



Dates for your Diary:

March

Children's Easter Fun	Monday – Thursday 26 th – 29 th March
Maundy Thursday	Seder Meal 7.00pm
Good Friday	Walk of Witness 10.00am Stations of the Cross 2.00-3.00pm

April

Easter Sunday	1 st April
Men's Breakfast	Saturday 7 th April 8.45am
Lunch Club	Monday 9 th April 1pm
St Francis Fellowship	Monday 16 th April 2.30pm
Community Shop	Saturday 21 st April 11am – 1pm

Contact details:

Rector – Revd. Stefanie Hodges – Tel 504228

Curate – Revd. Diane Peters – Tel 532796

Newsletter – Sallie Garrood – Tel 504839 or email sallie.garrood@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 25th March 2018

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



Collect for the Sunday next before Easter – Palm Sunday

True and humble King,
Hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
Grant us the faith to know You and love You,
That we may be found beside You
On the way of the cross,
Which is the path of glory

Readings

Isaiah 50: 4-9a	Page 738
Philippians 2: 5-11	Page 1179
Mark 15: 1-39	Page 1022

Please pray for:

- Graham and Dawn as we celebrate with them as they renew their marriage vows after this morning's service
- Satyah and Aileen – congratulations on their wonderful news!
- Arthur and Ronnie preparing for their baptism
- The family of Violet Roberts whose funeral is taking place tomorrow
- For this week's Easter Fun activities with thanks to and for everyone offering their help and time
- 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

Passion Week – What does it mean for us?

The passion of Christ includes the time period from the night prior to the crucifixion of Jesus until His death upon the cross. It helps us focus on this time period to emphasize the sufferings of Jesus leading up to His death as the ultimate sacrifice for sin.

It draws out attention once again to His time in the Garden of Gethsemane and includes His prayers, betrayal by Judas Iscariot, abandonment and denial by His disciples, arrest, trials, beatings, and period of time on the cross.

Prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane: [John 18](#) mentions Jesus praying in the garden; Matthew and Luke detail the events of these prayers. Jesus prayed three times while His disciples were to keep watch, but instead fell asleep ([Luke 22:39-46](#)). Jesus' prayers were so intense that His sweat "became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground" ([Luke 22:44](#)). Some interpret this as literal blood), while others interpret this as meaning He was dripping with sweat. Either interpretation speaks to the intensity of His prayers.

His Betrayal: Judas Iscariot arrived at the garden with a crowd of those who sought to arrest Jesus. Though Judas had been one of His closest followers, he handed Jesus over to His betrayers with a kiss, a customary Jewish greeting ([Luke 22:48](#)).

Abandoned/Denied by Disciples: The Gospels record that all of Jesus' followers fled when Jesus was arrested ([Mark 14:50](#)). John and Peter followed at a distance to the high priest's home where Jesus was put on trial. Peter denied knowing Jesus three times while in the high priest's courtyard, which fulfilled Jesus' earlier prediction ([Luke 22:54-62](#)).

His Arrest: [Matthew 26:50](#) records, "Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him." His arrest took place at the hands of the Jewish leaders who opposed Jesus and His claims to be the Messiah.

His Trials: The Gospels record seven different trials that took place at the hands of both the Jewish religious leaders and the Roman authorities that occupied Israel at the time. Though Jesus had done nothing deserving of death, He was condemned to crucifixion. Pilate washed his hands to demonstrate his

innocence of Jesus' blood, though he consented to the wishes of the Jewish leaders and crowd.

His Beatings/Sufferings: Luke summarized the treatment of Jesus during this night by stating, "Now the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking him as they beat him. They also blindfolded him and kept asking him, 'Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?' And they said many other things against him, blaspheming him" ([Luke 22:63-65](#)). In addition, Jesus was flogged using a whip with braided pieces of either bone or perhaps lead balls, leaving many bleeding wounds that remained open when He was nailed to the cross to die.

The Cross: Roman crucifixion involved three nails, with one in each wrist (or hand) and one through both ankles to secure the person's feet. The Bible records that Jesus was crucified with two criminals, one on each side of Him ([Luke 23:32-33](#)). Jesus gave seven specific recorded sayings at the cross before His death, a death later confirmed by Roman soldiers piercing

