

St Paul's Methodist Church, Crawley

Minister: Rev Melvyn Cooke

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www.crawleymethodistchurch.org.uk

St Paul's Newsletter 3-10 October 2021

St Paul's welcomes Deacon Jenny

Jenny, and husband Mervyn, have now arrived and are settling into the Manse along with their dog, Buster. Jenny was a customer in Loaves and Fishes on day 1 and is already filling her diary with meetings. She's also busy arranging a visit to the church from Year 1 pupils from Northgate School. Now that's hitting the ground running!

Do come to Jenny's welcome service at Horley Methodist Church at 6:30pm this Sunday where both our Young People's Singing Groups will be taking part. Horley have asked anyone going to please take a few cakes with you towards the refreshments.

What's on at St Paul's

Sun 3 Oct	10:30am	Worship led by Mr Edward Pender King's Kids
	6:30pm	Welcome service for Deacon Jenny Parnell at Horley Methodist Church
Wed 6 Oct	11am	Wednesday Fellowship. Table games with Ann. Everyone is welcome and you can come early for coffee and/or stay for lunch in Loaves and Fishes if you'd like to.
Sun 10 Oct	10:30am	Communion service with Rev Melvyn Cooke
Wed 13 Oct	11am	Wednesday Fellowship. Meet Deacon Jenny.
Sun 17 Oct	10:30am	All-age worship with Deacon Jenny Parnell

For kids and young people.

YPSG (Young People's Singing Groups) meet on Friday evenings

Children aged 6-11, school year 2-6, from 6.30-7.00

Children at secondary school from 7.00-7.45

All children in these age groups are welcome.

In your prayers

Please pray for Linda, Hayley's mother-in-law, who has been seriously ill. Here's an update from Hayley: "I just wanted to say thank you to everyone at St Paul's for keeping Linda in their thoughts and prayers. We are hopeful that she has turned a corner and seems to be very gradually improving."

Pray for Neil Roberts whose condition has improved and has now been moved from St George's to East Surrey Hospital.

Continue to pray for all you know who are in any need of our prayers.

Please send prayer requests to ask.stpauls@gmail.com and remember to obtain the permission of the person to be named.

Our Harvest gifts

Many thanks to all who brought gifts of tinned food to our Harvest Festival last Sunday. Thanks also to Lindelee who delivered them to Crawley Open House where they were gratefully received.

St Paul's bank account now to incur charges

You will have seen from the newsletter recently that the Methodist Church Director of Finance & Resources has protested to HSBC about its plan to charge small charities from 1st November. His letter can be found on the Methodist.org.uk website.

This will mean that we have to pay £5 per month just for having the account (which in our case maintains a healthy credit balance to pay our bills promptly). Every cheque paid in or out will be charged at 40p, and cash paid in or out at 0.04 % i.e 4p per £100. There is no charge for standing orders, direct debits, and direct transfers (BACs).

Many thanks to everyone who now pays by Standing Order or direct bank payment. For those who donate by the envelope scheme or through cash collections – if you are able to make the change to standing order or direct bank transfer it would be appreciated.

It would also be helpful if St Paul's could pay any reimbursements to members by direct transfer (BACs).

If you will no longer need envelopes next year, please advise Barry Jones so none are wasted.

Bank details are available from Barry Jones:

email	bmjones1042@gmail.com
phone	01293 414879
mobile	07757120273

or from Stephanie Bagshaw:

email	stephanie@tbal.co.uk
phone	01293 882185
mobile	07845 939501

We have considered switching to another bank but there are limited alternatives and problems with switching at the present. Money on deposit with the Central Finance Board only attracts 0.1% interest but we will endeavour to keep as much as possible there rather than in our HSBC current account.

Yours sincerely,
St Paul's Treasurer's Team



To Nessa who celebrated her birthday last Thursday working in Loaves and Fishes!

