

4th November 2021



St Francis Church
you're welcome here

St Francis Church, Valley Park (virtually)

This week's newsletter

CLIMATE CHANGE



MOST RESPONSIBLE

LEAST VULNERABLE



LEAST RESPONSIBLE

MOST VULNERABLE

CartoonChurch.com

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Caring for Creation

With the COP26 conference on at the moment, creation care is very high on the agenda - a good challenge for us at St Francis. As Christians, caring for creation is not only important - it's what God has entrusted to us. And as we know, climate change is impacting the most vulnerable with devastating consequences - the cartoon above so graphically illustrates this. Caring for creation is also a matter of justice and a way in which carry out Jesus' mandate to love one another.

The church council have a recently formed a church energy efficiency team headed up by Brian King, and they are currently carrying out an energy audit. Jan Moring has started a column in Chrysalis looking at environmental matters. There's lots more we can do and if you'd like to help us as a church move to the next stage of creation care, I'd love to hear from you - even if it's just to help and encourage us in one small area.

Doing nothing is not an option. My daily Bible notes ([Lectio365](#)) focus on Climate change this week, and draw on the Old Testament story of Esther. She can ask the King to spare the lives of the Jews but at first feels overwhelmed and unable to help. Mordecai encourages her beyond fear to fast, pray, and then act. Author, Ruth Valerio, continues: 'Like Esther, we are facing an emergency. There is a part of me that doesn't want to think about it, and I focus instead on the daily concernsof my life that are also pressing. But now is 'such a time as this.' Every extra fracion of a degree makes our climate more usable and unpredictable, with catastrophic impacts. I am called to pray and to stand with others in urging our Governments to take urgent action.'

How will we respond?

What's coming up at St Francis

Sunday 7th Nov: Finish your knitted poppies!

Please bring all remaining poppies to church by Sunday Nov 7th at latest, and give them to Angela Morris, Hilary Course or Christine Grew. They will be displayed from Nov 11th.

Monday 8th Nov, 10am: Communion

Join us in the building at 10am to share communion.

Monday 8th Nov, 11-1230: Café

Come and join us and catch up together. Do you have a hobby? Bring it along!

Wednesday 10th Nov, 9-1030: Café

Come and join us - there'll be crafts for toddlers too!

Thursday 11th November: Poppy Cascade

Our poppy cascade will be on display by the Lytch gate up to and including Remembrance Sunday - do let people know!

Saturday 13th Nov, 7:30 pm: CF Churches QuizAid for Christian Aid

Online at 7.15 for a 7.30 start - Chandlers Ford Churches Action Group is again running a QuizAid. This is our second one on Zoom. We have the same people organising it, the same marvellous quizmaster, and you don't even have to leave home! Enter individually or as a small family group. Teams will vary each round. Everybody welcome - book early - only 90 places.

Free -please donate: <http://www.justgiving.com/CFQuizAid2>

All Week: Come and see the antislavery day sculpture.

We're proud to be hosting Stop the Traffik's sculpture, 'Largely invisible, disposable and unnoticed' - on display until Nov 11th.

Fairtrade

Get your Christmas orders in with Angela as soon as possible!



Whats On at St Francis

Sunday 14th Nov, 10am: Remembrance Day service

An opportunity to remember those who've died in service

Sunday 14th Nov, 6pm: Worship and prayer

Join us for informal worship and praise, a chance to hear what God is doing, spend time in His presence and to listen for His voice.

Wednesday 18th Nov, 8pm Take Time on Zoom

The next meeting is a virtual one on the evening of Nov 18th. Join us for a Bible meditation, an opportunity to sense God's voice, his presence and his peace. No Bible knowledge needed!

Sunday 21st Nov 3pm Messy Church - BOXES PLEASE!

A message from Joe: Please could people save up cardboard boxes of all sorts, large and small, for use in an activity at the next Messy Church. If you want to find out what they are for ... you will have to come along on Sunday 21st November at 3:00pm! Please could you keep them at home with you, and bring them along to church after the 10:00am service on the 21st.. If you have any queries, or want to know more about Messy Church please get in touch with me (curate@stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk). Many thanks in anticipation of your boxes!

Christian Aid Rep:

We don't have one at the moment! Marion has been brilliant and has stepped down at this time. Would you be able to help by liaising with the Chandler's Ford Rep and keeping us informed as a church? Contact Sarah rev@sfvp.org.uk.

Summer 2022: Join us at New Wine!

We're planning to go as a St Francis group to Week B: Friday 29 July – Wednesday 3 August, 2022. If you haven't been before, the Sweetnams, Grews, McClellands and Caroline in the office are all seasoned New winners and would love to encourage you to come - do ask us why we love it! See: <https://www.new-wine.org/events/united22/>



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Current Covid guidelines at St Francis

3 wise
(and wonderful)
wardens



Here's where we are with current Covid restrictions. As we all know, there's no law to restrict us at the moment, so it falls to the incumbent, in discussion with wardens, to decide on the level of restrictions. And we're all in very different situations with different views - **it's a great opportunity to grow grace amongst us!**

Covid is becoming endemic in the population - we need to live with it. But it's still not the gift anyone wants for Christmas, especially not long Covid, and rates are high. So, here at St Francis, **we will continue to wear masks (if not exempt) at 0830 and 10am services**, in order to enable as many as possible to join us and feel safe. We'll continue to ventilate the building well, too, so please wrap up as the weather gets colder. We'll also continue to have coffee outside when the weather allows.

In meetings, it will be up to the group to agree whether or not masks are worn. If you are especially vulnerable, please arrive early and make sure the meeting leader knows your situation, so they can ask others to wear masks and enable a seat by the door.

