



Many of you will remember the visit we had last year from Lyra, the wonderful vocal ensemble from St Petersburg, Russia. We are delighted that they are visiting us again on the 19<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm for pre-concert drinks with the concert starting at 7.30. Tickets are £12.00 (with £8.00 for students and over 65s)

Please encourage everyone you know to come - if it

is anything like last year, it will be a magical evening not to be missed!

More details and tickets from Eike Ndiweni-Muller – tel: 07764 785 600

### Pat Jerome

We are hopeful that Pat's funeral will take place in church on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am. We will let everyone know as soon as this is confirmed

## Dates for your Diary:

### April

<b>Men's Breakfast</b>	Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> April 8.45am
<b>Lunch Club</b>	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> April 1pm
<b>St Francis Fellowship</b>	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2.30pm
<b>Lyra Concert</b>	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> April 7.00pm for 7.30
<b>Community Shop</b>	Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> April 11am – 1pm

### 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](mailto:sallie.garrod@gmail.com) or [admin@stfrancisclareguildford.org.uk](mailto:admin@stfrancisclareguildford.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](mailto:Eike.ndiweni@gmail.com)

**Stewardship** – Mike Hammond - Tel 562661 email [m\\_hammond@talk21.com](mailto:m_hammond@talk21.com)

## ST. FRANCIS PARISH CHURCH, WESTBOROUGH

### Notice sheet for Easter Day: Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018

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



### Collect for Easter Day

God of glory,  
By the raising of Your Son  
You have broken the chains of death and hell:  
Fill Your church with faith and hope;  
For new day has dawned  
And the way to life stands open  
In our Saviour, Jesus Christ

### Readings

Acts 2:14, 22-32	Page 1093
1 Corinthians 15: 1-11	Page 1156
John 20:1-18	Page 1089

### Please pray for:

- Arthur and Ronnie preparing for their baptism
- The family of Violet Roberts whose funeral took place on Monday
- The family of Sylvia Sills whose funeral will take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> April
- For Matilda, a Pre-School child, in the Royal Surrey at the moment and 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

# Easter 2018

When the first Easter Day dawned it was a disaster. The man whom some people thought was the long awaited Messiah was dead and his followers had fled in fear and were hiding all over the city of Jerusalem. No one really knows quite what happened next but there was a rumour going round that he was alive and by the end of the day hope had dawned once more.

In the shops today, the signs of hope are symbolised by chocolate eggs and fluffy yellow chicks. People celebrate Easter as a holiday or “holy day” and hopefully the weather looks like Spring and there are daffodils and spring bulbs which bring their own vision of new life and hope to the world.

The question is whether there is anything more to Easter than that for today? Is it just a holiday with a taste of chocolate? It probably feels like that for most people and there’s nothing wrong with that for a world which suffers from too much stress and busyness. But is that all there is to it?

It goes without saying that the world changes very fast. Our own generation is experiencing change at a rate never dreamed of by our ancestors and it seems very clear that human beings are finding it quite hard to adapt. The most obvious evidence is the level of stress but it may be that increasing obesity is also a sign of a disease in society. The level of violence in a society is another indicator and in recent years we have seen a rise in intended violence on a national scale which is deeply disturbing. When nations resort to war to sort out their differences then things are seriously wrong and showing little signs of going away.

The response to threats of violence is to increase the level of protection and we had to see not too long ago a new act rush through parliament which its controversial provisions for detention without trial wrapped up in the deceptive phrase “house arrest”. Less in the public eye there has been the acceptance of evidence in court of testimony obtained under torture. These are very serious developments and could only have happened in a society which is deeply

fearful or persuaded to be fearful. We would be fools not to take the threat of terrorist incidents seriously, but the suspension of the long established human rights which include freedom from unjust imprisonment and freedom from fear of degrading and inhuman treatment are even more serious.

Suddenly the similarity with the atmosphere of the first Easter Day becomes apparent. The first Easter had been preceded by an innocent man being tortured and executed because a military commander was afraid that he might be some kind of patriotic terrorist. The commander judged that it would be better for one man to suffer if it prevented trouble particularly at a holiday time. There is a real danger in the troubled mood of today’s world that we go

down the same path and allow the same injustices. Indeed the process is already happening before our eyes.

So the question remains – is Easter relevant for today? My answer to that would be that it is perhaps more relevant than it has ever been. It is relevant in showing us how people behave particularly when they are afraid and how whole communities can be caught up in that fearful process. But, much more importantly, Easter shows that there is a glimmer of hope even in the darkest moments of despair and it is that which we should celebrate on this Holy Day.

May the Hope, Light and Peace and Love of Christ be with you this glorious Easter time.

*Stefanie*

## Easter Fun Week

Great fun was had by all and God richly blessed the week bringing new children each day. Lots of prayers were answered and for this we give thanks to God - and thank you for praying!

A huge ‘thank you’ too goes to everyone who gave their time to help – it couldn’t have happened without you!