

St Paul's Methodist Church, Crawley
Extraordinary Times
a magazine to help us through COVID-19
Issue 55 **April 18th 2021**

From St Paul's Leadership Team ...

So here we are, nearly a quarter of the way through 2021. This week our world was widened a bit more with non-essential shops and hairdressers opening and the possibility of sitting in a pub garden or eating outside a restaurant – just a shame it's been a bit cold! As the commercial world re-opens, so we wonder about the possibilities for worship and church activities.

St Paul's Leadership Team met via Zoom this week to look at what might be possible. As far as worship is concerned 'the rules' haven't changed much. We must continue to use hand sanitiser, observe social distancing and wear face coverings, and we still can't have congregational singing inside the building. This means that, for now, we will continue to have a spoken service in the church at 9:30am on Sundays for everyone who values being in the building with other people, and pre-recorded streamed worship, with hymns and songs to sing along with, which goes out at 10:30am and can be watched any time after that. Some people do both!

However, activities for children and young people are now allowed. Our Young People's Singing Group has already started meeting again on Friday evenings and we have ideas for starting new sessions so that our young ones aren't missing their Christian teaching in each other's company. A team is being convened to work on this and we will let you know what they come up with as soon as possible.

As we wrote in ET last week, successful provision of groups for our young ones depends on having enough leaders and helpers to make it possible. Please pray about this and see whether God leads you in that direction.

If working with children and young people isn't really your thing, how about joining the Tech Team? We look forward to a time when worship in church will be more like it was in the good old pre-Covid days. What is becoming clear though, is that churches generally have seen the benefits of going online with greater reach to people beyond our walls and flexibility of when to join in an online service. This will continue at St Paul's into the future. At present a small Tech Team is working hard building a system for broadcasting worship but this will need a bigger Tech Team to operate it on Sundays in the future. How about taking up that challenge?

The Leadership Team is pleased to welcome two new members – Lindelee Ross and Laura Tazob. They are both keen to help get St Paul's up and running again and we thank God for them. The team members are, in alphabetical order; Isaac Conroy, Nessa Collins, Sheila Jones, Joyce Jordan, Peter Jordan, Carol Ofield, Martyn Ofield, Nicola Postle, Lindelee Ross and Laura Tazob. If you wish to volunteer for working with young people or joining the Tech Team, let any one of the team know or email ask.stpauls@gmail.com

St Paul's Leadership Team

What's On

Sunday 18th 9:30am in the church spoken service with Eddie Newton

10:30am online worship with Eddie Newton

Sunday 25th 9:30am in the church spoken service with Lorraine Valler

10:30am online worship with Lorraine Valler

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 our children and young people as we start thinking about how to open up activities for them on church premises

Prayerfully ask for God's guidance as we each consider what our future role should be when our church gradually returns to more activities.

Pray for Lyn and Richard who are have employment concerns.

Continue to pray for all you know who need our prayers.

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

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

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.

St Vincent Volcano Eruption – a prayer request

The La Soufrière volcano on the Caribbean island of St. Vincent began a series of eruptions on April 9, sending clouds of ash 20,000 feet into the air, blanketing much of the island in ash and causing water and electricity outages.

Here is an update from Bishop, The Rev'd Everal L. Galbraith, President of Conference of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA).

The eruption, which surpassed the expectation of most if not all, particularly those who experienced our last major eruption in 1979 has already caused significant dislocation and hardship. Currently there are approximately 3700 persons in shelters.

NEMO (National Emergency Management Organization) reports about 86 shelters but it seems likely that number will increase as others are which were not previously earmarked as a shelter. There are thousands of others in the homes of their friends and families and others who have rented spaces.

The immediate needs relate to helping persons in shelters and enabling a more conducive arrangement. While there are some shelters that have benefited from tremendous support and assistance from the community, supplementing NEMO, there are others that have apparently been under the radar.

Our church has three facilities that are being used as shelters, has asked several of our congregations to adopt a shelter and has been assisting in providing food, toiletries, mattresses and several other needs. Most shelters are occupied by people from the same village and families all from various churches. The vast majority of our members are in homes of their families and friends.

We continue our efforts at responding to the needs of the shelters as a first priority but a next important step will be to reach persons who are using a home as a shelter then those with friends and families whose resources are either limited or depleted. The longer term response will involved enabling persons to return to their home and restoring livelihoods.

Please hold the people of St Vincent in your prayers and pray for all agencies, churches and the MCCA as they support communities with relief supplies and stay responsive to the changing situation.

Crawley Open House - Hundred for the Homeless

Take part in our 'Hundred For The Homeless' challenge

CRAWLEY OPEN HOUSE



HUNDRED
FOR THE
HOMELESS

During the month of May walk, cycle, run, swim or row 100 miles, or do 100 of anything you choose! Plant 100 shrubs, knit 100 items, make 100 pots of jam, write 100 letters, sing 100 songs it's entirely up to you! We are aiming to raise a grand total of £10,000 – will you take the Hundred for the Homeless Challenge? Get involved with family, workmates, friends or by yourself, and have fun whilst raising funds for your local homeless shelter.

Click on <https://www.crawleyopenhouse.co.uk/hundred> to register your interest, and we will email you a joining pack with more information and a scoresheet for you to track your progress through the month.

And finally – some thoughts on volunteering



*Do all the good you can,
by all the means you can,
in all the ways you can,
in all the places you can,
at all the times you can,
to all the people you can,
as long as ever you can.*
John Wesley

"As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands – one for helping yourself, the other for helping others." Audrey Hepburn

*"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."
Mahatma Gandhi*

*"You give but little when you give of your possessions.
It is when you give of yourself that you truly give." Kahlil Gibran*

*"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."
Elizabeth Andrew*

*"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless,
but because they're priceless." Sherry Anderson*

*"Every person can make a difference, and every person should try."
John F. Kennedy*



*"The youth have been great volunteers.
Plus, they work for donuts!"*

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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