

St Paul's Methodist Church, Crawley

Minister: Rev Melvyn Cooke

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www.crawleymethodistchurch.org.uk

St Paul's Newsletter

8-15 August 2021

Sunday Services at St Paul's

8 Aug 10:30am Worship led by Mrs Jill Brooks

15 Aug 10:30am Worship led by Rev Melvyn Cooke

22 Aug 10:30am Worship led by Mr John Starling

We are family friendly, so do come and bring the kids.

Note that services on the 8th and 15th August will be streamed live on St Paul's Facebook page but that the Tech Team is taking a break on 22nd and 29th August. Streaming will resume on 5th September.

For Kids and young people

Friday Funday and Young People's Singing Group are taking a summer break. They will restart in September.

Ministerial care of St Paul's

Now that Rev Ralph has left for pastures new in Cornwall, pastoral care of St Paul's is in the hands of Rev Melvyn Cooke, who is already very well known to us and who officially becomes our minister in September.

In your prayers

Pray for all ministers who are preparing to enter ministry for the first time this September and for all who are moving to a new situation. Pray for the 3 new staff members joining our circuit; Revs Gillian Baahlam and Elizabeth Brooks and Deacon Jenny Parnell. Ask for God's blessing on them and their ministry with us.

We're sorry to hear that Rev Melvyn's mother is seriously ill. Please pray for Melvyn and his family at this worrying time.

Continue praying for Neil and for Pam who is awaiting surgery.

Please send prayer requests to ask.stpauls@gmail.com and remember to obtain the permission of the person to be named.

Our mission at St Paul's is to:

Unite in Faith

Worship in Faith

Grow in Faith

Share the Good News

Make disciples

Serve in love

Ralph's farewell gift

I just wanted to say thank you again for your love and support during my time as your minister. I held my final service in the circuit on Sunday 25th July at Trinity, and they presented me with a wonderful gift which I know is a gift from St Paul's as well. Thank you for contributing to this, it's awesome!



Here's a photo of the new chair in case you haven't seen it. There is a back story to this.

From 1993 – 96 I was training for the Methodist ministry at Lincoln theological college, and I was provided with a study room in the old Victorian college building which contained a desk and a chair, both of which were pretty old and battered. When I finished my degree course the old college building was set to close; I'd become quite fond of the chair (I'd spent enough hours sitting in it reading

difficult theological books!) so, when I heard that all the old furniture was destined to be thrown away, I decided to "liberate" my study chair and take it with me. It was first made in the 1930s, so by now it was almost completely wrecked.

It's been with me ever since, through 25 years of ministry - until someone had the bright idea of "liberating" it from my house and refurbishing it. I didn't even notice it had gone – in fact we were thinking of throwing it out before we move house. Not anymore! It will have pride of place. It's all re-upholstered with the fantastic modern surfboard fabric; I love it. What a special gift, thank you so much.

Every blessing to you all, *Ralph*

Important voluntary situations vacant in the circuit

After several years of dedicated service, for which the Circuit is most grateful, Jay Jayasundara has stood down as Circuit Treasurer and Fiona Straszynski is shortly stepping down as Circuit Finance Officer.

We now need to replace them. The Circuit Treasurer is also a Circuit Steward but how much they get involved in day-to-day Circuit matters is up to them. You don't need to be an accountant or bookkeeper for either role – just so long as you're comfortable working with figures. Ian Pattison, who is caretaking the Treasurer role for now, and Fiona are happy to help with the handover and our Circuit Accountant is also available to help, so plenty of support is on hand.

In terms of time commitment, Jay combined being treasurer with a demanding full-time job. The work is mostly seasonal, with predictable busy times – preparing the budget or end of year accounts, for example.

Fiona says the Circuit Finance Officer role can be carried out by someone who is in part or full-time employment. On average, it takes approximately 2 hours per week. All payments are either paid by direct debit, standing order or online by bank transfer, which has cut down the time spent making payments significantly. The last couple of weeks of August and the beginning of September are the busiest, ensuring all outstanding bills and expenses claims are paid before the 31st August and then preparing the new spreadsheets for the start of the new financial year from 1st September.

We use Quickbooks accounting software which confirms the Cash Expenditure spreadsheet as being accurate and accountable. Fiona had no previous experience of Quickbooks or any training. She learned on the job and had a few phone calls with Stephen, the Circuit Accountant along the way. She says it really is not difficult and it's very satisfying seeing the reconciliation at £0.00 each month, meaning every penny has been accounted for! We appreciate that many people may be unfamiliar with Quickbooks and are happy to arrange training if required.

Filling these roles is vital to the smooth running of the Circuit. Please consider whether you might be able to take on one of them and if you need any more information, please speak to me or send a message via ask.stpauls@gmail.com and ask for a full job description to be sent to you.

If working with figures is really not for you, or you've got your hands full with other commitments already, please pray that the right people will come forward.

Elizabeth Grant, Circuit Steward



Congratulations

to Jessie and George White (Lyn and Richard's daughter and son-in-law) on the arrival of baby boy Theodore on Wednesday 28th July, weighing in at 6lb 2oz. Mother and baby are doing fine! Congratulations also to Lyn and Richard on gaining another lovely grandchild.

Thanks to God for this gift of new life.

Thanks from Christian Aid

Dear Ruth,

Thank you for creating and sharing your e-envelope in support of Christian Aid Week.

*We are delighted that **£342,941** was given through the e-envelope this year.*

***£578.75** of this was thanks to the e-envelope you set up on behalf of Crawley St Pauls Methodist Church alone!*

You've done an amazing job and your support means so much.

Many families are still fighting the climate crisis, but your kind gifts will help them stand strong and look to the future with hope.

Warmest wishes and thank you again,

Sophie Brightwell, Christian Aid Week Manager

Thank you, St Paul's, whether you donated through the e-envelope or by sending cheques and cash - a good result in difficult times. *Ruth Lewis*

A message to all World Church and JMA collectors

Please return World Church and JMA boxes to Ann Brown for annual emptying. If you have any problems with this, please phone Ann or email ask.stpauls@gmail.com

The next newsletter will be for 22nd and 29th August. Items for inclusion by Thursday 19th August please. *Joyce*

Contacts

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General enquiries, prayer requests & newsletter items:

ask.stpauls@gmail.com

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

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