



Dates for your Diary:

January

Community Shop Saturday 27th January 11am – 1pm

February

Men's Breakfast Saturday 3rd February 8.45am

Lunch Club Monday 12th February 1pm

Shrove Tuesday 13th February

Ash Wednesday 14th February

St Francis Fellowship Monday 19th February 2.30pm

Community Shop Saturday 24th February 11am – 1pm

Sunday Lunch outing 25th February

Contact details:

Rector – Revd. Stefanie Hodges – Tel 504228

Curate – Revd. Diane Peters – Tel 532796

Newsletter – Sallie Garrod – Tel 504839 or email sallie.garrod@gmail.com or admin@stfrancisstclareguildford.org.uk by Wednesday 9am please

Hall manager/lettings – Val Holt – Tel 852764

Safeguarding for St Francis – Eike Ndiweni-Muller, 07764 785600 or Eike.ndiweni@gmail.com

Stewardship – Mike Hammond - Tel 562661 email m_hammond@talk21.com

ST. FRANCIS PARISH CHURCH, WESTBOROUGH

Notice sheet for Sunday 21st January 2018

A very warm welcome to everyone joining us for our Communion Service this morning. Please do join us in the hall after the service for a cup coffee and a chat.

Collect for the Third Sunday of Epiphany

God of all mercy

Your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,

Release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed:

Anoint us with Your Holy Spirit and set all Your people free

To praise You in Christ our Lord

Readings

Psalm 62: 5-12 Page 579

Revelation 19: 6-10 Page 1247

John 2: 1-11 Page 1064

Please pray for:

- For all those who are unwell at this time. Please remember to put the names of those you pray for on the prayer tree, they will also be prayed for during morning office
- The ongoing work of the Pre-School and its staff
- Our new Arch Deacon, Paul Davies who is looking forward to visiting us shortly
- Single parents in our parish, that they will receive the help and support they need
- For all families struggling post Christmas and New Year; for the work of Christians Against Poverty working locally
- Thank you to all who are ministering in different ways offering support in the local community. May God continue to strengthen you as you reach out to others with His love and compassion

Notices

Some messages from Stefanie...

It's good to be back although with the advice and direction of the HR department and the Arch Deacon it will be a phased return. At the moment the times I will be working are:

Monday morning

Tuesday 8.30am – 5pm

Wednesday 8.30am – 5pm

Thursday afternoon.

Unless it is an emergency I will be unavailable in the evening for next month.

After the month I will meet with the HR Department, to discuss further.

Sunday Services:

I will be taking services on the 1st and 3rd Sundays, with the occasional stand in if needed.

The 2nd Sunday will continue with the All Age Team,

On the 4th Sunday Diane will be Preaching, and I will be President,

Following some pastoral visiting, we would like to develop a 'monthly lunch club' where after the Sunday Service those who wish to can join together and go out for lunch, this could be at a local restaurant or Garden Centre. The first trial of this will be the 3rd Sunday in February – the 25th **please indicate if you would like to join us by signing up on the list at the back of the church. You can obviously invite members of the family if you wish to**

You're Invited!

Everyone is invited to attend a gathering at the Rectory on **Saturday 10th February** between 2 and 4pm (social - snacks and chat) – Please note change of date which is due to unforeseen circumstances.

Please can you let me know if you would like to attend.

A thought for contemplation!

Hope For True Relationships: = Ask For Direction

"If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask him, and he will gladly tell you ... But when you ask him, be sure that you really expect him to tell you." James 1:5-6
(taken from the Living bible)

"Why do we have to ask before God answers? Because our relationship with God begins with faith. He doesn't force things on us. He invites us into a relationship with him."

Since God thought up the whole idea of relationships between men and women, parents and children, and friends, doesn't it make sense to go him for direction when you have a problem?

"If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask him, and he will gladly tell you ..."
(James 1:5)

Why do we have to ask before he answers? Because our relationship with God begins with faith. He doesn't force things on us. He invites us into a relationship with him. So we ask.

Now I have to say, too many times I forget to ask. If you're like me you're just rushing through your day doing this, doing that, assuming it's going to be okay. But you need to just stop once in a while and say, "God, I ask you, what is your direction?" He will gladly tell you.

And how does he tell you? An answer will usually come through one of two main ways – through people that are following him and through his Word.

Get together with a few people who you know seek after God and ask them for their opinion. Look in their eyes and get an honest answer. And turn to God's Word. Ask him, "God, what do you have to say about this?"

Some people think God is not interested in our relationships. After all, he's got a universe to keep going. But he is interested; he made you! First Corinthians says, *"But be sure in deciding these matters that you are living as God intended, marrying or not marrying, in accordance with God's direction and help, and accepting whatever situation God has put you into"* (1 Corinthians 7:17 LB).

I understand the hurts that can exist in some relationships, but the incredible promise of God's Word is that he can bring beauty into any relationship. Not perfection, but he can bring beauty. Both people in the relationship have to agree and it will take some struggle to get there. But to give up is nowhere in the plan or purpose of God. That's why you have to go to him for direction and guidance.

Stefanie