

St Paul's Methodist Church, Crawley
Extraordinary Times
a magazine to help us through COVID-19
Issue 9 **May 17th 2020**

From your Minister

Let's start with the usual greeting – I hope you, your household, your families and your friends are all staying safe and well as the lockdown continues. Let's all continue to respect the rules and keep one another out of harm's way; and to pray for and support all the keyworkers in the frontline who are making such huge sacrifices on our behalf.

Let us prayerfully resist the temptation to become irritable or critical of others in society, or those in authority over us; let us instead further develop the spiritual fruit of patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control (see Galatians 5 for further details!). Let us be an example to others and to demonstrate the grace and love of Jesus in these difficult and challenging times.

We've had the idea of featuring a rolling slideshow comprising photos of members of our worshipping community, as part of our Sunday morning live streamed service.

Would you like to speak to the members of your homegroups, pastoral or social groupings within the church, to invite them to submit a photo of themselves for inclusion in the slideshow? Naturally we would like as many people as possible, of all ages, to be featured. Pics of couples and family groups are warmly welcomed too. Better in fact to have one pic of your household rather than 4 separate ones of each of the members! Please encourage everyone to send their selfie to the following address: enquiries@crawleymethodistchurch.org.uk

It is important that everyone participating includes in their email this line for data protection reasons:

"I hereby give my consent for this image of myself (and if applicable - these members of my household) to be included as part of the Trinity/St Paul's churches Sunday live streamed service".

If you know people who don't have smartphones but would like to be included, feel welcome to submit pics that you may have of them, providing you first obtain their permission.

If you have people in your homegroup, or know people from church who would prefer to post you a photo on paper, and you are able to scan it and send it in, that would be a good way of making this as inclusive an exercise as we can. We are hoping to start this feature this coming Sunday, providing we get enough of a response.

God bless, *Ralph*

A prayer...

Dear Lord Jesus

Thank you for the example You have shown us in humility and compassion

May we express this example in our own actions, demonstrating a love and respect towards all whom we meet, even when we are socially distanced.

Deliver us from the temptation to put our own needs first at the expense of others

We continue to pray for those who are vulnerable and alone.

We pray for all of our frontline workers, most especially those who are serving in the NHS and in care homes.

We uphold to You all those who are suffering from this terrible virus,

For those in their families who are anxious

And for those are mourning the loss of those who have died.

Be our strength, be our constant companion, be our deliverance.

In Jesus name

Amen

What's On This Week

Sunday 17th May

10am *TakeTime Live* join in a meditation in real time, or later by pasting <https://mixlr.com/taketime/> into your Web browser

10:45am live worship with Rev Ralph

Wednesday 20th May

2pm live prayer and bible study with Rev Ralph

Links to the services will be on St Paul's Facebook page and website and also sent by email so that everyone who has internet can participate.

Funeral arrangements for Janet Ockwell

The cremation service for Janet will be conducted by Rev Felicity Al-Hassan at 11am on Wednesday 20th May at the Crematorium. Because of the current restrictions it is not possible for any of us attend but please remember Janet, and pray for those who mourn her loss, on Wednesday.

Prayers at 6 & 8

During this week pray for people returning to their workplaces, some having to use public transport to do so. Ask the Lord to keep them safe and calm their fears. Continue praying for the NHS and all public service workers who keep our lives running smoothly.

Please pray for

Heather, David and their family grieving for Heather's father who died last Sunday. Also pray for Maria, well-known as a major fundraiser for Crawley Hospital, whose husband of 54 years, John, died during last week. Continue praying for Emma, Uvonne, Linda, Jean and Geoff, Maureen and others with needs known to ourselves.

Send your prayer requests to enquiries@crawleymethodistchurch.org.uk

Methodist Church Guidelines state that permission must be received from a person before their name is put on the Church prayer list. Please ensure that you have such permission.

If you need a prayer but you don't have the internet

Dial-a-Prayer



FREE phone lines for prayers and news from the Methodist Church

Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514

Listen to news: 0808 281 2478

Content is updated weekly on Thursday afternoon

Barry's Isolation Diary week 6 – a rare trip out

Somewhat random jottings this week, of which the undoubted highlight was my monthly permitted trip out to Hospital in Guildford to have my bottom assaulted with a needle and my arm drained of blood. The Hospital was all masks, gloves and "after you, no after you" social distancing. It felt very safe and I recommend it if you need to go.

