

St Richard's Crowborough – News update 14 November 2021

Sunday 14 Nov 2021

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

Romans 5: 1-11 Remembrance

(Ben Thorndike preaching & Jane Thorndike 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...

- **Weekly lunchtime prayers at St Richard's – Wednesday 17 Nov 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: 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.
- **Creche helpers needed!!** As God has answered our prayers for more young families to join St Richard's we now have a need for more crèche helpers. If you feel led to help look after the little ones on the occasional Sunday please contact the church office!

OTHER NEWS...

- **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:

Matthew 6:31-34. So do not worry, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Heavenly Father, As we watch the news and hear the predictions of the escalating climate crisis facing our world, it is easy to lose heart and take our eyes off you. Lord God, you know that we need to protect our planet so it can provide food and shelter for all and continue to do so for future generations, but you tell us we have an even more pressing need- to experience your kingdom and meet the King. Lord, help us to have

a godly perspective as we chase after the things we need- that we would trust in the goodness of our King and seek him first. **Amen.**

Next Sunday – 21 November 2021

Lord's supper at 10.45am (with children & young people's groups!)

Psalm 51 The joy of God's salvation

(Ben Thorndike preaching & Abi Lattimer leading)

