

Dates for your Diary:



August

Men's Breakfast	Saturday 3 rd August 8.45am
Holy Communion	Monday 12 th August 12.00pm
Lunch Club	Monday 12 th August 1.00pm
St Francis Fellowship	Monday 19 th August 2.30pm
Community Shop	Saturday 31 st August 11am – 1pm

September

Men's Breakfast	Saturday 7 th September 8.45am
Holy Communion	Monday 9 th September 12.00pm
Lunch Club	Monday 9 th September 1.00pm
Tots' Play and Praise	Tuesday 10 th September 10.00am
St Francis Fellowship	Monday 16 th September 2.30pm
Tots' Play and Praise	Tuesday 17 th September 10.00am
Tots' Play and Praise	Tuesday 24 th September 10.00am
Community Shop	Saturday 28 th September 11am – 1pm

Contact details:

Rector – Revd. Stefanie Hodges – Tel 504228

Curate – Revd. Diane Peters – Tel 532796

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

Newsletter – Sallie Garrood – Tel 504839 or email sallie.garrood@gmail.com
or admin@stfrancisclareguildford.org.uk by Wednesday 9am please

ST. FRANCIS PARISH CHURCH, WESTBOROUGH

Notice sheet for 28th July and 4th August 2019

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 Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Creator God,
You made us all in Your image;
may we discern You in all that we see,
and serve You in all that we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Generous God,
You give us gifts and make them grow;
though our faith is small as mustard seed,
make it grow to Your glory
and the flourishing of Your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Readings:

Genesis 18: 20-32	Page 18	Ecclesiastes 1: 2, 12-14, 2: 18-23	Page 670
Colossians 2: 6-15 (16-19)	Page 1183	Colossians 3: 1-11	Page 1184
Luke 11: 1-13	Page 1042	Luke 12 13-21	Page 1044

Please pray:

- For our DCC and PCC committees - for wisdom discernment energy and joy as we serve God and his church.
- For Eileen, for Mary and Bob and for Stefanie recovering from two injuries
- For the opportunity to spread His love
- For mission opportunity; That God may give us the Opportunity and courage to tell our stories of Christ love and purpose to others, and to invite them to church.
- For our Pre-School, now on holiday; for the children and their families that they will have a happy and safe time and for the leaders, a time of refreshment after their busy year.
- For every one of us, whether at home or away, that God will grant us His blessing, and that we will enjoy rest, relaxation and safety in whatever we are doing.

Week 5. Reflection on Ephesians ENJOYING THE PEACE OF GOD.

Peace is something that we all desperately need and long for. For those of us born after 1945, it is easy to take for granted that we have not lived through the suffering of the world Wars that previous generations suffered.

For those of us living in the West, we can also too readily forget that many troubled regions of the world are still torn apart by war.

Yet, as important as this absence of war is the peace that is available to us through Christ is much deeper and broader. When Paul introduces his letter by blessing his readers with grace and 'peace' he is using the Greek word '*irene*', which is similar in meaning to the Hebrew word '*Shalom*'. Biblical Shalom is about far more than the ending or absence of conflict or even an inner feeling of tranquillity. Rather, it carries with it the idea of wholeness, wellbeing and the idea that life can be lived as God intended it. We can define this peace as operating in three dimensions: eternally, internally and externally!

The first dimension of this 3D Shalom is eternal peace, or peace with God. The bible presents a picture of how, because of mankind's rebellion against the Creator, we have all fallen short of His standards and is under His Judgment (Rom. 3.23) Heb. 9.27). That is fundamentally why Christ came to die in our place and bring peace and reconciliation between us and God. In the words of Rom 5.1 Paul says that 'since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ'.

Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we know that the price of our sins was paid in full on the cross. Therefore, in Christ we are eternally at peace with God.

Once we know this eternal peace with God, only then can we know true *internal peace*' or peace with ourselves. This inner peace is of course something we all desire, but sadly it often proves elusive. There is an extraordinary restlessness within human beings which makes us unable to experience peace. The great French thinker Pascal said this: 'all of humanity's problems stem from man's inability to sit quietly in a room alone'.

Our lack of peace drives us to greed, selfishness, materialism, sexual immorality, foolish ambition and so on. We search for peace in all the wrong places. One of the most highly acclaimed pop songs is U2's 1987 track '*I still haven't found what I'm looking for*'

The good news is that Jesus comes to satisfy that cry, giving us a deep sense of inner peace and fulfilment. This peace is a peace that is independent of circumstances. The world's peace can only be produced by externals such as prosperity and tranquillity; God's peace can be felt in the heat of the battle and on the way to the operating theatre. When we choose not to worry but turn to Him in prayer, we can enjoy 'the peace of God, which transcends all understanding (Phil 4:7)

Then, we are enjoying external and internal peace; we can start manifesting an external peace, a peace in our relationships with others. This relational peace is central to Paul's message in Ephesians 2:11-22) where he depicts Christ as 'our peace'. When we know God's peace in our own lives, we can be agents of peace and reconciliation with those around us.

Moreover, we can be those who carry the 'gospel of peace' into the lost and fractured world.

All of this – external, internal and external peace – and more, is wrapped up in this marvellous greeting: 'grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ'

Reflect and Respond

- **Think about this wonderful peace that Christ has come to bring.**
- **In which dimension or area do you particularly need more peace: eternal, internal or external, or all three?**