

# St Paul's Methodist Church, Crawley

Minister: Rev Melvyn Cooke

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*St Paul's Newsletter 19-26 September 2021*

## From the minister . . .

It is a time for new beginnings; new school years commence, in sport a new star is born in the tennis world, as of yesterday (15<sup>th</sup> Sept) a government cabinet is shuffled, and for us as a church we begin to look at coming out of what seems to have been a hibernation into a new day, or at least the dawning of a new day, post-COVID.

Change does not necessarily mean casting off the old as when a caterpillar emerges from its shiny chrysalis, but more like when a snake sheds its skin. The snake sheds skin because it has outgrown its need for something that has served it well, it builds the new from the old. Thinking about the analogy, even the caterpillar must eat whilst still in the larval state to create the chrysalis state to emerge as something transformed.

We move forward with caution, learning from our past, holding true to truths that never change, but adapting our methods and ways to best serve the present situation, and to offer every opportunity to proclaim the good news of Jesus and salvation offered through him to those we can, in all the ways we should. I am reminded of the old hymn:

*1 New every morning is the love  
our wakening and uprising prove;  
through sleep and darkness safely brought,  
restored to life and power and thought.*

*2 New mercies, each returning day,  
hover around us while we pray;  
new perils past, new sins forgiven,  
new thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven. (John Keble)*

God bless, *Melvyn*

## What's on at St Paul's

<b>Sun 19 Sept</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	Worship led by Mr Eddie Newton
<b>Mon 20 Sept</b>	<b>7:30pm</b>	Leadership Team meeting in room 7
<b>Sun 26 Sept</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	Harvest Festival with Rev Melvyn Cooke
<b>Sun 3 Oct</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	Worship led by Mr Edward Pender
	<b>6:30pm</b>	Welcome service for Deacon Jenny Parnell at Horley Methodist Church

## **!! GOOD NEWS !!**

Our Loaves and Fishes café will be open 10:30 – 1:30 from Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> September - this week with just cakes and drinks, full menu from the 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **For kids and young people**

**HOORAY!** Sunday morning children's and young people's groups restart this Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> September.

**YPSG** (Young People's Singing Groups) meet on Friday evenings

Children aged 6-11, school year 2-6, from 6.30-7.00

Children at secondary school from 7.00-7.45

All children in these age groups are welcome.

### **Harvest Festival 26<sup>th</sup> September with Rev Melvyn Cooke**

If you haven't been back to church yet, why not come along next Sunday to celebrate Harvest? We are still keeping church safe for you with distanced seating, good ventilation and using face coverings.

We are asking for Harvest Gifts of tins of meat, fish, fruit and vegetables to support *Crawley Open House*. If you come to services, please bring your tins this Sunday or on the 26<sup>th</sup>. If you are unable to attend the service, you can bring them to church from 10.30am -1.30pm Monday-Thursday during this coming week when Loaves and Fishes will be open. *Sheila Jones*

### **In your prayers**

**Pray for** our children and young people and their leaders, as their Sunday morning groups start meeting again this week.

**Continue to pray for** Neil Roberts and for all you know who are sick or in any other need of our prayers.

*Please send prayer requests to [ask.stpauls@gmail.com](mailto:ask.stpauls@gmail.com) and remember to obtain the permission of the person to be named.*

### **New Wednesday Fellowship Group to be launched on 29<sup>th</sup> Sept**

After many years, the Wednesday afternoon Women's Fellowship has decided not to restart following the enforced break during Covid.

WF has been a meeting place for several generations of women, and will be sadly missed, but changes in the lives of women mean that there is not so much need for daytime meetings of this type now. Many thanks are due to all who have organised and led WF over the years.

The good news is that a new Wednesday Fellowship (so still WF!) is proposed. The remaining members of the previous Women's Fellowship have been consulted and have agreed that they would like this change.

This new group will be for anyone of any age and gender who wishes to come along. It will meet at St Paul's on Wednesday mornings starting on 29<sup>th</sup> September at 11am when we can discuss what sort of group we would like it to be.

