

St Paul's Methodist Church, Crawley
Extraordinary Times
a magazine to help us through COVID-19
Issue 30 **October 18th 2020**

From the minister...

Last Sunday my wife Adele and I launched this year's "Love in a Box" shoebox appeal in the online service from Trinity (Adele is the "Love in a Box" secretary at Trinity). Since then a number of people have expressed interest in contributing a shoebox to the appeal as we did last year at St Pauls. The appeal is much more restricted this year because it is being run by a skeleton staff, but you are most welcome to take part in Trinity's appeal if you wish. Leaflets are now available in church at St Pauls which you can pick up if you attend the 10.30am service.

If you know of people who would like to receive a leaflet but are not able to join us at church in person, please feel free to take extra copies to deliver to them. I'm afraid access to church at other times is very restricted due to Covid, but you should find a copy of part of the leaflet attached to this newsletter which you can use instead of the actual paper leaflet if its more convenient.

The information page gives you ideas for what you might include in your shoebox this year. The label should be printed out, completed and attached to your box as usual. Please note the big change this year, which is that you should seal your box prior to collection, and the £4 contribution should be brought separately (not placed inside the box).

"Shoebox Sunday" is November 15th at Trinity. Carol and Martyn Ofield have kindly offered to collect the boxes from St Pauls and deliver them to Trinity on this date. So please make sure that if you would like to offer a shoebox filled with toys for a child in Moldova this year, you must have it at St Pauls ready for collection by the morning of November 15th. If you have any questions please email me direct on rlphwrd@gmail.com or ring on 01342 325877.

It's not too late to join our Alpha Online course, which will have its third session this Wednesday evening. Simply go to the church Facebook page, find the banner which says "Stay home – try Alpha Online". Click on it, which opens up the Alpha group page: click the "join group" button, then tune in every Wednesday evening at 7.30pm on the group page for my live streamed broadcast. There has been a very good response to this course so far, I'm pleased to say.

Church closures and limited opportunities to meet together in person for worship have really affected our families and children, not just in our church but in every church. However, last Sunday I was blessed to be able to lead our first children's service at St Pauls since lockdown began. We will continue to have a short 30 minute service for children, accompanied by their parents, grandparents or carers, on the second Sunday in the month at 3.30pm. I would ask you though, in the light of Covid, that adults attending this service only do so if they are accompanying a child. There is no adult content in the service at all, and we really want to minimise the risk of cross infection.

It seems to me that we are currently living through times of even less certainty than during the lockdown over the Summer. With local lockdowns being enforced and a rise in Covid cases, the future of our worship and fellowship together is as much in doubt as it was back in March when our church doors closed. So I have no further news for you about a return to more normal church life I'm afraid: we are continuing to hold our 10.30am services without singing and of a shorter duration than normal. You are most welcome to attend these services – so far we have had plenty of room for everyone.

Please continue to pray for our church, our town and our nation in these difficult times. God bless *Ralph*

A prayer...

When the storms of life rage around us

And the waves threaten to push over our tiny boat

Lord, be our strength and fortitude

Help us not to fear the howl of the wind

Or the lash of the spray

Gift us, we pray, with the security and confidence of your Holy Spirit

That we may fear no evil

For you are with us

And if our God is with us

Then we need fear nothing

Thank you Jesus. Amen

In your prayers

This weekend marks the end of Prisons Week 2020. Please pray for all whose lives are impacted by prison; for prisoners and their families, for prison staff often working in extremely challenging situations and for prison chaplains as they seek to bring the love of God and the truth of the Gospel to the imprisoned. You can read a blog from the Methodist Church about prison chaplaincy at

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/the-methodist-blog/prisons-week-2020-you-are-not-alone/>

Please pray for Geoff Ridgway, for Jean and Geoff and for others you know who need 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

What's On

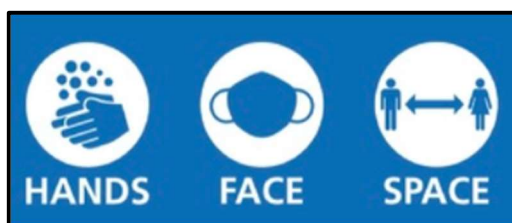
Sun 18 Oct **10:30am** at St Paul's *Focus on Christian Aid*

Sun 25 Oct **10:30am** Worship with Rev Clive McKie

Sun 1 Nov **10:30am** Worship with Communion with Rev Ralph Ward

Every Wed **7:30pm** Online Alpha course with Rev Ralph

Please remember



Our Harvest offerings

This Sunday and next, there will be a basket ready for your Harvest offerings by the door as you leave the sanctuary at the end of the service.

The money raised will be split equally between the *All We Can* appeal for victims of the Beirut explosion and, more locally, *Christians Against Poverty*.

