

18th March 2021



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

# St Francis Church, Valley Park (virtually)

## Weekly newsletter



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## Time to reflect

Next Tuesday March 23rd marks a year since the first lockdown was announced, a year in which, world wide, over 2.6 million people have died of Covid-19, and countless more lives have been affected by ongoing physical and mental illness, grief and economic turmoil. We will all have coped with loss of some kind, whether it was a bereavement in lockdown, from Covid or otherwise, not being able to see loved ones even in the neighbouring counties, missing friends, or a loss of education and opportunities for our young people - the list of loss is long.

Loss needs to be acknowledged and grieved in order that we might move forward at the right time - which will be different for us all. The psalms provide such a great model for this - psalmists cry out to God in rage and despair - and don't stop there. They remember God's goodness of old and know that they will rejoice in it once again. It's a helpful model to follow. You may like to pop into church for private reflection on March 23rd - see next page.

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?

How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long?

Psalm 13: 1, 2a

*Next week: 'Twin your jab' and support Unicef's vaccine fund.*  
Apologies for the delay - vaccine-related delays are all the rage this week - it's due to delays setting up donation page.



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# National Day of Reflection

March 23rd 2021

One year on from first Coronavirus lockdown

*Time to reflect on loss and  
remember those who've died*

St Francis Church Valley Park will be open to  
pause, light a candle and reflect:

Tues Mar 23rd 12 - 2pm and 6.30 - 8pm

Pop in - you're welcome here.

*Usual Covid restrictions apply; names taken for  
contact tracing, please wear a mask and stay home if  
ill*



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# Church News

## 0845 Service in church

Starts on Palm Sunday. Please book in: [rev@sfpv.org.uk](mailto:rev@sfpv.org.uk) or 02380271152



## Easter at St Francis

Please see details of our services on the next. page.



## Take Time Meditation

The next ones will be in Holy Week - keep an eye out!



## Church Electoral Roll

The church electoral roll opens for revision on Saturday - there's a formal notice on the next page. If you'd like to be added, the form is attached to the email -contact Linda if any problems on [electoralroll@sfpv.org.uk](mailto:electoralroll@sfpv.org.uk) - and return forms to her!



## Annual Church Council Meeting

This will be after our morning service on April 25th, on Zoom. Do join us as we review 2020 (it was quite a year!), look ahead and elect folk to the new Church Council. Interested in being on Council? Email Sarah, and please check you're on the electoral roll!



## Could you be a school governor?

We have 3 vacancies for foundation governors - Governors who have a Christian faith and would like to use it in this vital ministry. Governors bring their wisdom and experience to enable the school - and thereby the children - to flourish! Whilst it takes a bit of time and commitment, full training is given. You'll make a difference to a whole school! Contact Sarah for more details.



## Fair Trade

Angela has a 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](mailto:angelarwmorris@gmail.com)



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# Easter at St Francis Church

St Francis Church  
you're welcome here

**Maundy Thursday April 1st, 7pm** : Informal communion: in church - please book in [rev@sfpv.org.uk](mailto:rev@sfpv.org.uk)/ 02380271152

**Good Friday April 2nd: 10am**: Reflective Virtual Service:  
[www.bit.ly/SFCzoom](http://www.bit.ly/SFCzoom)

**12-4pm** At Church: Family friendly Individual Prayer Activities

**Easter Sunday April 4th: 0845** Communion in church - please book in as above

**1000**: Virtual Service: [www.bit.ly/SFCzoom](http://www.bit.ly/SFCzoom)

**April 2nd - 18th** Join donkey once again - this time, on an Easter Egg hunt around Valley Park!

Watch out for details!



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**PARISH OF ST FRANCIS, VALLEY PARK**

**REVISION OF CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL**

**Notice is hereby given**

that the Church Electoral Roll of the above parish will be revised by the Parochial Church Council, beginning on Saturday the 20th day of March 2021, and ending on Tuesday the 6th day of April 2021.

After the revision, a copy of the Roll will be published by the Parochial Church Council by posting in the church for at least 14 days and a copy of the Roll will be available for inspection on a reasonable request being made to the Council.

Under the Church Representation Rules any lay persons are entitled to have their names entered on the roll if the person is—

- (a) is baptised,
- (b) is aged 16 or over, and
- (c) has made one of the following three declarations and duly applied for enrolment.

**The first declaration** is that the person is a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with it and is resident in the parish.

**The second declaration** is that the person is a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with it, is not resident in the parish, but has habitually attended public worship in the parish during the six months.

**The third declaration** is that the person is a member of a Church which is not in communion with the Church of England, professes the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and is also a member of that Church and has habitually attended public worship in the parish during the six months.

