



Dates for your Diary:

July

St Francis Fellowship
Community Shop

Monday 16th July 2.30pm
Saturday 28th July 11am-1pm

August

Men's Breakfast
Lunch Club
Book Club
Community Shop

Saturday 4th August 8.45am
Monday 13th August 1pm
Wednesday 15th August 7.45pm
Saturday 25th 11am-1pm

There is no St Francis Fellowship in August

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 15th July 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 Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Generous God,
You give us gifts and make them grow:
Though our faith is small as a mustard seed,
Make it grow to Your glory
And the flourishing of Your Kingdom;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord

Readings

Amos 7:7-15	Page 923
Ephesians 1:3-14	Page 1173
Mark 6:14-29	Page 1008

Please pray for:

- For Eike and Joram and family, asking God to sustain and support them in the weeks ahead,
- For Stuart Gibbs and family as they prepare for the funeral service of Alison - thank you to all the congregation members who displayed your care and support when the family came to church just two hours after Alison died.
- Andrew and Lisa as they prepare for their wedding Day at a time when they mourn the loss of mum (Alison)
- Mike and Penny and Penny's mum, Dorothy, as they settle into their new life
- Sarah Bennett as she prepares to train later this year to become a Pastoral Assistant.



Each week when we pray we ask God for His vision and his help to be the people He wants us to be and to lead his church into the future.

It is becoming increasingly clear (through Prayer) that this is the very area I believe he wants us to take seriously. So let us prepare the way by each day each of us, asking God's Spirit to give us a heart for prayer, and see where He leads us as they say if we do it, He will answer.

....some encouraging and amazing facts...

Praying Together

One of the most central things Christians do when they gather together is pray. They gather to hear the Word, and to cheer on the new members. The Spirit knits them together, and brings them Christ Himself. They hear, see, taste, smell, feel, and sing God's love. And they respond in prayer. Prayer is what most sets a church apart from a social club or labour union or school or service agency.

What's more, public prayers teach each believer a lot about what private prayers are about. In public:

- they pray when they don't want to pray or don't feel like praying;
- they pray when they have trouble concentrating on praying;
- they pray when they aren't prepared for it;
- they pray the Word by drawing on Scriptures in the liturgy and readings;
- they pray for (and with!) those they are in conflict with;
- they pray about people and things they wouldn't think to pray for or would otherwise forget to pray for.

They learn that there is great spiritual power where believers pray together with unity of purpose (also known as '*in agreement*'). Their prayers are at the

core of their relationship with God, which feeds, nurtures, and energizes them, and ties them in with believers of then, now, and to come. And it is in the congregation that they learn how to pray when, say, their business goes bankrupt, they fail in college, their factory closes, or their spouse leaves. Most especially, where death and life meet. Prayer is the most common or 'ordinary' of the ways that the holy and the human come together. Thus, a church's prayers together are far bigger than any one person, or even any one congregation.

When church growth specialists started to look at energetic churches to see what made them so vital, one of the themes that came up over and over again was that those congregations did a lot of praying.

Notices:

Invitation

I would like to encourage members of the congregation to join us for morning prayer on Monday and Tuesday Morning from 9.00. At the moment it is Sarah, Diane and myself. It would be encouraging to see more.

Praying for God's wisdom and guidance for our future, for those who are unwell amongst us, any issue that may be current at the time and anything God may place on our mind.

Thank you to all who generously donated the items of toiletries, this is the second donation we have delivered to the local National Women's and Babies Refuge Centre here in Guildford.

Why don't we continue to support the Centre in this way. If you are able to, add a little item of toiletries to your shopping bag occasionally, Ideas - Shampoo/conditioner, Soap, Toothpaste/toothpaste, Deodorant, face cream, baby talc, wet-wipes, etc, to suggest a few. These vulnerable mothers and little ones who often have to leave home with nothing - and very quickly, will realise there are others who care for them.

Book Club

The next Book Club will meet on Wednesday 14th August at 7.45pm
Due to unavailability the latest choice for the book group has changed to **The Kite Runner** by **Khaled Hosseini**. We will return to Hidden for the next book.