles to give time to other things. We just wanted to say a huge thank you for all they have done for this charity. We continue to support Fledge as one of our mission partners, and you can find more about them at [www.fledge.org.uk](http://www.fledge.org.uk)



# YOUR STORY

## WE'D LOVE TO HEAR YOUR STORY

A church is not a building, it is the people inside it. We are church together. God has impacted our lives in different ways, both in the past and the present, which have led us to where we are now.

We'd love to share the good news stories of what is going on in the lives of the people within our church, and that could be you! Not your life story, but how you have seen God move in your life. It might a story from the past month, year, or maybe further back. It be a small thing or it might be big.

Each month we'd love to include one in our newsletter right here. We want to both celebrate together in what God is doing in each of our lives, as well as know one another more.

If you have a story you'd like to share  
email: [rev@sfvp.org.uk](mailto:rev@sfvp.org.uk)



For all the details for these items  
and other events got to  
**[stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk/events](http://stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk/events)**

### SUNDAYS

Join us on Sunday for  
church

**Said Communion**  
8:30am

**Worship Service**  
10:00am

### GIVE

To find out more about  
how to give go to our  
website

[www.stfrancis-  
valleypark.org.uk/donate  
-here/](http://www.stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk/donate-here/)

### TALK TO US

02380 271152

[admin@sfvp.org.uk](mailto:admin@sfvp.org.uk)

St Francis Church,  
Pilgrim Cl,  
Valley Park, SO53 4ST