

St Paul's Methodist Church, Crawley

Minister: Rev Melvyn Cooke

Phone: 01293 973847 email: melvyncooke@me.com

www.crawleymethodistchurch.org.uk

St Paul's Newsletter

22-29 August 2021

Sunday Services at St Paul's

22 Aug	10:30am	Worship led by Mr John Starling
29 Aug	10:30am	Worship led by Mr Edward Pender
5 Sept	10:30am	Communion service led by Rev Melvyn Cooke
	4:30pm	Welcome service for Rev Gill Baalham and Rev Elisabeth Brooks at Reigate Methodist Church

Note that on 22nd and 29th August services will be in church only while the Tech Team takes a break. 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.

Welcome Service for Rev Elisabeth Brooks and Rev Gill Baalham, 4:30pm at Reigate Methodist Church

Each church in the circuit has been asked to provide 40 cup cakes or a tray bake towards the tea. If you can help, please let me (Jill Brooks) know by emailing jillbrooks67@gmail.com and say what you will be making/providing. If you are going to attend the service, it would be really helpful if you could take some of the cakes with you.

Thank you. Jill Brooks

In your prayers

Pray for Pam Vanstone having surgery this week; for Arthur Parish now recovering in Crawley Hospital; for Neil Roberts who is still in hospital awaiting suitable accommodation to be found for him.

Pray for Jessie White, Lyn and Richard's daughter, who has Covid.

Continue to pray for Rev Melvyn Cooke and his family

Pray for victims of the earthquake in Haiti

Pray for the people of Afghanistan living in fear of the future regime.

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 Elisabeth Brooks and Deacon Jenny Parnell. Ask for God's blessing on them and their ministry with us.

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

A statement and prayer on the Afghanistan crisis

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference offer the following statement regarding the crisis in Afghanistan.

The Taliban's advance in Afghanistan has taken place more quickly than anyone predicted. Over the past days we have received distressing reports about the situation in Kabul, as well as across the country.

Following our military involvement, the UK bears a heavy responsibility towards the people of Afghanistan and must act to support all who fear for their future and seek asylum. Over the course of this conflict, members of our churches have been supporting those who have been forced to flee and at this critical time our response must be one of compassion and generosity. As Members of Parliament are recalled, we hope that there might be an unequivocal guarantee to support those seeking asylum, and that broad and accessible routes to the UK are created for those seeking sanctuary from Afghanistan.

Methodist chaplains have served members of our Armed Forces in Afghanistan over the past 20 years and we are mindful of them and of all who bear the scars of this conflict. We remember particularly those still serving, veterans, civilian colleagues and their families for whom the current situation in Afghanistan may be evoking difficult memories.

Our hearts go out to women in Afghanistan who have taken the opportunity to lead in many ways, making contributions in their communities, business and politics. They now fear that these freedoms will be reversed. We call on governments everywhere to uphold the empowerment of women and to ensure that the new government in Afghanistan maintains the freedoms gained in recent years.

In the face of uncertainty in Afghanistan and the region we know that many will want to join us in the following prayer.

Revd Sonia Hicks, President of the Methodist Conference

Barbara Easton, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference

A prayer for Afghanistan

You know the plans I have for you, says the Lord; plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to offer you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11

Gracious and holy God,

We come to you with the situation in Afghanistan heavy on our hearts. It is a situation so complicated, and so fast moving, that it is difficult for us to know what to say or how to think.

We hold before you the people of the country, those who stay and those who flee; those living with terror and afraid for the future; those who, because of this latest turn of events, will never be able to live the

fullness of life that is your purpose. We hold all this before you.

We hold open to you the future: the world leaders with a role in shaping what happens next; the many who are becoming refugees and the people who will be called upon to offer them safety and a future; the impact of these local events on our world story. We hold all this open to you.

We hold in your love all those known to us whose lives have been bound up in the recent story of Afghanistan. We think of all those who have served there in our Armed Forces, those who were injured and those who did not return. We hold in our hearts all those for whom this is a time of special grieving and confusion, and those who minister to them. We hold all these in your love.

Rock of ages, at this difficult time we lean into your timelessness. Turn us, and all people, to your good purposes for your world. Grant courage and wisdom, hope and a future. Amen

What is *A Methodist Way of Life*?

