



St Francis Church
you're welcome here

9th December 2021

St Francis Church, Valley Park (virtually)

This week's newsletter



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Integrity

The media is full of outrage at the parties alleged to have taken place in Downing Street last year while we were busy cancelling our own. But why is it such a big deal? Many people feel that the Government have handled the pandemic reasonably well, especially the vaccine roll out - isn't that more important?

I think we'd agree that it *is* a big deal - because it shows a lack of integrity. Integrity is defined as 'being honest and having strong moral principles.' It also means, 'to be whole and undivided' - and for me this sheds most light on why it's an important value for our leaders as well as ourselves as Christians.

Being the same person whether anyone is looking or not isn't always easy - I have bad habits that I'm happy to keep at home! But integrity speaks of being whole and not divided: not one value here and another there. The concept of integrity allows me to accept my imperfections and be honest about my failings - it's about authenticity rather than being a saint! And it inspires trust.

That's why it's a problem when our leaders at Westminster don't display integrity - it reduces our trust in them. And at a time when Covid Plan B has been announced, and we're really hoping and praying we won't need plan C or beyond, we could do with confidence in the guidance we're following and those who issued it.

As Christians, having integrity is about walking and talking the way of Jesus, and accepting the grace of his forgiveness when we don't hit the mark. It's a sign of Christian community and one we will be modelling beyond the walls of church in our families and work places. Let's encourage one another to keep at it (even if others don't)!

What's coming up at St Francis

Sunday 12th Dec, 6pm: Carol Service

Our traditional carol service with the odd twist, and followed by mince pies, mulled wine and hot chocolate. Everyone's welcome to join us - invite your friends and neighbours and wear a mask please. It'll be on Zoom too or consider joining in in the welcome area (narthex) if you'd like more space/ ventilation.

Monday 13th Dec, 10am: Communion

Join us in the building at 10am to start the week by sharing communion.

Monday 13th Dec, 11-1230: Café

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

Dec 14th - 16th: School Christmas 'Experience'

Each year group from St Francis primary school will be coming over to the building for an hour long 'experience', with story, craft, and singing around the Christmas tree. We're delighted to welcome them and please note that the church building will be busy during the day unless previously booked!

Wednesday 15th Dec, 9-1030: Café

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

Wednesday 15th Dec, 8pm: Take Time

Join us on our usual Zoom link (www.bit.ly/SFCzoom) for a meditation and time to encounter God. A great Advent opportunity!



St Francis: news and notices

Christmas Services

Please do make a note of our Christmas Services coming up this month - see page 6.

Key holders for the church building

If you have a key to the building please could you let Caroline know if you haven't yet done so:
admin@sfpv.org.uk

Safe last minute Fairtrade shopping in Angela's Garden Room by appointment.

Enjoy coffee and cookies and view cards, crafts and food items, all Traidcraft, many not in the catalogue.
tel: 02380 271150 or angelarwmorris@gmail.com

Dec 20th, 6-7pm Carol Singing at Asda

An invitation from Churches Together in Chandler's Ford: On Mon 20 Dec, come and carol sing at ASDA between 6pm and 7pm. We will be singing outside, so please dress up warmly and bring a small torch with you, if you have one. Please meet outside the main entrance at 5:55pm.

In the event of bad weather we will be in the large trolley shelter near the main entrance so you will be dry!

We will be accompanied by musicians and will be singing a selection of well-known carols - words provided - so no need to practice beforehand. Please come along and support this event which is a great blessing to shoppers and a reminder of the true reason for Christmas.

Spare greetings cards?

Shirley Dunsire makes beautiful greetings cards using old ones, and needs some stock of old ones! Please let her know if you can help - or if you'd like to commission a card. Please contact the church office for more info.



St Francis: news and notices

Current Covid guidelines at St Francis in light of 'Plan B'

There is little change for us in light of new Govt guidance:

- Please wear a mask inside the building unless you're medically exempt. If you are exempt, please consider wearing a sunflower lanyard and badge.
- Wear a mask when walking around the building at other times. For café, and for eating and drinking, removing masks is OK.
- We'll keep masks handy at the door, and gel throughout the building; we'll ventilate the building and we'll do our best to enable people to keep distant at coffee and other times.
- If you are especially vulnerable you may prefer to sit in the welcome area by the entrance door for services, where it will be easier to keep distant and ventilated
- If you don't feel safe please talk to Sarah. We may not be able to help - but we'd love to try and make sure you're able to worship with us in person if you'd like to.





