strichardscrowborough.org
Tel: 01892 611318

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." Eph 3: 20-21

WELCOME to St Richard's News update 25 Feb 2024

Sunday 25 Feb 2024

Morning service with Lord's supper - 10.45am

(with Creche & Sunday Club! Lasers in main service.)

Nehemiah 1-2:10 "To Him who is able-when God's people pray (1)"

(Adam Thrift preaching & Abi Lattimer leading. Pete Winstone Lord's supper)

Evening service at All Saints - 6.30pm Mark Preaching Matthew 4:18-22 *allsaintscrowborough.org/live*

What's on this week...

- **MONDAY's: Men's Sausage Roll Club.**
  If you're free on Monday mornings and would benefit from good company and conversation, then why not join this group. They meet in various places so for more information and the latest rendezvous have a chat with John Wayte.

- **MONDAY's: Southern Crowborough Craft Group - 2-4pm every Monday.**
  A craft group for anyone who likes to chat over coffee and crafting - meets in the lounge at St Richard's. **Why not bring a friend along?** For more info chat to Rosemary Longley.

- **TUESDAY's: Little Seeds Toddler Group 10am – 12pm**
  Our toddler group meets at St Richards during term time from 10am till 12noon. A welcoming meeting place for parents and carers to socialise and bring their little ones to enjoy playing and organised activities. For more info chat to Sarah Bell and Laura Rapley.

- **TUESDAY's: Youth: HEROES (F-Y2) ADVENTURERS (Y3-Y6) at All Saints**

  During term time we partner with All Saints in their youth groups. Meeting from 4:30pm to 5:30pm. Hero's meets in the Parish Halls Adventurers in the downstairs hall accessed from the back of All Saints church. For more info email **sarah@allsaintscrowborough.org**

- **This WEDNESDAY: Lent Course** – 28 Feb & 14 Mar – 7.30pm at All Saints – see below

- **WEDNESDAY's: Midday prayer at St Richard's – 12noon to 1pm**
  Join with us as we think through what we heard on Sunday and to pray for our church, the community of southern Crowborough, the churches in Crowborough, the CofE and the world.

- **FRIDAY's – Ladies bible study at St Richard's from 10:15am**
  Speak to Trish if you think you'd like to join us! An hour together to grow in faith and enrich our bible knowledge.

- **Pastoral Surgery**
  A key aspect of church life is our spiritual health and wellbeing. As part of this Mark has set up our "Pastoral Surgery" where we can book a slot via Trish. Slots are available Monday evenings from 7.45pm and Thursday afternoons 1.45pm and 4pm at St Richard's lounge. A time to chat through things, share time in prayer and fellowship, whatever may be helpful for you.

Opportunities to learn and grow in your faith!

Bible overview course

What can really help our bible study is a framework that covers the whole bible. One way of creating that is through being part of an interactive course group.
At St Richards we run The Bible Course created by the Bible Society it is an eight-session course helping us explore the BIG story.

"Big, complex, old … just some of the words people use to describe the Bible". Sound familiar? That's where *The Bible Course* comes in. The course will increase your confidence, equip you to read the Bible better and help you to see its relevance to daily life. The course provides a birds-eye view of the world's bestselling book.

Over eight interactive sessions, it combines video teaching, group discussion and personal reflection and daily readings. If you would like to be part of our next course have a chat with Trish or Mark.

Lent Course 2024

Every year in the run up to Lent we partner with All Saints for a teaching series. Everyone is welcome and we pause our Home Group studies to enable us to engage with it.

You may remember that last year Mark ran through what he calls the 10C's of evangelism. This helps us get over the idea that evangelism is just door-2-door and for the experts. When really, it's about connecting with people, having conversation with people, showing we care and are concerned for people, creating a curiosity that leads to opportunities to speak about Christ etc. This year's Lent Course plugs into that, with a focus on practical evangelism. It's called Equip and will help us in how we bring Christ into those everyday conversations. Nick Ashton will be running the course on Wed 21st Feb, 28th Feb and 13th March at 7:30pm in All Saints church. We'd love to have as many people there as possible. If you've got any further questions, please do chat to Mark, Nick or Adam.

