

7th October 2021



St Francis Church
you're welcome here

St Francis Church, Valley Park (virtually)

This week's Newsletter



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Thank you!

We've had a great time over the past couple of weeks with Messy church and then the Harvest lunch last weekend. It was so good to have fun together, catch up with old friends and meet new ones.

Brian and Linda fed around 106 of us and those roast potatoes that we dreamt of over lockdown - even offering them as on-line quiz prizes (I hope they were claimed?!) - did not disappoint at all! Big thanks to them for an amazing roast dinner. And thank you to everyone who has helped at these events - there's lots to do in preparing, setting up, and tidying up and we couldn't put on events without your help.

We'd love to enjoy more events together and we're also really aware of the burden it can put on a few people. Rather than add lots more rotas, can I encourage everyone of us to jump in and lend a hand? Whether you've just joined us or been here for years, the invitation is to get stuck in, whether it's washing up or moving chairs or tidying. Being part of any family comes with joys and responsibilities - what better way to belong, than to dive in?! As Cliff said in his Harvest talk - there are no passengers in the church, just cabin crew!



This week at St Francis

SATURDAY 9TH OCT, 8:30AM : MEN'S BREAKFAST

Join Peter and the team for breakfast and fellowship in the church building. All men are welcome, for more information please contact Peter:
peterrhodes21@gmail.com

SUNDAY 10TH OCT, 6PM: INFORMAL WORSHIP AND PRAYER EVENING

Join me for a very informal time of sung worship and prayer. Bring your own brew, and find space to hear God, tell stories of what He's doing, worship and pray together.

MONDAY 11TH OCT, 10AM: COMMUNION

Once a month we'll share communion at 10am instead of morning prayer.

MONDAY 11TH OCT, 11-12:30: CAFÉ

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

WEDNESDAY 13TH OCT, 9-10:30 CAFÉ

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

ALL WEEK: MAKE YOUR BASICS BANK DONATION!

As well as the box outside the vicarage (35 Raglan Close), a second box is now based at 1 Tweed Close, near Katrine (Geoff & Margaret Roberts). The collectors normally take things down on Tuesdays. Any donations are welcome but if you can, please check the Eastleigh



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What's coming up at St Francis

WEDNESDAY 20TH OCT, 8PM: NEXT TAKE TIME

The next meeting is on our usual Zoom link on October 20th at 8pm. Join us for a Bible meditation, an opportunity to sense God's voice, his presence and his peace. No Bible knowledge needed!

SUNDAY 24TH OCT, 3PM: NEXT MESSY CHURCH

Hope to see you there - we had great fun last week! More details from our curate, Joe: curate@sfv.org.uk

SUNDAY 31ST OCT, 6PM: SERVICE TO REMEMBER

- those we love who've died, before God. A short service with an opportunity to light a candle if we choose.

SATURDAY 13TH NOV, TIME TBC: VIRTUAL CHRISTIAN AID QUIZ

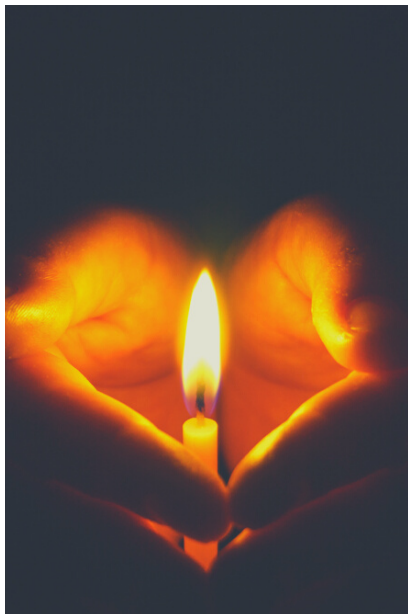
Following on from the success of the zoom quiz held back in January. The Christian Aid committee are hosting a Virtual QuizAid on the evening of Saturday 13th November. Please save the date and look out for more details soon.

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/>

FAIR TRADE

There's a new catalogue out - it's at the back of church. Angela would love to assist you with your order - do contact her, 02380271150; angelarwmorris@gmail.com



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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.

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ART INSTALLATION coming to St Francis Church SOON!

BIG THANKS!

to everyone who has contributed plastic punnets which we've collected for a local artist who is now using them to create an art installation, "Almost invisible, disposable and largely unnoticed". This is to raise awareness of around 136,000 people who are estimated to be trapped in modern slavery in the UK, including many in our local area.

SEE IT FIRST AT ST FRANCIS CHURCH!

from the week before Anti-Slavery Day on October 18th, before it travels around various libraries, museums and other venues in Hampshire as part of the Hampshire Modern Slavery Partnership exhibition. You'll also be able to see the installation along with the whole exhibition at Eastleigh Library from 15th January to 26th February next year and in Winchester next summer.

DISCOVER SOME SURPRISING THINGS.....

about modern slavery and human trafficking happening on our doorstep locally.

Thanks to the church for supporting the Southampton and Test Valley Stop the Traffik Group as part of the church's regular financial giving. This has enabled us to pay the artist, Ruth Fielder, for her work in creating the art installation and raise awareness about modern slavery in a powerful visual way.



