

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

Ministers:

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St Paul's Newsletter *22/29 May 2022*

Dear Friends,

I have been with you now for nearly eight months. In that time, we have had online services, live services and hybrid services and meetings. We have navigated a constantly changing landscape. As we rapidly approach Ascension and Pentecost, I'd like us think about the disciples locked away afraid to openly step out for fear of their lives. The early disciples had navigated a landscape of highs and lows. They had celebrated on Palm Sunday and watched Christ die on Good Friday. They had seen Christ appear to them and leave them as he ascended to heaven. They perhaps didn't know whether they were coming or going themselves. Things kept changing and they were afraid. That, of course, was to change when they were given the power of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. They were finally able to throw open their doors and pour out into the streets shining their previously hidden lights for all to see. Thousands, we are told, experienced the power of the risen Christ and followed Christ Jesus.

That same power is available for us to experience today. We are able to celebrate and pray for God's diverse and wonderful world. We are able to share in and learn from the stories of one another. As a Church we are empowered to support one another and enjoy each other's company. We can rejoice and weep together as well as to be challenged and comforted as we seek to follow Jesus Christ who came because God loves the whole world. As a Church we want to see God moving in a powerful way. Our prayer is that *God's Kingdom Come ...*

As we think about this and what that means to each one of us, we'd like to share with you that as a Church we are taking part in the global initiative called *Thy Kingdom Come*. In the days between Ascension Sunday and Pentecost we are invited to join with Christians from 172 countries and over 80 different denominations praying for the Holy Spirit to come and enable friends, neighbours, and colleagues to come to faith in Jesus Christ. During the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

- *Deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ*
- *Pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus*
- *Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness*

"In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities."

Archbishop Justin Welby

The prayer table in our welcome hall will help focus our prayers and resources will be available to help us to participate fully at Church as well as at home. We hope that you will find this a powerful and worthwhile time and that we are able to let our lights shine in the darkness.

Every blessing, *Jenny*

Worship at St Paul's

Sunday 22 May 10:30am **NB No service at St Paul's.** We are joining a united Communion service at Redhill Methodist Church with Rev Gillian and Deacon Jenny.

Sunday 29 May 10:30am Worship with Deacon Jenny Parnell

NOTE this service will not be livestreamed

Sunday 5 June 10:30am Communion with Rev Gillian Baalham

Sunday 12 June 10:30am Worship with Deacon Jenny Parnell

Unless otherwise stated, services are streamed on Facebook with videos available later

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.

25 May No meeting

1 June Bible study on 1 Peter 4-5

8 June A visit from Rev Sue Conroy

For kids and young people

King's Kids 10:30am every Sunday

Young People's Singing Group meets on Friday evenings in term time, primary aged children from 6.30-7.00, secondary aged from 7.00-7.45.

In your prayers

Pray for refugees fleeing from war, violence and poverty and for the people of Ukraine.

Pray for all who are feeling the effects of the rising costs of living. Pray for all agencies and individuals working to support them.

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

Sad news

We have heard that Olive Smith, a one-time member of St Paul's, has died. The funeral will be in the Memorial Chapel at Crawley Crematorium at 3:30pm on Monday 30th May. The service will be conducted by Rev Sue Conroy as requested by Olive.

Loaves and Fishes will be closed

Monday 23rd May

School half-term week, Mon 30th May – Thursday 2 June



News from the Roberts family

Ann Brown has permission to send us this update: Following a case conference, Neil Roberts, a member of St Paul's who is in residential care, has been granted funds for rehabilitation. He is now able to sit in a chair and sometimes is taken down to the sitting room in his wheelchair but this care home is not suitable for his age. Please continue to pray for him and his parents, David and Margaret.

Christian Aid Week

Thanks to all who supported the plant sale. If you didn't get there, you can still donate in church for the next couple of weeks using the Christian Aid gift envelopes, or you can donate in our e-envelope, as we used successfully last year - here is the link. <https://tinyurl.com/yckss2up>

Thank you for your support, *Ruth Lewis*

A sad farewell and a date for your diary

You probably know that Rev Melvyn Cooke, St Paul's minister and Circuit Superintendent, retires at the end of July. This notice has been received from the Circuit Stewards:

There will be a Circuit service at Trinity Methodist Church, East Grinstead on 24th July 2022 at 6.00pm as we say farewell to Rev Melvyn Cooke after 8 years of ministry in the Circuit. He will also, in Methodist language, be 'sitting down' from active ministry and the Circuit stewards hope that as many as are able will wish to come to celebrate Melvyn's years of ministry with us and in the rest of Connexion. There will be some very Methodist 'tea and cakes' after the service so we can all have a time of fellowship and conversation together with Melvyn and Hazel as we wish them well for the future. We look forward to seeing you all on 24th July at 6.00pm.

Flower Festival at Horley – another diary date

We are all invited to visit Horley Methodist Church's Flower Festival from Friday 10th – Sunday 12th June. It's open 10-4 on Friday and Saturday, and from 2-4pm on Sunday followed by Songs of Praise at 5pm. Admission is free and there will be a plant stall and refreshments.

Methodist statement on the political and economic crisis in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is now experiencing the worst economic crisis since becoming independent in 1948. The government has insufficient foreign currency to import essentials such as food, petrol, cooking gas and medicines, so there are severe shortages. Waiting in queues has become normal, and the wait to purchase petrol can now be longer than 24 hours. However, rising inflation means that basic items have become too expensive for many people to

afford. In the light of the anger and frustration which have led to public protests, the Methodist Church in Sri Lanka has called for action on the part of those in power, and non-violent approaches from both the protesters and the authorities.

The Methodist Church in Britain received this letter from Revd W.P. Ebenezer Joseph, President of Conference, Methodist Church, Sri Lanka in which he commented, *"The Methodist Church Sri Lanka is grieved and alarmed at the current political developments that are unfolding before us, at a time when as a nation we are facing an acute economic crisis, causing immense suffering and hardship, leading to frustration and hopelessness among all our people."*

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference have offered this statement of support and solidarity in response.

"Over the past weeks we have seen the reports of the situation in Sri Lanka as the country has experienced economic collapse on top of the social disruption brought about by the Covid crisis. We have noted with concern the sufferings of the Sri Lankan people as soaring inflation has led to unaffordable prices of basic goods and shortages of foods, medicines and fuel.

In response to the Appeal from the Methodist Church, Sri Lanka Pertaining to the Current Situation, and in the face of the growing anger and political unrest in Sri Lanka, we join in calling for calm attempts to reach peaceful solutions, and in affirming the need for all individuals to treat others with care and love.

The Methodist Church in Britain values the partnership of the Methodist Church in Sri Lanka. We stand in solidarity with them at this time of economic and political crisis, and support them in their appeals for solutions according to democratic principles. We join them in their call for non-violent action and dignified treatment of other people, both on the part of protesters, and on the part of the authorities when dealing with peaceful protests. We hold the leadership and members of the Methodist Church Sri Lanka in our prayers."
President and V-President of Conference Revd Sonia Hicks & Barbara Easton

The next newsletter will go out for 5th June. Please send me your items by Thursday 2nd June *Joyce*

Contacts

PLEASE NOTE that the *ask.stpauls* email address for general enquiries will not be monitored from 20-28 May. Please email Deacon Jenny with any questions or requests during that week.,

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General enquiries and prayer requests from 28 May

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

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