

## St Richard's Crowborough – News update 12 Sep 2021

### Sunday 12 Sep 2021 – 10.45am Morning service

*(with children and young people's groups)*

#### 2 Peter 3:14-18 – Growing

(Ben Thorndike preaching & Trish Scobell leading)

**Sunday evening at All Saints, 6.30pm** – *if you want two services, come along to All Saints or tune in to the All Saints Live Stream for the evening service: [allsaintscrowborough.org/live](https://allsaintscrowborough.org/live)*

## ST RICHARD'S – LATEST NEWS

We had a great time singing and praying together at our monthly prayer meeting on Thursday night. And what a joy to do so back together in the building! Ben shared a little more about the Thorndikes moving to Tonbridge and how that came about. We also talked about different possibilities for us as we seek to appoint the next Minister of St Richard's, and the planned discussion at PCC next week in light of responses from both St Richard's and All Saints church families so far. Ben will share all these things again on Sunday morning.

## SUNDAYS AT ST RICHARD'S

We hit the autumn term with the same freedoms to worship that we have enjoyed through the summer. Praise the Lord for that! If you are a regular member of the church family, you will know that our plan is to continue coming out of lockdown and social distancing gradually. We long to open up and do as much as we can together, but the overriding principle is a love and concern for others, especially those who feel less confident and more vulnerable than we might. So that said, a brief reminder of some of the things we are doing, and encouraging all of us to do together, over the coming weeks:

- We will still have **hand sanitiser** at the doors for you to use coming in and going out.
- **Masks** are not compulsory but please do wear a face covering if you would like (though we are asking everyone to wear one when we sing together).
- We will keep the building **ventilated** as much as possible, with windows open.
- Rows of **seating** remain spaced out a little more than usual – but due to increasing numbers, we plan to add the extra row of seats on Sunday 19 September.
- As a courtesy please ask the person you plan to sit next to if they want you to leave a seat empty or not, and please, if you feel more comfortable with a seat between you and another household do say so to the person planning to sit next to you without any embarrassment. Consider this too, when sitting in front of, or behind, someone on the rows.
- We can **chat** in the building after a service, but if the weather is fine, we encourage you to chat outside.
- We continue to encourage people to **exit** via the back door into the outside space for the time being.
- We hope to reintroduce wine to **The Lord's Supper** this month in a safe manner – more info to follow.
- We have made the decision to postpone serving **refreshments** on Sundays for a while longer as we consider how it works practically, especially as we try to gain normality of seating in the worship area. Vanessa Nicholls has kindly agreed to lead the team as we go forward. Apologies for this delay, but we do hope to have refreshments running again before the colder weather sets in!

- **Car parking** – a couple of gentle reminders now we are getting busier on Sunday mornings:
- We have a number of people who struggle significantly with mobility, or who have small children to otherwise navigate across the busy road! Our musicians are sometimes carrying equipment too. Out of love for one another, please try to keep the parking bays at the front of church free for use by those who most need them.
- Also, when parking on the roads around, please do not park at the corner of junctions or across the pedestrian drop curbs for the sake of local residents. Please park respectfully and lovingly (and legally!) so that our Christian witness on the Alderbrook estate might not be damaged. It is probably worth an extra few seconds walk to guard these relationships.

