

St Paul's Methodist Church, Crawley
Extraordinary Times
a magazine to help us through COVID-19
Issue 54 **April 11th 2021**

From St Paul's Leadership Team ...

Firstly, a big Thank You to Jill Mason

After many years of committed service, including her innovative work with Messy Church, Jill Mason has retired from the Leadership Team and from Leading the Children and Youth Strand. I am sure that you will all wish to join with us in expressing our grateful thanks and appreciation to Jill for all the amazing work she had done during her time on the Leadership Team. Jill will be hard to replace!

Next, St Paul's urgently needs:

- **Someone to join the Leadership Team and lead the Children and Youth Strand**
- **Volunteers to lead the Sunday children's and young people's sessions (King's Kids, King's Crew and King's Teens)**
- **Volunteers to help with these sessions or to sit in and act as the second adult to meet safeguarding requirements.**
- **Volunteers to help lead a weekday evening or Sunday afternoon youth group for teenagers and young adults**

Jill Mason's retirement leaves us with a Leadership Team vacancy for someone willing to lead the Children and Youth Strand. We urgently need to fill this vacancy if we are to continue providing for our children and young people, which is an essential part of our mission, to share the Gospel and make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20).

Over the three years preceding the pandemic, the number of children participating in the Sunday groups grew steadily year on year. By God's grace, we progressed from one small group to two groups and then, because of the increasing numbers and wide age range, we started a third group. Covid then arrived and the Church building was closed, preventing the Sunday children's groups from meeting. However, even before Covid we were desperately short of group leaders and helpers. This was exacerbated by the illness of some of the leaders and helpers. The three groups frequently had to be combined because there were not enough adults available. You may imagine how difficult it is to run meaningful and engaging activities for 25 or more children and young people with a group age range covering toddlers to teenagers!

We therefore need more volunteers to lead the Sunday children's groups and more helpers to assist with these groups. To meet safeguarding requirements each group must have two adults present. Someone willing to just sit in the room is enough to allow a leader to run a session. Someone willing to help by engaging with the children and young people is a bonus. Some people have offered to help on an ad-hoc basis if they are there on the day. Whilst this is helpful in an emergency, we need people willing to commit to

specific dates and times on a rota basis. Without a committed team of leaders and helpers we cannot run adequate children's and youth provision in addition to Sunday children's groups (Sunday schools), most growing and thriving churches run a weekday evening or Sunday afternoon youth group for the older children and young adults. We need volunteers to set up and run a youth group.

Please prayerfully consider if this is something God is calling you to get involved with. If you want to know more or to discuss this, please talk to a member of the Leadership Team.

St Paul's Leadership Team

What's On

Sunday 11th 9:30am in the church spoken word service with Geoff Ridgway
10:30am online worship with Geoff Ridgway

Sunday 18th 9:30am in the church spoken word service with Eddie Newton
10:30am online worship with Eddie Newton

Find all online services on [St Paul's Facebook page](#) and [website home page](#)

For Kids and young people

Sundays 12noon Zoom sessions for King's Kids and King's Teens. If you haven't had your invitation please contact Carol or email ask.stpauls@gmail.com

Fridays 7pm Young Peoples' Singing Group

In your prayers

Please pray for Rizvy, Dinali and Druvinka, husband and daughters of Shehan Fernando's cousin Chrishanthi who passed away this week. Pray also for Shehan, Karen and all who mourn the loss of Chrishanti.

Pray for Rev Ralph and Adele during Ralph's Sabbatical leave that this may be a time of refreshment and renewal for them.

Continue to pray for Neil Roberts and others you know who need our prayers.

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#

Young People's Singing Group is recruiting!

This group of young people from the age of rising 7 (year 2) upwards, meets every Friday during term time from 7.00-7.30 at St Paul's church. They learn to sing contemporary Christian songs, using microphones, which they perform or record for the worship services. If your child is interested, please contact Carol Ofield or email ask.stpauls@gmail.com

Methodist receives Maundy purse



A lifelong churchgoer who has made outstanding contributions to his Gloucester community has been rewarded by the Queen. John Bell, a member at Lonsdale Road Methodist Church in Elmbridge, received a Maundy Purse from Her Majesty as part of Holy Week.

Methodist youth call for Climate Justice for All

A youth-led campaign calling on the global Methodist family to take climate action in the run up to the UN's COP26 is launched today by a group of workers from Uruguay, Britain, Italy, Zambia and Fiji.

Climate Justice for All (CJ4A for short) is a campaign which invites Methodist communities all over the world to engage in the issue of the climate crisis and declare 'we believe in climate justice for all'.

Camila Ferreiro, Uruguayan CJ4A Worker, says, "The message of the campaign, 'we believe in climate justice for all', is so important because as Methodist people we want to remember John Wesley's declaration that God's love was for all and we wanted to make clear that when we seek climate justice it is not just for a small number of individuals but for all."

James Appleby, British CJ4A Worker, comments, "We believe that, for climate justice for all to be a reality, communities on the front lines of the climate crisis need to be equipped with the right resources and there also needs to be fairness through the highest emitters being the most ambitious in reducing their carbon usage to net zero."

The campaign is asking Methodist communities to do three things in the run up to COP26: listen, call and commit.

Iemaima Vaai, Fijian CJ4A Worker, says, "First we will listen because as a team we realized that telling our own stories and listening to others was an important tool for learning about and responding to the effects of the climate crisis. Second, we will call because we knew that it was not enough to just talk about climate justice within our Methodist communities but take that message out to our political representatives. Third, we will commit because it ensures that, as communities make personal commitments to enact change within their own contexts, the work of the campaign is sustained after the COP and change is truly embedded in the lives of Methodist communities."

