

St Richard's Crowborough – News update 31 October 2021

Sunday 31 Oct 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)

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*

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...

- **Our November monthly prayer meeting is this week – Thursday 4 November, 7.45pm at St Richard's.** Come and join with those at the heart of the church family as we hear news, share, and pray together for our lives, our church, our local communities and the world. You don't have to pray out loud, just join with an 'Amen' if you'd like!
- **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 (with crèche) 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>
- **Crowborough Foodbank.** In conjunction with the Trussell Trust, Tesco are holding another national collection for Foodbanks at participating stores. Crowborough Foodbank are taking part again this year, held Thu 18 to Sat 20 Nov at the Jarvis Brook store. They are short of food, as donations have tailed off considerably are low. **If you could provide a donation of food that would be great. Also, please think if you can spare a little time to help out at the national collection event.** Each day is split into 90min slots, and there is still need for volunteers at: 12.30-2.00pm; 2.00-3.30pm and 3.30-5.00pm (+Fri 9.30-11.00am). If you can spare time for this, please email info@crowborough.foodbank.org.uk or contact Mervyn Brown at Crowborough Foodbank for more details.

- **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. This week, please pray:

Colossians 1:15:20. ¹⁵"The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross."

Lord God, as we consider our world and especially the huge issues facing the environment, it is easy to feel overwhelmed or pessimistic about the future. Yet this passage tells us that all things are held together in Jesus, and the redemption of all things is possible through his blood. Help us, Lord, to recognise our responsibility in caring for the world you have made, but to place our hope not in our own efforts, but on the cross of Jesus, through which all of creation can be reconciled and restored. **Amen**

- **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 – 7 November 2021

Morning Service at 10.45am (with children & young people's groups!)

Hebrews 13 – Unshakeable Christians

(David Buck preaching & Trish Scobell leading)

