



St Francis

Church

February 22nd, 2026

Newsletter & Notices

Worship/Services this week

Sunday's service will be led by **Rev Wayne Hawkins**, our Oxford Ecumenical Minister. He has been with us before so please welcome him back.

The **Duty Steward** on Sunday will be Betty Cook and Chris Smith will be reading the lesson

Tuesday's communion service will be led by **Rev Barrie Cheetham**, our friend from The Haven URC church. He too has led us many times both on a Tuesday and a Sunday. Please make him welcome too.

Advance notice:

Next week the **Duty Steward** will be Lee Davis and Chris Smith will again be reading the lesson

St Francis Church Membership

It is time for our Common Roll of Members to be reviewed, before confirming the numbers at our Annual General Meeting. The official notice for this is now on the Notice Board and on the front door of the Church. If you are interested in having your name added to this membership list, please speak to a member of the SCC who will talk you through the process and give you the appropriate forms to fill in. (Members of the SCC are as follows: Jane Wass, Alan Flemming, Hazel McDermid, Faye Holdsworth, Betty Cook, Chris Smith, Andrea Harding-Smith and Lee Davis). You have just **one more week** to do this if you want your name added to the roll before the AGM. If you have any questions, please contact me on stfrancischurchbanbury@gmail.com

Praying for Church and Community

Our next prayer meeting will be on Monday 23rd February from 2 to 3pm in church. Everyone is welcome to join us!

We live in a troubled world, so we pray for peace in our hearts, remembering the words of Jesus - "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John ch16 v33

Hazel and Betty

Easter is coming early this year

Easter Sunday is on the 5th of April.

Many of us will be giving Easter Eggs to families or children that we know. In the next few weeks, you can order the Real Easter Eggs that you buy to give away.

Please make sure that you order your Real Easter Eggs in good time.

Forest Church

****Please find below the Forest Church dates up until the summer:**

8th March – next week!!

19th April

10th May

21 June

19 July.

Godly Play Day

Are you involved in Preaching, Worship Leading, Messy Church, School/Children's Work, Toddler Groups, Study Groups?

Saturday 7th March 10am - 3pm.

Marlborough Road Methodist Church Banbury OX16 5BZ

RSVP to:

Clare Taylor: admin@banburycircuit.org.uk (01295 257193)

Our Little Thought of Hope For The Week

Forgive, and you shall be forgiven

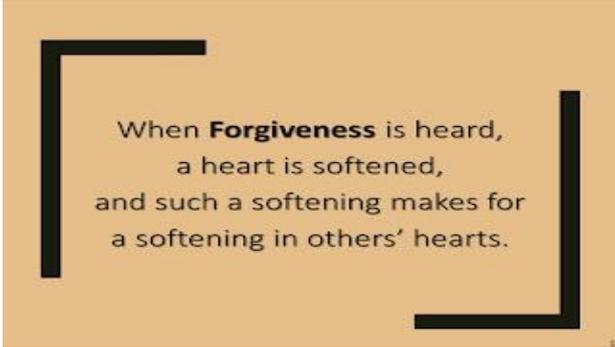
Matthew 6 14:15

Forgiving Others and Embracing Gods Healing

At some point, everyone has been hurt by the words or actions of another person. These incidents can range from everyday disappointments, such as a misunderstanding with a friend or a setback at work, to deeply painful events such as bullying or abuse. Those experiences may leave lasting feelings of resentment, bitterness and anger. Sometimes, they might even lead to hatred.

But if you hold on to the pain, you might be the one who pays most dearly. By embracing forgiveness, you may feel more peace and hope. Think about how forgiveness can help support your physical, emotional and spiritual well-being.

Forgiving others is a central tenet of Christian doctrine, emphasizing the need for believers to pardon those who have wronged them. This act of forgiveness is not merely a suggestion but a commandment that reflects the character of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ. Forgiveness is essential for maintaining relationships, fostering community, and aligning oneself with the will of God. The Bible provides numerous passages that underscore the importance of forgiving others. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus teaches His disciples to pray, "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" (Matthew 6:12). This prayer highlights the reciprocal nature of forgiveness, suggesting that our forgiveness from God is linked to our willingness to forgive others. Jesus further elaborates on this principle in Matthew 6:14- : "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive yours." This passage underscores the necessity of forgiveness as a condition for receiving God's mercy. The apostles also emphasize the necessity of forgiveness in their epistles. Through forgiveness, believers participate in the divine nature and extend the grace they have received to others.



When **Forgiveness** is heard,
a heart is softened,
and such a softening makes for
a softening in others' hearts.

Next Newsletter

Please send any information that you would like included in the next Newsletter (March 1st, 2026**), by **Wednesday 25th February, 9pm**. My email address: phillipsdavid807@gmail.com

Diary Dates - February

- **Praying for Church and Community**, Monday 23rd of February, 2pm-3pm at St Francis Church.
- **Thursday 26th – A Tapestry of Praise – on-line zoom meeting, 7pm**. See last week's Newsletter for details
- **Friday 27th February: Last date for applying for your name to go on the Common Roll of Membership**

