



1st April 2021 (But it's no joke 😊)

# St Francis Church, Valley Park (virtually)

## Weekly newsletter



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## Journeying through Easter

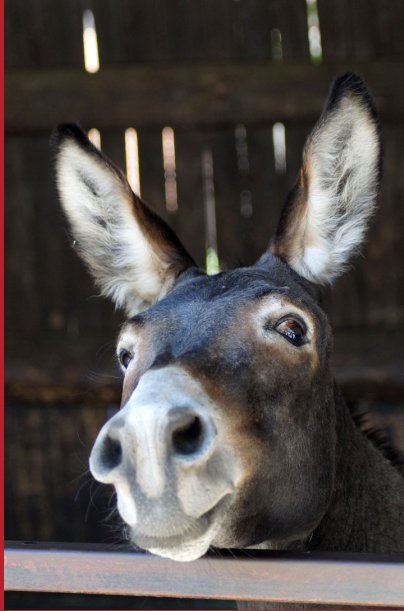
From today until Easter Sunday we go on quite a journey alongside Jesus. From the agony of betrayal in the garden and Jesus' crying out to God - 'could you not take this cup from me?' to his cruel death on the cross, the silence of Saturday in the tomb, through to Easter Sunday's extraordinary events.

After a long Lent it's tempting to skip straight to the joy of Easter. But it's in harder times that we discover a God who walks with us in those dark valleys. He often seems closer when we can barely see the next step ahead and we need to depend on him to navigate the path in front of us.

There are a number of ways to engage with the journey at St Francis, virtually and in person. The treasure hunt will enable you to get out and about if you're able; the week's Take Time meditations are available on the website if you'd like the chance to catch up, and there are opportunities for communion services in the church building and virtual services on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

After this long winter, hope is in greater supply at the moment as things slowly open up. We trust that things will continue to ease. But the hope that Easter brings isn't dependent on vaccines and social distancing - it speaks of the sure and certain hope to be found in all that Jesus has done. I'm looking forward to the journey of the next few days - and to celebrating together on Sunday! But let's not rush there 😊.

1st April 2021



# Church News 1

## Easter Treasure Hunt

Join donkey on an easter egg hunt around Valley Park, suitable for all the family - details on the Website or by scanning the QR code on page 4 from April 2nd - 18th!



## Easter at St Francis

Please see details of our services and activities on the next. page.

**Maundy Thursday: Informal communion in church at 7pm - Tonight!**

Please book in if you would like to come: [rev@sfvp.org.uk](mailto:rev@sfvp.org.uk)

## Take Time Meditations: daily in Holy Week

We hope you're finding the daily meditations helpful.

There's one more tomorrow and then a live one on Zoom in the evening.



## Take Time Meditation: Live (on zoom)

There will be a live mediation at 8pm on Good Friday evening at 8pm on the usual link.

## Lent Course

Thanks for taking part either at home or in a group. After Easter we'll be in touch to invite you to catch up with what was good and what was less so.

1st April 2021



# Church News 2

## Church Electoral Roll

The church electoral roll closes for revision after Sunday - there's a formal notice on page 7. If you'd like to be added, the form is attached to email - contact Linda if any problems on [electoralroll@sfvp.org.uk](mailto:electoralroll@sfvp.org.uk) - and return forms to



## 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!

## Could you be a school governor?

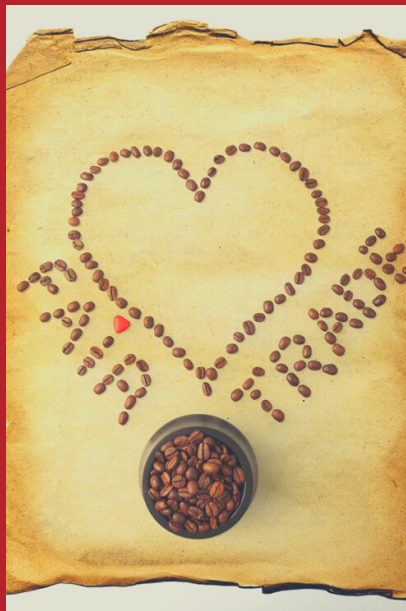
We have 3 vacancies for foundation governors - Governors who have a Christian faith and would like to use it in this vital ministry. Governors bring their wisdom and experience to enable the school - and thereby the children - to flourish! Whilst it takes a bit of time and commitment, full training is given. You'll make a difference to a whole school! Contact Sarah for more details.

## Fair Trade

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](mailto:angelarwmorris@gmail.com)





1st April 2021



# Valley Park Easter Egg Treasure Hunt

**from April 2nd to 18th**

**See this link**

**<https://stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk/events>  
or see facebook page @stfrancisvp**

**Happy  
Easter  
everyone!**



1st April 2021



St Francis Church  
you're welcome here

# Easter at St Francis Church

**Maundy Thursday April 1st,**

**7pm :** Informal communion: in church - please book in  
rev@sfp.org.uk/ 02380271152

**Good Friday April 2nd:**

**10am:** Reflective Virtual Service: [www.bit.ly/SFCzoom](http://www.bit.ly/SFCzoom)

**12-4pm** At Church: Family friendly Individual Prayer Activities -

Pop in to church and join us!

