

24th June 2021



St Francis Church
you're welcome here

St Francis Church, Valley Park (virtually)

Weekly newsletter



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Starting back...

I'm so excited that we will be welcoming our junior church back to the building this Sunday! Debbie has been hard at work creating a new look on Sunday mornings, for the younger members of our church family combining the best of our lockdown experience with the joy of being together again. And whilst our young people enjoy their time, parents are welcome to join us for our live-streamed 10am service.

It's not only exciting to welcome junior church back, but also it will practically help us to prepare for the rest of us to return to the building over the next few months, livestreaming the 10am with more people worshipping in the building. We will have the opportunity to see what works best for us.

Services won't return to exactly how they were - the plan is to keep the format of 10am service similar to what it is now, and to offer junior church every week. In time we will add opportunities for communion at 10am and to be all together as a church family of all ages - both of these off camera. In the meantime, if you're missing communion, please have a look at the next page and book in!

Informal worship

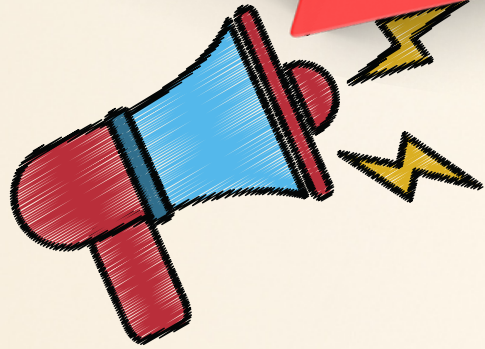
One last opportunity to join in a very informal time of praise and prayer in the church garden for about 30 - 40 minutes as follows :

**This Sunday June
27th, 5pm**

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

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By this Sunday June 27th
5pm



- Joe's first communion and picnic: July 4th
- Mens weekend: Sept 17th - 19th



Joe's first communion: Our curate, Joe Sweetnam, is being ordained priest on July 3rd at Winchester cathedral at 7pm- do watch on their website. That means he will be able to celebrate communion, amongst other things! This is a great moment for us as a church to celebrate Joe's ministry amongst us, especially as we've not really had the chance to welcome and celebrate the Sweetnam family, given Joe started with us mid-pandemic.

I'd like to invite you to Joe's first celebration of communion on July 4th, either at 8.30am, or to an informal, outdoor communion at 12 midday lasting only about 30 minutes. That will be followed directly by a church picnic - please bring your own!

To comply with Government restrictions **we need to take bookings for (a) 0830 communion, (b) 12 midday communion and (c) picnic.** We hope to accommodate all who want to attend and that may mean holding the picnic over more than 1 outdoor venue (eg carpark/ ch garden). But we hope that won't put you off! The wet weather plan is - an anorak.

So - please email me by 5pm Sunday June 27th if you plan to attend any or all of the above events. The plans we make depend on numbers so booking is essential please.

2021 Mens Weekend: 17th-19th September at South Downs Bunkhouse, Houghton near Arundel, West Sussex - Covid permitting of course. Come over for only part of the weekend if you prefer, or even try it out for the first time. Hope you can join us!

Details available from Peter Rhodes and booking is now open - please reserve a place as soon as possible to allow for planning. - It's a great opportunity to bring along your children, friends and colleagues too! More Details attached to this email.

Contact Peter Rhodes for booking and any questions at all: PeterRhodes.21@BTinternet.com.
07985 067761.



What's On at St Francis

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

- in the carpark behind the community centre

Do pop in and support our local community!

Take Time

Our next meeting of Take Time is at 12pm on Wednesday July 7th, 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 28th 11am - 12 Adults only

Wednesday June 30th 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

Three phases of returning to the church building:

Phase 1: June 27th - July 18th inclusive

- Welcome back junior church & creche
- Parents invited to join the service live in the building

Phase 2: July 25th - August 29th inclusive

- Same principle; no junior church but provision for 0-11s
- parents continue to enjoy worship and we look to welcome back more adults,

Phase 3: September 5th onwards

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

NB we'll be continuing to livestream every week at 10am, going forwards, however many of us there are in the building!

The logo for 'Generous June' features the word 'GENEROUS' in blue, uppercase, sans-serif font, with a small orange square to its left. Below it, the word 'june' is written in a large, orange, lowercase, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a white circular background, which is itself on a light blue square background.

Awkward things about church: asking for money!

Money conversations can often be a bit awkward - whether negotiating more pocket money as a teen, coming to terms with your spouse's idea of financial priorities early in marriage, or asking the bank for a loan at any age! But we still need to do it. And as we're discovering the Bible has plenty to say on the subject. I'm still reflecting on this quote from Protestant Reformer Martin Luther, that Cliff mentioned in his talk last week:

'There are three conversions necessary: the conversion of the heart, the conversion of the mind, and the conversion of the purse.'

Ouch! That's challenging! It's just human nature that makes us all give a pretty similar answer to the question of how much money is enough - the answer is always just a little bit more. So it's helpful to see what God has to say and to keep looking to bring our attitudes to money in line with his. And actually the great news is that God is hugely generous and delights when we treat ourselves and others with all that we've been given.

Generosity is about so much more than financial giving!

