

St Richard's Crowborough – News update 24 October 2021

Sunday 24 Oct 2021

Morning Service with The Lord's Supper at 10.45am
(with Sunday Club & crèche – Lasers in main service)

Hebrews 12: 4-13 – Urged to endure hardship.
(Rob Dillingham preaching & Andrew Gibson 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

We continue to pray on for applications, interviews and appointment of the next Minister for St Richard's. Shortlisting is Friday 22 October. 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:

- Due to increasing numbers, the **extra row of seats** has been added back into the main worship area.
- We are now serving **refreshments** from the front after church – 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.
- 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 27 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.
- **Going for Growth! update.** We thank God for His generous provision of the finances we needed for the purchase, now in the final stages with solicitors. As the next phase of the project moves on there will be plenty of consultation. Until that phase happens, the priorities are:
 1. Completing the purchase of the bungalow
 2. Appointing a new Minister for St Richards
 3. Ensuring in the short-term we maximise the financial potential to build funds for a new build/project, as we embark on the consultation process. This will include letting the house in the short-term.
 4. We are also keen for St Richards to access more parking and outside space for ministry – there must be immediate benefit to the church until we start a building project.
 5. The current Going for Growth! team, appointed by Steve Rees in the early days to provide consultation for the project and fundraising appeal are: Ben Thorndike, David & Elizabeth Buck, Eric Harrison, Mike Raddenbury, Nic Hyde and Steve Rees.

Once the sale has gone through and a new Minister is appointed we will need to build a new team for this next stage as the project develops. As you can understand these projects take time, and consultation is key in that. The biggest focus right now is getting the right Minister in place, who can take a significant lead in the development and growth of St Richards.

- **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 group meets weekly on Fridays over Zoom (and once a month in someone's home) from 10.15–11.15am. If you would like more information about either of these please contact the church office 01892 611318.

OTHER NEWS...

- **Ben's induction and installation at Tonbridge Parish Church, 7.30pm on Wednesday 8 December.** Due to Covid precautions there are 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 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.

- **Passion for Life (PFL) prayers this week.** PFL is an initiative linking UK evangelical churches, as they proclaim the good news of Jesus in their communities over the coming months. Having had a great joint launch event with All Saints last week, please look out for details of and prayers for our next St Richard's events up to Easter in our weekly news sheets: This week, please pray:

Matthew 13:18-23. ¹⁸ "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰ The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ²² The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²³ But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

Lord God, thank you for the message about the kingdom that was spoken at the Cabaret evening. We know there are many different responses as the enemy tries to rob each person of the life-giving message they heard. We pray for good soil, that our guests will understand what they heard, and their faith will begin to grow. We pray against things that would distract or get in the way of your word taking deep root in their lives. We pray for wise and helpful conversations as we talk with them about the event and share more of the good news of Jesus in the coming months. Lord, we long to see you multiply the harvest. **Amen**

Also pray and give thanks:

- For the Cabaret evening – for excellent entertainment, for a clear and engaging talk and for good conversations on the tables. For all those who helped set up, prepare food, serve and clear up afterwards. Check out the highlights on <https://www.facebook.com/allsaintscrowborough>
 - Pray for wise follow up conversations with those guests who came.
 - Pray for those who were unable or unwilling to come – that the Lord would continue to work in their lives and prepare their hearts to receive the Gospel.
 - Pray for those who took a step of faith to invite others but feel disappointed that they were not interested – help them remain faithful in prayer and undeterred.
 - Pray for Christianity Explored at St Richard's – that people would sign up and take the opportunity to think about the Christian faith further.
- **Christmas Material and Ribbons!** Does anyone have any material (red, green or Christmassy) or ribbons they no longer need as we would love to use them for decorating the pudding bowls for our Christmas pudding making event in November. Please give to Trish Scobell or drop to the church office.

Next Sunday – 31 October 2021

All Age service at 10.45am (no children & young people's groups)

Hebrews 12:14-28 – Unshakeable kingdom

(Andrew Gibson preaching & Trish Scobell leading)