As part of the campaign, CJ4A are releasing monthly short films and worship resources to help tell the stories of Methodist communities who are taking action for the planet.

Irene Abra, Italian CJ4A Worker, says "This campaign is especially exciting because it offers the global Methodist family the chance to take climate action together by listening to and learning from one another about how to best care for the planet that we all share."

As well as workers from five different countries, CJ4A has a volunteer network from fifteen other countries including Russia, India, Argentina, Zimbabwe and the USA.

"We have a brilliant opportunity to model the kind of global working we wish to see our leaders at COP26 doing." Mollie Pugmire, British CJ4A Worker.



**UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

COP26 is the United Nation's annual Climate Change Conference which is set to be held in Glasgow from 1-12 November 2021.

Do you shop online?



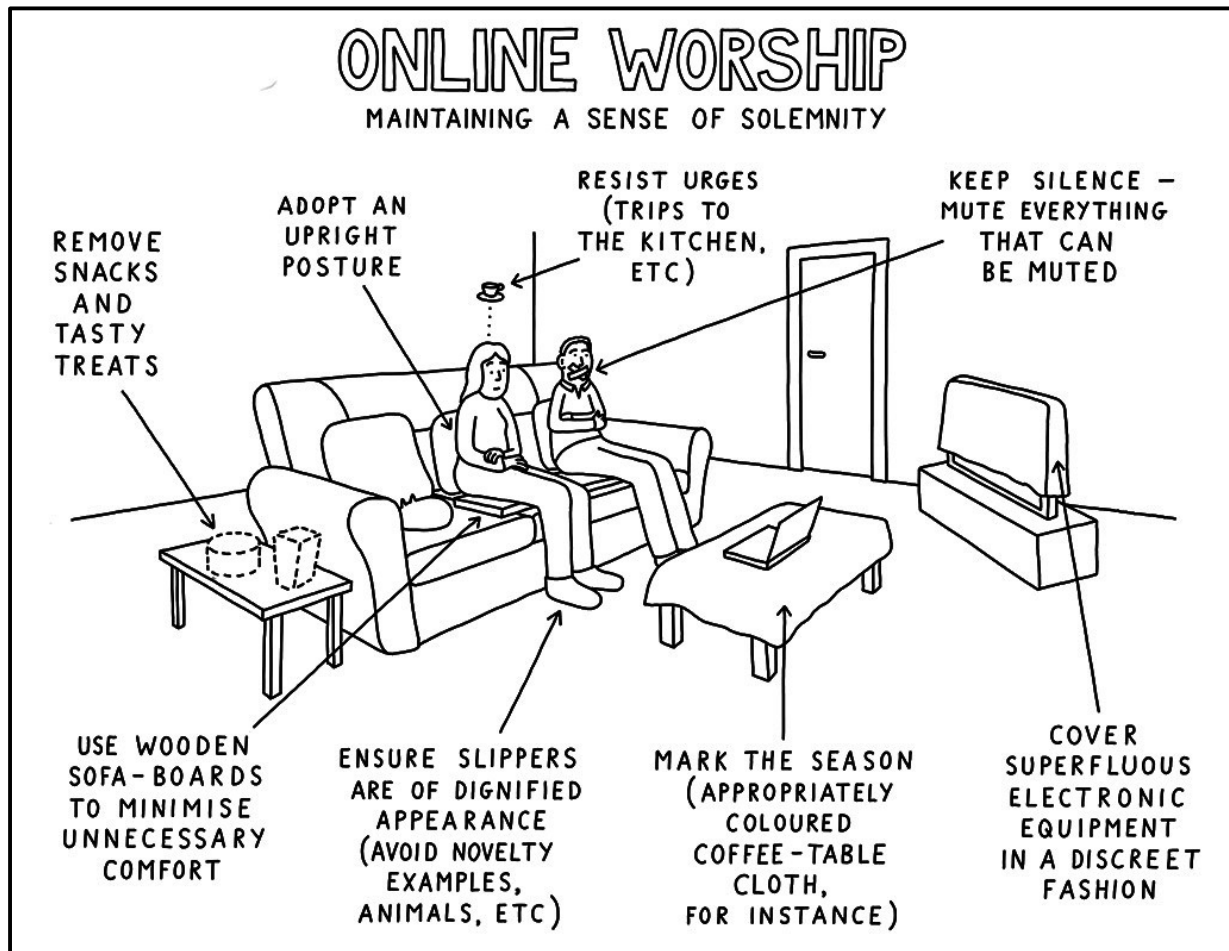
Just about a year ago, St Paul's registered with *easyfundraising* as a way of boosting funds while the church was losing income during the pandemic. In that year we have 'earned' £125 from online shopping by the 7 people who have signed up with this, so thanks to them for their support – more supporters would boost this amount for next year!

Buying anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – could raise free donations for St Paul's. Over 4,000 shops are involved – including eBay, Argos, John Lewis, Waitrose and M&S – and it won't cost you a penny!

All you need to do to join for free is go to:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stpaulsmethodistchurchcrawley/?utm_campaign=raise-more

There are no catches or hidden charges and St Paul's will be really grateful for your contributions, so please think about signing up.



Contacts

(During April) Rev Clive McKie 01737 770197 clivewmckie@tiscali.co.uk

(From 2nd May) Rev Melvyn Cooke 01293 973847 melvyncooke@me.com

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

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

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