

5th August 2021



St Francis Church
you're welcome here

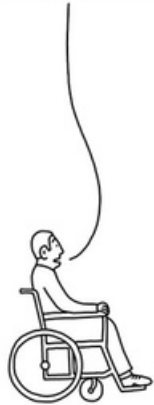
St Francis Church, Valley Park (virtually)

This week's newsletter

THE ENDING OF RESTRICTIONS

WHAT IT MEANS FOR MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION

FREEDOM FOR YOU
MEANS ISOLATION
FOR ME. I'LL NO
LONGER FEEL SAFE
GOING OUT NOW
THAT MOST PEOPLE'S
MASKS ARE OFF



I'M TERRIFIED
THAT MY VACCINE
WON'T PROTECT
ME FROM THE
NEW VARIANTS
THAT WILL
NOW DEVELOP



I'VE KEPT MYSELF
HIDDEN AWAY FOR
ALL THIS TIME FOR
THE SAKE OF OLDER
PEOPLE. NOW I'M
BEING ALLOWED TO
BE FREELY INFECTED,
WHEN NO ONE KNOWS
THE LONG-TERM
CONSEQUENCES



WE CAN
SING HYMNS
AGAIN!



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It was great to be back at St Francis last Sunday! Thank you for the warm welcome.

Since we've been away, two important things have happened: Covid restrictions have been dropped (in law at least) and Covid numbers have gone up (though reducing again). We met as a ministry team to discuss what that means for us at St Francis: here's where we are:

- Our priority is to do our best to keep each other safe, whilst looking to enjoy worshipping God together as and when we can.
- We recognise that for many of us, it's too soon to return to church in person, and that may remain so for months to come.
- We're delighted to have opportunities to get together safely through café; for our children to be together, and to worship together through Zoom.
- We envisage a slow return to the building (potentially over many months), everyone at their own pace, while continuing to make use of the mixed economy of online and inbuilding worship and fellowship, keeping safety a priority.

See what that looks like in practice on the next page.

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CHURCH

The practicalities from this Sunday August 8th 2021

- Singing again inside in our 10am service! Behind masks please.
- Extending an invitation to all who would like to come to services, to come. No need to book!
- Continuing to live stream services. If you want to be sure not to be seen on camera, please sit in the back right quadrant of church as you face the front.
- Continuing to wear masks in the building
- Continuing to keep 2m distance and asking before coming closer for any reason
- Continuing to keep a record of attendees at cafe and services
- We won't be returning seats to rows, but will have chairs in groups which you are welcome to move to sit in groups as you choose
- Keeping the building well ventilated (bring a jumper!)

Communion:

We will continue weekly communion at 0830; whilst the plan is to share it at 10am again, that won't be for another few months as we see how Covid numbers go when schools return.

We would love to share bread *and* wine again: to do that, we will use individual wine glasses. Bear with us as we make arrangements! We will keep with wafers for now. Gluten free wafers and non alcoholic options available - if possible please let me know in advance.

Questions? Please email me questions and comments - I'll cover any frequently asked questions in next week's newsletter (no names mentioned and there are no daft questions!)

And of course we'll be continuing to livestream every week at 10am, going forwards, how ever many of us there are in the building!

News and What's On at St Francis

Scam texts and Emails

There are lots around at the moment, with a number purporting to be from me (Sarah) - usually asking for help, money or vouchers. I will never do that (at least not in that way!!). Do just delete and if in any doubt please check me before answering.

Café

In the Church garden and worship area. Table service only, simple teas and coffees for a donation only. We've subtly changed the times to reflect current attendance:

Monday August 9th 11am - 12:30 Adults only

Wednesday August 11th 9 - 10.30am. All welcome - crafts and games for children.

Take Time

Is taking August off!

Fair Trade

Angela would love to assist you with your order - do contact her:

Tel: 02380271150, Email: angelarwmorris@gmail.com

2021 Mens Weekend:17th-19th September

at South Downs Bunkhouse, Houghton near Arundel, West Sussex

Please book up as soon as possible: contact Peter Rhodes for booking and any questions at all: PeterRhodes.21@BTinternet.com. 07985 067761.