Please don't be shy to let us know what you need to be able to join us in person - and to recognise it may not be the same for everyone.

What if you've been in direct contact with a Covid case? Though you aren't legally obliged to isolate if vaccinated, please do stay away from church activities so that we can protect each other. I appreciate that those of us at/in schools don't have this luxury. But here in church we do - so let's carry on doing our best to help everyone feel safe, along the lines of Paul's advice to the Corinthians, in the context of eating meat or not: **'Since you are free to do as you please, be careful that this does not hurt a weak [immunologically speaking!] Christian. (1 Cor 8:9 NLT)'**

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Can you knit or crochet?

We would love you to help
by knitting or crocheting poppies
for a remembrance day display.

If you can help please email Angela on
angelarwmorris@gmail.com or Hilary on
hilarycourse@hotmail.co.uk.

Final Call!

Please bring all
remaining poppies to
church by Nov 7th at
latest so they can be
attached for display
from Nov 11th

Giving at St Francis Church

We believe that financial giving is a response to God's generosity to us, and a responsibility of regular members of our church family. We rely entirely on your donations to keep the church going and are especially dependent on regular giving through bank accounts, as this enables us to budget appropriately. We're able to substantially increase your gift if you pay tax, as we can reclaim the gift aid.

If you would like to set up regular giving, there are standing order forms at the back of the church, or they're available from our treasurer Andrew Grove: treasurer@sfpv.org.uk

We appreciate that you might not be in a position to give regularly at the moment. If you prefer, there's a basket for offerings on the table opposite the entrance door for cash, and you can donate on line via our website or just here:

[Donate here](#)

Maybe you aren't in a position to donate at all at the moment. If that's you, thank you for reading this far, and please know that you are no less valued as a part of our church family. Please continue to pray for us, and let us know if you have specific material or prayer needs that we can help with at this time.

As a church we're about so much more than asking for money! And we also want to fulfill our call to be a blessing to each other and our surrounding community. Thank you so much for your part in that.

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Worship for this week:

Sunday November 7th: 3rd Sunday before Advent

8.30am Said Communion in the church building

10am: Morning Worship - in the building and on the usual Zoom link.

Speaker at both services: Cliff McClelland

Leader at both services: Sarah McClelland

Theme: Exodus - Discoveries on the journey: God describes his character

Reading: Exodus34: 6-9

Live on Outreach radio this week? NO

**Activities for Under 11s provided at our 10am service: Junior Church is back
Join us for coffee after the 10am!**

Monday November 8th

10am: Communion in the building

Services are in the church building - November 2021

Feel free to just come, no need to book.

Please wear a mask for services and keep to social distancing.

And wrap up now it's getting colder!

Or you can join on Zoom!

Catch up later!

Don't forget you can catch up on our 10am service on Facebook from Sunday pm or our website from Monday.

Link for services

Here's the super quick link that takes you to all of our Zoom services and events:
www.bit.ly/SFCzoom

Exodus: Finding God on the Journey

Sunday mornings September-October-November 2021

- 05:09:21 Starting a journey
The reason and the relevance
- 12:09:21 Motivation for the journey
Freedom from captivity
- 19:09:21 Being released to journey
Passover
- 26:09:21 Power for the journey
Crossing the Red Sea
- 03:10:21 Provision for the journey - Harvest
Manna
- 10:10:21 Discoveries on the journey: who God is (1)
Access to God's presence - the tabernacle
- 17:10:21 Discoveries on the journey: who we are
Boundaries defined: The Ten commandments
- 24:10:21 Discoveries on the journey: who God is (2)
God calls Moses 'friend'
- 31:10:21 Companions on the journey
All Saints Day
- 07:11:21 Discoveries on the journey: who God is (3)
God describes his character
- 14:11:21 The past gives us bearings for the journey
Remembrance Sunday: The Israelites set up a memorial
- 21:11:21 Transformation on the journey
Christ the King: The day of atonement - Jesus is our scapegoat
- 28:11:21 Journey's end: the promised land
Advent Sunday: Jesus will return and make all things new

Points for prayer this week

Pray for the COP26 conference, that leaders would take brave action and follow it through on return home. And for us as a church family and as individuals: how will we respond?

From the World Council of Churches: Oceania: American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia (Maohi Nui), Kanaky, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

- efforts to preserve these island nations in the midst of rising seas
- those adversely affected by earthquakes, volcanoes and cyclones
- those dealing with the legacy of past nuclear weapons testing and with garbage dumping today
- good governance – especially in preserving indigenous cultures –which effectively serves those who are impoverished, hungry, lacking education or unable to make a living.

Our local Community:

Please pray for :

- those who live on Eden Walk, Teviot Road
- For all on our prayer chain
- For baby George Bright, being baptised on Sunday, and his family and friends
- For our GP chaplaincy work and links with the surgery, including the Mindfulness Course taking place at church Monday nights
- For St Francis Church Council as they meet on Wednesday Nov 10th
- That our café might be a place of welcome, connection and reconnection in our local community

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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:

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 as of 25/4/21

Church Wardens: Alison Rhodes and Fiona Grove

Pro (Deputy) Warden: Debbie Reed (Plus 1 vacant prowarden post)

Gift Aid secretary: Geoff Roberts

Safeguarding officer: Helen Kelso - safeguarding@sfpv.org.uk

Church Council Secretary: Post vacant.

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

Church Council Members: Rogerio Ramos, Liz Bolton, Caroline
Emmins, Jan Southern

Plus 3 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

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.