Once the revision of the electoral roll is complete, a copy of the Roll will be obtained from the Church Electoral Officer and a copy will be sent out with the newsletter.

In order for a person to be entitled to attend the annual parochial church meeting and to take part in its proceedings, an Application Form for enrolment must be returned by the date shown above for the ending of the revision of the Church Electoral Roll by the Parochial Church Council.

Any error discovered in the Roll should at once be reported to the Church Electoral Roll Officer.

Dated this Third day of March 2021

Signed: Linda King, Church Electoral Roll Officer

Address: St Francis Church, Pilgrims Close, Valley Park, SO53 4ST

Email: electoralroll@sfvp.org.uk

Please complete the form attached to the email if you didn't do so last year!

(you can see the text this covers on the form)





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## Men's Weekend 2021 – A date for your diary...

This time of year we'd usually be heading off for the annual Men's Weekend, as Google helpfully reminded me during the week by showing last year's photos.

"Remember this day...?" - how could I forget! Within 2 weeks of returning we were in national lockdown.



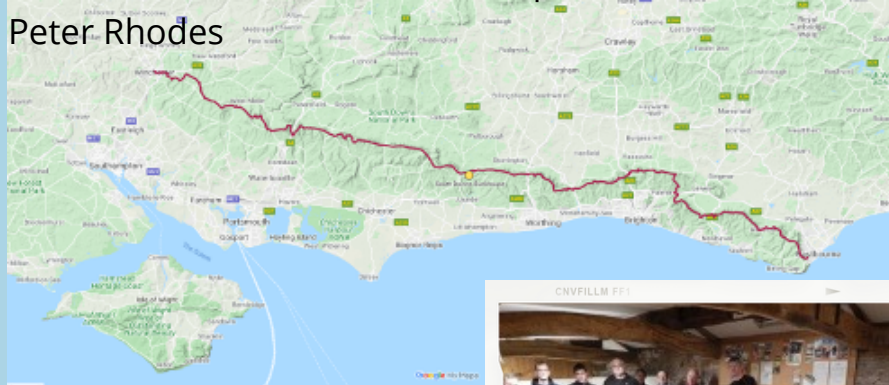
So a date for the diary now may seem a bit ambitious, and if it proves to be we'll just change the plan, but in the meantime do make a note of **17th to 19th September 2021**.

We'll be staying closer to home, at an excellent bunkhouse in Houghton near Arundel. This gives us great access to the South Downs Way 10 minutes walk away – see [www.southdownsbunkhouse.co.uk](http://www.southdownsbunkhouse.co.uk). It's closer to home than we normally go, so those unable to make the whole weekend would be welcome to join in for just one of the days or even just an evening meal.

The aim of the weekend is just to get away and share time together. On the Saturday and Sunday there'll be walks, not too demanding and with options for those preferring a less active route – the views from the Downs out to sea there are superb. Shared meals are a high point, particularly Saturday evening after a day of fresh air, and there's always plenty of local beer. There'll be some devotional time each day led by one of the church worship leaders, accessible to all even if not a church regular. For those preferring not to walk there's plenty else to do, with Arundel (castle, cathedral, river, cafes), Chichester (cathedral, gallery, museum, shops) and the coast all within easy reach by train or car.

If you've not been on the Weekend before do consider joining us this year. There are always a number who don't come to St Francis so there'll be a warm welcome for all, regulars and first-timers, and it's a great opportunity to invite friends, neighbours, partners and family – teens to 90's!

To find out more or to reserve a place contact [PeterRhodes.21@BTinternet.com](mailto:PeterRhodes.21@BTinternet.com).





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# Building the Church: Audio-visually

Technology enables us to be together as a church family at the moment!

It's thanks to our AV team that we've been able to gather over the past year through Zoom. We'll continue meeting at 10am in this way until we no longer need to keep socially distant (though we hope to back for communion at 0845 soon).

So far, they've done this with minimal equipment, mainly borrowed or repurposed, and as a Church Council and Ministry team we have been looking to the future.

The Church Council has recently approved a new strategic vision for the use of audiovisual technology within the life of St Francis Church.

Essentially this vision is to:

- **Provide remote services for all unable to attend in person** including post-pandemic.
- **Enable extended access to our services such as:**
  - Availability of recordings weekly for later reflection or catch-up
  - Broadcast on local radio monthly or more – live if possible, otherwise of a recorded service.
  - Live stream of baptism, wedding and funeral services, where requested, and not to professional standards
- **Enable use of AV as a form of ministry & outreach** - giving an opportunity to pop in on line before doing so in person, home groups without baby sitters etc

The council also approved the project to begin to assemble the equipment and technology necessary to enable this vision to be fulfilled. **The cost of this project is estimated to be in the region of £13,000.**

Some twenty years ago, the church had a vision to extend its ministry and outreach through better use of its buildings by embarking on an ambitious building extension program at a cost of close to £200,000. The benefit of that program has been manifest in numerous ways.

