

## Dates for your Diary:



### January

**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!**

<b>Holy Communion</b>	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> January 12.00pm
<b>Book Group</b>	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January 8.00pm
<b>Lunch club</b>	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> January 1.00pm
<b>St Francis Fellowship</b>	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2.30pm
<b>Community Shop</b>	Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> January 11am-1pm

### February

**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!**

<b>Men's Breakfast</b>	Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 8.45
<b>Holy Communion</b>	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 12.00pm
<b>Lunch Club</b>	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 1.00pm
<b>St Francis Fellowship</b>	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2.30pm
<b>Community Shop</b>	Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 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](mailto:Eike.ndiweni@gmail.com)

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

**Newsletter** – Sallie Garrood – Tel 504839 or email [sallie.garrood@gmail.com](mailto:sallie.garrood@gmail.com) or [admin@stfrancisstclareguildford.org.uk](mailto:admin@stfrancisstclareguildford.org.uk) by Wednesday 9am please

## **ST. FRANCIS PARISH CHURCH, WESTBOROUGH**

### **Notice sheet for Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

A very warm welcome to everyone joining us for our All Age 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 after Epiphany: The Baptism of Christ**

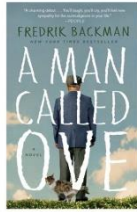
Heavenly Father  
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:  
may we recognise him as our Lord,  
and know ourselves to be your beloved children;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour

### **Readings:**

Isaiah 42.1-9	Page 728
Acts 10.34-43	Page 1104
Matthew 3.13-17	Page 967

### **Please pray:**

- For the emergency Services and people of Australia.
- Our Government Leaders.
- For Mike Ellis - and for strength and support for Penny
- For Carol and Charles (Chas)
- For Adam, a man in our community looking for work.
- For all of those for whom 2020 will be a challenging year- pray for peace, hope, joy and friendship in the coming weeks
- For those around us, for Family, Friends and Neighbours that they may come to know and accept Christ as their Saviour, through us, this coming year.



## Book Group

The next book group is Tuesday 14th January at 8.00pm when we will be discussing 'A man called Ove'. The book group meets every 6 weeks to talk about a book they have just read over a drink and biscuits. We have enjoyed a variety of books since we started meeting and love coming together to chat about the books. Recent books we have read include 'The legacy of Elizabeth Pringle', 'Yellow Birds', 'The lost man' 'Dear Mrs Bird' and 'The Prison Doctor'. All readers are welcome to join us.



## Singing Group

Singing group will meet this Monday 13th Jan at 7.30pm 'til 8.30 in church. Come along and learn new songs for our worship. Speak to Jyl on 01483 614641 if you have any questions



Please could people bring in their Children's Society boxes by 26th January when the money will be given thanks for and sent to the Children's Society.

## Thought for the week

Last week a friend came to visit for a few days, on her arrival she handed me a beautiful bouquet of tulips with vivid reds and yellows and some with both colours in the one flower.

I sit here looking at them now - what beautiful vibrant colours to liven up the room

One thing I recently learnt about tulips is that even after they have been cut from the field bunched up and sent to the shop, even after we have trimmed the bottoms and put them in the vase they still keep growing! Incredible, yes they keep on growing!

It is amazing that the tulips continue to grow for up to an inch when placed in the vase!

The one thing I was aware of, is how, when sitting in a vase, they move around. They twist and turn as if dancing before my eyes all the while turning towards the light, It is when they have found it they open up and bloom displaying even more of their beauty.

Have you ever considered yourself to be like a tulip?

There are times in all our lives when life throws us those curveballs, when life seems to cut us down. It is in those times, even though it may not seem like it, our growth continues and very often our greatest growth takes place.

We may twist and turn in those difficult moments railing and complaining but if we keep searching for the source of light, we will be able to blossom

God does not leave us in those moments, He walks through them with us and if we don't cave in to them often more is going on then we will realise.

***The light shines in the darkness and the darkness can never extinguish it***  
(John 1.6)

May our Lord continue to shine His light before us guiding our way through the darker times and his light within us to shine that others may come to know. I will continue to shine