2021 Race for Life, 18th September: St Francis team!

If you're free on Saturday 18th September how about joining us on Southampton Common in the afternoon? The "Pink Panthers" team will be "Racing for Life" for the fourth year running (or walking!), to raise money for Cancer Research UK. You can walk/stroll/run, or a mixture of all three. It takes around 45 minutes at an average walking pace, but you can take as long as you like. The course description says, "the surface is relatively flat and on tarmac throughout so is lovely and gentle"!

It's happening on the same weekend as the Men's Weekend at St Francis Church, so some of the men may be otherwise occupied- but the event is open to men and boys as well as women and girls, so please do invite any of your friends or family who might want to join in. Children are welcome too. It's really good fun with a great atmosphere, and we're hoping to get together after the event to relax and celebrate too.

This is the link to our "Pink Panthers" Just Giving page (the team will be expanding as people join):

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/team/the-pink-panthers-10>

This is the link to the Southampton Race for Life 5K entry page where you can enter, set up your own "Just Giving" page and join up with the Pink Panthers team:

<https://raceforlife.cancerresearchuk.org/find-an-event/the-common-5k-2021-09-18-1345>

Many of us have had personal experience of family, friends or ourselves having cancer, including over this past difficult year, so it'll be even more special to be able to take part again.

Contact Katie Warner if you need any more information.

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Can you help?

Churches together in Chandler's Ford - can you help?

Churches Together in England is the national ecumenical instrument supporting and encouraging churches from a wide range of traditions to work together in unity.

In Chandlers Ford we have brought together Christians over many years through initiatives such as Lent Groups, Joint Services and Carol singing and collaborated to reach out to the community through among other things, the Chandlers Ford Chaplaincy and Street Pastors and a presence at events such as the Hiltingbury Extravaganzas.

We hope to continue this collaboration, demonstrating our Christian Unity and care for our community but need your help! **We are now in urgent need of a secretary**, and would also welcome the support of new representatives from our churches. All are welcome! The Secretary role is not too demanding, - in mainly consists of keeping and circulating minutes of meetings 4 times a year, and occasionally circulating other information to the churches.

For more information please contact David Gurr, treasurer, or saragoodhead@btinternet.com

Chandler's Ford Workplace Chaplaincy

Do you have a heart for people? Do you value our local businesses? What about bringing your faith into the workplaces of Chandler's Ford?

The Chandler's Ford Chaplaincy has warm relationships in these places, and signposts support to the stressed and enquiring, working in our community.

Why not explore whether you could join our teams, as new opportunities are opening? Training and support provided. Contact Jackie Richardson at office@cfchaplaincy.org.uk or on 023 8026 0674.

Valley Park Community Association - what's on

Join us for a lovely morning

Storytime & Tea.

Children come dressed up!

Tuesday 10th Aug 2021
10am - 12pm

Valley Park Community Centre

Children £2 entry, 2nd child £1.
Adult FREE.



Valley Park Litter Picking Thursday 19th August 2021

At Valley Park
Community Centre.

10am - 12.30pm

Charity 900526



SATURDAY 14TH AUG 2021

3PM - 5PM

LOCATION - ST FRANCIS SCHOOL FIELD JUST
BEHIND THE SCHOOL, WALK TO THE RIGHT
OF CAR PARK, DOWN A PATH TO THE GATE.

FAMILY SPORTS DAY

CHEER FOR YOUR FAMILY
AND FRIENDS

Amazing Prizes including -
Meal Voucher from Cleveland Bay
FotoGenix voucher worth £125
Golden Gecko Climbing voucher worth £30



Have your
picture on
the front
of The
Voice!

KIDS, LET'S GET CREATIVE!

Summer Holiday's :
Draw a picture of
your favorite animal.

As you draw, think
about all the things that
make them special.

Send your picture to
cec@valleyparkcommunity.co.uk

Closing Date 15 August 2021



5th August 2021

Wednesday Café fun!



5th August 2021

Lands End to John O'Groats: An unexpected Pilgrimage.

