

St Richard's Crowborough – News update 28 November 2021

Sunday 28 Nov 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)

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 1 Dec 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.
- **Our December monthly prayer meeting is this week – Thursday 2 December, 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!

- **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 (*Now completed. Praise the Lord!*)
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. Meanwhile, if you have any other questions at all please ask David Buck.

- **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.

Opportunities to serve!

- **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. (Tel: 01892 611318)
- **Connect helpers needed!!** We have an **incredible opportunity** to serve the young people in our local community once a month on a Monday evening 6.45 – 8pm. The evening includes crafts, games and a bible talk. Please contact the church office (Tel: 01892 611318) if you would be able to serve in this way!

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:**

This, then, is how you should pray:

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

(Matthew 6:9-13)

Thank you, Lord Jesus for teaching us how to pray.

As we come to you in prayer and acknowledge your holiness, you reset our focus so that we take our eyes off ourselves and look once again upon our King. Lord, may your kingdom come into the lives of those guests who came to the Christmas pudding - making evening.

Thank you that the practical aspects of our lives matter to you, so as we go about our daily routines this week, may you remind us of your kingdom advancing, as we embrace opportunities to praise you, obey you, rely on you, trust you, and share the grace we have so freely received. Lord, may your kingdom advance in, and through, our lives this week.

Amen

- **Light up a life – at All Saints Church** - Missing someone special this Christmas? Dedicating a star on our Christmas tree is a meaningful way to remember and celebrate the lives of those who are no longer with us. Refreshments at 4.30pm, service at 5pm. Donations to Hospice in the Weald. All welcome, no need to book.
- **Carol Singing around Alderbrook** – Friday 17 December. Please meet at St Richard's at 5.15pm if you would like to join us to sing carols around the Alderbrook estate. Come dressed warm and bring a torch! Mince pies and hot drinks will be served afterwards.

- **Arts by the Green** – 12 – 20 February at All Saints Church. If you would like to display your artwork or craft **based on Isaiah 35**, then you can find the link to the event at allsaintscrowborough.org or speak to Mike Raddenbury.

Next Sunday – 5 Dec 2021

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

Advent 2 – Luke 1: 26-38 Prepare the way for the Lord!

(David Buck preaching & Trish Scobell leading)

Celebrate Christmas at

St. Richard's
CROWBOROUGH

"The
true light that
gives light to
everyone was
coming into
the world."
(John 1:9)

Morning Carols
Sunday 12 December 10.45am

Christmas Carols, readings and Bible talk as part of our
Sunday Service (with children's groups available for 0-14s)

Carols on Adam Field
Sunday 12 December 7pm



Christmas Carols, readings and reflection – come and sing along to
some favourite Carols (access via Adam Close or Alderbrook Way)

All Age Christingle
Christmas Eve, Friday 24 December 4pm

(especially suitable for younger children and families)
A shorter and more interactive service, where we each
build our own Christingle to take home and enjoy!

Christmas Day All Age Celebration
Saturday 25 December 10am

A joyful and relaxed service for all ages, putting Jesus Christ
at the heart of our Christmas celebrations

*All events and services are free – for more details and for latest Covid news,
please contact the church office*

strichardsoffice@gmail.com 01892 611318

or check our website for latest news and information

strichardscrowborough.org