

St Richard's Crowborough – News update 21 November 2021

Sunday 21 Nov 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)

(Ben, Jane & family's last Sunday – with Church Family meal after the service)

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 24 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.

OTHER NEWS...

- **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:

Isaiah 55:8-11

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Lord,

Thank you for your promise that your word always does what you intend it to do. Lord thank you that when the gospel is declared, lives are changed. Thank you that even now, you are planting and nurturing seeds of faith. Help us trust that you are working in the lives of our guests even if it we don't always see it. Thank you that even when our church gatherings have been restricted by the pandemic, your word has not been limited and has gone out through the internet to reach people who may never have stepped inside a church building. Thank you that your ways are so much higher than our ways.

Amen

Next Sunday – 28 November 2021

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

Advent 1 – Luke 1: 5-25 Prepare the way for the Lord!

(David Phillips preaching & Andrew Gibson leading)