The two phlebotomists, whilst draining my arm, did however have an amusing conversation concerning the lack of pods which are used to send the blood tests up to the lab for analysis via a vacuum tube system (think Grace Brothers or any other 1930s department store). They apparently only had two in circulation and one phlebotomist casually remarked that one of their colleagues had appropriated some of the more scratched and battered ones for his Scout Troop who were using them to make time capsules and burying them. Someone is going to be mighty confused when, in the future, they come across a random assortment of items in a large plastic cylinder with a screw cap on one end emblazoned with NHS Royal Surrey Hospital!

For the last 18 months I have abandoned trying to park at the Hospital and instead have parked about a mile away and walked in. This at least guarantees arriving on time rather than driving round and round the car park hoping to nab a space as someone leaves. About 50% of the route is a steep hill and I did wonder after 4 weeks of enforced internment how I would get on, but I can report that I have suffered no after effects so all that boring pedalling on my exercise bike must be doing some good,

I can also report that the Surrey countryside is still there, even if some of the grass verges have been allowed to grow higher than normal, though somewhat less than the majority of verges around Town. The Lycra clad cyclists are still pounding along the roads but maintaining social distancing does give some hope of being able to overtake them. Surrey County Council seems to have decided to get all of its minor road works done whilst the roads are less busy. As result I had to negotiate four lots of temporary traffic lights and Stop/Go boards from Guildford to Rusper as I drove home.

Keep safe, enjoy your extra freedom, and God Bless, *Barry*



Christian Aid Week is here

We've raised just over half of our £1,000 target to send to Christian Aid this year. Please help us reach our target by using this link

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/st-pauls-methodist-church-crawley>

If you don't have internet, perhaps you could ask a friend or relative to make your donation on your behalf. Thank you for your continued support, *Ruth*

Another way to raise funds



You can help raise funds for St Paul's when online shopping with over 4,000 retailers by signing up with *easyfundraising* at no cost to yourself. Go to

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stpaulsmethodistchurchcrawley>

Thanks to those who I know have signed up already *Joyce*

When will our church be open again?

A statement from Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler, Secretary of the Conference:

Methodists have missed being able to gather for worship over the last two months and look forward to the resumption of public worship when it is safe for this to happen.

The Church's commitment to the pastoral care of its members and others has been at the forefront of our response and will continue to be. During the lockdown many congregations have shared in internet based services. Church communities have been creative in preparing worship.

The increased number of broadcast services on radio and television has helped to mitigate some of the sense of deprivation that people feel from a loss of fellowship. We would hope that those programmes continue to be scheduled as not all will be able to attend public worship even when all restrictions have been lifted.

We recognise the paramount importance of the safety of members of the public and understand that any change to the current restrictions must be made with care. (12 May 2020)

Thy Kingdom Come 21-31 May

This year we can't join in the *Thy Kingdom Come* week of prayer in our building as we have in previous years, but there are some great resources specially developed for use in lockdown.

For families there is a *Digital Prayer Adventure Map* which can be printed and used day by day along with an associated app with games, puzzles and other activities. If you go to <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/resources/digital-family-prayer-adventure-map> you'll see a nice little video featuring the Archbishop of Canterbury trying it out, the map to download and print and the link for downloading the app.

For all of us again we are asked to think of 5 people we want to come to know Jesus and to pray for them each day – we can all do that, whether we have the internet or not!

Rev Clive McKie has just announced that there will be daily *Taketime* meditations during the period of *Thy Kingdom Come* so watch out for these on our Facebook page, on our website and by email.

Contacts

Rev Ralph phone 01342 325 email rlphwr@gmail.com

Deacon Irene phone 01293 38512 email deaconirene@gmail.com

Prayer requests & newsletter items enquiries@crawlmethodistchurch.org.uk

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

Extraordinary Times is published weekly 'for the duration'

© St Paul's Methodist Church

Crawley Methodist Church is Registered Charity No. 1127744