

## St Richard's Crowborough – News update 9 January 2022

**Sunday 9 January 2022**

**All Age Service at 10.45am** (no children & young people's groups)

**Acts 2:42 Verse for the year**

(Mark Rapley preaching & Trish Scobell leading)

***Followed by a Welcome lunch for the Rapley family***

**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](https://allsaintscrowborough.org/live) (their verse of the year Matt 9:35-38)*

### 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 here is 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 12 January 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. If you would like more information about either of these please contact the church office 01892 611318.

## Opportunities to serve!

### We still need...

- **Creche helpers** - 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** - 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:**

*For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,' declares the Lord*

**Jeremiah 29: 11-**

**14**

Heavenly Father,

New Year is usually a time for making resolutions, deciding priorities and making plans for the year ahead. Yet we are living in difficult and uncertain times and it is uncomfortable to realise we are not in control. Thank you, Lord God that you are, and you know the plans you have for us, and they are good. Help us to come to you, to pray and seek you with all our heart. Thank you for the promise that when we seek you, we will find you. Thank you that our future is safe in your hands and we have a hope that cannot be extinguished because of Jesus. Help us to point others to this hope, as we live for you in the coming year.

Amen

**Next events:**

**26 Feb - Curry evening with guest speaker**

**19 March - Afternoon tea with guest speaker**

This week please pray:

- For the Lord to limit the effect of Covid on lives and livelihoods and to bring an end to this world-wide pandemic. Give thanks for the effectiveness of vaccines and pray that they would reach all who need them. Please pray for all who are unwell. Pray that in the midst of fear and uncertainty caused by this pandemic, many would turn to the Lord and find hope and a future in him.
  - For wisdom for the organising committees for Passion events – that they would make wise choices as we continue to experience disruption by Covid.
  - For opportunities to speak of the hope we have in Jesus, and to invite others to discover this for themselves through Hope Explored course.
  - For those planning our upcoming events and for speakers preparing to share the good news.
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- **Luciana Pettitt** has been admitted to Papworth Hospital for a second time after collapsing over the Christmas holiday. Please pray on for her, and the family (for Alison who is staying at the hospital with Luciana and Mike who has only recently undergone open heart surgery himself), and pray that the consultants will make good decisions for the way forward in her treatment.

**Next Sunday – 16 January 2022**

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

**Ephesians 1 - The Father chooses, the Son saves & the Spirit seals**

(Mark Rapley preaching & Abi Lattimer leading)