Conferences

Being part of a large community of believers can be a huge encouragement

Southern Women's Convention - 8th June at All Saints

9.30am – 4.15pm

A better Story, Talks from Hebrews with speaker Kimberly Davis. In a day of teaching, fellowship, worship and seminars, we will be taken through the book of Hebrews; seeing how God's story was fulfilled through the person of Jesus Christ. Even in the midst of life's storms, God reminds us that His story is perfectly written for us! For more info and to book, click here, or contact Trish at the church office 01892 611318

Sussex Gospel Partnership Training Day - 19th March

For our next Partnership Training Day, which are open to all, Dan Strange will be speaking on the theme of his book **Making Faith Magnetic: Five Hidden Themes Our Culture Can't Stop Talking About... and How to Connect Them to Christ.**

Dan is the director of Crosslands Forum, a centre for cultural engagement. Formerly he was college director at Oak Hill College, London. He is contributing editor for Themelios, and a Fellow of The Keller Center for Cultural Apologetics. Dan is married, has seven children, and is an elder of Hope Community Church in Gateshead in the North East of England.

As followers of Jesus, we know that the good news is deeply attractive. But we often fear that to those on the outside, it comes across as irrelevant. Sometimes the Christian worldview feels so out of step with everything else going on that we don't know how to share our faith. Author Dan Strange will show us that the connections are there in fact, the longings that our culture cannot help but express are the very ones that Jesus fulfils.

Date: Tuesday 19th March 10am to 4.15pm
Venue: Cuckfield Baptist Church
Cost: £10 per person
Bookings: click **here**

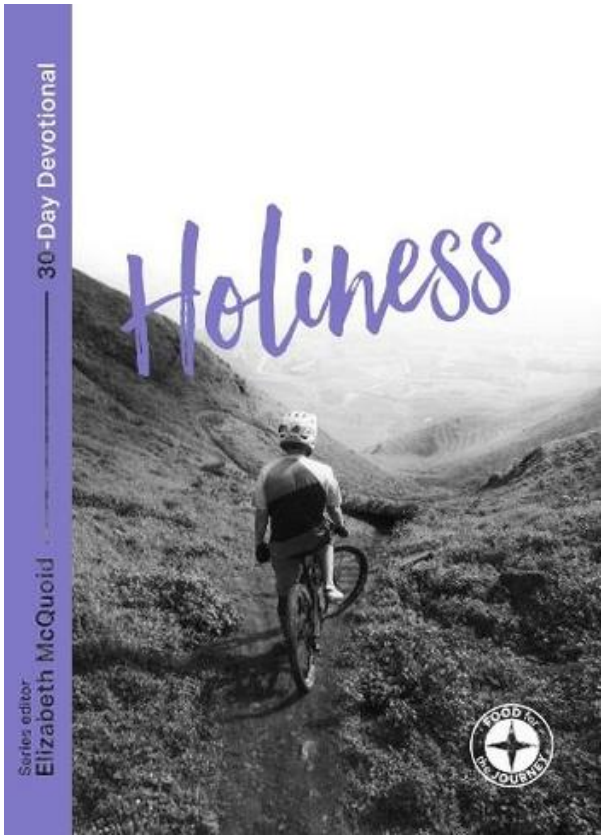
Bible by the Beach - 3rd–6th May 2024

"God has Spoken."

Speakers include Richard Pratt, Tim Ward, Helen Thorne, and a full Faith in Kids young people's programme.
More details here: www.biblebythebeach.org/
Weekend tickets £120 adult, £39 children,
Please contact Suzanne Hall if you are interested.

Suggested reading over Lent

Holiness – Food for the Journey by Elizabeth McQuoid.



This 30-day devotional, reminds us of what true biblical holiness looks like, and how glorious it can be when fully understood and lived out.

Exploring passages from throughout the Bible, in this devotional some of the Keswick Convention's most inspirational preachers – including Don Carson, Jonathan Lamb and John Stott – unpack the bible's teaching on holiness. In self-contained devotions perfect for a daily quiet time they look at God's holiness and show us how we can reflect it in every part of our lives

If you are looking to understand what holiness means for our lives, trying to find more quiet time with God or just want to dig more deeply into what the Bible teaches us about God's holiness, this little devotional is packed full of wisdom that will help us in the pursuit of holy living and our divine calling.

