

St Richard's Crowborough – News update 19 Sep 2021

Sunday 19 Sep 2021 – 10.45am The Lord's Supper

(with children and young people's groups)

Philippians 2:1-18 - Serving

(Ben Thorndike preaching & 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*

ST RICHARD'S – LATEST NEWS

Unity and stability as a church family are two key things to maintain during the vacancy – **Ephesians 4:1-16**. Steve Rees has been working to put an interim leadership in place at St Richard's until the new Minister comes, whilst I have sought to ensure St Richard's Management Team (SRMT) are as strong and representative as possible to provide support. Both the interim leadership and SRMT will work together, alongside the church Administrator. Steve and I hope this 'triangle' of relationships (Interim Pastoral Leadership, SRMT and Administrator) is a good structure to help provide unity and stability in the coming months. So in addition to praying for **the whole church family**, for **all who serve** in the life of the church, for **those involved leading teams/groups**, and for **Tony Hoyle looking after our building as Facilities Manager**; please pray especially for:

Interim Pastoral Leaders:

David Phillips and David Buck

(David & Elizabeth Buck will join the church family for a season from All Saints. David Buck will be Interim Pastoral Leader, working alongside David Phillips as Interim Assistant Pastoral Leader).

Current St Richard's Management Team members:

Rosemary Longley (elected), Stuart Smith (elected), David Lattimer (co-opted)

New St Richard's Management Team members:

Sue Aldrich (Treasurer) and Andrew Gibson (co-opted)

St Richard's Administrator:

Trish Scobell (also Outreach & Pastoral worker)

A final update on the VACANCY and discussions about the next Minister. After a lengthy PCC discussion, it was agreed to allow the current advert for a Licensed Lay Minister to continue (closing date 15 Oct). Should an appointment of a suitable candidate not be made, the matter will return to the PCC to consider the possibility of advertising for an Ordained Minister for St Richard's as a 'like for like' replacement for me. This will have significant financial implications for both churches. In light of all this – and for St Richard's in seeking to secure the Outreach & Pastoral Worker post beyond three years (Trish is currently entering the third year) – both churches are planning to have **Gift Days over the next few weeks. For St Richard's this will be, aptly, Sunday 3 October – Harvest Sunday.** More information and Gift Day leaflet will be given as soon as possible, but do please be praying on about staffing and finances now.

Ben

SUNDAYS AT ST RICHARD'S

We hit the autumn term with the same freedoms to worship that we have enjoyed through the summer. Praise the Lord for that! If you are a regular member of the church family, you will know that our plan is to continue coming 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 please do wear a face covering if you would like (though we are asking everyone to wear one when we sing together).
- We will keep the building **ventilated** as much as possible, with windows open.
- Rows of **seating** remain spaced out a little more than usual – but due to increasing numbers, we plan to review adding the extra row of seats ahead of Sunday 3 October. (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 plan to trial reintroducing wine to **The Lord's Supper** this month in a safe manner.
- We have made the decision to postpone serving **refreshments** on Sundays for a while longer as we consider how it works practically, especially as we try to gain normality of seating in the worship area.

CHURCH NEWS AND COMING UP...

- **Weekly lunchtime prayers at St Richard's – Wednesday 22 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.
- **For Home Group members unable to meet in person this term.** Covid continues to impact different parts of our lives. If you are part of a home group but are unable to meet in person at the moment, can I encourage you towards two things. 1) Do continue to keep in touch in other ways to share, encourage and pray for those in your home group, and they for you. 2) There is an open invitation to join with others via Zoom at Tuesday Bible School (TBS) for a season. TBS is a little different to a home group but you will have the chance to feed regularly from God's word during this season. For more information please contact Ian Roberts revianroberts@gmail.com 01892 652879 or David Buck dridleybuck@gmail.com 01892 664745.
- **Connect – a group for children aged 5-13.** We met on Monday 13 September, from 6.45-8pm at St Richard's with crafts, games, refreshments and a short Bible talk. A joint partnership project with Forest Fold Baptist church. Give thanks for the 21 children who came, including a number of families from Alderbrook, and new faces. Pray on for the next Connect on Monday 18 October – that God might use these times to bring people into His Kingdom.
- **Southern Women's Convention – Sat 2 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's event – Encouraging for Friendship and Evangelism – Tues 5 Oct, 7-9.30pm.** Forest Fold are running an evening for men called 'Barriers' & 'Bridges' to help us with personal evangelism and speaking to our friends about our faith and Jesus. With Domino's pizzas at half time! Cost is £6 per ticket, booking and questions to James Russell (Forest Fold) james.a.russell@live.co.uk
- **Passion for Life launch: Cabaret & All That Jazz** – joint event by All Saints & St Richard's churches, an evening of cabaret, cocktails, craft beer & conversation, with speaker Rico Tice. **Wed 13 Oct 7.30–9.45pm** at All Saints Church. £7.50 (inc. free drink on entry) Book a table for up to six people online at: www.allsaintscrowborough.org

Men and women of the church family

Below is the remaining event in our plan to help get men and women of the church meeting together again. *These also tie into evangelistic events later this 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!*

So if you are a man or woman of St Richard's, please be encouraged to come along and reconnect together.

Wednesday 6 October, 7.30-9.00pm. MEN'S 'Lager and laughter.' Venue to be confirmed. An opportunity to open the Bible briefly, pray together, and chat more about life – as we share a drink or two, and snacks together. Please let the church office know strichardsoffice@gmail.com by 29 September if you intend to come so we can send more details.

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>
- **'Catch the wind'** joint churches prayer meeting from 9.00-9.40am at The Oasis (Community Church building in Beacon Road, opposite Royal Mail Sorting Office.) The meeting will be on the **first Saturday of each month.** They are introducing prayer walking around parts of Crowborough for those who want to take part, with time together at The Oasis before the prayer walk. For more information, please contact Peter and Pat Lockley plockley2@gmail.com
- **Shoe Boxes** – If anyone would like to make up a shoe box for Link to Hope please be in contact with Frances Sadd –
- **Annie Collins' funeral.** Annie was a regular worshipper at St Richard's in past years before moving to Temple Grove nursing home. Her funeral will take place at All Saints church on Wednesday 6 October, 10.30am (Mark Ashworth will be leading).

Next Sunday – 26 September 2021

Morning Service 10.45am 2 Corinthians 9 – Giving

(ahead of planned Gift Day on 3 October)

(Ben Thorndike preaching & leading)

