



**St Francis Church**  
you're welcome here

11th November 2021

# St Francis Church, Valley Park (virtually)

This week's newsletter



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## Remembering

It's Remembrance Day, when we remember those who've died in service of their country, in the World Wars and also in more recent conflicts. This year the Royal British Legion are celebrating 100 years since the nation's collective Remembrance traditions were first bought together; the poppy, two-minute silence, Armistice Day, the service for the Unknown Warrior, and the march-past at the Cenotaph. Above is our own poppy cascade at St Francis - do go and take a look. Many thanks to those who created it - it really helps us to remember and the school children are enjoying it too.

Somebody I was speaking to recently commented on how positive it is that there has been much more focus on remembering in recent years. When I was at school we did buy and wear poppies, but I'm not sure I knew why we had the symbol of a poppy, or what to reflect on in the silence. In our schools today there is so much more emphasis on telling the stories that have shaped us as nations and ultimately as individuals. I saw an example of that when I worked in Nepal. There, I was struck by how stories of the Gurkhas, their bravery and self sacrifice, shaped the national identity of the country in a most positive sense, inspiring others in these values. And more locally, as we hear of the resilience and bravery of those injured in Afghanistan, for example in the Invictus games, there is so much to inspire us.

Spoiler alert: we'll be thinking about the importance of remembering on Sunday. The Bible puts remembrance very high on its list of priorities. Top on that list is the act of remembrance that Jesus asks us to continue today, recalling the ultimate sacrifice that He made, so that we might live in freedom and peace, as forgiven people, secure in our identity as much-loved children of God.



## What's coming up at St Francis

### Thursday 11th November: Poppy Cascade

Our poppy cascade is on display by the Lytch gate up to and including Remembrance Sunday - come and see! Huge thanks to all those who made poppies and created our display.

### 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>

### 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.

### Monday 15th Nov, 10am: Morning Prayer

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

### Monday 15th Nov, 11-1230: Café

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

### Wednesday 17th Nov, 9-1030: Café

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

### Wednesday 17th 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!

### Fairtrade

Get your Christmas orders in with Angela as soon as possible





## Whats On at St Francis

### Saturday 20th Nov, 7pm Men's Curry Night

For November Men's Breakfast is swapping to being Men's Supper, and moving from this weekend to Saturday 20th Nov, 7.00pm. There'll be a range of curries, meat & non-meat, and any special dietary requirements can be accommodated. You'll be very welcome to join us, and do invite a friend or neighbour too. We'll have a short talk at some point during the evening, accessible to guests, but the main purpose for the evening is just to spend some good time and eat!

To book a place please contact

[PeterRhodes.21@BTinternet.com](mailto:PeterRhodes.21@BTinternet.com), 07985 067761, **no later than Thursday 18th**

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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/>



# Messy Church is next week!

Aimed at primary school age children and their families but everyone is welcome - join us next week and invite your friends and neighbours.



# Come carol singing!



Good Christian men (and women and children) rejoice! The time of carol singing is nearly here! There will be: Carols in church, Carols at café, Carols at Brendoncare, Carols at Messy church and Carols in the pub. The Cleveland Bay have already taken lots of table reservations for December 19th @ 6pm, of people who want to come and sing with us (you may have seen the posters), so **now's the time to decide if you'd like to be there too**. The plan is for a group of musicians and singers from St Francis to be positioned in the small area between the bookshelves and the fire. It's up a couple of small steps and therefore slightly separated from the rest of the pub with windows on 2 sides to allow for ventilation. Please email Sarah or Stephanie if you'll come and sing/play or if you have any queries.



# 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

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*



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you're welcome here

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

# At the heart of Christmas



[www.stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk](http://www.stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk), Tel: 02380271152

11th November 2021

# 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)'**

## Giving at St Francis Church

# Thank you so much!

Our Harvest appeal raised around £2000. We're so grateful for your generous response!

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](mailto: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.



11th November 2021

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## Worship for this week:

### Sunday November 14th: Remembrance Sunday

**8.30am** Said Communion in the church building

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

Followed straight on by an act of remembrance at 11am for around 10 minutes.

**Speaker and leader** at both services: Sarah McClelland

**Theme:** Exodus - The past gives us bearings for the journey: the Israelites remember

**Reading:** Joshua 4: 1-9 and 19-22

Live on Outreach radio this week? YES

**6pm** Informal worship and prayer in the church building.

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

### Monday November 15th

10am: Morning Prayer 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](http://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 all those affected by armed conflict throughout the world,** whether bereaved, injured or suffering the severe trauma of PTSD

**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:** Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia

- churches to have the imagination, skills and energy to build bridges of understanding in increasingly multireligious and multicultural contexts
- those who work tirelessly on issues of justice for the poor, the marginalized and the dispossessed, especially indigenous peoples
- those seeking refuge and a new life in these countries, and those supporting and providing for them
- careful preservation of the fragile land, sea, and resources.


## **Our local Community:**

Please pray for :








- those who live on The Meads, Neath Way
- For all on our prayer chain
- 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**  
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Answerphone		02380271152
Facebook		@stfrancisvp
Website		<a href="http://www.stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk">www.stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk</a>
Instagram		stfranchurchvalleypark
Zoom		<a href="https://www.bit.ly/SFCzoom">www.bit.ly/SFCzoom</a>
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](http://www.stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk)

[rev@sfpv.org.uk](mailto: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.