We all aspire to generosity - but for many of us it's not always what comes most naturally, as other worries can crowd in and make us cautious. Are we generous in our views of others, our encouragement, our giving of time and talents? This week the youth group have been challenging each other to do generous acts. But why should the youth have all the fun? Maybe we could all look for opportunities to be generous in creative ways - and transform our church and community!

Money *does* come into generosity too. Giving money has been a spiritual discipline since the start of the Old Testament when God told the Israelites to give a tenth of their crops to the temple as an offering. Giving a percentage of our money away (a helpful suggestion is 5% to the church and 5% to other causes) simply helps us keep the perspective that all we have, is given by God.

So why does the church need money? People often think that we are funded by the central church. But it's the other way round - it's us, at parish level, who fund the wider church. And at St Francis we not only pay a full share to the Church of England, but also we make contributions to the Methodists and URC, as well as paying for our building, the running costs, support staff, etc. All of this is funded by your giving, and so to maintain the ministry we're called to, we rely on your generosity completely.

We are so grateful for one off gifts that enable us to achieve projects like the new AV kit. But we are totally dependent on regular givers who are able to set up a standing order - that enables us to budget better and also, to collect Gift Aid.

Could you review your giving in June?

It may need to decrease especially if your circumstances have changed. Or maybe you're now in a position where you could give regularly through your bank account. Please contact treasurer@sfpv.org.uk - Andy would be delighted to help.



The money you give enables:

Ministry and mission: services of worship, junior church, craft bags and activities, Messy church, creche, youth group, alpha courses, other courses, obstacle courses (theoretically), supporting families around funerals, welcoming families at baptisms and giving them gifts, providing worship for the school. pastoral support for staff, contributions to lessons, training others in ministry including BCMs, LLMs, chaplains, eco-warriors, prayer warriors, pastoral ninjas, GP chaplains, Take Timers, safeguarders, lead ministers, curates, a totally fab administrator, cleaner, running a café and offering as much hospitality as is reasonably possible to as many as possible

Maintaining and heating (and painting) a building that not only gives us a place to meet and worship (pandemics notwithstanding) but also gives so many opportunities to bless our community as it's used by the school/ community association/ patient participation group/ café/ countless pastoral encounters

Tech support like AV, our social media presence, website, database, paying copyright licence fees, resources for sung worship, Zoom subs, videoclips for worship and teaching

Other churches and charities near and far to also flourish in their mission, too.

Loo roll.

For most prisoners, the hardest period of their lives starts the day they are released.

Some ex-prisoners are returning to south Hampshire and have asked for a Christian volunteer to support them.



Statistics show that, on average, 46% of ex-prisoners will re-offend within one year of release. **BUT** – this figure reduces significantly if someone takes a personal interest in their rehabilitation. Ex-prisoners benefit from emotional support, practical help and wise guidance. Having a 'mentor' can help them rebuild their lives and give hope for a different outcome. **A little of your time (2-3 hours/week) can change the direction of a life.**



Area churches are working with a Hampshire Christian charity to bring **hope** to those living in our **local community** who are truly marginalised and **feel like outcasts**. There is currently a waiting list of those requesting support.

COULD YOU HELP? Volunteer mentors inevitably find that service in this work is a fulfilling part of their own faith journey. If you want to explore the idea of using your life skills in this vital ministry, please consider attending an **Open Evening on Zoom** in late June / early July (with no commitment) to find out more. To receive more information about the event please send your request via the website: www.newfoundations.cc (See **FAQ** page to answer your initial questions or contact Cliff cliff@cliffandsarah.co.uk or 07753224078.

"And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'" (Matt. 25:40)

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Worship this week.

Sunday June 20th: Trinity 4/ Generous June 4 😊

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: Sarah

Leader at at both services: Sarah

Reading: 2 Corinthians 9: 6 - 15

Live on Outreach radio this week? NO

5pm Informal sung worship and prayer - St Francis Church garden

Monday June 28th, 10am: Morning prayer in church building

Services in the church building

It's brilliant to be able to share communion together in person! 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

Points for prayer this week

From the World Council of Churches: Kenya, Tanzania

Please pray for:

- greater tolerance between Christians and Muslims as they work together to improve the lives of all people
- youth, that they not succumb to radicalization but are prepared to sustain their lives and communities
- all victims of violence, especially sexual or gender-based violence, and all who are marginalized or excluded from communities
- those who are most vulnerable to climate change and drought, that they may have clean water to drink and for their crops and animals to flourish
- economic growth and trade that benefits all the people.

Our wider world:

Pray for

- All those affected by the delay in lifting Covid restrictions
- All those affected by the third wave of Covid, especially young people and those self isolating and sick
- All those countries struggling with huge numbers of Covid patients and inadequate supplies of treatment
- Fair and speedy vaccine distribution
- Bishop Debbie as she leads Winchester Diocese, and Bishops Tim and David as they step back to discern the future

Our local Community:

- Pray for tKnightwood Primary School
- For the Community Fayre on Sunday 28th 11 - 2.30
- For all those bereaved recently,
- That our café might be a place of welcome, connection and reconnection in our local community

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St Francis Church information



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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: 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@sfp.org.uk

T: 023 8048 6298

Usual day off: Friday

I couldn't resist this pic of my journey to the office today 😊
(same office 'til Saturday)



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.