

**St Paul's Methodist Church,
Woodfield Road, Northgate, Crawley**

Ministers:

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St Paul's Newsletter 3/10 April 2022

Dear friends,

Since arriving in this Circuit in October I am gradually beginning to feel at home; thank you all for being so welcoming. It can be strange to live an itinerant life. I always thought that I would stay in Cornwall. My family have lived and worked in the small village of Port Isaac in North Cornwall for generations. A lot of my family were and still are fisherman. I was reading Psalm 62 this week and it reminded me of the sea and how we can sometimes feel that we are being tossed about in the waves of life.

Psalm 62: 5-8 reads:

Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress; I will not be shaken. My salvation and my honour depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge. Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.



I'd like to share with you one of my favourite pictures by the artist Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849). The picture depicts an enormous wave threatening three small boats. However, the boats do not appear to be sinking. The people in them are working together to ride the wave. To me this

image sums up beautifully how we should be trying to live out our Christian lives. To be in the waves, we have to first leave the safety of the harbour! This can be a scary proposition and one we may feel ill equipped for. We are all able to let God work in and through us though.

The poet Roger Keyes wrote a poem inspired by the sayings of the artist Hokusai. I share some of the poem with you here:

*It doesn't matter if you draw or write books.
It doesn't matter if you saw wood or catch fish.
It doesn't matter if you sit at home
and stare at the ants on your veranda
or the shadows of the trees and grasses in your garden.
It matters that you care.
It matters that you feel.
It matters that you notice.
It matters that life lives through you.
Contentment is life living through you.
Joy is life living through you.
Satisfaction and strength
are life living through you.
Peace is life living through you.
He says don't be afraid.
Don't be afraid.
Look, feel, let life take you by the hand.
Let life live through you.*

I pray that as we each continue on our journeys through Lent and look towards the season of Easter, we will become more aware of the life of God living in and through us and others. That, being aware of this, we will be confident to step out of our comfort zones. When we encounter difficulties and the waves start crashing around us as they inevitably will, let us not be afraid but trust in God and support each other in love until this storm has passed. Every blessing, Jenny

Have you thought about church membership?

Rev Gillian and Deacon Jenny will soon be holding *Preparation for Membership* sessions. If you attend church regularly you are already a member of the congregation, but you can show another step of commitment by being 'confirmed' and 'received into membership'. Becoming a 'member' is a way of saying that you belong to and support your local Methodist Church. It also means that you can hold certain responsibilities (e.g. steward, pastoral visitor, local preacher). Only members can be on the church council or be elected to the circuit meeting, district synod or the Methodist Conference.

If you want to know more about the commitment of Christian discipleship and would like to play a fuller part in church life, this is for you. Anyone who is interested and wants to know more should contact Deacon Jenny or email ask.stpauls@gmail.com

Worship at St Paul's

Sunday 3 Apr 10:30am Worship with Deacon Jenny Parnell

Sunday 10 Apr 10:30am Palm Sunday Worship with Rev Melvyn Cooke

Unless otherwise stated, services are streamed on Facebook with videos available later.

Fellowship at St Paul's

Tuesday Fellowship meets each week at 8.00pm via Zoom. All welcome.

For the Zoom link contact Carol Ofield or email ask.stpauls@gmail.com

Wednesday Fellowship weekly, 11am at St Paul's. Everyone is welcome.

6 Apr Bring Easter readings, poems, music to share.

13 Apr Easter week Communion with Rev Melvyn Cooke.

Easter Week Services at St Paul's

Palm Sunday 10th April 10:30am worship with Rev Melvyn Cooke

Maundy Thursday 14th April

No service at St Paul's but you can attend any of these in our circuit

Horley Methodist Church 8pm Tenebrae Service

Redhill Methodist Church 8pm Communion Service

Trinity, East Grinstead 8pm Meditation and Communion

Good Friday 15th April 9:30am with Deacon Jenny Parnell
11am Crawley churches town centre service

Easter Sunday 17th April 8:30am with Rev Melvyn and Deacon Jenny, Celebration and Communion followed by refreshments in the Welcome Hall

For kids and young people

King's Kids 10:30am every Sunday

Young People's Singing Group meets on Friday evenings, primary aged children from 6.30-7.00, secondary aged from 7.00-7.45. Would all adults and young people aged 11+ continue to wear face coverings, unless they are singing, and dress warmly as windows will be open to ensure good ventilation.

In your prayers

Please continue to pray for the people of Ukraine, for all giving support and relief, for Christian, Kira and Iden Ridgway,

Continue to pray for all you know who are in 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

Easter offerings for Ukraine



Ukraine Emergency Appeal  The Methodist Church 

In response to requests from members of our congregation who cannot make donations online, there will be special collections in church for the *Methodist Church/All We Can* appeal for Ukraine from 10th to 24th April.

If you prefer, you can still donate at <https://www.allwecan.org.uk/donate/ukraine/> Many thanks to those who have already done so.

A prayer for inclusivity from The Methodist Church

The Methodist Church is committed to being a church of justice, dignity and solidarity. As we try to live in the spirit of Jesus Christ who stands in solidarity with the whole human race we are all invited to join in this prayer.

God of all goodness, grace and love, transform us by your Holy Spirit. May we value the uniqueness of all people, each made in your image, and may I commit, again, today to follow in the way of Jesus Christ. Help me as I try to live in a justice-seeking way. Help me to treat other people with dignity in my encounters, conversations and relationships. Help me to stand in solidarity with Methodists different from myself, including those on the 'edges' or the 'margins', so that we may work together well. Help me to learn as I listen. May the Methodist church show your kindness of heart in our life together. May we take courage as we are transformed into a community of justice. May we reflect the Spirit of Christ in our love for all your people. Give us your goodness, grace and love we pray, Amen.

THANK YOU for your prayers and messages for UKRAINE

NOW Can you help Julie with her relief trip?

On 17th April, Julie Anscombe, who runs the Tap Cats group which meets at St Paul's, will travel to Medyka on the Poland/Ukraine border taking relief items for an animal hospital and for children in Ukraine. If you can donate

Dog and cat food

Nappies

Dog collars and leads

Baby wipes

Flea and worm treatments

Children's clean coats

Animal baskets and boxes

please bring them to St Paul's by the 15th April
and put them in the black dustbin

Thank you - carry on praying



The next newsletter for Easter weekend will go out a bit earlier in the week than usual. Please send me your items by TUESDAY 12th April. *Joyce*

Contacts

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General enquiries, prayer requests and newsletter items

ask.stpauls@gmail.com

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

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