

## St Richard's Crowborough – News update 19 December 2021

**Sunday 19 Dec 2021**

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

**Advent 4 – Luke 1: 46-56 Prepare the way for the Lord!**

(Ian Roberts preaching & Andrew Gibson leading)

This newsletter covers the next three weeks, but we will continue to communicate in other ways as and when needed during the Christmas and New Year break.

**Friday 24 December – at St Richard's - Christingle service 4pm**

**Saturday 25 December – at St Richard's - Christmas day Celebration 10am**

(David Phillips preaching & Trish Scobell leading)

**Sunday – 26 Dec 2021**

**JOINT SERVICE at All Saints at 9am – Lord's Supper**

(Mark Ashworth preaching & leading)

**Sunday – 2 Jan 2022**

**JOINT SERVICE at All Saints 10.30am**

(Steve Rees preaching & Rob Dillingham leading)

**New Year Celebration**

**Thursday – 6 Jan 2022**

**Commissioning service for Mark Rapley**

**at St Richard's – 7pm**

(Steve Rees preaching & leading)

*We extend the invitation to Mark's Commissioning service to members of All Saints Church however, because of limited space in our building, they will need to book a seat via the link below. (There is no need for members of St Richard's to book a seat!)*

<https://allsaintscrowborough.churchsuite.co.uk/events/30sf0ccf>

The service can also be accessed over Zoom. Please contact Church office for further details.

## 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 22 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.
- **Mark Rapley's Commissioning service – at St Richard's, Thursday 6 January at 7pm.** (This is in place of our monthly prayer meeting)

### Opportunities to serve!

#### We still need...

- **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:**

*'You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.'*

**Matthew 5:14-16**

Lord Jesus

At Christmas, we are surrounded by displays of festive lights on houses and around town, and many people are drawn to church services to sing familiar carols or watch joyful children re-enact the nativity scene. Christmas can be a moment of light and joy in a gloomy and difficult time. This is good, and yet your church, Lord, is not just for Christmas. Your people are to be light for the whole world, the whole time. Whatever the circumstances, you invite us to shine, to be generous with good deeds and to bring you glory through our lives. Lord, please work in us so that we display your goodness at all times, and light the way for others to seek and find you.

Amen

- **Many local schools** have moved their planned Christmas celebrations from church back to online or in school. **This week please pray:**
  - For all the school children and teachers as schools re-plan their Christmas celebrations – may Jesus be kept in the centre of their focus.
  - For all who are troubled by uncertainty or anxious about the future– that the unchanging truth of the gospel message may bring comfort and challenge to us all this Christmas.
  - For all who usually only come to church at Christmas, may they feel safe, and welcome, and may they increase in their hunger to know more of Jesus.
  - For all who are unable to attend Christmas services or other gatherings this year. Thank the Lord that his word is still able to reach people and has power to save.
- For protection from Covid at all our events, and for wise choices for all who attend.
- **Christmas lights** – A huge thank you to Tony & John for St Richard's Christmas lights. Some neighbours have expressed how much pleasure they have given them. Pray that St Richard's will be a beacon for the light found only in Christ Jesus!
- **Carols on Adam field** – Thank you to those who came and supported this event. It was delightful to see a number of people from the surrounding estates come along and stay to chat after the service. We pray on for gospel seeds sown to now germinate in those lives.

- **Catch the wind** - the next monthly prayer meeting for Crowborough and surrounding area will be on Saturday 8th January 2022 (not Saturday 1st January). 9.00am to 9.35am at The Oasis (The Community Church's building in Beacon Road, opposite the Sorting Office.) Usually on the first Saturday each month.

Please also pray for:

## Christmas Services

- **Christingle Service – 24 Dec – 4pm.** A great service to bring friends and family to – Especially children!
- **Christmas Day Celebration – 25 Dec – 10am.** All welcome!

Please take a **Lateral Flow Test** if you can before attending services (and encourage your guests to do so too!)

Please **wrap up warmly** as we do need to open windows for good ventilation.

**East Sussex County Council – Essential gas pipe work - will start on 10 January for approximately nine weeks in three phases.**

### **Phase one - Alice Bright Lane, Brooklands Avenue and Stone Cross Road.**

Our engineers will be working in Alice Bright Lane and Brooklands Avenue on 10 Jan for approximately four weeks, to access our network safely we will need to close Alice Bright Lane at the junction with Stone Cross Road and the junction with Hurtis Hill Access will be maintained for residents and a diversion will be in place via High Broom Road & Hurtis Hill.

### **Phase two - Stone Cross Road and Burnt Oak Road**

On the 17 January for approximately two weeks, we will move into Stone Cross Road and Burnt Oak Road. We will need to close Stone Cross Road from the junction with Alderbrook Close to the junction with Alice Bright Lane. Burnt Oak Road will be closed at the junction with Stone Cross Road to outside Pick Pale. Access will be maintained for residents and a diversion via High Broom Road, Hurtis Hill, Stone Cross Road & Fermor Road and Fordbrook Hill, Hadlow Down Road, Walshes Road and Fermor Road will be signposted.

### **Phase three - Aldervale Cottages**

From 7 February for approximately five weeks, we will be working in Aldervale Cottages, we will need to close the road and the junction at Stone Cross Road for the duration of the time we are there. Access will be maintained and a diversion will be in place via Fordbrook Hill, Hadlow Down Road, Walshes Road, Fermor Road & Alice Bright Lane.

**The next Newsletter will be published on 7 January 2022**