Opportunities to serve our local community

As a church we like to encourage, engage and be a benefit to the communities around Southern Crowborough. With the potential for many new people moving into our area, our desire is to create ways in which they can connect and network. Below are the upcoming opportunities we are all encouraged to get involved with and if you've got an idea let us know!

Crowborough Community Pantry

Crowborough Community Pantry is open to anyone, the food is free although a small donation is appreciated as it which helps towards the rent and running costs of the premises.

The main aim is to help the community whilst using donated food that would otherwise likely be wasted. Local supermarkets and independent retailers donate food that they can no longer sell (but that is still good to eat). Others can donate surplus food, for example allotment holders or gardeners.

Located around the corner from St Richards **Beechview Parade, Walshes Road, TN6 3RA.**

Mondays: 10.00am until 11.00am, **Tuesdays**: 2.30pm until 4pm,
Thursdays: 6pm until 7.30pm, **Saturdays**: 10am until 11.30am

Foodbank

If you would like to bring items along the current Foodbank wish list is below, and for their full list of acceptable items check out their website

This week's Top 10 items

Nappy Pants sizes 5,6,7	Tinned soup - meat	Shampoo & conditioner
Baby wipes	Instant mash potato	Rice and pasta
Packets of microwave rice	Tinned cooked meat	Wash pods Bio/Non-Bio
Cat biscuits	Toilet rolls	Children's toothpaste
Razors	Tinned tomatoes	Tinned corn/carrots
Bio washing pods	Tinned fruit	Bleach

Two New Opportunities to Connect with our Community!

3 things you can do:

- **Please spread the word about these two new groups!**
- **Bring a friend along to walk or craft!**
- **Pray that new friendships will be made for God's glory through these initiatives!**

Next Sunday 3 March

Morning service - 10.45am (with Crèche, Sunday Club & Lasers!)

Acts 12:1-18 - To Him who is able when God's people pray (2)

(Mark Rapley preaching & Abi Lattimer leading)

Opportunities to partner with other churches

CIRT Our annual holiday club reaching around 160 children in the community with the good news of Christ is running from 2nd-5th April (set up day on April 1st) and we need your help! We need help in the kids groups, as 1-1s, craft team, creche, music, drama, AV, parents cafe, prop making, cutting out - there are loads of ways to get involved and serve. Contact Sarah Thrift (sarah@allsaintscrowborough.org)

To sign up to serve at CIRT click here:

To sign up to attend CIRT click here:

Crowborough Women's Breakfast

- **Saturday 16th Mar at 8.30 am**
  At Crowborough Community Centre.
  Tickets £10 available until 8th March from Jane Speedie 01892 663388.

For our Prayers

Going for Growth

The primary phases in our Going for Growth project are:

Phase 1 the purchase of the Hawes bungalow.
Phase 2 the purchase of the St Richards site.
Phase 3 the design and construction of new facilities.
Phase 4 setting the foundation that springboards our church into the next season of its ministry.

So, we pray…

Thank God for the completion of Phase 1, the speed in which the funds were raised and therefore affirming that we should go ahead with phase 2.

Pray for phase 2 that the necessary legal 'paperwork' may be prepared correctly and efficiently, there are procedures to be followed in like with Charity Commission regulations as well as Diocesan protocols.
Pray for the meeting this coming week between the representatives of the current owners of the St Richards site, the Trust, Mark and the Diocesan Board of Finance secretary, that these would be fruitful and ensure any concerns regarding the selling and subsequent purchase of our site may be fully resolved for all parties.

With phase 3 being "paused" to allow All Saints to catch up with St Richards in terms of securing a site for their future developments (project "next generation"). Pray that we would be impassioned for mission focussing on growing the people of God's Kingdom (existing and new) and not our property and projects. Pray for our steering group as they consider the options to make the best use of the property (both sites) and as they seek a meeting with the CWG Trust that our proposed use of a strip of land between the hall and the bungalow will be met with favour, and the necessary permissions – planning etc. – may proceed in earnest.