

## St Richard's Crowborough – News update AUGUST 2021

This news sheet covers the whole of August, but we will continue to communicate in other ways as and when needed during the summer.

**Sunday 1 August 2021 – 10.45 am Morning service**

**Summer service together**

**John 2:13-25 – Tables turned**

(Ian Roberts preaching & Trish Scobell leading)

**Sunday 8 August 2021 – 10.45am Morning service**

**Summer service together**

**John 3:1-17 – Born again**

(Ben Thorndike preaching & Jane Thorndike leading)

**Sunday 15 August 2021 – 10.45am Morning service**

**Summer service together**

**John 4:1-42 – Living water**

(Andrew Gibson preaching & Trish Scobell leading)

**Sunday 22 August 2021 – 10.45am Morning service**

**Summer service together**

**John 4:43-54 – Your son will live**

(Ian Roberts preaching & Andrew Gibson leading)

**Sunday 29 August 2021 – 10.45am The Lord's Supper**

**Summer service together**

**John 5:1-15 – Pick up your mat**

(Andrew Gibson preaching & Jane Thorndike leading)

**Sunday evening at All Saints, 6.30pm** – *if you want two services, come along to All Saints or tune in to the All Saints Live Stream for the evening service: [allsaintscrowborough.org/live](http://allsaintscrowborough.org/live)*

## SUNDAYS AT ST RICHARD'S – LATEST NEWS

What a joy to gather together on Sunday 25 July, to sing inside and to share a bring-your-own picnic lunch in the outside space. Many more of those to come we hope! That was also our last planned Zoom broadcast for the moment (but sermon audio recordings are still posted weekly to the church website). If you are a regular member of the church family, you will know that our plan is to come out of lockdown and social distancing gradually. We long to open up and do as much as we can together, but the overriding principle is a love and concern for others, especially those who feel less confident and more vulnerable than we might. So that said, a brief reminder of some of the things we are doing, and encouraging all of us to do together, over the coming weeks:

- We will still have hand sanitiser at the doors for you to use coming in and going out.
- Masks are not compulsory but we expect that a good number will still choose to wear them when entering and leaving. We are encouraging everyone to use a mask whilst singing.
- We will keep the building ventilated through the summer months with windows open.
- We plan an extra row of chairs to be put in the main worship area as needed, anytime from Sun 15 Aug.
- We are allowed to sit next to each other on rows, but as a courtesy please ask the person you plan to sit next to if they want you to leave a seat empty or not, and please, if you feel more comfortable with a seat between you and another household do say so to the person planning to sit next to you without any embarrassment. Consider this too, when sitting in front of, or behind, someone on the rows.
- We can chat in the building after a service, but if the weather is fine, we encourage you to chat outside.
- We continue to encourage people to exit via the back door into the outside space for the time being.
- We will continue to have just bread at The Lord's Supper during the summer and hope to reintroduce wine in September. This is also when we will look at serving refreshments after services again.
- 'Summer services together' are all ages together (no separate children's groups), but they are not All Age services. Instead, there will be a shorter sermon plus activity sheets for children and young people.
- We plan for children and young people's groups to restart on Sunday 5 September.

**Do continue to join together in giving thanks and praise to God for getting us to this point!** Ben

## CHURCH NEWS AND COMING UP...

- **Weekly lunchtime prayers at St Richard's – Wednesdays 4, 11, 18 & 25 Aug & 1 Sep 12.00-12.45pm.** A time of fellowship around God's word and prayer. Join with us to pray for our church, our community and the world. Bring your own sandwiches to share time together over lunch too if you would like.
- **Welcome back to the Gibsons from mission! Andrew and June have returned and write: "we are thankful for the prayers of church members for us and the teams when we were supporting those walking the Via Beata in Wales. We were able to talk about faith in Jesus to very many people we met along the route and when we knocked doors in the villages. Several people made a commitment to follow Jesus, thanks be to our God." We hope to see and hear more about this mission trip from Andrew and June soon!**
- **Southern Women's Convention – Sat 2nd Oct, 9am-3.15pm.** *There is no rock like our God (1 Sam 2:2).* In a day of teaching, fellowship, worship & seminars, we'll be considering how we can be bold in living for Jesus as we look forward to a new normal, post-Covid-19. Main speaker, Karen Soole, will spotlight the challenge of two very different women from 1 Samuel. In person and online options. More info and how to book see here: <https://allsaintscrowborough.churchsuite.co.uk/events/2b0ck2gl>

## Men and women of the church family

Below are the remaining events in our plan to help get men and women of the church meeting together again. *These also tie into evangelistic events later in the autumn term and into 2022 (to invite others to) as we prepare for 'St Richard's Passion for Life Mission.'* More on that to follow!

These sort of events will be increasingly important in our reconnections together outside Sunday mornings. **So if you are a man or woman of St Richard's, please be encouraged to come along and reconnect together.**

**Saturday 18 September, 2.00-3.30pm. WOMEN'S 'Desserts and discussion.'** An opportunity to open the Bible briefly, pray together, and chat more about life – as we share, hopefully by now, a selection of desserts prepared by one another.

**Wednesday 6 October, 7.30-9.00pm. MEN'S 'Lager and laughter.'** An opportunity to open the Bible briefly, pray together, and chat more about life – as we share a drink or two, and snacks together.

### Outreach to Alderbrook and the local community – with Forest Fold Baptist Church

What a joy to serve the children and young people in our local community through Lighthouse last month. Up to 80 people came for the BBQ on the final night! Pray on for continued relationship building and for people to ultimately come to know and trust in Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

We continue to partner with Forest Fold Baptist Church into the autumn through Connect – another outreach to children and young people in our local area. Do be **praying** on for Connect, do **come** along with your children, and do think about any families with children you might like to **invite** to join you!

**Connect** – a monthly meeting, following on from Lighthouse. Children aged 5-13 welcome to join for crafts, games and short Bible Talk. Mon Sep 13, Oct 18 & Nov 22 at St Richard's Church 6.45-8pm.

### OTHER NEWS ...

- **Road closure – Walshes Road!** South East Water plan to install 200m of new water main in Walshes Road, from July 26. The project is expected to take c.12 weeks to complete. Walshes Road will be closed for the duration in three sections: First, between Stone Cross Road and Walshes Road to the junction at Kingfisher Drive. Secondly, between Kingfisher Drive and Nightingales. Finally, between Nightingales and Luxford Road. This will impact traffic from the south, **but the church is still accessible from the Whitehill Road end of Fermor Road.** For more details see: <https://corporate.southeastwater.co.uk/walshesroad>