



Third Sunday in Lent — 10:00am Café Church

1 Peter 1:21, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Mark 12:35-40

Collect

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymns

Open the eyes of my heart
You're the word of God the Father
Spirit of God unseen as the wind
409—Lord for the years

Prayer List

This week, we are thanking God for Roger and Mary Smith and members of our parish; we pray for healing, strength and discernment.

Preacher: Rev'd Thom Jee

Lead: Rev'd Diane Peters

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	Jenny Ponsillo
08/02/26	Roger and Mary Smith
15/02/26	Penny and Pete Smith
22/02/26	Angela and Dougie Snape

Highlight from last Sunday's Sermon: *The authority of scripture by Rev'd Pelumi Adeyemi*

The Holy Scripture (i.e., the breath of God [2 Timothy 3:16]), consists of 66 to 73 canonical books across the Old and New Testaments, embodying divine authority. The Old Testament unveils God's covenant, while the New Testament narrates the life, death, resurrection, and teachings of Jesus, who is exalted above all names (Philippians 2:6-11) and whose Word transcends His name (Psalm 138:2). During my PhD journey, I addressed a significant knowledge gap in my field with insights backed by a leading researcher, Jim. When defending my thesis, and my claims were questioned, I confidently referenced Jim's authority, which lent credibility to my arguments and strengthened my position. Jesus' reliance on Scripture during His ministry serves as a profound example of its divine authority, infallibility, and efficacy. He overcame temptations (Matthew 4:1-11) and taught vital

doctrines on marriage (Matthew 19:3-6), Church discipline (Matthew 18:16), and love (Matthew 22:37-39). He affirmed that Scripture is unbreakable (John 10:35) and fulfilled through His resurrection. Recognizing the authority and effectiveness of Scripture, the devil often distorts it to deceive believers (John 10:10). This was evident in Eden (Genesis 3:1), in the wilderness (Matthew 4:3, 6), and through the religious leaders whom Jesus corrected, urging them to seek truth in Scripture (John 5:39). Unfortunately, many today continue to follow paths of distortion despite the significant authority of God's breath (2 Timothy 3:16).

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

The Rt Revd Andrew Watson, Bishop of Guildford

Dear family in Christ,

The Bishop of Dorking, The Rt Revd Paul Davies has announced the death of The Rt Revd Andrew Watson, Bishop of Guildford. Bishop Andrew died peacefully on Tuesday 3 March surrounded by of his much-loved family at his home, Willow Grange, less than one month after he received a diagnosis of inoperable pancreatic cancer.

Prior to his death, he had shared his prognosis with us, assuring that he was "cheerfully persisting towards a good death", and that his "faith in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting, had only grown stronger". He

also reflected that he had been blessed with a loving family and the opportunity to fulfil a series of ministries in his "beloved Church of England".

As we hold Beverly and her family in our thoughts and prayers, Guildford Cathedral was open from 8 AM to 8 PM on Wednesday and Thursday for anyone who wished to pray, light a candle, or sign the Book of Condolence. Funeral arrangements will be shared in due course.

Every blessing to you all during this time of mourning,

Rev'd Oluwapelumi Adeyemi

Sunday School: Jesus meets the Samaritan woman

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (John 4:13-14)

During Lent, we journey towards the cross with Jesus, encountering people along the way who encountered Jesus and help us to understand

more about who he is. This week we will be learning about the Samaritan woman, who met Jesus at the well and after having a conversation with him, came to understand that Jesus' gift of 'living water' is also extended to her.

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

Important Dates (February 2026)

Date	Event (Time)
2	Workers Prayer Meeting
3, 10, 17,	Alpha Course (7:15pm)
4, 11, 18, 25	Practicing The Way (7:30pm)
6	World Day of Prayer
8	Café Church (10:00 am)
9	Tea & Skittles
3, 17, 24, 31	Hear Here Audiology Clinic

Making Sense of Anxiety

When: Saturday 21st March 1.15-3.45pm

Where: St Clare's Church, Cabell Road, Park Barn.

Cost: FREE - donations kindly accepted in support of Emerge Mental Health Charity for their work with young people.

Anxiety can be bewildering and exhausting, but if we can learn to make sense of it and understand how our body responds to being anxious, then we discover how to be in control of our anxiety rather than it be in control of us.



Martin is a local GP with an interest in mental health. He is author of the book, 'Your Worry Makes Sense' and posts regularly about mental health on Instagram and TikTok as @doc_martin_gp



Suitable for all ages and stages, young people warmly invited.



ST FRANCIS CHURCH

Beckingham Road, Guildford, GU2 8BU

www.stfrancisguildford.co.uk

Minister: Rev'd Oluwapelumi Adeyemi
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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)**