

St Paul's Methodist Church, Crawley

Extraordinary Times

a magazine to help us through COVID-19

Issue 43

January 24th 2021

Rev Ralph will be back at his desk from Tuesday 2nd February

What's On

Sunday 24th 10:45am worship with Ms Jill Brooks

Sunday 31st 10:45am worship with Rev Ralph Ward

Wednesday 2pm Rev Ralph's Bible study on Mark's gospel

Find these live on [Trinity's Facebook page](#) and [St Paul's Facebook page](#)

with videos available afterwards

In your prayers

Pray for yourself this week. Give thanks for blessings received, ask for the things you need just now.

Pray for Geoff Manning, recovering from a heart attack

Thank God for this week's peaceful transfer of power to President Joe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris and pray for them as they take up the reins of government in the USA.

Continue praying for the NHS, hospitals and all medical workers as pressure increases and they struggle to keep on top of everything.

Continue in prayer for members of our church community and others you know who need our prayers at this time.

Send your prayer requests to ask.stpauls@gmail.com

Permission must be received from a person before their name is put on the Church prayer list

New! Online Taketime Sessions for the Circuit

Rev Clive McKie is setting up a new style, 30-minute, online *Taketime Together* group for our Circuit (and indeed for anyone you want to invite).

It will be run by Clive and Pat Oakley and will meet at 7.30pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday evenings of each month, starting on 3rd

February. The meditation will last about 15 minutes and then, for those who wish to stay, there will be a fifteen minute opportunity to share their experiences, facilitated by a trained Taketime Practitioner.

For details click [HERE](#) or email clive@taketime.org.uk



take
time
together

Melvyn is taking a break

Our Circuit Superintendent, Melvyn Cooke, is away on holiday and starts his three-month Sabbatical leave on 01 February. There has been a lot going on in our Circuit recently and Melvyn is very much in need of some rest and relaxation. Please pray that the next few months will be a time of renewal and refreshment for him.

In Melvyn's absence Rev Clive McKie will be Acting Circuit Superintendent. Please feel free to contact him; email clivewmckie@tiscali.co.uk phone 01737 770197

Stamps for the Hospice

Bobbie Gillett is still collecting used stamps for St Catherine's Hospice. We can't take them into St Paul's at present, so please collect them up at home until church is open again, when Bobbie will be able to pick them up. St Catherine's makes a significant amount of money by selling them on, so it's well worth doing.

Celebrating Methodism in Cornwall

If you've been following the TV series *Rick Stein's Cornwall*, you will have seen him this week visiting Camborne, once the richest mining area in the world, Rick explores how the Methodist religious movement was so important to Cornwall, learns how the church supports the community today and he cooks saffron buns, a tea time treat at one time associated with Methodist Sunday school outings. This, together with all the previous episodes in this rather lovely series, is available [on BBC I-Player](#)

Methodist Church calls for urgent action on debt

With unemployment forecast to reach 7.5% this year, Covid related rent arrears are growing and vulnerability to eviction in England is now a real threat to as many as 190.000 people.

This is why The Methodist Church is calling for urgent action- click on [Reset the Debt](#) which includes a letter to the Chancellor signed by 500 church leaders, including the Methodist President and Vice-President.

Have you tried Dial-a-Prayer?

