

Dates for your Diary:



Tots' Play and Praise every Tuesday in term time at 10.00am

Coffee Morning every Wednesday in term time – open to all 9.15 to 11.15am
– do come and join us!

Lent Course every Monday at 11.00 am (followed by a Soup Lunch) and every Wednesday evening at 8.00 pm during Lent

March

Men's Breakfast	Saturday 7 th March 8.45am
Holy Communion	Monday 9 th March 12.00pm
Lunch Club	Monday 9 th March 1.00pm
Singing Group	Monday 9 th March 7.30pm
PCC Meeting	Tuesday 10 th March 7.30pm
St Francis Fellowship	Monday 16 th March 2.30pm
Mothering Sunday	22 nd March
Book Group	Tuesday March 24 th 8.00pm
Community Shop	Saturday 28 th March 11am – 1pm
Singing Group	Monday 30 th March 7.30pm

April

Palm Sunday	5 th April
Men's Breakfast	Saturday 8 th April 8.45
Maundy Thursday	9 th April: Meal 7.30pm
Good Friday	10 th April: Hour at the Cross 2.00pm
Easter Day	12 th April
Holy Communion	Monday 20 th April 12.00pm
St Francis Fellowship	Monday 20 th April 2.30pm
Community Shop	Saturday 25 th April 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@stfrancisstclareguildford.org.uk by Wednesday 9am please

ST. FRANCIS PARISH CHURCH, WESTBOROUGH

Notice sheet for Sunday 1st March 2020

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 First Sunday of Lent

Heavenly Father

Your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to You in the desert:

help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to Your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord

Readings:

Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7 Page 4

Romans 5.12-19 Page 1132

Matthew 4.1-11 Page 967

Please pray:

- For complete and full recovery for Carol and also for peace for Molly
- For healing of 13 month old Jacob currently in St Georges Hospital, London
- For the NHS dealing with the ongoing challenges of the winter and now with the outbreak of the Coronavirus
- Those around the country seriously affected by the recent storms and the emergency services and the environment agencies in their difficult roles
- Our PCC and DCC members as they prepare for their ongoing commitment and leadership in our parish
- For the adults and children preparing for Baptism

Thought for the Week

As we begin our journey through lent leading on that Journey to the cross. A time of challenge for so many in our busy and ever increasing dysfunctional world. Some may understand the cries of **Malachi. 3:13-18**

¹³ GOD says, "You have spoken hard, rude words to me. "You ask, 'When did we ever do that?'"

¹⁴⁻¹⁵ "When you said, 'It doesn't pay to serve God. What do we ever get out of it? When we did what he said and went around with long faces, serious about GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies, what difference did it make? Those who take life into their own hands are the lucky ones. They break all the rules and get ahead anyway. They push God to the limit and get by with it.'"

¹⁶ Then those whose lives honoured GOD got together and talked it over. GOD saw what they were doing and listened in. A book was opened in God's presence and minutes were taken of the meeting, with the names of the GOD-fearers written down, all the names of those who honoured GOD's name.

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies said, "They're mine, all mine. They'll get special treatment when I go into action. I treat them with the same consideration and kindness that parents give the child who honours them. Once more you'll see the difference it makes between being a person who does the right thing and one who doesn't, between serving God and not serving him."

REFLECT

What complaint do these people express to God?

Sooner or later we all experience the sort of disillusionment expressed in v. 14: "It is futile to serve God." We make sacrifices for God, serve Jesus faithfully and try hard to live his way. We do not do it for reward but we do expect that life in some way will work better for us. When it doesn't and those who pay no attention to God land on their feet (15) we wonder, "why do I bother?" God's answer, in effect, is: be patient and don't give up. I haven't forgotten you and will act when the time is right (17,18).

Three assurances are given. If you are trying to live to honour God, he considers you to be his treasured possession. God's relationship with you is like that of a father and child (not the flawed kind humans often endure, but the ideal). God

has not lost his moral compass - he knows the difference between right and wrong and will deal with it justly. We, his beloved children, can rest assured that we are God's treasured possession.

Take time this week to just be – sit for a few moments and allow a sense of being special and precious to God to flow over you.
Thank God for that special gift.

Pray

Lord, when things just don't seem fair and right, help me to trust in Your wisdom, power and goodness.

Spot the Difference

Our Lent study course this year is 'Spot the Difference' by Nick Fawcett and will be on Mondays March 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th at 11.00 am followed by a soup lunch

Each session will also be repeated on Wednesday evenings at 8.00 pm.

Open invitation to all

