



Sunday next before Lent — 10:00am Holy Communion

Exodus 24:12-end, 2 Peter:16-end, Matthew 17:1-9

Collect

Holy God, you know the disorder of our sinful lives: set straight our crooked hearts and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymns

King of Kings, majesty - (Jarrod Cooper)
225 God of grace
67 Be still, for the presence of the Lord
448 Meekness and majesty

Prayer List

This week, we are thanking God for **David, Diane, Claudia Peters** and members of our parish; we pray for healing, strength and discernment.

Preacher: Nicola Goff

Lead: Rev'd Rupert Masters

Sunday Service Zoom Link

ID: 896 6125 2194; Passcode 050845

Each week, we pray for families in church and the community. You could send requests to prayers@stfrancisstclareguildford.org.uk

| Date | Name |
|----------|--|
| 01/02/26 | Teresa Newman, Ben, Laura and Florence |
| 08/02/26 | Jacqueline , Robert , James Panchard |
| 15/02/26 | David, Diane, Claudia Peters |
| 22/02/26 | Pam Powici |

Highlight from last Sunday's Sermon: *Trust in God's Provision* by Rev'd Pelumi Adeyemi

Our salvation is beautifully reflected in the creation story, where God's Spirit "hovered" over the emptiness, much like an eagle nurturing its young—providing care, protection, and guidance toward greatness (Deuteronomy 32:10-12). Then, the powerful and majestic voice of God (Psalm 29) brings forth into existence things that were not (Romans 4:17).

Just as salvation is a carefully orchestrated journey, guided by divine design and initiated by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:3) long before we even realise it, so too is God's Word relevant to your circumstances. Isaiah foretold God's passion to fulfil His plan (Isaiah 9:7), and Jesus

Christ exemplified God's unwavering dedication to keeping His promises through the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit (John 6:63-65).

Therefore, rest in the assurance that God possesses all power and unfailing love (Psalm 62:11-12); acknowledge God's present help (Psalm 46:1); trust His multifaceted provision (Proverbs 3:5-6); and experience the deep peace that comes from resting in His faithful support.

Please visit and subscribe to our [YouTube Channel @StfrancisGuildford45](#) for more.

A statement on Bishop Andrew's health

Dear Friends and Brethren,

This week, The Rt Revd Andrew Watson, Bishop of Guildford, sent a letter to clergy and others across the diocese to update them on his health. A spokesperson for the Diocese of Guildford announced that Bishop Andrew has recently been diagnosed with inoperable cancer following a series of medical investigations. He personally communicated this news to clergy and others in the diocese, asking for their prayers for him and his family.

Bishop Andrew is currently awaiting further information regarding medical options to support his comfort and care.

He has communicated to his colleagues across the diocese that he hopes to continue fulfilling his responsibilities as Bishop of Guildford for as long as his health permits.

As many of us know, Bishop Andrew's wife, Reverend Beverly, has been a tremendous support to us at St. Francis. Beverly plans to continue in her role as Vicar of All Saints.

Please join us in praying for Bishop Andrew and his family during this difficult time.

Rev'd Oluwapelumi Adeyemi

Sunday School: I was there. 2 Peter 1:16-21

Peter uses his eyewitness testimony of the transfiguration of Jesus as a sign that he will return. It is a light in the darkness, a glimpse of the prophetic word that the Lord will return.

Mountains are significant places of revelation throughout scripture. Have you ever had a 'mountain top' experience – a time when you have strongly sensed the presence of God? Take some time to recall this experience and remember how it made you feel. How does the

belief in a majestic, reigning Jesus change your outlook on life?

This week, the children are thinking about remembering and sharing what they have seen, and how some of Jesus' closest friends saw him as his rightful majestic self and shared this experience with others.

Alpha Course



The Alpha course will run on **Tuesdays** here at St Francis Church starting February 3rd for 10 weeks (6:30 – 8:30pm). Please sign up at the back or visit our webpage for more information and registration (stfrancisguildford.co.uk/alpha/). You could also sign up in the sheet at the back. Please speak to Robert Stevenson for more info.

Practicing the Way

This is a discipleship course for everyone with practical advice on how to live like Jesus in the modern world. It will run on **Wednesdays** starting February 4th for 8 weeks (7:30 – 8:30pm). Please sign up at the back or visit our webpage for more information and registration, please sign up on the sheet at the back. Please speak to Richard Horn for more info or visit www.practicingtheway.org

We need God in all we do; prayer is key

Please Pray for Growth:

'God of Mission, who alone brings growth to your Church, send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning, wisdom to our actions, joy to our worship and power to our witness. Help St Francis, St Clares and Emmanuel Churches to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you, and in service to our local community, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

The prayer room by the narthex is open daily from 9am—5:30pm. If you feel burdened, come in to pray for yourself, for someone else, for issues that worry you or simply step inside to reflect in the presence of God. Each week, we pray for families in church and the community. You could send requests to prayers@stfrancisstclareguildford.org.uk

My journey to faith by Val' Holt

I was bought up by my parents who believed in a creator God who was real but distant. As a family we enjoyed country walks, gardening, caring for others but not by going to church or Sunday school.

