

25th March 2021



St Francis Church
you're welcome here

St Francis Church, Valley Park (virtually)

Weekly newsletter



Contents:

Church news.....	p2,3
Easter at St Francis.....	p4
Electoral roll revision....	p5
Mens Weekend.....	p6
Building church-AV.....	p7
Worship this week.....	p8
Points for prayer.....	p9
Who's Who.....	p10

Journey to the cross

This week, we'll be remembering Palm Sunday. The first one took place as pilgrims were gathering in Jerusalem for the Passover festival, to remember how the Israelites had been rescued from slavery in Egypt thousands of years earlier.

Of course as we recall the timing of that first Easter, we are invited to notice the echoes of Passover in the freedom that Jesus brings in his death and resurrection. Remembering the past is important in moving forward well, whether that's to celebrate it or to lament. Last Tuesday it was good to be in church to remember the past year of pandemic, to reflect, and to mourn those who have died and indeed the many other losses that there have been.

This week we have the opportunity to walk the way of the cross as we remember Jesus' last days and there are a number of activities and events to help us in that - see page 4.

Traditionally we give out palm crosses on Palm Sunday, so that we can look back through the year and remember Jesus' sacrifice for us. If you'd like one, you can pop over to church from 11am on Saturday - there'll be some outside the main church door (through the Lych gate and up the path). Do help yourself as we seek to walk with Jesus in this Holy Week, as we seek to remember in order that we might embrace the hope and joy that is to come on Easter Sunday.

25th March 2021



Church News 1

Collect a palm cross

There will be some outside the main door of church (through the garden) from 11am on Saturday morning - help yourself.

Easter at St Francis

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



Maundy Thursday: Informal communion in church at 7pm

Please book in if you would like to come: rev@sfvp.org.uk or 02380271152

Lent Course

Thanks for taking part either at home or in a group. After Easter we'll be in touch to invite you to catch up with what was good and what was less so.



Take Time Meditations: daily in Holy Week

The next ones will be in Holy Week:

There will be one each day on Outreach Radio and our Facebook page, recorded for you to use for personal reflection on the events of Holy Week.

Take Time Meditation: Live (on zoom)

There will be a live mediation at 8pm on Good Friday evening at 8pm on the usual link.

25th March 2021



Church News 2

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@sfvp.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?

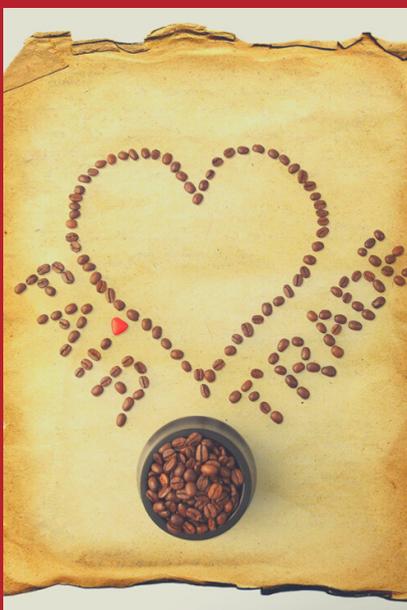
We have 3 vacancies for foundation governors - Governors who have a Christian faith and would like to use it in this vital ministry. Governors bring their wisdom and experience to enable the school - and thereby the children - to flourish! Whilst it takes a bit of time and commitment, full training is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



25th March 2021



St Francis Church
you're welcome here

Easter at St Francis Church

Maundy Thursday April 1st, 7pm :

Informal communion: in church - please book in
rev@sfp.org.uk/ 02380271152

Good Friday April 2nd: 10am:

Reflective Virtual Service: www.bit.ly/SFCZoom

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

8pm Online 'Take Time' Meditation www.bit.ly/SFCZoom

Easter Sunday April 4th:

0845 Communion in church - please book in as above

1000: Virtual Service: 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!



25th March 2021

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 for a period of 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 for a period of 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.

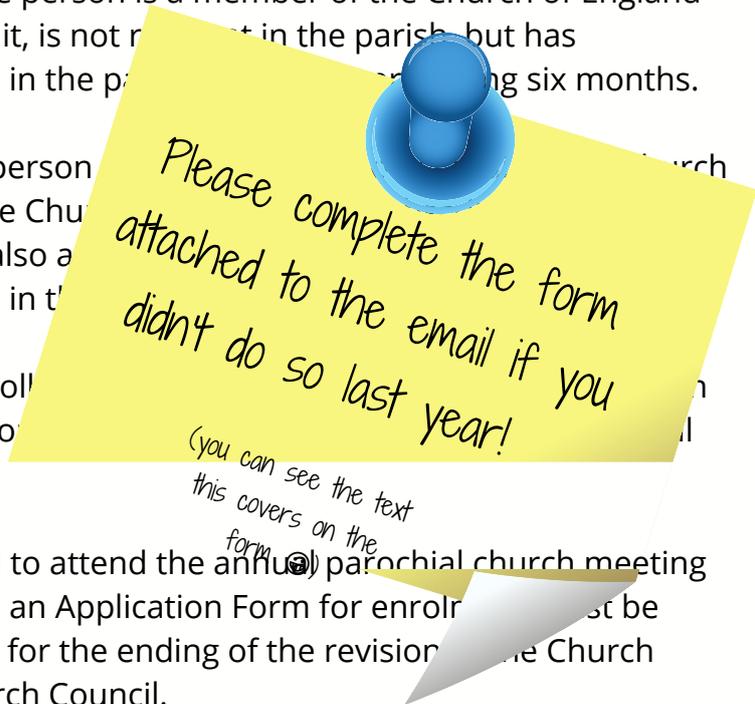
Any error discovered in the Roll should at once be reported to the Church Electoral Roll Officer.

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



25th March 2021

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. 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.



25th March 2021

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/>

25th March 2021

Worship this week.

Services this week

March 28th: Palm Sunday

8.45am Said Communion in the church building

Please book in by emailing rev@sfvp.org.uk or phoning
02380271152

10am: Virtual Morning Worship - usual Zoom link.

Speaker at both services: Joe Sweetnam

Leader at both services: Sarah McClelland

Reading: John 12: 12 - 16

Live on Outreach radio this week? No.

Monday March 29th: Morning prayer

10am - usual Zoom link.

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

Points for prayer this week

From the World Council of Churches: Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia

We pray for:

- greater respect for the Roma people and others who are marginalized and who lack adequate livelihoods in these lands
- welcoming and engaging those of other faiths and ethnicities
- growth in spiritual as well as physical health
- democratic governance that advances God's justice and peace for all.

Church Life:

Our Diocesan Environment Group encouraging us in our Christian calling to strive to safeguard the integrity of God's good creation and to sustain and renew the life of earth.

For the wider community:

- For countries facing a third wave of Covid, including Brazil, India and Europe
- For fair distribution of the Covid vaccine to all who need it

Our local Community:

- Pray for the residents of Hornbeam Road and Newlands 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.

25th March 2021

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

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

Church Council Secretary: Post vacant.

Treasurer: Andy Grove - 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.



18th March 2021

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.