

**St Paul's Methodist Church, Crawley**  
*Extraordinary Times*  
*a magazine to help us through COVID-19*  
**Issue 25** **September 6<sup>th</sup> 2020**

*From the minister...*

Hi everyone, I hope you are keeping well. This week I won't be getting particularly spiritual in my letter, so please excuse that. Instead I'd like to bring you up to date with our schedule for reopening church for Sunday worship. St Pauls will be opening its doors this Sunday September 6<sup>th</sup> for our first service since lockdown began. Please note that this service will commence at 9am. I will be leading it, and you are very welcome to attend. The people of Trinity in East Grinstead are also planning to open their building for a 9am service the following Sunday, and because I haven't yet mastered the art of being in two places at once, this means that during September St Pauls and Trinity will be having services on alternate Sundays at 9am. So in September services at St Pauls will be on the 6<sup>th</sup> and then again on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Please note the following:

- The services will last for 30 minutes
- To comply with government regulations, you must bring a mask with you and wear it throughout the service please
- Government regulations currently do not allow us to sing, sadly. There will be some music on the piano before and after the service, but the service itself will comprise prayers, a reading and a short message
- The seating will be marked or designated so that we are able to maintain a social distance of 2m. If you attend church as a couple or as a household, then you can of course sit together.
- You will be asked to give your name and a contact phone number on arrival for "track and trace" purposes
- You will be asked to sanitise your hands upon arrival and departure

I appreciate that this is not "church as we know it"; but these are the first steps in a reopening programme. You may not feel ready to come back to church just yet, and that is fine. We are continuing to broadcast a live streamed service on the Trinity Facebook page at 10.45am each Sunday (which will feature singing), which is why our first services which are open to the public are at 9am, so that I have time to get back to Trinity to do the live broadcast (to an empty church).

With the new seating arrangements in church, the numbers we can accommodate have been drastically reduced. In order to maintain social distancing we will only be able to allow a maximum of 40 people to be present for a service. The last thing I want is to have to turn anyone away on the day, so I would be very grateful if you could let Joyce or myself know in advance if you are planning to attend. A phone call or email will be fine. You can reach me on [rlphwrd@gmail.com](mailto:rlphwrd@gmail.com) or by phone on 01342 325877 or you can email [ask.stpauls@gmail.com](mailto:ask.stpauls@gmail.com)

I'm trying to avoid an official "pre-booking" system, like some churches are doing, because it would inevitably be internet-based and this would put some folk off (and effectively exclude those who do not have internet access). But if we find ourselves over-subscribed then we will have to go down this route. So, whilst you can simply turn up for church on Sunday, please help us out by letting us know in advance.

Currently we intend to go back to our usual circuit preaching plan from the beginning of October, which should mean that our service time will go back to 10.30am. So please bear with us during September – we know that some of you have been missing church very much, so we wanted to give you the opportunity of meeting together in worship as soon as we could.

I look forward to seeing some of you this Sunday at 9am.

God bless, *Ralph*

### **What's On This Week**

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> 9am** 30 minute service at St Paul's with Rev Ralph

**10:45am** Online worship from Trinity with Rev Ralph

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> During the afternoon sometime** Live message from Rev Ralph in St Paul's

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> 2pm** Wednesday worship with Rev Ralph

### **Prayers at 6 & 8**

Please join in this prayer from The Methodist Church marking the start of the new Methodist year.

*Renewing God*

*September sees a new year for the Methodist community, so we pray:*

*For the Methodist Church tentatively re-opening church buildings,*

*For ministers who have moved to new appointments during these changing and challenging times,*

*For the Connexional Team adapting to new ways of working.*

*May the Methodist people listen deeply to you and discern your promptings as you guide us from disorientation to reorientation.*

*We pray for children going back to school after such a long time and those starting for the first time, for governors, heads, teachers and all involved in education as they prepare for and adapt to new ways of working.*

*May new discoveries be made, aspirations raised and dreams nurtured.*

*And as this new year commences may our faith in you be deepened, our love for you be refreshed and our hope in you be our sufficiency.*

*For the best of all is: God is with us*

*Amen*

**Continue to pray** for Geoff and Jean as well as others we know who have needs known to ourselves.

**Send** your prayer requests to [ask.stpauls@gmail.com](mailto:ask.stpauls@gmail.com)

*Permission must be received from a person before their name is put on the Church prayer list*

## A big Thank You

Over the last few weeks many people have been working behind the scenes to get St Paul's ready for use again. If I mention names I'm bound to miss some people out, but a very big *Thank You* is due to everyone who has been working very hard to prepare the building for safe use by ourselves, as some of us return to worship and by the organisations who hire our rooms during the week.

Thanks also to our Finance Team who have been looking after our money and dealing with necessary expenditure while we have had little income.

Thanks to those getting St Paul's ready to live stream our services when we return to weekly 10:30am worship in October.

And thanks to all of you who have been praying for St Paul's over the last months. Please don't stop! There's still a journey ahead of us as we get used to the necessary changes to our familiar Sunday morning pattern. *Joyce*

## Curiosities of language 2: Mountweazels

*"In her relatively brief life, Lillian Virginia Mountweazel enjoyed an interesting photographic career. Born in Bangs, Ohio in 1942, she initially worked as a fountain designer before switching to photography in 1963. Her portraits of the South Sierra Miwok, and her documentation of New York City buses, Parisian cemeteries and rural American mailboxes are some of her professional achievements. But, aged only 31, she was killed when she was caught up in an explosion "while on assignment for Combustibles magazine".*

This fake entry in the 1975 *New Columbia Encyclopaedia* was included by the publisher as a trap to catch plagiarists and copyright thieves and is the first known example of what, by taking the name from the fascinating but fictitious Lillian Virginia, became known as Mountweazels. A few more examples:

***Esquivalience***: the wilful avoidance of one's official responsibilities  
(New Oxford American Dictionary 2005)

***Jungftak***: a Persian bird, the male of which had only one wing, on the right side, and the female only one wing, on the left side  
(Webster's Dictionary 1943)

***Zzxjoanw***: a type of Maori drum  
(Hughes' Music Lovers' Encyclopaedia 1903)

Cartographers put *paper towns* on maps to trap map-makers who infringed copyright by simply copying and not doing the surveying work themselves. The most famous of these is the non-existent hamlet of Agloe, in upstate New York, which became well-known after it was created by map-makers in 1925. It almost became a real place as local shopkeepers who were looking for a name for a new store, saw "Agloe" on the map, made a guess that it was an old name for the region, and called their shop *Agloe General Store* which then became included in local maps.

I hope you've enjoyed my curiosities of language over the last few weeks. If you know of any more examples, I'd love to hear from you. *Joyce*



# Climate Sunday

**Climate Sunday, 6 September,** encourages us all to make a commitment to greater action in order to address climate change in our places of worship and community, and to raise our voice to urge bolder action from governments.

Read more at <https://ctbi.org.uk/climate-sunday/>



**Holding the Last Supper by Zoom**  
(thanks to Hilary for sending this)

## **Contacts**

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**Prayer requests** & newsletter items [ask.stpauls@gmail.com](mailto:ask.stpauls@gmail.com)

**St Paul's website** [www.crawleymethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.crawleymethodistchurch.org.uk)

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