I've always thought that a pilgrimage was about travelling, probably on foot, to a holy site - maybe to a shrine or church. The Santiago da Compostela comes to mind and the film 'The Way.' Wikipedia says about pilgrimage: "*A pilgrimage is a journey, often into an unknown or foreign place, where a person goes in search of new or expanded meaning about their self, others, nature, or a higher good, through the experience. It can lead to a personal transformation, after which the pilgrim returns to their daily life.*"

Whilst we set off on the tandem as a challenge and an adventure, I did indeed discover more about self, others, nature and God through our experience. It reminded me of the joy of being a child of God before anything else.

Before leaving I had a few concerns: there were dire predictions about the rising numbers of Covid cases (100 000 by late July) and a 'pingdemic.' Not to mention whether we could complete the journey - there were many reasons from mechanical failure to body failure! - that could get in the way. The only thing to do was to enjoy the journey and to take each day as it came. I'm not always great at that - not least because of the need to be planning ahead at church, exacerbated by the pandemic. But we had planned the whole cycle ride, each night booked - all we had to do was get from A to B.

And because each day brought enough challenge and adventure, it was quite easy to think no further, to leave the outcome of the journey, whether we reached our final destination, with God. I realised that, much as I might tell others differently, I felt slightly cheeky trusting God with a holiday; trusting that He would use the time for good whether or not we made it. But from the very beginning, we knew that we were being prayed for and saw the evidence so clearly. There was the person who appeared from nowhere to take our photo that first morning in Lands End when no one was about, and the random cyclist who gave us unsolicited route advice that enabled us to navigate around a shut cycle path. There were unexpected blessings in a free ferry trip (no good reason for not charging us), friends not seen for ages, who saw what we were up to on Facebook and offered to carry bags or feed us lunch, an evening at the Keswick Convention thanks to lateral flow tests given to us by a convention receptionist, as Keswick had run out. And the fact I knew they'd run out because I'd nipped into a pharmacy earlier!

You've seen the moment we were most grateful for on video. When we realised our back wheel was badly broken and the only place to get it fixed was the tandem maker, there was a real possibility we'd have to stop our journey. We only phoned the factory because a bike shop on our route was shut on the Monday we intended to visit; at that point, the factory was just 11 miles from where we were. Pretty special on a journey of over 1000 miles. And then the wheel wright had a day off, and so had nothing booked in, and was available to fix our bike. Oh, and the mechanic spotted another problem that he fixed - and serviced the front wheel too!

So I was reminded of what I'd always say to you - that God *is* bothered about our holidays - our whole lives - even the small detail. Holidays really are for re-creation! Inevitably there were lessons about persevering when it's tough, and not giving up; of just keeping on going even when stopping would be very nice to do. I learned to trust God in greater measure, taking each day as it comes and knowing His blessings in that, rather than being fixed on the final destination and potentially missing God's work on the way. And I remembered that as children of God, our heavenly father is all about grace - favour that we don't deserve and can't earn - it's not dependent on what we (think we) do for Him! [SM]

5th August 2021

Worship this week.

Sunday August 8th: Trinity 10

8.30am Said Communion in the church building

10am: Virtual Morning Worship - usual Zoom link.

Speaker at both services: Cliff

Leader at both services: Sarah

Theme: Olympics: The athlete - training

Reading: 1 Cor 9: 24 - 27

Live on Outreach radio this week? NO

No morning prayer on Mondays in August

Services in the church building - August 2021

Feel free to just come, no need to book.

Please wear a mask and keep to social distancing.

We'll keep a record of your name for 3 weeks

Link for services

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

www.bit.ly/SFCzoom

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Points for prayer this week

From the World Council of Churches: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea

Please pray for:

- just resolutions to the conflicts and violence among diverse groups and their leaders
- refugees who flee to other countries, and for those who host them
- economic developments that make it possible for all to rise out of poverty
- stable democratic governments that effectively serve the common good.

In the Diocese:

Please pray for :

- 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:

Please pray for :





- those who live on Swale Drive, Tweed Close
- For all those on our prayer network
- For all on holiday
- That our café might be a place of welcome, connection and reconnection in our local community

5th August 2021

St Francis Church information



St Francis Church
you're welcome here

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 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.



5th August 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@sfp.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.