

## St Richard's Crowborough – News update 26 Sep 2021

**Sunday 26 Sep 2021 – 10.45am Morning Service**

*(with children's groups – Lasers will join the main service!)*

**2 Corinthians 9:6-15 – Giving** *(ahead of planned Gift Day on 3 October)*

(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](https://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.

### GIFT DAY NEXT SUNDAY – HARVEST SUNDAY

Please read and respond to St Richard's Gift Day 2021 leaflet, which was sent by email to everyone in the church family along with this week's news sheet. It explains our current position and hopes for 2022.

A few hard copies will be available in church, along with the news sheet, for those who are not on email.

### CHURCH NEWS AND COMING UP...

- **Weekly lunchtime prayers at St Richard's – Wednesday 29 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 – led by Ian Roberts and David Buck.
- **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](mailto: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](http://www.allsaintscrowborough.org)



#### Passion for Life prayers this week:

- Ask the Lord to bring to mind those who we can invite to Passion events, especially 'Cabaret & All That Jazz' evening on 13 October. Ask the Lord to increase our love and compassion for them and give us opportunities to demonstrate the love of Jesus in all our interactions with them.
- Pray for an opportunity to invite each of them to a Passion event and to speak of our faith.
- Pray for those we know who may not be able to attend these events – that as we speak of what we do at church, the Lord would be sowing seeds. May we remain faithful in prayer for them, even when we don't see obvious fruit of our conversations.
- Pray for the organising team for Cabaret & All That Jazz, led by Jenny Rees. May they be wise in their planning and sensitive to those who may be nervous about being with others after so long. May the team help all to feel safe and welcome.
- Pray that the different elements of the evening may blend well together creating a relaxed environment and fertile ground for meaningful conversations with our guests.
- **Decorating the church building for Harvest!** If you would like to help with decorating the worship area ready for Harvest then please contact Frances Sadd on 01892 661959.
- **Shoe Boxes** – If anyone would like to make up a shoe box for Link to Hope please be in contact with Frances Sadd – Tel: 01892 661959.

## 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](mailto:strichardsoffice@gmail.com) by 29 September if you intend to come so we can send more details.

## OTHER NEWS...

- **Foodbank donations.** Please consider donating, especially this Harvest. Especially appreciated are: fruit squash/cordial, sponge puddings/jellies, tinned soup (any), biscuits – sweet/savoury, long life milk – semi skimmed/whole milk, tinned ravioli, tinned tuna, rice/noodles (500g), pasta sauce, washing pods – biological/non-biological. **A box is available at church for donations, do bring some on Harvest Sunday.**
- **'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](mailto:plockley2@gmail.com)
- **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>




hope after heartbreak

# DIVORCED OR SEPARATED?

**FREE 7 WEEK SELF-HELP COURSE**  
From Monday 4 October 7.45pm  
TO BOOK OR FIND OUT MORE...  
**07543 859932**

Open to anyone (18+) who's experienced or is currently going through relationship breakdown.  
Groups are confidential. You're encouraged to share as much or as little you feel is appropriate.  
[www.hope-after-heartbreak.co.uk](http://www.hope-after-heartbreak.co.uk)



## Next Sunday – 3 October 2021

**Morning Service – Harvest & Gift Day 10.45am     Matthew 13:24-43 – Seeds & weeds**

(David Buck preaching & Abi Lattimer leading)