

28th October 2021



St Francis Church
you're welcome here

St Francis Church, Valley Park (virtually)

This week's newsletter



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'Allhallowtide'

It does sound a bit made up, doesn't it - but Allhallowtide is actually a thing and it's this weekend! The words 'hallow' and 'saint' are synonymous: so it's all about the saints; All Saints day, remembering the faithful departed and All Hallows evening - Halloween.

It's a 'time to remember the dead, including martyrs, saints, and all faithful departed Christians' and that's what we'll be doing on Sunday as we think about All Saints in our morning service and then remembering those we love who've died, in an evening service. Do join us if you're able; both services will also be on Zoom, but if you're able to join us in person, we'd love to see you.

In particular our 6pm service gives us a chance to remember before God those we love who are no longer with us, whether it's someone who has died very recently or maybe much longer ago. Come early, from 5.30pm, from when a cuppa will be available, and write down their names, that will be read out in the service and hung on our tree of light - if you like. There'll be a chance to light a candle too. Whilst these are symbolic acts to remember, it's a chance to place our loved ones once again into the hands of He who is the light of the world.

Halloween though? Well, fancy dress and sweets is always fun. Celebrating evil? Not so much. If you're a pumpkin-carving trick-or-treater, maybe it's an opportunity to give out love heart sweets and light up gardens with pumpkin lanterns, sharing the light and love of God in our neighbourhoods - while having fun!

28th October 2021

Current Covid guidelines at St Francis

3 wise
(and wonderful)
wardens



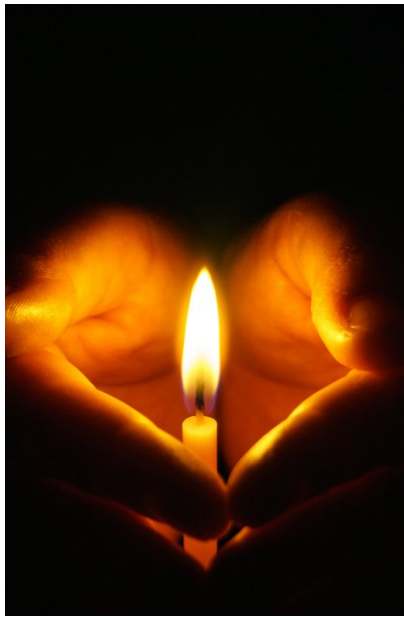
Here's where we are with current Covid restrictions. As we all know, there's no law to restrict us at the moment, so it falls to the incumbent, in discussion with wardens, to decide on the level of restrictions. And we're all in very different situations with different views - **it's a great opportunity 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)'**



This week at St Francis

Sunday 31st Oct, 5.30 for 6pm: Service to remember those we love who've died

For more details please see p1 or p4.

Monday 1st Nov, 10am: morning prayer

Join us in the building at 10am for morning prayer.

Monday 1st Nov, 11-1230: Café

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



Wednesday 3rd Nov, 9-1030 Café

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

Wednesday 3rd Nov, 1040am Take Time in the church building

The next meeting is after cafe, in the building this Wednesday. Join us for a Bible meditation, an opportunity to sense God's voice, his presence and his peace. No Bible knowledge needed!



All Week: Finish your knitted poppies!

Please bring all remaining poppies to church by Sunday Nov 7th at latest, and give them to Angela Morris, Hilary Course for Christine Grew. They will be displayed from Nov 11th.

All Week: Come and see the antislavery day sculpture.

We're proud to be hosting Stop the Traffik's sculpture - see page

Notice board

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@sfpv.org.uk.

CF Churches QuizAid for Christian Aid:

Saturday 13th November 2021 at 7:15 for 7:30 pm

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>

Basics Bank: Help Needed

"One of our volunteer drivers has had to drop out, so we urgently need someone to collect customers' donations from Waitrose on alternate Mondays at around 11.00am. You need to have a medium to large sized car and would be working with an experienced partner as two cars are needed for this collection. If you can help, or would like more information, please contact Hazel Bateman 023 8090 3028; hazel.bateman@ntlworld.com."

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 winers and would love to encourage you to come - do ask us why we love it! See: <https://www.new-wine.org/events/united22/>

Fair Trade

There's a new catalogue out - it's at the back of church. Angela would love to assist you with your order - do contact her, 02380271150; angelarwmorris@gmail.com



28th October 2021

Can you knit or crochet?

We would love you to help
by knitting or crocheting poppies
for a remembrance day display.

If you can help please email Angela on
angelarwmorris@gmail.com or Hilary on
hilarycourse@hotmail.co.uk.

Final Call!

Please bring all
remaining poppies to
church by Nov 7th at
latest so they can be
attached for display
from Nov 11th

THIS WEEK!

**Chandlers Ford
Methodist Church**

**26 - 30 October
ART EXHIBITION**

Caring for God's Creation

**What do you value in our created world?
Can you represent your ideas in paint
or by drawing, using fabric,
making a mobile or a model, sculpture
or using other media?**



**Part of our study of
HOLYHABITS -
10 aspects of the
Christian Life**

**Please bring your artwork
to the Dovetail Café
on Saturday 23 October
between 10am and 1pm
with some words on a postcard
describing its inspiration**

Giving at St Francis Church

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@sfvp.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.

28th October 2021

Worship for this week:

Sunday October 31st: All Saints Day

8.30am Said Communion in the church building

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

Speaker at both services: Steve Williams

Leader at 0830: Cliff McClelland

Leader at 1000: Sarah McClelland

Theme: Exodus - Companions on the Journey- All Saints Day

Reading: Deut 29: 10 – 13 and 30:1-5

Live on Outreach radio this week? YES

Activities for Under 11s provided at our 10am service

Join us for coffee after the 10am!

6pm: Service to remember those we love who've died

Speaker and leader: Sarah McClelland

Monday November 1st

10am: Morning Prayer in the building

Services are in the church
building - October 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

28th October 2021

*A service to remember
those we love, who've died*

*At St Francis Church, Valley Park
and on Zoom www.bit.ly/SFCzoom*



St Francis Church
you're welcome here

Sunday October 31st, 5.30pm for 6pm start

An opportunity to light a candle, and remember our loved ones
before God.

Join us from 5.30pm for a cup of tea and to write the name of
those you wish to remember, to add to our tree of light.



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

From the World Council of Churches: Canada, United States of America

- churches facing new challenges, that they may continue to witness boldly to the gospel in evolving multicultural, multireligious and secular contexts
- indigenous peoples in their long struggles for survival, land and rights; and for ongoing healing and reconciliation with those who have come after them
- new immigrants, that they will continue to be welcomed in these countries, and that policies will serve the common good
- effectively countering systemic greed that exploits communities and natural resources
- government leaders that they would advance justice, human rights, and peace for all within these countries and in the rest of the world.

Pray for the wider church:

Please pray for:


Anglican parishes, Methodist circuits and URC churches going through reorganisation at this time.

Our local Community:








Please pray for :

- those who live on Ellen Gardens, Tyne Close
- 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
- Pray for Knightwood and St Francis Primary schools, especially as they return after half term
- 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		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.



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.