

**St Paul's Methodist Church,
Woodfield Road, Northgate, Crawley**

Ministers:

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St Paul's Newsletter *24/31 July 2022*

A farewell message from Rev Melvyn Cooke

The time has come to bid my farewells, and to express my thanks for all who have worked alongside in partnership with me, I could produce a whole list of names and offices, but the truth is every one of you has been an integral part of support and partnership in the mission to which we are called and equipped. So, thank you to all, and my humble apologies for all the times when I have not fully met expectations. I could write so much but on my desk, one of the first things that I read every morning, is a prayer that comes from Archbishop Oscar Romero, a prayer many of you will know, but one I leave as my parting gift, and invite for you to continue to pray this with me.

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.

The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.

*We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction
of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.*

*Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom
always lies beyond us.*

No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the Church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.

*We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing
that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.*

*It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way,
an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.*

*We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between
the master builder and the worker.*

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future that is not our own. Amen.

May God continue to bless and prosper His work among you. *Melvyn*

Worship at St Paul's

Sunday 24 July 10:30am Worship with Rev Melvyn Cooke

Sunday 24 July, 6pm

Circuit service at Trinity Methodist Church, East Grinstead to say farewell to Rev Melvyn Cooke after 8 years ministry in our Circuit. There will be some very Methodist tea and cakes after the service with Melvyn and Hazel as we wish them well for the future. See you all there!

Sunday 31 July 10:30am All-age worship with Rev Gillian Baalham
Sunday 7 Aug 10:30am All-age worship with Deacon Jenny Parnell
Sunday 14 Aug 10:30am All-age worship with Deacon Jenny Parnell
Sunday 21 Aug 10:30am All-age worship with Mrs Linda Little
Sunday 28 Aug 10:30am Joint Communion service for Crawley, Horley and Redhill, at St Paul's

Note that services on 31 July, 7 and 14 August will not be streamed.

Fellowship at St Paul's

Tuesday Fellowship meets each week at 8.00pm via Zoom. All welcome. For the Zoom link contact Carol Ofield or email ask.stpauls@gmail.com

Wednesday Fellowship weekly, 11am at St Paul's. Everyone is welcome.

27 July 'Working at Gatwick' a talk by Kaanji Thambipillai

We're taking a break in August, starting again 7th September.

For kids and young people

King's Kids is taking a break during August while services will be for all ages.

Young People's Singing Groups are taking a summer break and will restart in September. Thanks to you all for your hard work practicing on Friday evenings and singing for us in services. Thanks also to Carol and Martyn for their work with the groups. Have a great summer!

In your prayers

Pray for Geoff Ridgway, Rev Sue Conroy, members of our congregation who are suffering from Covid and all who are otherwise sick or recovering from surgery at this time.

Thank God for Rev Melvyn Cooke's ministry to us and our circuit as he and Hazel prepare to start their new life in retirement in Devon.

Pray for our circuit and our own church as we look forward to new leadership from September.

Pray for Rev Gillian Baalham as she takes on the demanding role of Circuit Superintendent in September.

Thank God for all volunteer workers in our church as they take a well-earned summer break. Pray for refreshment for them and strength for when they take up their tasks again.

Continue to pray for all you know who are in 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

Good news for St Paul's

I am pleased to be able to tell you that, from September, Rev Gillian Baalham will take on the pastoral oversight of St Paul's. As you will see in the official letter below from the Circuit Stewards, this means that Rev Gillian and Deacon Jenny will jointly work with 3 churches; Crawley, Horley and Redhill. These 3 churches have already been getting used to working alongside each other, for example at the joint Communion service at Redhill on 22nd May and in planning the next joint service to be held on 28th August when St Paul's will be the host. The future looks good! *Joyce Jordan*

Important message - Circuit staff from September 2022

There have been many conversations and prayers during the last many months after the initial rounds of stationing and we are delighted that Rev Gillian Baalham will become the superintendent of the Circuit from September 2022. This has meant some adjustments for all the Circuit staff as they seek to walk alongside and support all of the Circuit churches as the circuit moves to a more active shared ministry.

From September 2022 Rev Gillian Baalham will be the superintendent of the circuit. Alongside our deacon, Jenny Parnell, she will work with the 3 churches: Crawley, Horley and Redhill – both will be extending their current shared ministry. Rev Elisabeth Brooks will continue to work with Reigate, with the equivalent of one day a week at East Grinstead where she will be joined by Rev Billy Slatter as previously announced.

In your prayers do give thanks for God's inspiration in the hearts of all our staff team. We would ask you to remember them, the circuit stewards, church leadership teams and church stewards as all adjust to a new way of working together.

From the Circuit Stewards Team

A message for box holders

Would all holders of *World Church* and *JMA* collection boxes please return them to me for emptying within the next few weeks. This will be the last time as we will no longer be using boxes to make donations for these Mission activities. In future there will be an opportunity for everyone to donate at a designated Mission Sunday on a date to be arranged. Anyone wishing to donate to either of these causes this year can do so by cheque which should be made payable to Crawley Methodist Church. Don't forget to say which organisation is the recipient.

Many thanks, *Ann Brown*

Thank you for coming!

We would like to thank everyone who came to support the YPSGs at the concert and barbeque on 3rd July. It was very well attended and it was great seeing so many people enjoying themselves, including the refugees, who were made to feel very welcome.

If you enjoyed this event, please pencil the first weekend in October in your diaries and watch this space!



*To Ann Brown
who celebrated her
birthday on 20th July*

*AND to Arthur Parish, 97
years young on 24th July*

Remembering the Tolpuddle Martyrs



The President and Vice-President of the Conference, the Revd Graham Thompson and Anthony Boateng recently visited the Tolpuddle Martyrs' Festival in the Southampton District Methodist Church.

The Festival seeks to tell the faith story of The Tolpuddle Martyrs; farm workers who became early trade union activists. It is believed that five of the six were Methodists, three

being lay preachers. In the 1830s life in villages like Tolpuddle was hard and getting worse. Farm workers could not bear yet more cuts to their pay. Some fought back by smashing the new threshing machines but this brought harsh punishments.

In 1834, farm workers in west Dorset formed a trade union. Unions were lawful and growing fast but six leaders were arrested and sentenced to seven years' transportation for taking an oath of secrecy. A massive protest swept across the country; thousands of people marched through London and many more organised petitions and held meetings demanding their freedom. For more about the Martyrs and the Festival see

<https://www.tolpuddlemartyrs.org.uk/festival>

The next newsletter As I shall be away on holiday for a while, the next newsletter will go out for 21 August. Please send me your items by Thursday 18 August. Many thanks, *Joyce*

Contacts

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

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

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