



St Francis Church
you're welcome here

31st December 2021

St Francis Church, Valley Park (virtually)

This week's newsletter



Happy New Year!

Whilst our celebrations might be a bit more muted this year (less large gatherings, anyway) new year is a great time to take stock of the year that's gone and look ahead to what's coming up. It's also still Christmas season, which lasts a while longer than just December 25th - after all, the 3 Kings (aka wise people/ magi/ star watchers) haven't made it yet! We'll be celebrating their arrival at the crib of the new-born King - the Epiphany - on Sunday. It will be good to follow the starwatchers' example of seeking the light of Christ in all we do, as we look forward to the new year. And whilst we're aware that there's still a pandemic on, and we'll continue to risk assess our activities, we do have some exciting plans for 2022 at St Francis Church! Here's a look ahead:

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Children and Families Worker

We are thrilled to be welcoming more children and families on Sundays, to cafe and to Messy Church and we're so grateful to all those who enable that. But we do need some extra help - and this is something that Council have identified as urgent and important. Next Sunday we'll be giving you lots more information about what we're planning and how you can help.

Social events

- St Francis Church has hospitality in it's blood! (That's why I applied for the job). We're making plans for 2022 - and the first is for Jan 22nd - more info on p2.

The Bible Course

Ever wondered how to read it, what the Old Testament has to do with today or whether it's even true? Starting just before Lent, everyone's invited to join in! More details to follow.

Services and service patterns

Covid changed how we do things, and that's not been a bad thing. We're a work in progress and always will be! Look out for All Age services, communion during the week, informal evening worship...



What's coming up at St Francis

Sunday 2nd Jan, 0830 Said Communion and 10am All Age service for Epiphany

- Start the year with us, in person or on line. If you're on line, please have paper and pen/pencil handy - colouring pens too if you're that way inclined!

Monday 3rd Jan, 11 - 1230 Café open

It's a Bank Holiday but our trusty team will be serving you with teas and coffees as usual!

Wednesday 5th Jan, 9 - 1030 Café open

- with toddler craft as usual

Sunday 9th Jan, 6pm Informal Worship and Prayer

We'll have our usual services in the morning and then at 6pm there'll be space to spend time worshipping in song, praying and seeking God's presence. All welcome.

Wed January 19th, 8pm on Zoom, NEXT TAKE TIME

Join us for an online Bible meditation - we won't be starting this year until Jan 19th; please note we will not be meeting on the first Monday of the month, Jan 5th.

Sat January 22nd, 12pm onwards: Soup and stroll

Our first social event of the year - put it in your diary! Join us for whichever part you like -or all of it. We'll start with a simple lunch of soup and then there'll be walks of different lengths, followed by tea and cake back at church.



**What a
great
Christmas!**

Midnight Communion



Sparkly lights!



Carols at the Cleveland Bay



Café Carols



Carols at Brendoncare



Church Carol Service



Messy Church went outside



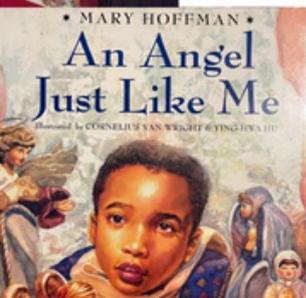
Crib Service in the rain





St Francis Church
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We loved welcoming St Francis CE Primary school over to church this Christmas, to hear the story of a boy who tried to find an angel just like him. We made angel wings and had our pictures taken so there were lots of angels just like us! And we finished with carols around the Christmas tree.



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Giving at St Francis Church



Christmas Appeal

Money donated over our Christmas services will be divided between the charities we support year round at St Francis:

Fledge, Christians Against Poverty, Stop the Traffic, Care for the Family, and Christian Aid.

You can donate to these specifically by clicking the donate button and selecting the campaign 'Christmas 2021.'

[Donate here](#)

As ever if you are donating a significant sum and are eligible for Gift Aid, please contact our gift aid secretary Geoff Roberts (geoffmroberts@sky.com) so that we can claim it back.

Worship for this week:

Sunday January 2nd: **Epiphany**

8.30am: Said Communion

10am: All Age Worship in the building and on usual Zoom link celebrating Epiphany and with the Methodist Covenant prayer. If you're joining us on line please have paper and pens handy for an activity.

Leader and speaker at both services: Sarah

Bible Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6

Live on Outreach radio at 10am: YES

Coffee after 10am service: YES

No Morning prayer on Bank Holiday Monday Jan 3rd

Services are in the church building - January 2021

Feel free to just come, no need to book. Please do a lateral flow test first.

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

St Francis Church information



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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: Jan Southern

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.



31st December 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.

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www.stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk

rev@sfpv.org.uk

T: 023 8048 6298

Usual day off: Friday; this week, also Bank Holiday Monday.

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.