Loaves and Fishes will be open so a cuppa is pretty well guaranteed

## **The best way to grow and change ... is to grow and change**

*In the first of a two-part series, Dr Nigel Pimlott, regional learning and development officer and facilitator of the God for All Transformational Leadership Learning Community, reflects on his recent experiences as a foster carer.*

During the last year, my wife and I have started being foster carers. This has required us to make some very big adjustments in order to bring about the transformation we hope for in the lives of the children we look after.

We've changed when we eat meals. We've transformed how our house is organised. We've re-designed the décor. There are now car seats in the car, a play pen in the living room and numerous varieties of baby food across the kitchen. Ornaments have been put away, clutter tidied, and finances have been significantly re-ordered. All to help the children in our care stand the best chance of thriving and flourishing. Those of you who have raised children will no doubt have experienced similar changes, but this is new for us.

Primarily, we've had to change ourselves; continually re-configure the way we do things. We've revised priorities whilst learning new things so we grow and transform who we are. These changes have developed us, but they've been largely for the benefit of the children. Our change, has enabled them to change, so their world can change for the better.

In my work with the Transformational Leadership Learning Community (TLLC) I've also seen this pattern at work in the church. People have made changes to revitalise the church, thereby helping the wider community transform. Be it feeding the hungry, offering digital solutions, looking after others, starting new Christian communities or campaigning for justice, God's people are about significant transformation.

People often respond tender-heartedly to the news that we are foster carers. They generously think we are doing a noble and compassionate thing. It's not for us to comment on this, but before we get too carried away with any sentimental notions about what it is all about, I need to say that it has been challenging. Making changes to how we live, what we do and how we do it, and re-prioritising seemingly everything has been demanding. But here's the thing – we couldn't do what we set out to do without doing the changes. We won't be the best difference we can be unless we best transform how we are.

I think the same is true about church – if we want to be the best we can be, we can't keep doing it in the way we have been in the new context we now find ourselves in. We have to adjust to changing circumstances so that others can best flourish. It's really not about us, but about how we love and serve others with the Good News of Jesus.

By its very nature, fostering means children come and go. Each arrival means we have to grow and change for the benefit of the children. Maybe we can be church in the same way: grow and change ourselves, thus helping the church grow and change, so others grow and change. *Nigel Pimlott*

## **Power and Protest – a statement from The Joint Public Issues Team**

Church leaders have joined representatives of hundreds of civil society organisations to express concern about government proposals to restrict protest and increase police powers. As consideration of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill begins in the House of Lords, they have written to the Home Secretary and Lord Chancellor, urging a fundamental rethink.

The letter voices concern about several aspects of the wide-ranging Bill: its impact on the right to protest, the threat it poses to Traveller communities, and fears that increased policing powers have the potential to entrench racial injustices in the justice system. It also highlights the very limited amount of parliamentary scrutiny that the proposals have so far received.

Signatories include the President of the Methodist Conference, the General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, a Moderator of the URC's General Assembly, alongside representatives of Liberty, Friends of the Earth, the Quakers, Christian Aid, Tearfund, and 350 other organisations.

Peaceful protests play an important function in a democracy. This legislation would create confusion and make protest more difficult to organise and difficult to police. Proposals to create a new criminal offence of trespass would have a particular impact on Gypsy and Traveller communities, as well as criminalising those who are homeless or wild camping.



## **Help Stephanie raise funds for Cats' Protection**

There's still time for anyone who would be kind enough to sponsor me on the '9 mile Challenge ' to let me know.

The idea is to walk 9 extra miles during September which (mercifully) can be spread out over this month. So far I've completed 5 extra miles, mostly while away in Suffolk. Covering the extra miles is quite hard for me and it would be nice to make it as worthwhile as possible. So, a big 'thank you' to those generous people who've already signed up.

There are very many sick, injured and unwanted cats out there, so if anyone would like to help them by sponsoring me, please just see me after Church or ring me on 01293 533741. Thank you, *Stephanie Roberts*

## **Your used stamps can support St Catherine's Hospice**

Thanks to those who have remembered to pass on their used postage stamps. St Catherine's Hospice raises much money by selling them on and they are very grateful. Now we're back in church, please remember to bring your stamps. Many thanks, *Bobbie Gillett*

### **Contacts**

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