If you're not coming to services, please consider making a donation directly to the Beirut Explosion Emergency Appeal on the *All We Can* website

<https://www.allwecan.org.uk/give/current-appeals/beirut/> or to *Crawley Christians Against Poverty* at <https://www.crawleycapcentre.org/donate>

Let's all protect each other

Guidance from the Government on attending worship in church has not been changed as a result of this week's extra restrictions but please remember that you must wear a face covering properly, you must keep 2 metres away from other people and you must not mingle with anyone in a group of more than 6 people, other than with people you live with or have formed a support bubble with.

NHS Track and Trace

If you come to the church, you will notice this sign on the front door. It is the QR code for the new NHS Track and Trace App. If you've downloaded the app onto your phone, you can use the QR code to show where you've been. However, even if you are using this app, we are still legally required to take your name and contact details as part of the new 'normal'. Don't worry, we will be deleting the information after 3 weeks. *Carol Ofield*



Children's worship

We were delighted that 8 of our children and 6 adults felt able to come along to church last Sunday afternoon (October 11th) to enjoy sharing in the story of the feeding of the 5,000. All those who attended seemed very willing to be involved with active retelling of the story. We are planning to hold another similar afternoon service on November 8th at 3.30pm and would like to encourage all those who have children to come along. *Jill Mason and Carol Ofield*

New Welcome Hall stewards' team

When you arrive at St Paul's for worship you will be greeted by some new faces on the team of stewards as the three older members of the previous team have decided it's time to stand down. The people who have offered to form the new team are Eddie, Chona, Tunde, Lindelee and Leonie. As well as giving you a warm welcome, they are responsible for registering you on arrival and making sure all the Covid rules are being observed. If you'd like to join the team, and you are not in a vulnerable group yourself, please tell Eddie Madakudya, the new team leader, or email ask.stpauls@gmail.com *Joyce Jordan*



Well done to Destiny Njinyam on being made a Year 10 prefect at Holy Trinity School. St Paul's is proud of you!

THINGS YOU COULD PUT IN YOUR SHOEBOX

BOYS 3 – 5 YEARS OLD

TOY CARS BALL JIGSAW (not small pieces) PICTURE BOOK CHOCOLATE or SOFT SWEETS	THICK WAX CRAYONS or PENCILS DRAWING PAPER SOFT TOY SOAP FLANNEL	TOOTHBRUSH and TOOTHPASTE HAIRBRUSH or COMB HAT and GLOVES NO WAR RELATED TOYS
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GIRLS 3 – 5 YEARS OLD

TOY DOLLY | *Everything else as above*

GIRLS 6 – 11 YEARS OLD

TOY DOLLY SKIPPING ROPE JEWELLERY BALL PLAYING CARDS SWEETS	BOOK FELT TIP PENS PENCILS PENCIL CASE PAPER SOFT TOY	HAT and SCARF GLOVES FLANNEL TOOTHBRUSH and TOOTHPASTE SOAP
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BOYS 6 – 11 YEARS OLD

TOY CAR
YOYO | *Everything else as above*

BOYS 12 – 15 YEARS OLD

MARBLES TRAVEL GAMES: (Draughts, Ludo, etc.) JUGGLING BALLS BASEBALL CAP PLAYING CARDS	GEOMETRY SET NOTE BOOK GLOVES SCARF PENS PENCILS	SOFT TOY SWEETS SOAP FLANNEL TOOTHBRUSH and TOOTHPASTE
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GIRLS 12 – 15 YEARS OLD

HAIR ACCESSORIES JEWELLERY NEW MAKE UP	PERFUME STICK TALC DEODORANT	DOLLY SKIPPING ROPE <i>Everything else as above</i>
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CHRISTMAS CARDS AND LETTERS SHOULD NOT INCLUDE PRIVATE ADDRESSES

THE COLLECTION OF SHOE BOXES COMMENCES FROM MID OCTOBER

Shoebox appeal 2020

This was very successful last year so why not join with Trinity to make it a success again this year.

Here's a copy of the leaflet to remind you how it works and you can read more in Ralph's piece at the top of this newsletter. If you have any questions, email them to ask.stpauls@gmail.com or phone Rev Ralph on 01342 325877 and we'll get back to you.

IT IS IMPORTANT that you have enclosed a minimum of £4 in this envelope to enable us to fulfil our obligation to the children.

Thank-you.

Please tick minimum of £4 is enclosed

ATTACH THIS STICKER TO THE OUTSIDE OF YOUR SHOEBOX

PLEASE MARK BELOW CLEARLY WHICH AGE AND SEX YOUR BOX IS INTENDED FOR.

GIRL	
3 – 5	
6 – 11	
12 – 15	
BOY	
3 – 5	
6 – 11	
12 – 15	

Contacts

Rev Ralph phone 01342 325877 email rlphwrd@gmail.com

Deacon Irene phone 01293 385124 email deaconirene@gmail.com

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

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

Extraordinary Times is published weekly 'for the duration'