

St Richard's Crowborough – News update 3 October 2021

Sunday 3 Oct 2021 – 10.45am Morning Service – Harvest & Gift Day

(with children and young people's groups!)

Matthew 13: 24-43 – Seeds & weeds

(David Buck preaching & Abi Lattimer 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

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 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 hosting Gift Days. **St Richard's Gift Day is this Sunday, 3 October – Harvest Sunday.** The Gift Day leaflet was sent out last week and is also included in this week's newsletter mailing too. **Do bring pledge forms to church this Sunday and please be praying on about staffing and finances.** 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 17 October. (For 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 continue our trial of reintroducing wine to **The Lord's Supper** this term in a safe manner.
- We have made the decision to postpone serving **refreshments** on Sundays for a while longer – **hoping to re-start on Sunday 17 October** – 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 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.
- **Connect – a group for children aged 5-13.** Our next Connect evening is on **Monday 18 October, meeting from 6.45-8pm at St Richard's.** There will be 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 in September, including a number of families from Alderbrook, and new faces. Pray on that God might use these times to bring people into His Kingdom, and **do consider joining the team to help serve at this event** – contact Trish at the church office for more details.
- **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
- **Living in Love and Faith catch up, Monday 4 October at 7.30pm.** Living in Love and Faith is a new teaching and learning hub produced by the Church of England to help the Church discern a way forward on matters of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. We ran two repeat evenings in June to enable as many people to engage with and be informed by the project, and to equip us in our thinking about these important matters that could potentially reshape the practice and doctrine of the Church of England.

The most recent will be broadcast over Zoom as a catch up session. It lasts approximately 1½ hours starting at 7.30pm and includes explanations on the resource, an opportunity to think and engage with it, to hear the Church of England Evangelical Council's response to it, and a Question Time. If you have questions that are not answered in the Question Time, please be in touch with Steve Rees steve@allsaintscrowbrough.org or Ben ben@allsaintscrowborough.org

- **SGP Annual Conference: Everyday Faith, Everyday Fruitfulness. Sat 13 Nov 2021 10am to 3.30pm.** *'How can we be more fruitful out in God's world, among the people we meet in the everyday places we spend the bulk of our time – the workplace, college, lunch club, supermarket, bus stop, toddler group or school gate? Come and join us for this dynamic, interactive day when we will be discovering the many ways we have probably already been fruitful for Christ and the multiple ways that we can help one another bring Christ's wisdom, power and hope to the challenges and yearnings of our neighbours, co-workers, and friends. Main speaker Mark Greene, Mission Champion at London Institute for Contemporary Christianity.'*

For more details and bookings see: <https://events.sussexgospelpartnership.org.uk/annual-conference>

- **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



Rob & Suzanne Dillingham will be leading a time of prayer during the evening – in person at All Saints, and over Zoom. Please contact Suzanne for more information s.dillingham@outlook.com If you haven't got a guest to bring, we'd love you to join us in prayer!

Passion for Life prayers this week:

- Passion for Life is an initiative linking evangelical churches across the UK, as they proclaim the good news of Jesus in their communities over the coming months. This week, reading Col. 4:2-6, please pray:

Father God, help us be devoted to prayer as we ask you to open hearts to your Gospel. May we have eyes to see where you are at work, that we may overflow with praise and thankfulness. Make us wise in the way we act so that we may be faithful witnesses of your goodness, and be ready to speak of our experience of your love and salvation. Help us to be gracious especially towards those we find difficult, or those who are dismissive or resistant when we speak of our love for you. Thank you, that the Holy Spirit will guide our conversations as we take time to come to Him through prayer. Thank you that as your people pray in faith, mountains move. Help us be a praying people. For the Lord Jesus' glory. Amen

All Saints and St Richard's next event – Cabaret & All That Jazz:

- Thank God for the freedom we have in the UK to meet together and proclaim the Gospel. Pray for protection of this right and for wisdom for church leaders as they seek to maintain a Christian voice in our society. Pray for those parts of the world where it is not possible to speak openly of Jesus – for further information visit opendoorsuk.org
- Continue to pray for those you are inviting to this event, or others you know who do not follow Jesus.
- Pray that the Gospel may be proclaimed clearly and that each guest may sense God's personal invitation to them.
- Pray for conversations with our guests after Rico's talk – may they be easy and natural as we discuss what we have heard.
- Pray for any who might love to hear more of Jesus but have no-one to invite them. Lord, will you somehow make a way for them to hear your message of hope and salvation.

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.**
- **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 – Tel: 01892 661959.
- **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).



hope after heartbreak

DIVORCED OR SEPARATED?

Aquila
Crowborough

**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

Next Sunday – 10 October 2021

Morning Service at 10.45am

Hebrews 11: 1-40 – Unseen conviction

(Steve Rees preaching & Trish Scobell leading)