Dial-a-Prayer



FREE phone lines for prayers, reflections and news from the Methodist Church

Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514

**Listen to a pastoral message from the
President and
Vice President: 0808 281 2695**

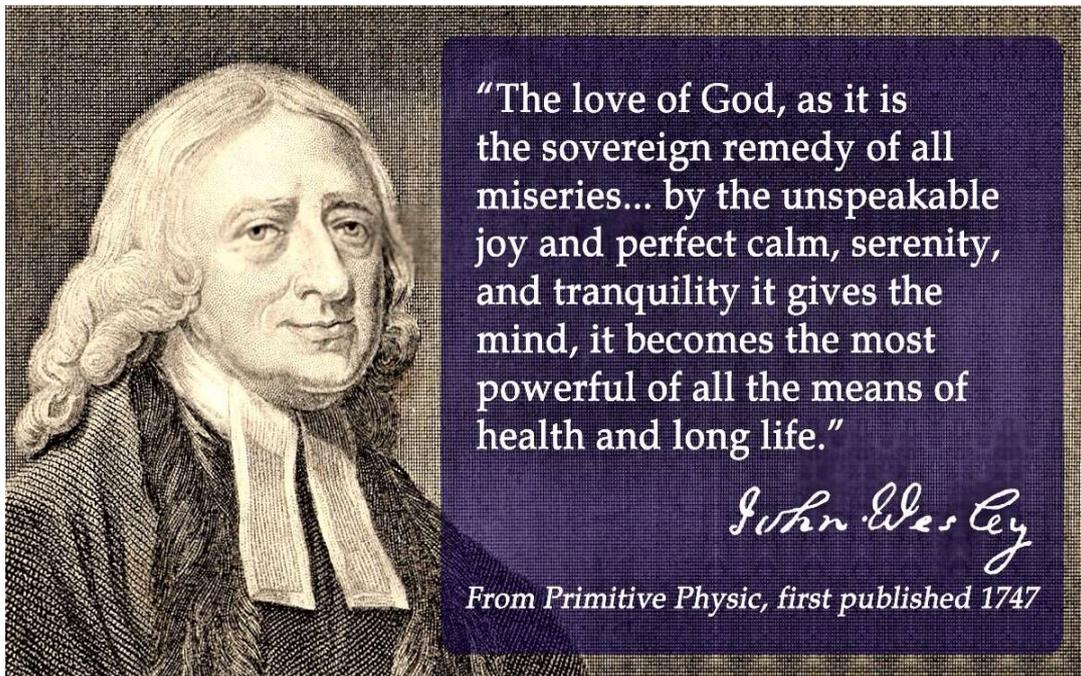
Listen to our Podcast: 0808 281 2478

Prayer updated every Thursday, Presidential message updated every Monday, Methodist Podcast updated on first and third Thursday of the month.

"The Dial-a-prayer and news service has been a real blessing to some of our more isolated people as they are able to phone and listen and the addition of a weekly message from Richard and I will hopefully be an added blessing to many."

(Carolyn Lawrence, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference)

A thought from John Wesley



When things go wrong (Author unknown)

*When things go wrong as they sometimes will;
when the road you're trudging seems all uphill;
when funds are low and debts are high
and you want to smile but you have to sigh;
when care is pressing you down a bit,
rest, if you must, but don't you quit.
Life is strange with its twists and turns,
as every one of us sometimes learns,
and many a failure turns about
when they might have won
had they stuck it out.
Don't give up though the pace seems slow,
You may succeed with another blow.
Success is failure turned inside out,
the silver tint of the cloud of doubt,
and you never can tell how close you are,
it may be near when it seems so far.
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit.
It's when things seem worst you must not quit.
(Thanks to Lindelee for sending this)*

The Big Garden Birdwatch – it's next weekend!

Stephanie R. reminds us that the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch is next weekend, 29-31 January. Just spend an hour counting the birds you see in your garden or from your balcony, then tell the RSPB what you



saw. It really is that simple! You can do it on your own or get the family to join in – it can get quite competitive. It's a nice way to spend an hour in lockdown and a good excuse to sit down with a cup of tea. Details are on [rspb.org.uk/birdwatch](https://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch).



And finally – a few thoughts about cake

"Mma Ramotswe sighed. 'We are all tempted, Mma. We are all tempted when it comes to cake.'

'That is true,' said Mma Potokwane sadly. 'There are many temptations in this life, but cake is probably one of the biggest of them.'

(Alexander McCall Smith, In the Company of Cheerful Ladies)

My policy on cake is pro having it and pro eating it.

(Boris Johnson)

You know you're getting old when the candles cost more than the cake.

(Bob Hope)

It's so comforting to have a small piece of cake. Just one slice.

(Mary Berry)

A party without cake is really just a meeting.

(Julia Child)

Contacts

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Prayer requests & newsletter items ask.stpauls@gmail.com

St Paul's website www.crawleymethodistchurch.org.uk

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