**8pm** Online 'TakeTime' Meditation [www.bit.ly/SFCzoom](http://www.bit.ly/SFCzoom)

**Easter Sunday April 4th:**

**0845** Communion in church - please book in as above

**1000:** Virtual Service: [www.bit.ly/SFCzoom](http://www.bit.ly/SFCzoom)

**April 2nd - 18th**

Join donkey once again - this time, on an Easter  
Egg hunt around Valley Park!

Watch out for details!





1st April 2021

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# Good Friday Prayer Activities for the whole church family

Pop in to church any time between 12 and 4pm tomorrow (Good Friday) and take part in individual prayer activities.

(Please don't come if you're ill; wear a mask if able; wrap up as building will be well ventilated; names taken for track and trace.)



1st April 2021

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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 has been completed, a copy of the Roll can be obtained from the Church Electoral Roll Officer, and will be sent out with the new Roll.

In order for a person to be entered on the Roll, they must be present at a Church meeting and to take part in its proceedings. The Roll must be returned by the date shown on the notice. The Roll will be published by the Parochial Church Council. Any error discovered in the Roll should 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](mailto:electoralroll@sfvp.org.uk)



St Francis Church  
you're welcome here



**Last call!**  
**Roll closes on Easter**  
**Sunday!**



1st April 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**.

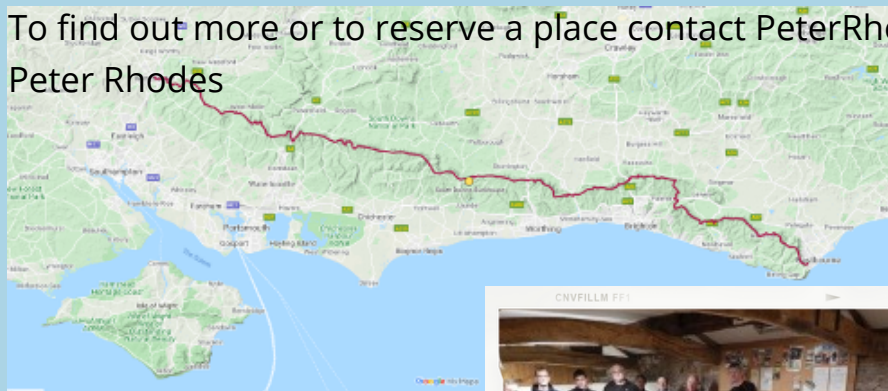
We'll be staying closer to home, at an excellent bunkhouse in Houghton near Arundel. This gives us great access to the South Downs Way 10 minutes walk away – see [www.southdownsbunkhouse.co.uk](http://www.southdownsbunkhouse.co.uk). It's closer to home than we normally go, so those unable to make the 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](mailto:PeterRhodes.21@BTinternet.com).

Peter Rhodes





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# 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/>**



1st April 2021

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# Worship this week.

## Services this week

### **April 1st: Maundy Thursday**

7pm Said Communion (informal) in the church building  
Please book in by emailing [rev@sfpv.org.uk](mailto:rev@sfpv.org.uk)

### **April 2nd: Good Friday**

10am Virtual Service (reflective) lead by Joe and Cliff- usual Zoom link.

### **April 4th: Easter Sunday**

8.45am Said Communion in the church building  
Please book in by emailing [rev@sfpv.org.uk](mailto:rev@sfpv.org.uk)  
10am: Virtual Morning Worship - usual Zoom link.  
Speaker and leader at both services: Sarah McClelland  
Reading: John 20:1-18  
Live on Outreach radio this week? No.

### **NO Monday Morning prayer on Bank Holiday Monday.**

Back on April 12th in the church building!

## Services in the church building

It's brilliant to be able to share communion together in person again!  
Please book in as above, enter the church through the main door (through the lych gate and garden), wrap up warmly, wear a mask and don't come if you're ill. We'll keep a record of your name for 3 weeks in line with government guidance.

## Link for services

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

[www.bit.ly/SFCzoom](https://www.bit.ly/SFCzoom)



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# Points for prayer this week

**From the World Council of Churches:** The Balkans - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia

We pray for:

- a continual healing of historic memories and pains that have been mutually inflicted
- those who continue to experience marginalization and injustice, especially the Roma
- religion to be a means of healing rather than of further separation and exploitation
- the nurturing and sustaining of pluralistic societies in the Balkans.

## **Church Life:**

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

## **For the wider community:**


- For countries facing a third wave of Covid, including Brazil, India and Europe
- For fair distribution of the Covid vaccine to all who need it

## **Our local Community:**






- Pray for the residents of Yewberry Way, Littlefield Crescent, Chervil Close
- For all we know who are unwell, especially those on our prayer chain.
- For our children and teachers, that they might enjoy an Easter break
- For all those who are struggling at this time financially, emotionally; those who are alone; those in care homes, and all frontline staff in the NHS, education, prisons, and all key workers., that they may know the hope of Easter time.

1st April 2021

## St Francis Church information



**St Francis Church**  
you're welcome here

Answerphone		02380271152
Facebook		@stfrancisvp
Website		<a href="http://www.stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk">www.stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk</a>
Instagram		stfranchurchvalleypark
Zoom		<a href="https://www.bit.ly/SFCzoom">www.bit.ly/SFCzoom</a>
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.





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## 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](http://www.stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk)

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

T: 023 8048 6298

Usual day off: Friday. Not this week though.

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.