



### Fourth Sunday in Lent — 10:00am Holy Communion

John 1:1-17, John 5:37-40

#### Collect

Merciful Lord, absolve your people from their offences, that through your bountiful goodness we may all be delivered from the chains of those sins which by our frailty we have committed; grant this, heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen .

#### Hymns

422 Lord, we come to ask your healing  
Here is love vast as the ocean  
How deep the Father's love (Townend)  
104 Christ triumphant

#### Prayer List

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

**Preacher:** Robert Stevenson

**Lead:** Rev'd Pelumi Adeyemi

#### Sunday Service Zoom Link

ID: 896 6125 2194; Passcode 050845

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>
01/03/26	Jenny Ponsillo
08/03/26	Roger and Mary Smith
15/03/26	Penny and Pete Smith
22/03/26	Angela and Dougie Snape

### Highlight from last Sunday's Sermon: *The Inspiration of Scripture by Rev'd Thom Jee*

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

What kind of church are we? At heart, we are a church of the Word - a community built around the God who speaks.

On Sunday we sat with two remarkable verses. Paul writes to Timothy that 'all Scripture is God-breathed' - not just inspired in a vague sense, but breathed by God himself. Our God is not silent. He has spoken.

That matters, because we couldn't reach up to find God on our own. If he hadn't reached down to us - most fully in Jesus, and supremely on the cross - we would know nothing of him at all.

Scripture is that reaching down: a hand extended toward us.

Because it is God breathed, scripture is totally reliable. As the Lausanne covenant puts it, it is

without error in all that it affirms. It is like a rock to stand on, and a compass to navigate by in the fog of modern life.

If we're following Jesus, his attitude to Scripture must become ours. He trusted it completely. He lived by it and fulfilled it. So our question when we open the Bible isn't 'what do I think?' - it's 'what does God say?'

The 39 Articles warn us not to read one verse in a way that contradicts another - to read Scripture as a whole, in context, letting it speak for itself.

Will we take God at his word?

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

## Funeral of the late Rt Rev'd Andrew Watson, Bishop of Guildford

Dear family in Christ,

The Rt Rev'd Paul Davies, Bishop of Dorking, has announced the funeral arrangements for the Rt Rev'd Andrew Watson, following his death last week. The service will be held on Monday 23 March at 12 noon in Guildford Cathedral, within a celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

To ensure wide participation, each deanery will host a church livestream so people can join the worship remotely. In-person attendance has been arranged for Bishop Andrew's family and friends, Church of England bishops, licensed clergy of the Diocese of Guildford, representatives of diocesan and national ministries, civic

leaders across the region, and parish representatives from each deanery in the Diocese.

In the Guildford deanery, a livestream will be available at **St Nicolas' Church, Guildford**.



Prior to his death, Bishop Andrew requested that donations in his memory be given to support the mission and ministry of Guildford Cathedral. You may wish to donate using the QR code or weblink :

<https://andrew-watson1.muchloved.com>

## Sunday School: What do you see?

“<sup>4</sup>As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” (John 9:4-5)

Jesus restores the sight of a blind man who sees Jesus for who he is. The sighted do not believe the man's story, and fail to recognise who Jesus is. Jesus tells them that they are spiritually blind because they do not believe in him.

Sunday 15 March is Mothering Sunday in the UK. Mothers, and all parents and carers, do many things that go unseen and unnoticed, and today's Gospel passage about Jesus healing a man born blind enables us to explore the themes of seeing and noticing, as we ask the question 'What do you see?'

## 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/](http://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](http://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](mailto: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 21<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.stfrancisguildford.co.uk)

**Minister:** Rev'd Oluwapelumi Adeyemi  
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**Assistant Minister:** Rev'd Diane Peters  
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Tel: 07889638710

**Deputy Church Warden:** Robert Stevenson  
[churchwarden@stfrancisstclareguildford.org.uk](mailto:churchwarden@stfrancisstclareguildford.org.uk)

**Assistant Warden & Bookings Manager:**  
Val Holt (day off: Wednesday)  
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**Treasurer:** Seth Johnson  
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**Parish Safeguarding Officer:** Stephen Schofield  
Email: [safeguarding@emmanuelchurch.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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)**