

!! GOOD NEWS & THANK YOUS !!

Lesley, Bobbie Gillett's sister, who was on our prayer list for several weeks, is now well. Praise and thanks to God for his loving care.

I would like to thank everyone who was in church last Sunday for the wonderful way you responded when the fire alarm went off. We discovered after we had all vacated the premises that an adult had accidentally set off the alarm; nevertheless everyone assembled outside as required by fire regulations until we received the 'all clear'. Again, thank you. *(Rev Sue)*

Visit from Northgate School Last Thursday afternoon St Paul's was visited by 70 children from year 4 of Northgate School, their teachers and parent helpers. Rev Sue told them some facts about what a church is, why Christians go to church and how we celebrate Christmas and Easter. The children went around the sanctuary looking for answers to questions prepared by Jill Mason, helped a bit by some willing helpers from St Paul's. Before they left they treated us to a performance of a Christmas song and we gave them invitation leaflets about our Christmas services to take home. It was a lovely visit from some lovely children. Hopefully we can build on this renewed relationship with the school. *(Joyce Jordan)*

Christmas and New Year Quiz this year is entitled *The Big Screen*. Entry forms are available from me at £1.50. Completed forms to be returned to me by Sunday 14th January. *(Geoff Ridgway)*

IMPORTANT –next week's newsletter will cover 3 weeks.

Please send your items to Joyce Jordan by 10.00am on Thursday 14th December. The next issue will be for Sunday 7th January.

Church Contacts:

Visit our website www.crawleymethodistchurch.org.uk

For contacts, click "links and contacts".

Room Bookings click "Book a room"

Crawley Methodist Church is a Registered Charity No. 1127744

St Paul's Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Sue Conroy

Sunday 10th December 2017

2nd Sunday of Advent

10:30am Rev Sue Conroy

Theme: *The Perfect Gift*

Reading: Luke 1: 39-45

Reader today Barry Jones

Baptism of Eloise Bette-Mae Thornton

3-5pm Christmas Messy Church

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

First time at St Paul's? Please join us for refreshments and a friendly chat after the service. We can tell you about our church and its activities and we'll try to answer any questions you may have.

Large print hymn books are available from the door stewards.

Flowers today donated by Karen & Shehan Fernando with thoughts of our family who are far away this Christmas time.

Next Sunday 17th December

3rd Sunday of Advent

10:30am Rev Sue Conroy

Nativity Play

4pm Carols by Candlelight

Our mission at St Paul's is to:

Unite in Faith

Worship in Faith

Grow in Faith

Share the Good News

Make disciples

Serve in love

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Loaves & Fishes café open

Monday – Wednesday 10:30 – 1:30

Thursday 10:30 – 12:30

- Mon 11th** 2pm South Crawley House Fellowship *Christmas Allsorts* at Betty Baker's house.
Meeting postponed from 2nd December
- Wed 13th** 9:30-12 Everywoman's badminton
2pm Women's Fellowship *Christmas decorations*
8pm Pound Hill House Fellowship *Christmas Get-together* at Geoff Ridgway's house
- Fri 15th** 7pm Young People's Singing Group
7:45pm Choir practice
- Sat 16th** 10am Coffee Stop for the Circle Club – see below
- Sun 17th** 10:30am Nativity Play
4pm Carols by Candlelight

Next Saturday's Coffee Stop is raising funds for *The Circle Club*, a small, friendly lunch club based at Compass House in the grounds of Worth Abbey. It provides a low cost day out for older people, most of whom are living on their own in Crawley or the Mid Sussex area. There will be a raffle, cakes, tea, coffee as well as new and nearly new items for sale. Please come and support us. (*Heather Eves*)

Wishing each other Happy Christmas Instead of our usual Christmas post box, the Action for Children *Big Christmas Card* is now on the (usually Leadership) notice-board in the Welcome Hall for members of St Paul's congregation to sign. In doing so, please give a donation to Action for Children, using the envelopes provided and placing them in the locked red Suggestions box underneath. Please be generous as this is our major Christmas fund-raising event for Action for Children. Of course, we can still give cards to people we particularly wish to, but, to avoid congesting the pigeonholes and surrounding area, please hand them over personally or deliver them. (*Sheila Jones*)

Christmas Services at St Paul's

Sunday 17th

10:30am *Nativity Play with King's Kids and King's Teens*

4pm *Carols by Candlelight*

Sunday 24th *Christmas Eve*

10:30am *Morning worship*

11:30pm *Christmas Eve Midnight Communion*

Monday 25th *Christmas Day*

10:30am *Family Celebration of Jesus' birth*

CAP (Christians Against Poverty) the December newsletter and prayer requests are now on the Charity Connections noticeboard in the Welcome Hall. Please take a few minutes to read them and pray for this essential work supporting people in financial difficulty.

The funeral service for Ken Brown will be at 11am, Tuesday 19th December at The Friary.

Time for Prayer

Please pray for the work of Christians Against Poverty and all organisations trying to alleviate the plight of people in financial need. Pray as well for people in bad circumstances, often not of their own making, as they face a difficult Christmas and struggle to get through the winter.

Now the *First Impressions Count* workshops have ended please pray for good outcomes as we consider what we have learnt about being a truly welcoming church.

We regret that we are unable to publish our personal prayer list on the Internet for legal reasons.