

10th June 2021



St Francis Church
you're welcome here

St Francis Church, Valley Park (virtually)

Weekly newsletter



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Navigation

When I was young, I loved sailing, and I taught myself to navigate using radio beacons, plotting points on a map to find out where we were. I wasn't very good at it and these days I'm quite happy to get Google maps up on my phone, to work out where I am on a bike ride!

Trying to navigate the way out of Covid is more like old fashioned navigation than using google maps! It's hard to predict, relies on correct interpretation of data, and is all a bit inexact. So let's pray for great wisdom for the government as they decide whether to delay the easing of lockdown or not.

What about us here at St Francis? We don't have a very large worship area, and we want to protect each other! So we're recalculating. More details on the next page...

Informal worship

Are you missing the opportunity to sing songs and hymns of worship? Me too!

And we *are* allowed to sing outside. So for the month of June - and if it's dry! - there's an opportunity to join in a very informal time of praise and prayer in the church garden for about 30 - 40 minutes as follows :

- Saturday June 12th, 11am
- Sunday June 20th, 5pm
- Sunday June 27th, 5pm



Pop in, bring your own coffee/ rug/ jumper/ instrument if you like! Song sheets provided.

Navigating out of the pandemic

In order for us all to return to our 10am service in the building we need two things: an end to social distancing (we can't fit in more than 30 otherwise), and well resourced rotas. It's over a year since we were all in the building together, and it will take a little while to work out good ways of doing things again. And even if all restrictions are lifted on June 21st, with cases rising again, I'm probably not alone in having some concerns about how we can keep each other safe - even if many of us are now fully vaccinated.

Bearing all this in mind, the Council and ministry team have worked with me to come up with a plan that will help us get back to the building over the summer. The first stage can happen whatever the announcement on Monday; and we will keep livestreaming the 10am throughout, in any case. Here are the three phases we're currently planning - they are subject to review and of course, change! But we're getting used to that...

Phase 1

June 27th - July 18th
inclusive

- Welcome back junior church & creche
- Parents invited to join the service live in the building
- not dependent on moving to next stage of gov road map

Phase 2

July 25th - August 29th
inclusive

- Same principle; no junior church but provision for primary school age and creche
- parents continue to enjoy worship and we look to welcome back more adults, bearing in mind it's holiday time and many are away .

Phase 3

September 5th onwards

- aim for full return of congregation to church building, with full provision for junior church, welcomers coffee etc.

Celebrating Joe's ordination as priest: July 4th

Joe will be ordained priest on July 3rd and will celebrate his first communion at 0830 on July 4th. We're hoping that he can also celebrate a short, informal communion for us all outside after our 10am service, followed by a church family picnic! Please keep this date free - further details to come.

Got comments or questions on how we're navigating our return to the building? Please get in touch with Sarah, the wardens or a council member.



What's On at St Francis

Men's Breakfast THIS SATURDAY:

Men's Breakfast meets this Saturday, 12th June, 8.30-9.30am – in person! We do hope you can join us for a proper catch-up amongst friends old and new – if you've never been before this would be a great opportunity to try it out (any ladies reading this please tell your men!).

We'll meet out-doors as the forecast at the moment is looking OK – regrettably the rules don't allow us to meet inside yet, but we do have the excellent new marquee if needed. Breakfast will be croissants, pastries, tea and coffee as rules are still a bit complicated for serving food. It would help if you could let me know you'll be there, but don't worry if it's a last minute decision as there will be plenty to go round.

HOWEVER, if you would prefer to still meet virtually this month please let me know ASAP – if even a small number prefer this we'll review the plans so no one is left out

Very much hope you can join us - Peter
Peter Rhodes Tel: 07985 067761

Take Time

Our next meeting of Take Time is at 8pm on Wednesday June 16th, on our usual church Zoom link.

Café is back!

In the Church garden. Table service only, simple teas and coffees for a donation only, names kept for Track and Trace, please don't come if you're ill, keep to social distancing.

Monday June 14th 11am - 12 Adults only
Wednesday June 16th 9 - 11am. All welcome!

Fair Trade - new catalogue

Angela has a new 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

What's On at St Francis and Church news

VPCA Community Fayre - Sunday June 27th 11 - 2.30pm:

Could you volunteer to help out at this community fayre that VPCA are holding in the carpark behind the community centre?

It's another great opportunity to support our local community!

Please contact Sarah rev@sfvp.org.uk or Paula, the community engagement coordinator at communityengagement@valleyparkcommunity.co.uk, or phone 02380 266593.

Update on Christian Aid week 2021

With thanks to Marion Harding

The Tapsimple page has so far raised **£4,116**.

Christian Aid's "Beautiful Chandler's Ford picture quiz" was fiendishly difficult, with 161 downloads and only five submissions for the prize. With more than one totally correct answer sheet, the winner was drawn as the Richardson family who have received a basket of Fair Trade goodies as their prize.

The winning answers are here: <https://sjdbox.com/cfphotoquiz/>

From our partner churches:



CHANDLERS FORD Methodist Church

Chandlers Ford Methodist Church is seeking to employ a
Church Administrator

Part-time 15 hours per week £10.20 - £10.50 per hour
depending on experience

The role is to offer secretarial support for ministers and ensure the smooth running of the church administration. It presents an exciting opportunity to develop further the use of our extensive premises by the wider community.

Some flexibility is offered, such as working reduced hours in school holidays

If you would like to know more please email:
enquiries@chandlersfordmethodistchurch.org.uk

Or click on the Recruitment menu item on our website at
<http://www.chandlersfordmethodistchurch.org.uk>

Closing date for applications: 30 June 2021
Interviews to be held week beginning 19 July 2021

This post requires an enhanced DBS disclosure

Methodist women in Britain invite you to a sharing day service:

'Stop, Look and Listen'

On Youtube from 1030am
June 14th

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vno6awwDHgq>

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Worship this week.

Sunday June 13th: Trinity 2/ Generous June 2 ☺

8.30am Said Communion in the church building

Please book in by emailing rev@sfvp.org.uk

10am: Virtual Morning Worship - usual Zoom link.

Speaker at both services: Cliff

Leader at 0830: Joe/ Sarah

Leader at 10am: Joe

Reading: 2 Corinthians 8: 10 - 15

Live on Outreach radio this week? No.

Monday June 14th, 10am: Morning prayer in 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

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Points for prayer this week

From the World Council of Churches: Botswana, Zimbabwe

Pray for:

- fair election of democratic governments to counter instability, violence and human rights abuses
- stable economies that enable all people to prosper and live in justice and peace
- effective measures to improve the health and life expectancy of all
- the biodiversity and animals present in these lands, and measures to preserve them
- the herders and farmers who continue to raise cattle and food, despite droughts and desertification.

Our wider world:

Pray for

- World leaders meeting for the G7 summit
- The Government making decisions about lifting Covid restrictions
- All those countries struggling with huge numbers of Covid patients and inadequate supplies of treatment
- Fair and speedy vaccine distribution

Our local Community:

- Pray for the residents of Woodend Way and Poppyfields
- For all those bereaved recently,
- For Carolyn Covey and Jide Ajayi who. have broken their arms
- That our café might be a place of welcome, connection and reconnection in our local community

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Valley Park 'Twin my vaccine'
campaign

Thank you!

Through your generosity
we raised

£ 1,185

which will go to Unicef's Vaccinaid campaign.

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St Francis Church information



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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.



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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.