

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

Ministers:

Rev Melvyn Cooke 01293 973847 melvyncooke@me.com

Deacon Jenny Parnell 01293 664696 jenny.parnell@methodist.org.uk

Website www.crawleymethodistchurch.org.uk

St Paul's Newsletter 20/27 March 2022

Dear Friends,

I wonder if your household has been caught up in the recent craze of the 'wordle'? Wordling (if such a word exists) has very much taken off in my house and amongst my family and friends. Phrases such 'wordled in two today', or 'only just got it in six' are often heard. For those of you who have evaded the obsession so far, it's a bit like that game of mastermind you may have played with a child where the aim is to guess the colours of the pegs hidden at the top of the board by your opponent, except in wordle you're guessing a five letter word in six tries. Fortunately for productivity levels, there's only one issued every day and so the obsession is kept well in check.

Of course, there are many things that we solve a letter or number at a time. Some of you might be daily crossword or sudoku solvers and know the joy of plugging away at a new puzzle in the paper each day and it struck me recently that Lent is rather like a wordle. Somehow, another year has passed and here we are again trying to make sense again of a great mystery. Having another shot at it. Guessing at what makes up its meaning. Using our previous experiences and our knowledge to try and understand it. Coming at it each year from a slightly different angle, sometimes feeling that we 'get it in one' and it all makes sense. Other times wondering if we understand it at all.

And as with Lent so with life. Each of us wakes up and tries again each day. Some days the sense of where we're going and how we ought to get there is clear, on other days it's all a bit of a mystery and we just have to hope that tomorrow is that bit easier. Sometimes, we notice things we haven't seen before, and we feel that progress has been made that will help us not just today but in the long run. Always there is the very real chance that we will be utterly surprised by something completely unexpected.

It's reassuring, to me anyway, to know that faith and life don't always have to make sense. The nuns who, in my teenage years, taught me that some things are a divine mystery were on to something or, as St Paul put it – "*now we see through a glass darkly*". It's meant to be a life-long puzzle with which we can engage and question and struggle because we know that someone far greater than us is holding it all in love. So, I leave you with a poem on the next page that, although about neither a wordle nor Lent, reminds us that some things aren't meant to be understood and the greatest of these is love.

Every blessing, Jenny

*It's nonsense, says reason.
It is what is, says love.
It's a disaster, says logic.
It's nothing but pain, says fear.
It's hopeless, says common sense.
It is what it is, says love.
It's ridiculous, says pride.
It's foolhardy, says prudence.
It's impossible, says experience.
It is what it is, says love.*

Erich Fried (1921-1988)

What's on at St Paul's

- Sun 20 Mar 10:30am** Worship with Mr Robert Burridge
Wed 23 Mar 11am Wednesday Fellowship – A quiz for Spring
Everyone welcome.
Sun 27 Mar 10:30am Mothering Sunday with Deacon Jenny Parnell
Note – this service will not be streamed
Wed 30 Mar 11am Wednesday Fellowship. Everyone welcome.
Sun 3 Apr 10:30am Worship with Deacon Jenny Parnell

Unless otherwise stated, all services will be livestreamed via Facebook with the videos remaining available afterwards.

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

What's on during Lent

RISE – a Lent course

There's still time to join this year's Lent course which is Zoom based and open to all our circuit churches. The sessions will last for an hour, with interactive discussions based on the book "Rise" by John Pavlovitz, which is available from Amazon at £5.16, or for Kindle reader at £4.09. For the Zoom link, email gill.baalham@methodist.org.uk

Taketime in Lent

Every Tuesday in Lent, beginning on 8th March, join us on Zoom for 30 minutes from 7.30-8.00pm for a *Taketime Video Lent Meditation* which will be led by Rev Clive McKie and Pat Oakley. Dip in and out as you wish - you do not need to attend all sessions. Email clive@taketime.org.uk for the zoom link. Note: this series replaces the usual twice monthly Wednesday meditations, which will resume after Lent.

For kids and young people

King's Kids 10:30am every Sunday

Young People's Singing Group meets on Friday evenings, primary aged children from 6.30-7.00, secondary aged from 7.00-7.45. Would all adults and

young people aged 11+ continue to wear face coverings, unless they are singing, and dress warmly as windows will be open to ensure good ventilation.

In your prayers

Please continue to hold the Bray family in your prayers as they adjust to life without Kevin.

The situation in Ukraine continues to worsen, please continue to pray for Ukraine and its people, for Russia and its citizens, for world leaders as they make their responses, for refugees fleeing from the conflict and for all who are afraid.

Please continue to pray for Christian, Kira and Iden Ridgway, who live in Moscow. Pray for all British and other foreign nationals in Ukraine and Russia and ask God to keep them safe and give them strength.

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.*#

Ukraine Emergency Appeal



The Methodist Church has partnered with *All We Can* to launch an emergency appeal in response to events unfolding in Ukraine. We are deeply grateful for everyone who has contributed so far.

Ukraine Emergency Appeal  

You can donate at <https://www.allwecan.org.uk/donate/ukraine/> or by phone to 020 7467 5132 or post cheques to All We Can, Ukraine Emergency Appeal, 25 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5JR, UK.

Presidency joins call to end pharma monopolies and vaccine inequity

The Revd Sonia Hicks and Barbara Easton, President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, have joined more than 130 former world leaders, Nobel laureates, leading scientists, economists, humanitarians, faith leaders, business leaders, trade unionists, and celebrities in calling for urgent action to vaccinate low and middle-income countries and bring an end to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a letter coordinated by the People's Vaccine Alliance, the authoritative voices united on the second anniversary of the World Health Organization's (WHO) declaration that the COVID-19 outbreak had become a pandemic. They urge world leaders "to do what is necessary to end this crisis" and unite behind a People's Vaccine, based on the principles of equity and solidarity; accessible to everyone, everywhere; and free from patents and profiteering.

They warn that "despite what some leaders in wealthy countries would like us to believe, the pandemic is not over". But an end to COVID-19 is

“within our grasp”, they say, if we give “everyone, everywhere access to safe and effective vaccines and other life-saving COVID-19 technologies”.

Have you thought about church membership?

Rev Gillian and Deacon Jenny are planning to hold membership classes for people who attend Crawley, Redhill and Horley Methodist churches who wish to take on the commitment of Christian discipleship and play a full part in the life of the Church but have not yet been received into membership of the Methodist Church. Anyone who is interested and wants to know more should contact Deacon Jenny or email ask.stpauls@gmail.com

Methodist minister becomes new Chaplain-General

Methodist Minister Revd Mike Parker is about to take up the post of Chaplain-General for the British Army. An army padre for 20 years, he's clear that to be able to offer pastoral care, spiritual support and moral guidance in that role, serving alongside the military community, is a huge privilege, and a unique opportunity to serve God.

He's fascinating about the theology of army chaplaincy, and about his own experiences seeing operational service alongside his soldiers in Northern Ireland, Iraq and Afghanistan, and what that means to him and to them, particularly at what Mike calls 'the pointy end' in the most harrowing and intense of situations.

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Loaves & Fishes café
Monday - Thursday
10:30am – 1:30pm

Light lunches, drinks and cakes
Come in and take a break!



Next newsletter will go out for Sunday 3rd April. Please send me items for inclusion by Thursday 31st March. *Joyce*

Contacts

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General enquiries, prayer requests and newsletter items
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