St Francis: news and notices

Job Opportunities at St Francis School: Lunchtime Supervisory Assistants needed:

Our school currently has vacancies for Lunchtime Supervisory Assistants. If you, or anyone you know, would like to support our children and join our amazing team of Lunchtime Supervisory Assistants, please contact Mr Brewster in the school office for more information, or click this link below: we look forward to hearing from you!

<https://hampshire.education-jobs.org.uk/Vacancy/Details/88650/L1ZhY2FuY3kvU2VhcmNoUmVzdWx0cz9yZXRYaWV2ZUZpbHRlcj10cnVl>



Farewell, Pam and Gordon!

Pam and Gordon Dewis have been members at St Francis Church for many years and are well known and much loved members of our church family. They've moved away to be nearer to family and we sent some flowers from the church family. We will miss them and wish them well in their move. Pam writes: *'Thank you all so much for the beautiful flowers we had delivered from St Francis.*

They were a real surprise. We are starting to get more organised now, and can walk around the house without bashing our legs on things. Poor Gordon has had to do double the work as I couldn't do anything above or below waist height, but my back is getting better now and trips to the osteopath have helped considerably. We will miss all our dear friends at St. Francis, and have been blessed in our time at St Francis. We now look forward to what awaits us in the next church family.

Thank you all for your friendship and all the good times we have shared both physically and spiritually.

Our new adventure has begun.

Every Blessing,

Love Pam And Gordon.



Merry Christmas 2021

with love from

St Francis Church, Valley Park!

Nov 28, 6pm: Advent service of light*

Dec 12, 6pm: Carol Service at St Francis Church*

Dec 19, 6pm: Carols at the Cleveland Bay Pub

Dec 20, 12:30pm: Carols at the Café

Dec 22, 10am: Messy Christmas at Café

Dress up as a
crib character!

Dec 24, 3pm: Crib Service for all ages

Dec 24, 11:30pm: Midnight communion

Dec 25, 8:30am: Communion service

Dec 25, 10am: All age communion

*All in person; *also livestreamed*



St Francis Church
you're welcome here

*Do join us, we'd
love to see you!*

At the heart of Christmas



www.stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk, Tel: 02380271152

2nd December 2021

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.

Worship for this week:

Sunday December 12th: **3rd Sunday in Advent**

8.30am Said Communion in the church building

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

Leader at 0830 & 1000: Joe Sweetnam

Speaker at both services: Peter Rhodes

Theme: Advent

Reading: (from the lectionary) Isaiah 12:2-6

With creche and Junior Church during our 10am service, and coffee afterwards (other drinks available)

Live on Outreach radio this week? No.

6pm: Our Annual Carol Service

Followed by mince pies, mulled wine and hot chocolate

Monday December 13th

10am: Communion in the building

Services are in the church building - December 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

Points for prayer this week

From the World Council of Churches: Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam.

Please pray for:

- those who continue to bear physical and emotional scars from years of conflict
- victims of monsoons and other disasters in the region
- economic development to improve life for all people and the environment
- political stability amid competing powers.

Diocese Life:


Our HR & Safeguarding Team, supporting us in protecting the vulnerable, and taking proper care of those we employ in parishes and as a diocese, and Helen Kelso, our safeguarding lead at St Francis.

Our local Community -








Please pray for:

- Those who live on Tristram Close and Percivale Rd
- For our Christmas preparations, that we might not be too busy to focus on Jesus
- For all on our prayer chain
- For St Francis Primary School as they join us in the church building, that children may know the joy and wonder of Christmas' true meaning
- For our GP chaplaincy work and links with the surgery, including the Mindfulness Course taking place at church Monday nights
- That our café might be a place of welcome, connection and reconnection in our local community

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: Jan Southern

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@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.