

## St Richard's Crowborough – News update 17 October 2021

**Sunday 17 Oct 2021**

**Morning Service at 10.45am – with Thanksgiving for Jessie & Nathan Hyde**

*(with children and young people's groups!)*

**Hebrews 12:1-3 – urged to keep running**

*(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

**We continue to pray on for applications, interviews and appointment of the next Minister for St Richard's.** We are also so grateful to God for the response to our recent Gift Day. In helping support our church family finances, **initial figures look like we have pledged together a monthly increase of around £760 towards the £750 we were aiming for! On top of which one-off gifts have totalled just over £6,270 so far.** This puts the church family in a great position for 2022 budget and decisions to be made on staffing and the new Minister.

### SUNDAYS AT ST RICHARD'S

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:

#### PLANNED CHANGES FOR THIS SUNDAY – 17 OCTOBER

- Due to increasing numbers, the **extra row of seats will be added back** into the main worship area.
- We will be serving **refreshments** from the front after church – one of the changes to this is that we are asking **everyone to bring their own 'keep cup' (travel mugs / mugs with lids) to use.** We have a small number available for those who do not have (and cannot get) one, but it would help us massively if you can please bring your own to church from next Sunday onwards.
- 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) – especially now the final row of seats is back in.
- 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 will keep the building **ventilated** as much as possible, with windows open.
- 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 administering wine at **The Lord's Supper** this month in a safe manner.

## CHURCH NEWS AND COMING UP...

- **Weekly lunchtime prayers at St Richard's – Wednesday 20 Oct 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.
- **Thank you so much** for all those who prayed, served, poured drinks, prepared food and helped in any way on Wednesday night at our **All Saints and St Richards 'Cabaret and All that Jazz' event.** It was so much appreciated by all. Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel and enabling others to bring non-Christian friends with them.
- **Going for Growth! update.** David Buck shared more fully at our October monthly prayer meeting, but plans to purchase the site are in the final stages with solicitors, so all appears well! Beyond that, short term plans are likely to involve letting the bungalow commercially, whilst we then begin a planning process, involving all stakeholders, to think about longer term development of the site.
- **Women's Bible study** – If you would like to join a women's Bible study there are two options. 1) St Richard's Women's Bible Study group meets fortnightly on Thursdays 10.30–11.45am at All Saints downstairs halls (upcoming dates: 4 Nov, 18 Nov & 2 Dec) or 2) A Ladies 10:25 which meets weekly on Fridays 10.15–11.15am over Zoom and once a month in someone's home. If you would like more information about either of these please contact the church office 01892 611318.
- **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 pray for Ben as he leads the talk this month.

## OTHER NEWS...

- **Ben's induction and installation at Tonbridge Parish Church, 7.30pm on Wednesday 8 December.** Due to Covid precautions there are only a limited number of seats available to come and support Ben at the service. If you would like to request a ticket for the service please email [ben@allsaintscrowborough.org](mailto:ben@allsaintscrowborough.org) by Sun 31 October. Please note the service will also be Livestreamed for anyone unable to attend.
- **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>

- **Shoe Boxes** – If anyone has made up a shoe box for Link to Hope please can it be brought back to the church building by 24 October.

- **'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
- **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, please pray:

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." John 3:16-17*

**Father God**, we are so familiar with these words that we can sometimes miss the incredible truth they contain. The message we bring to our broken world is such amazing Good News, that it can be hard to believe and difficult to understand.

That our sin is so dark and deep, that we could never deserve your love.

That your love is so strong and so deep, that you could never give up on us.

That the Son willingly took the condemnation that was ours,  
and gave us the eternal intimacy with the Father that was his.

That when we say yes to Lord Jesus, we move from death to life forever.

Precious Lord Jesus, may many come to know you and place their trust in you, as we, your church, share your Good News of salvation in this place. **Amen**

## **Next Sunday – 24 October 2021**

**The Lord's Supper at 10.45am – with children's groups (*Lasers in main service*)**

**Hebrews 12:4-13 – Urged to endure hardship**

(Rob Dillingham preaching & Andrew Gibson leading)

