

St Paul's Methodist Church, Crawley

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St Paul's Newsletter 31 Oct - 7 Nov 2021

Dear Friends,

During lockdown I took up painting. I hadn't picked up a paintbrush since primary school but now I find art quite relaxing. I have always said that I am not at all creative but actually we all have an element of creativity within us. We are all made in the image of God and God is creative; just look at the beauty of creation. You, like me, may say that you haven't got a creative bone in your body! I would have to disagree....If you have chosen what clothes you're wearing you have been creative. If you have decorated your home, you have been creative. If you have written a letter, you have been creative. I could go on, but I expect you've got the point!

These past eighteen months have seen most of us having to find new and creative ways to stay in touch with family and friends. As different restrictions have come and gone, we have had to keep on being creative and think in new ways to stay connected and to feel comfortable.

I wonder whether we can all put our creative thinking hats on and think about our Church and how we move forward with mission. I'd love to hear your thoughts on what you feel about this. I invite you to have a think, discuss your thoughts and dreams about the future with others and then please share them so that we can be creative together. We are all different and we each have our unique gifts and talents, but we are all part of the one body. Scripture reminds us that:

Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service in our serving; the one who teaches in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. – Romans 12: 6-8

Recent times have been different and difficult for many of us but let's encourage one another and move forward together into the new landscape that is in front of us. We may feel that there has been a lot of change recently and we may be feeling a little disorientated. Let's encourage one another as we move forward. Let's communicate our thoughts, fears, and dreams and share our gifts and talents to further God's kingdom. We may not get things right straight away. We may need to practice and adapt but we won't know what we are capable of unless we try. Together, I'm sure we will achieve something worthwhile and enjoyable.



Every Blessing, *Jenny*

What's on at St Paul's

Sun 31 Oct	10:30am	Worship and Communion with Rev Deborah Cornish (Assistant District Chair)
Wed 3 Nov	11am	Wednesday Fellowship. Table games.
Sun 7 Nov	10:30am	All-age worship with Deacon Jenny Parnell
	3:30pm	Tea service with Lorraine Valler
Sun 14 Nov	10:30am	Remembrance Sunday and church parade worship led by Rev Melvyn Cooke

Welcome to our Family Tea Service

*You are invited to our
fun filled informal Tea Service*

Sunday 7th November.

Come join other families to share God's word in a fun way.

The service, led by Lorraine Valler,

*will start at **3:30pm** in the hall*

There will be tea and cakes after the service.

Everyone is welcome!

Laura and Carol

For kids and young people

YPSG (Young People's Singing Groups) meet on Friday evenings in term time
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.

In your prayers

A prayer for COP26

Written by the Revd Mark Slaney, Chair of the Scotland & Shetland Districts

*Creator God, who calls us to live justly and be good stewards of the earth,
we hold in our prayer with you COP26 and all those gathering in Glasgow.*

*More than words, we pray for honesty and clarity, wisdom and action
which respond urgently to the needs of the poor and displaced, and to the
state of the earth, water and air.*

*Call us, help us and be our judge; that whether political, industrial,
scientific or protest leader, whether activist or apathetic we might accept the
cost and find the commitment and energy to change our ways for the sake of
the planet that gives us life. Amen*

Pray for St Paul's, its ministers and leaders seeking God's will for the
priorities of our mission as the church re-awakens after Covid.

Continue to pray all you know who are in any need of our prayers.

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

COP26 - Glasgow Methodists preparing to share their passion for justice and radical discipleship

COP26 is offering an opportunity for the world to seize the day and be involved in initiating something transformational for all people.

The Revd Andrew Baker, Superintendent Minister at Strathclyde Methodist Circuit, shares how the circuit has been gearing up for the crucial UN conference on climate change being held next month in Glasgow.



The 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) is to be hosted by the UK in Glasgow! That means the Strathclyde Circuit is to be involved – surely this is at the heart of our calling as Methodists in Scotland.

The stirring to action began with the circuit staff; the circuit leadership team picked it up; the circuit meeting was up for it. Laurent “volunteered” to be the main person in making it possible.

Woodlands Methodist Church in Glasgow’s west end was identified as the “hub” location, from which the spirit of Methodism would spread hospitable wings. There was so much uncertainty

around – with the restrictions of the pandemic, the postponement, the rumours – but we were up for it as a circuit. We have been involved with the Glasgow Churches Together team, the Climate Justice for All team, All We Can, JPIT, local artists and the wider Scotland District of the Methodist Church.

Then people from round the circuit began offering to be stewards at Woodlands, to be the face of Methodism here in Scotland, to reach out generous hands of welcome to those travelling to this special city for these two weeks, in which so much hope for the future of the human race’s life on this planet rests.

There is still uncertainty about who will come to Glasgow and find us at Woodlands and about how we will move around the city during the fortnight, but we are preparing to share our passion for justice and radical discipleship. A circuit “Green Team” has grown during our preparations, and we sense that we are being cheered on by the Methodist people in Scotland.

The circuit’s strapline is: “Inclusive; Transformational; Involved”. COP26 is offering an opportunity for the world to seize the day and be involved in initiating something transformational for all people. My feeling is that the Methodist Circuit here in Strathclyde is up for being part of that!

Taketime in Prison

an account by Hannah, who is training to become a Methodist Minister

During a visit to a women's prison with Clive McKie, we met a woman who had been a heroin addict for many years. After she had shared something of her traumatic and painful past with us, Clive asked if he could pray with her, and with her consent, he did a short Taketime prayer.

When asked about her experience afterwards, she said it was like "a drug that makes you feel good, but it's free and doesn't harm you" and she also felt that for the first time in her life she was in the right place. She said she was able to share with Jesus what was on her mind, whereby his response was, "you're here at last".

I was overwhelmingly assured that, through this simple meditative prayer, this woman had met Jesus and found a place of peace even if for a moment amidst the challenges in her life.

Clive did this meditation with several women that day, and I was able to witness the palpable and powerful ways it could enable people with little or no faith to encounter Jesus without any preaching or teaching, but rather through merely being present with them in a space that felt calming and safe.



(see St Paul's Facebook page for *Taketime* meditations)

The next newsletter will go out for Sunday 14th November. I would welcome contributions from any of you please; recipes, book reviews, news of birthdays and other celebrations and even some deep thinking! Just get them to me by Thursday 11th November. *Joyce*

Deacon Jenny now has a phone at the manse – 01293 664696. Jenny welcomes your calls any time; if she's out, leave a message and she'll get back to you.

Rev Melvyn reminds us that he and Jenny are a team of co-ministers.

Contacts

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General enquiries, prayer requests and newsletter items

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