During my teenage years a school friend invited me to a youth club at Emmanuel Church where I met other youths; some came to have fun whilst others seemed kind, more patient and accepting. They went to a prayer meeting before coming to youth fellowship, and I was intrigued by the difference. I joined the prayer meeting and there encountered a God that loves the world so much that He sent His son to live and die for us (including me)! A personal relationship with God was now achievable. It changed by life so much that my mum began her journey to faith, joining me when I came to St Francis Church, learning more at Bible study groups, worshipping in church, and going on retreats and pilgrimages. As my faith deepened, I realized a response from me was needed (Luke 13:6–9, James 2:26); so began decades of service to demonstrate God's love to others by how I live my life.

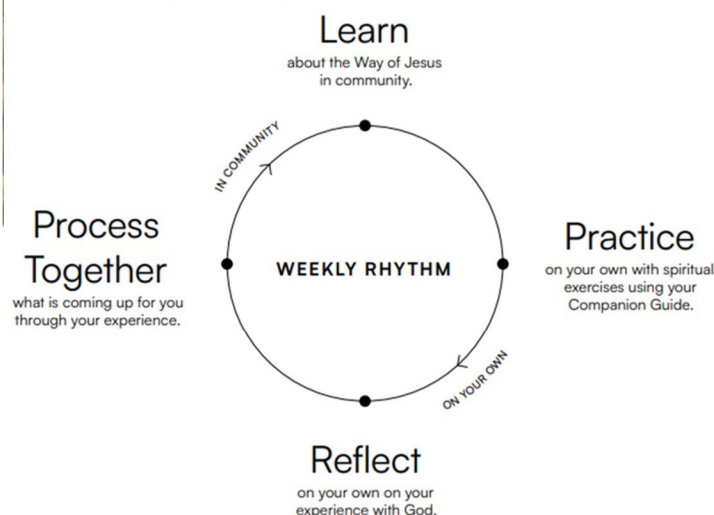
Important Dates (February 2026)

| Date | Event (Time) |
|------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 | Leadership Meeting |
| 3,10,17,24 | Alpha Course (7:15pm) |
| 4,11,18,25 | Practicing The Way (7:30pm) |
| 7 | Leadership Retreat |
| 8 | Café Church (10:00 am) |
| 9 | Tea & Skittles |
| | Hear Here Audiology Clinic |

Practicing the Way

“The modern church is facing a crisis of discipleship”.

It's not that people don't want to become like Jesus, or that people aren't trying to be like Jesus. It's that we don't know how to become like Jesus. **Practicing the Way is a pathway for apprenticeship to Jesus: an invitation to take the next step into deeper life with Jesus every Wednesday @7:30pm**





ST FRANCIS CHURCH

Beckingham Road, Guildford, GU2 8BU

www.stfrancisguildford.co.uk

Minister: Rev'd Oluwapelumi Adeyemi
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Tel: 07508254495

Assistant Minister: Rev'd Diane Peters
[curate@stfrancisstclareguildford.org.uk]
Tel: 07889638710

Deputy Church Warden: Robert Stevenson
churchwarden@stfrancisstclareguildford.org.uk

Assistant Warden & Bookings Manager:
Val Holt (day off: Wednesday)
hallbookings@stfrancisstclareguildford.org.uk

Pastoral Care:
[pastoralcare@stfrancisstclareguildford.org.uk]

Treasurer: Seth Johnson
[treasurer@stfrancisstclareguildford.org.uk]

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Stephen Schofield
Email: safeguarding@emmanuelchurch.co.uk |
Tel: 07421443031 (9am – 3pm)



Newsletter Contributions & Enquiries

For contributions or enquiries on Baptism, marriage etc, please contact Valerie by phone (01483571018) or in person on Wednesdays from 12-4:00pm or via email: admin@stfrancisstclareguildford.org.uk

For your testimonies, God-incidents or coincidences witnessed or experienced, please submit entries of **150 words** to: testimonies@stfrancisstclareguildford.org.uk

You may choose to remain anonymous, however, please note: by submitting your story, you agree we can share your testimony via the print and digital platforms of St Francis Church.

Safeguarding

We are committed to safeguarding as an integral part of ministry and mission, promoting a safer culture and the welfare of all people safe at St Francis Church. We have adopted the Church of England's 'Promoting a Safer Church Policy for children, young people and vulnerable adults.

If you have any concerns, please contact the Minister (Pelumi), the Warden (Robert) or the Parish Safeguarding Officer (Steve)

Other programs

Morning Prayers on Zoom

Tuesdays (9:00 – 9.40am)

Do please join us if you can. *ID: 829 9475 0223; Passcode 104258*

Hear, here NHS Clinics

Tuesdays (9:30-11:00 am)

A Diocese of Guildford project in partnership with Sight for Surrey and the NHS, where our NHS audiology-trained volunteers provides community-based hearing aid maintenance.

Community Foodshare

**Open Mondays – Saturdays (9 am – 4pm),
Sundays (12:00-4:00pm)**