## CHURCH NEWS AND COMING UP...

Home Groups starts back this week – looking at Romans 1-3

- **Weekly lunchtime prayers at St Richard's – Wednesday 15 Sep 12.00-12.45pm.** A time of fellowship around God's word and prayer. Join with us to pray for our church, our community and the world. Bring your own sandwiches to share time together over lunch too if you would like.
- **Connect – a group for children aged 5-13.** Monday 13 September, from 6.45-8pm at St Richard's with crafts, games, refreshments and a short Bible talk. This is a joint partnership project with Forest Fold Baptist church, following Lighthouse over the summer. Do pray on that lots might come, for leaders to get alongside children, and for Nigel (from Forest Fold) as he gives a short talk.
- **Southern Women's Convention – Sat 2nd Oct, 9am-3.15pm.** *There is no rock like our God (1 Sam 2:2).* In a day of teaching, fellowship, worship & seminars, we'll be considering how we can be bold in living for Jesus as we look forward to a new normal, post-Covid-19. Main speaker, Karen Soole, will spotlight the challenge of two very different women from 1 Samuel. In person and online options. More info and how to book see here: <https://allsaintscrowborough.churchsuite.co.uk/events/2b0ck2gl>
- **Passion for Life launch: Cabaret & All That Jazz** – joint event by All Saints & St Richard's churches, an evening of cabaret, cocktails, craft beer & conversation, with speaker Rico Tice. **Wed 13 Oct 7.30–9.45pm** at All Saints Church. £7.50 (inc. free drink on entry) Book a table for up to six people online at: [www.allsaintscrowborough.org](http://www.allsaintscrowborough.org)

## Men and women of the church family

Below are the remaining events in our plan to help get men and women of the church meeting together again. *These also tie into evangelistic events later this autumn term and into 2022 (to invite others to) as we prepare for 'St Richard's Passion for Life Mission.'* More on that to follow!

**So if you are a man or woman of St Richard's, please be encouraged to come along and reconnect together.**

**Saturday 18 September, 2.00-3.30pm. WOMEN'S 'Desserts and discussion.'** An opportunity to open the Bible briefly, pray together, and chat more about life – as we share, hopefully by now, a selection of desserts prepared by one another. Please let the church office know [strichardsoffice@gmail.com](mailto:strichardsoffice@gmail.com) by 13 September if you intend to come so we can send more details.

**Wednesday 6 October, 7.30-9.00pm. MEN'S 'Lager and laughter.'** An opportunity to open the Bible briefly, pray together, and chat more about life – as we share a drink or two, and snacks together. Please let the church office know [strichardsoffice@gmail.com](mailto:strichardsoffice@gmail.com) by 29 September if you intend to come so we can send more details.

## OTHER NEWS...

- **Road closure – Walshes Road!** South East Water plan to install 200m of new water main in Walshes Road, from July 26. The project is expected to take c.12 weeks to complete. Walshes Road will be closed for the duration in three sections: First, between Stone Cross Road and Walshes Road to the junction at Kingfisher Drive. Secondly, between Kingfisher Drive and Nightingales. Finally, between Nightingales and Luxford Road. This will impact traffic from the south, **but the church is still accessible from the Whitehill Road end of Fermor Road.** For more details see: <https://corporate.southeastwater.co.uk/walshesroad>
- **One of the World In Need (WIN) bedsits has become vacant.** The accommodation would suit a single person, situated on the first floor comprises of a recently refurbished bedsit complete with a kitchenette, and its own private shower room. Facilities are provided for doing laundry complete with a washer /dryer. Free internet connection. Car parking space available and is within walking distance of Crowborough town centre and busses to Brighton and Tunbridge Wells. Mainline train link to London is a 20min walk away. The rent is £375 per month including all services, excluding Council Tax. Please contact the WIN office for further details on 01892 486476.
- **‘Catch the wind’** joint churches prayer meeting from 9.00-9.40am at The Oasis (Community Church building in Beacon Road, opposite Royal Mail Sorting Office.) The meeting will be on the **first Saturday of each month.** They are introducing prayer walking around parts of Crowborough for those who want to take part, with time together at The Oasis before the prayer walk. For more information, please contact Peter and Pat Lockley
- **Shoe Boxes** – If anyone would like to make up a shoe box for Link to Hope please be in contact with Frances Sadd
- **Annie Collins’ funeral.** Annie was a regular worshipper at St Richard’s in past years before moving to Temple Grove nursing home. Her funeral will take place at All Saints church on Wednesday 6 October, 10.30am (Mark Ashworth will be leading).

**Next Sunday – 19 September 2021**

**The Lord’s Supper 10.45am      Philippians 2:1-18 – Serving**

(Ben Thorndike preaching & Jane Thorndike leading)