Black people in history education

by Rev Sonia Hicks, President of the Methodist Conference, October 2021

When I was at school, I was taught nothing about Black people in my history lessons. I heard about Florence Nightingale but nothing about Mary Seacole. I listened to the story of inventor Thomas Edison, who we credit with the invention of the light bulb, but I was ignorant about Garrett A Morgan who invented the automatic traffic signal. I heard teachers wax lyrically about Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart but stayed silent on the subject of Chevalier Saint-Georges who is regarded as the first known classical composer of African heritage. In fact, the only time black history was even mentioned was when we looked at slavery. As a Black person that can be so demeaning, so dehumanising.

So, when we had our children, I made it my goal to fill the manse with books that celebrated Black inventors, Black abolitionists, Black pioneers and Black African Kings and Queens. I wanted our children to recognise their history. To know that the contribution of Black people, to humanity's achievements, did not begin with a journey across the ocean in the belly of a slave ship. Back then, this was no easy task, but I was determined to give them heroes who were also people of colour.

This task was greatly enhanced when we went to serve in Jamaica as Mission Partners. When history is not taught from a Eurocentric point of view, it can be uplifting and inspiring for all of us. Black people are also people and therefore their achievements enrich us all. Which of us cannot fail to be inspired by Olaudah Equiano, who challenged the acceptance of slave practices with his autobiography published in 1789. It was read by millions of people and became a bestseller.

Black History Month is one attempt to change the narrative that so many young Black people hear. To remind them of the strong legacy that they can contribute to and stand on. One day, we will not need to celebrate Black History Month because the history of Black people in these nations will be part of the very fabric of our educational system. It will not be hidden but exist in plain sight

A few years ago, my sisters and I went to St. Thomas' Hospital in London. We went because a statue had been unveiled of Mary Seacole. It was amazing to stand there, three sisters of Jamaican heritage, and see a statue representing a Jamaican in London. It made us so proud, and we just marvelled that, at last, Britain was acknowledging the contribution of a woman who faced great opposition in her desire to help the soldiers at war in Crimea. As Black History Month is celebrated this month, may we seek to acknowledge the contribution that people of colour make in this society each and every day.



Church leaders urge Govt to think again on Universal Credit cut

The Revd Sonia Hicks and Barbara Easton, the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, join over 1100 church leaders urging the Government to rethink cutting Universal Credit payments by £20 a week from the start of October. Here's the full text of the letter:

Dear Prime Minister,

We stand together as church leaders from across the UK to urge you to think again about cutting Universal Credit payments by £20 a week from the start of October. If the Government persists with this cut, it would be the single biggest overnight reduction in the basic rate of social security since the welfare state was established in the 1940s. Millions of low income households will be swept further into poverty as a result. As Christians, we are compelled by the gospel imperative to prioritise the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable. As church leaders, we must speak up, because of the impact this will have on our poorest neighbours and church members. We urge the Government to choose to build a just and compassionate social security system that our whole society can have confidence in.

Even before the Covid-19 pandemic, poorer people in communities all over the country were suffering because the lifelines they needed from our social security system and vital neighbourhood services were not strong enough. Analysis by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation has shown that the cut will particularly hit the north of England, the West Midlands, Wales and Northern Ireland. Rather than levelling up the UK, this will compound existing inequalities. The loss of £1,040 a year will be devastating for many families at a time when energy bills and other household costs are increasing. Instead, we can make sure our social security system brings stability and opens up options and opportunities for people whose income is too low or insecure to make ends meet.

The cut has already been opposed by community groups up and down the country, charities, six former Conservative Work and Pensions Secretaries, and many MPs from all parties. This is an opportunity for the Government to send a message that it listens, and recognises the pressure faced by those on the breadline. Universal Credit has been a vital lifeline throughout the pandemic. For the sake of millions of families, it must be retained at its current level, we therefore reiterate the calls for the planned £20 a week cut to be withdrawn.

Contacts

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General enquiries & prayer requests ask.stpauls@gmail.com

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