**Chandlers Ford
Methodist Church**

**26 - 30 October
ART EXHIBITION**

Caring for God's Creation

**What do you value in our created world?
Can you represent your ideas in paint
or by drawing, using fabric,
making a mobile or a model, sculpture
or using other media?**



Part of our study of
HOLYHABITS -
10 aspects of the
Christian Life

**Please bring your artwork
to the Dovetail Café
on Saturday 23 October
between 10am and 1pm
with some words on a postcard
describing its inspiration**

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A letter from Sarah McClelland to our regular church family...

Dear friend,

Each year at Harvest, we take time to thank God for how he has provided for us. This year we can celebrate the opportunity to be together again. Rather than 'back to normal' we're navigating new territory with all the opportunities that presents, as well as some challenges! One of our challenges is a budget deficit and so I'm writing to you if you're a **regular member of our church family**, with a request for financial support, if you are able.

We started the year with a request for funds to put in an AV system that could support our hybrid services and we have been able to do that, thankfully. It is great to be able to share in worship both on Zoom and in the building and that option will continue. We've redecorated the church and received a gift specifically towards that, which we're really grateful for. None the less, we find ourselves with a budget deficit of £6500 in our accounts to end of August 2021.

This might sound like a similar refrain! We have been here before because our regular giving just doesn't keep up with our costs. I believe that we have budgeted sensibly and you would be welcome to see for yourself - the figures are available from Andrew Grove, our treasurer, at treasurer@stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk.

This Harvest time, I'm asking you to prayerfully consider two things:

- 1. pledging a one-off sum in addition to your regular giving, to be used to help to meet the budget deficit and**
- 2. starting to give regularly to St Francis Church, Gift - aiding if appropriate.**

If you are able, please complete the attached form and return to our treasurer Andrew at treasurer@stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk or via the church office if you prefer.

As a church we are about so much more than asking for money! But in order to continue in our mission to be a blessing to our community, we need your help at this time. Thank you so much for considering this request.

Big blessings

Sarah

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here's where you can

DONATE

thank you!

Here!

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Worship for this week

Sunday October 10th: Trinity 19

8.30am Said Communion in the church building

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

Speaker at both services: Sarah

Leader at both services: Sarah

Theme: Exodus - Discoveries on the Journey- Who God is: the tabernacle

Reading: Exodus 40: 16-38

Creche for 0-5s and Junior Church for 5-11 year olds at our 10am service

Live on Outreach radio this week or next? No

Join us for **coffee after the 10am service!**

Monday October 11th:

10am: Communion in the worship area of the church building.

Services are in the church building - October 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!

Link for services

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

www.bit.ly/SFCzoom

Catch up later!

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

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

“The Lord will fight for you, you only have to stand still (Exodus 14:14)”

A couple of weeks ago, Mary Thomas preached for us on 'Power for the journey.' Many of us really appreciated her words, and I have copied the end of the talk below - do ask me or Mary if you'd like the full copy.

'Like the people of Israel, we need to be discerning about what we carry with us as we move forward. There are treasures that we need to take as part of our ongoing journey, and baggage that we probably need to leave behind.

I wonder what that looks like for you?

In all of this, let us remember to be kind to ourselves and to each other.

It is hard to face an unknown future and that was what the people of Israel were doing. Their squabbling came from fear of the unknown. I believe that is also what adds to our uneasiness now.

The huge message for us is carried with us as the People of God, in the big 'God Story'.

We can trust God to be there for us, to guide us forward in ways that we don't yet see.

We can go back to scripture and see how God has worked through the prophets, through Jesus Christ, his death and resurrection, through the first Christians, and through those who have nurtured our faith over the years.

Let us journey together knowing that this is the God who is with us!

'Be Still my Soul' (tune: Finlandia)

Verse 1

Be still my soul the lord is on your side
Bear patiently the weight of grief or pain
Leave to your God to order and provide
Through every change He faithful will remain
Be still my soul your gracious heavenly friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end

Verse 2

Be still my soul your God will undertake
To guide the future as He has the past
Your hope your confidence let nothing shake

Verse 2/contd

All now mysterious shall be bright at last
Be still my soul the winds and waves will know
The voice of Christ that ruled them here below.

Verse 3

Be still my soul the day is hastening on
When we shall be for ever with the Lord
When disappointment grief and fear are gone
Sorrow forgotten loves pure joys restored
Be still my soul when change and tears are past
In His safe presence we shall meet at last.

Points for prayer this week

From the World Council of Churches: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama

- children and youth who are traumatized by violence and flee to other lands
- an end to gang violence and drug trafficking
- more just distribution of wealth that enables the millions who have been excluded to have access to a dignified life in these countries
- Christians to have the courage to live out the liberating gospel.

Pray for the wider church:

Please pray for:

Anglican parishes, Methodist circuits and URC churches going through reorganisation at this time.

Our local Community:

Please pray for :

- those who live on Hodder Close, Wansbeck Close
- For all on our prayer chain
- For our GP chaplaincy work and links with the surgery
- Pray for Knightwood and St Francis Primary schools
- 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		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.



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@sfvp.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.