The Methodist Church is launching *A Methodist Way of Life* - a way of living so that we try to live our lives in response to God's love, made known to us in Jesus.

Like the early Christians (Acts 2.42-47), we seek to express what it means to follow Jesus in the regular, practical actions of worship, learning and caring, service and evangelism.

In this sense, *A Methodist Way of Life* is both new and old. It is new, in that Methodists first discussed such a way at the 2018 Conference, although it is based on *Our Calling*, agreed in 2000. That, in turn, was built on what Methodists have always done, since the days of John Wesley, in trying to follow Jesus and live out the Christian faith – just as those first followers in Acts did.

We will hear more about *A Methodist Way of Life* later this year. Meanwhile have a look at www.methodist.org.uk/mwol

Methodist Church supports Haiti earthquake relief

Following last week's earthquake in Haiti, All We Can and the Methodist Church in Britain have launched an appeal.



Read more and donate at
www.allwecan.org.uk/donations/haiti-earthquake-august-2021

Thank you from Dulcie

Dulcie McIntyre would like to thank everyone for the lovely cards she received on her birthday, she appreciated them all very much.

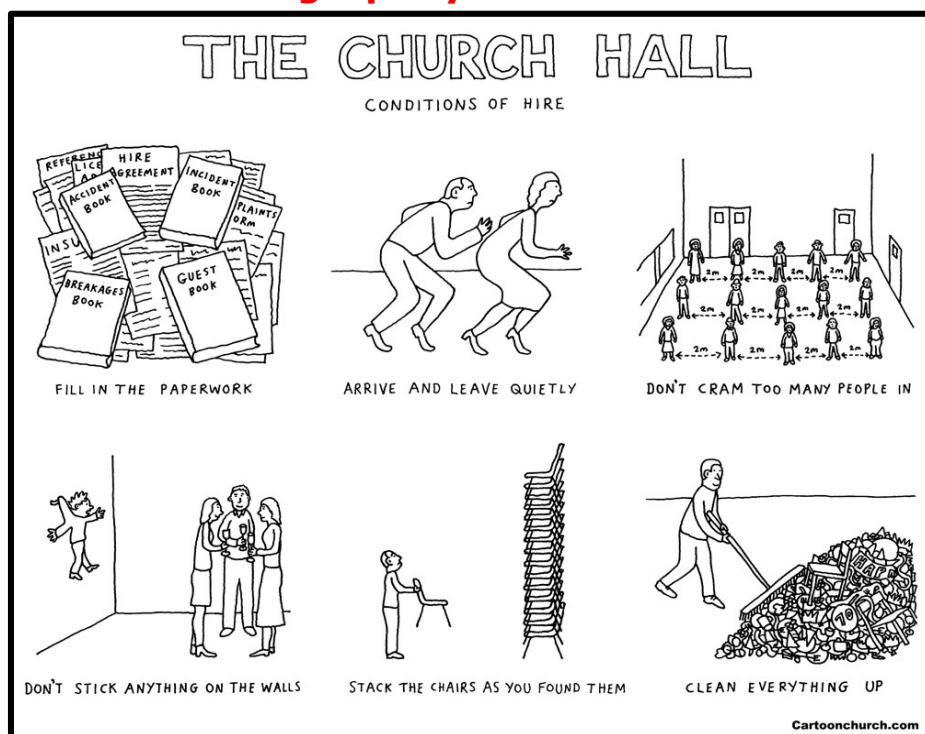
and thank you easyfundraisers!



Over the last year you've raised £141.42 for St Paul's when shopping online using easyfundraising. We'd like to say a huge thank you you! If you're not supporting St Paul's on easyfundraising yet, signing up is easy and completely free. Over 5,900 shops and sites will donate to us every time you shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself – so this is a great way to help us out! You can get started here:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stpaulsmethodistchurchcrawley>

And finally – things to consider if you're thinking of having a party in the church hall



Contacts

Minister - Rev Melvyn Cooke 01293 973847 melvyncooke@me.com

General enquiries & prayer requests ask.stpauls@gmail.com

Newsletter items ask.stpauls@gmail.com

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