**This new vision is seen to be once again looking forward to the probable needs for our church to serve our community over the next twenty years.** Although the project has been given the go ahead, we now need to raise the funds for its completion. As before, the council have envisaged this as requiring its own fund raising, separate to our ongoing annual budget.

This vision has been developed over several months by an experienced team, and in expectation of its adoption, some donations have already been received. These will become the start of an account which the finance team will manage over the coming months. Any donations specifically for the project will be most welcomed by the finance team on behalf of the Church Council. **Please give [here](#)** or contact our treasurer Andy: treasurer@sfvp.org.uk.

**Do you use easy fundraising? Every time you shop online you could contribute - it's 'free money!'**

**<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stfrancisvalleypark/>**



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# St Francis Church Lent Course 2021

Join us as we look at the 'SHAPE' course together over Lent, in our Sunday talks and small groups- there are some just for Lent if you'd like to join.

## YOUR SHAPE FOR GOD'S SERVICE



We'll be thinking about what shape we are for serving God - an opportunity to grow in confidence that we're where we're called to be, or to look at where might be a better fit.



### The aim:

Your SHAPE for God's Service aims to enable church members to understand the unique SHAPE God has made them, the gifts he has given them and how he might want to use them. This is so that God's Kingdom may be built up as each person finds the ministry to which God is calling them in the Church and in the world. Hopefully this will enable participants to live and serve with more joy, satisfaction and fruitfulness. This should build a healthy growing church, and will affect the way each person engages with their family, friends, job, local community, and voluntary / leisure activities.

### The core topics:

Your SHAPE for God's Service has a holistic approach. The sessions involve looking at your:

**S**piritual Gifts (God's unique gifts to you)

**H**ear's Desire (what motivates and excites you; what you love to do)

**A**bilities (your talents, knowledge and skills)

**P**ersonality (your character, personal qualities and strengths)

**E**xperience (your life experiences and what you've gained from them)for God's Service

- and to make the most of this opportunity, there'll be a short reflection for you to do (by yourself) in between sessions.



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# Worship this week.

## Worship in Lockdown 3.

Whilst it is legal to meet together in person for worship, Sarah and the wardens have agreed that we will share Sunday worship together on line only for now, in light of the new, more virulent virus variant and the extreme pressure on the NHS at this time. We will revert to live streaming from our homes. The exception is for funerals which will still take place in the church building on request and within the strict guidelines.

We're so grateful that we can still worship together in this way - thank you to all who make it possible.

## Services this week

### **March 21st: Fifth Sunday of Lent, Passion Sunday**

10am: Virtual Morning Worship - usual Zoom link.

SHAPE Course 6: "Shaping Up"

Speaker and leader: Sarah McClelland

Reading: Ephesians 3: 14 - 21

Live on Outreach radio this week? No.

### **Monday March 22nd: Morning prayer**

10am - usual Zoom link.

## **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)

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# Points for prayer this week

**From the World Council of Churches:** Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

We pray for:

- peaceful relations with Russia and among all the ethnic groups in these lands.
- the healing of old wounds remaining from 20th century struggles.
- just economic development that benefits all citizens in these countries, and for those who live and work abroad.
- governmental leaders and all people, that they might together strive for justice, peace and the well-being of all.

## **Church Life:**

Diocese of Winchester IT Support & Communication Team as we seek to grow in the ways we can reach out to others with the good news of God in Christ Jesus.

## **Our local Community:**

- Pray for the residents of Rowlands Close and Hurst Close.
- For all we know who are unwell, especially those on our prayer chain.
- For all those who are struggling at this time financially, emotionally; those who are alone; those who are home schooling, those in care homes, and all frontline staff in the NHS, education, prisons, and all key workers.
- For all young people at this time as they have to cope with Lockdown and are badly affected economically, socially and educationally.



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## St Francis Church information



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

Answerphone		02380271152
Facebook		@stfrancisvp
Website		<a href="http://www.stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk">www.stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk</a>
Instagram		stfranchischurchvalleypark
Zoom		<a href="http://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

**Church Wardens:** Alison Rhodes and Fiona Grove

**Pro (Deputy) Warden and Gift Aid secretary:** Geoff Roberts

*Plus 1 vacant prowarden post*

**Safeguarding officer:** Helen Kelso - [safeguarding@sfpv.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@sfpv.org.uk)

**Church Council Secretary:** Post vacant.

**Treasurer:** Andy Grove - [treasurer@stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk)

**Church Council Members:** Debbie Reed, Graham Shankland, Phil  
Watts, Rogerio Ramos, Liz Bolton.

*Plus 2 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](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.