

St Richard's Crowborough – News update 12 December 2021

Sunday 12 Dec 2021

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

Advent 3 – Luke 1: 39-45 Prepare the way for the Lord!

(Andrew Gibson preaching & Abi Lattimer leading)

Carols on Adam Field at 7pm

Luke 2: 1-7, 8-15, 16-21 Christmas Cracker

(Adam Thrift 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:

- 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 have once again been made mandatory (10 Dec 2021) so please do wear a face covering unless you are exempt or under the age of 11 yrs.**
- 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. Please consider this too, when sitting in front of, or behind, someone on the rows.
- We will keep the building **ventilated** as much as reasonably 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 15 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.

- **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 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. (Both groups restart in the new year!) 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:**

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and for ever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

Heavenly Father,

So much of our world is overshadowed by loss, disappointment, sickness, pain, injustice, war, evil and death. It can be easy to lose hope and think the darkness is winning. Yet these words declare the coming of the Saviour, the one who shines light in our darkness and establishes his kingdom forever. Jesus, given to us as a baby, is now the King who will govern with justice and integrity for eternity. He brings us wisdom, power, love and peace when we accept him as Lord and King. This Christmas, as we celebrate the birth of this child may we take time to worship Jesus and seek his kingdom.

Amen

Next events

We have many Christmas events over the coming weeks that bring great opportunities to invite friends, family and neighbours to hear the good news of Jesus.

This week please pray:

- For protection from Covid at all our events, and for wise choices for all who attend.
- For those who are cautious or unable to meet with others to celebrate this year- may they be encouraged as Christians all over the world join to celebrate the birth of our Saviour.
- For health and energy for our leaders as they prepare for all that is going on in the coming weeks. For church family to be quick to support in practical ways.
- For that those who only come to church at Christmas find familiar words and songs have a deeper meaning to them this year and may they want to find out more about Jesus.

- **Morning Carols – Sunday 12 Dec – 10.45am.** Do invite friends and family along!
- **Carols on Adam Field – Sunday 12 December – 7pm.** Please invite friends and family to this community event. (Remember to dress warmly and bring a torch!)
- **Carol Singing around Alderbrook – Friday 17 December. Meet at St Richard's at 5.15pm** if you would like to join us to sing carols around the Alderbrook estate. Come dressed warmly and bring a torch! Mince pies and hot drinks will be served afterwards.
- **Christingle Service – 24 Dec – 4pm.** A great service to bring friends and family to – Especially children!
- **Christmas Day Celebration – 25 Dec – 10am.** All welcome!

- **Ben Thorndike's induction service** – If you would like to watch Ben's induction at St Peter & St Paul, Tonbridge you can see it via this link: <https://www.youtube.com/c/TonbridgeParishChurch>
- **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 – 19 Dec 2021

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

Advent 4 (Nativity) – Luke 1: 46-56 Prepare the way for the Lord!

(Ian Roberts preaching & Andrew Gibson leading)

