

5th January – ALL AGE SERVICE

Romans 1:16 – Verse of the year

Ben Thorndike (speaking), Jane Thorndike (leading)



Next Sunday – MORNING SERVICE

Genesis 1:-2:3 – In the beginning

David Lattimer (preaching), Andrew Gibson (leading)

Happy New Year! What difference a day (or year!) makes... as we leave 2019 and move into 2020. What was life like for you this time last year? What was life like for our church family this time last year? We can always say that God is good – even in the darkest of times. Psalm 23:4 – “*even though* I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.” If you want a slightly longer reflection at the start of the year, perhaps read 2 Peter 1:3-9. God “has given us everything we need for a godly life,” in the present age and for the age to come. Trusting in Jesus we are God’s children and have inherited riches beyond our ability to conceive. We have all we need already for the year ahead to live lives that honour the Lord Jesus. Praise Him for His goodness to us, and pray we might be faithful and fruitful servants in His hands – as individuals and a church. *Ben*

Other news and events coming up this week and beyond...

- **Mon 6 Jan: Alderbrook coffee morning, 10am-12pm** – drop in anytime for coffee and cake. An easy opportunity to support the local community and meet those who are part of it.
- **Wed 8 Jan: Hub prayers, in the lounge, 12-1pm.** Weekly meeting in the lounge to pray from last week’s sermon, and to share wider prayers for the life and ministry of St Richard’s together.
- **Thu 9 Jan: StR monthly prayer meeting, 7.45-9.30pm.** Come and join with those at the heart of the church family to hear news, share and pray about the life and ministry of our church. Prayer meetings are our most important meetings of the month outside Sunday mornings!

- **Subject: SGP Annual Conference (A praying church – 23 Nov 2019) – audios now available!** A quick note to let you know the audio files from the SGP Annual Conference are now available for download from the SGP Website, together with the programme booklet which contains Rupert Bentley Taylor's talk outlines. If you'd like to listen, or forward them to others who may be interested, they are here:

<https://sussexgospelpartnership.org.uk/resource/2019-annual-conference-audio-files-and-programme-booklet/>

- **Can you join the reading army at Ashdown school?** Ashdown school have asked St Richard's church for help – what an amazing opportunity! They are looking for volunteers from the local community who have a few hours to spare each week. *"We would like you to come and listen to some of our fabulous children read."* To find out more, come to a meeting on Tue 14th Jan 11-11.30am at Ashdown Primary School (Junior Site). Do please let Ben or Trish know if you are interested, and can go to the meeting.
- Sat 18 Jan: 'Count Everyone In,' 9.30am-4.30pm in The Stables at All Saints. 'Know and Grow' training, equipping churches to welcome and be accessible for those with learning disabilities so that they can know Jesus and grow in their faith. Contact Sarah Thrift: sarah@allsaintscrowborough.org

Please submit any notices or prayer requests to be considered for the news sheet
by Tuesday to the church office
strichardsoffice@gmail.com 01892 611318 (or a note in the pigeonhole!)