

# St Paul's Methodist Church, Crawley

Minister: Rev Melvyn Cooke

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[www.crawleymethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.crawleymethodistchurch.org.uk)

## *St Paul's Newsletter*      17-24 October 2021

Dear Friends,



It's good to be with you all. I thought I'd introduce myself. I'm Jenny and my husband is called Mervyn. We originally come from North Cornwall where two of our children, a son and a daughter live as well as our two grandsons. Our other two daughters have stayed in Yorkshire where we have been living and working for the past four years.

I trained for ministry at The Queen's Foundation in Birmingham where I completed a degree in Theology, Ministry and Mission. I enjoyed my time at theological college and enjoyed working and living beside others from different backgrounds and denominations.

I was stationed to West Yorkshire in 2017 where I worked with three Churches to do outreach and children's work as well as preaching and developing Bible study, prayer, and spirituality. I was ordained in 2019 as a Diaconal minister. As you know this means that I am a Methodist Minister and also a member of a religious order, the Methodist Diaconal Order.

I look forward to working amongst you and look forward to seeing what God has planned for us to join in with.

Every Blessing, *Jenny*

### **What's on at St Paul's**

|                   |                |   |
|-------------------|----------------|---|
| <b>Sun 17 Oct</b> | <b>10:30am</b> | All-age worship with Deacon Jenny Parnell                                 |
| <b>Sun 24 Oct</b> | <b>10:30am</b> | Worship led by Mr John Starling<br>King's Kids                            |
| <b>Wed 27 Oct</b> | <b>11am</b>    | Wednesday Fellowship. Bring your musical memories to share together       |
| <b>Sun 31 Oct</b> | <b>10:30am</b> | Worship and Communion with Rev Deborah Cornish (Assistant District Chair) |
| <b>Wed 3 Nov</b>  | <b>11am</b>    | Wednesday Fellowship.   |

### **For kids and young people.**

**YPSG** (Young People's Singing Groups) meet on Friday evenings in term time  
Children aged 6-11, school year 2-6, from 6.30-7.00  
Children at secondary school from 7.00-7.45  
All children in these age groups are welcome.

## **In your prayers**

**The Methodist Church** is calling for prayers following the death by stabbing of MP Sir David Amess as he held his constituency surgery at Belfairs Methodist Church, Leigh-on-Sea on Friday. Please pray for his family and for the people of Belfairs Church.

**Please continue to pray for** Linda Mumby who is recovering from surgery in hospital and for Neil Roberts whose condition continues to improve.

**Pray for** all you know who are in any need of our prayers.

*Please send prayer requests to [ask.stpauls@gmail.com](mailto:ask.stpauls@gmail.com) and remember to obtain the permission of the person to be named.*

## **Two sad news items**

### **Brenda Dance**

We have received news that Brenda Dance, whom some of you will remember as a past member at St Paul's, has died. Her thanksgiving service will be held at St John's Church, Felbridge on Tuesday 19 October at 12.15pm, with refreshments afterwards. Anyone who knew Brenda and her enthusiasm for life is welcome.

### **George Thompson**

George's daughter, Lynda, has let us know that George, who was a very active member of the St Paul's badminton club in the 1960s and 70s, sadly passed away on Sunday 3rd October aged 98 years.

His family has been connected with St Paul's through worship, baptisms, marriages and membership of youth groups over many years.

George laid a brick with his name on it on the occasion of the stone laying ceremony of the Sanctuary in 1965, and his name is also on the brass plate commemorating that event on the end wall of the Welcome Hall near the sanctuary doors.

His funeral will be at West Green Baptist Church, on Friday 22nd October. at 2.30, followed by cremation. Please remember George's widow, Anne, and all the family in your prayers.

## **Bible Sunday is coming up**



Sunday 24th October will be Bible Sunday. Do you have any stories of how the Bible has impacted on your life that you would like to share with the congregation? If so, please let Carol Ofield know by Monday 18th October, so that it can be

included in the service on 24th. Please also state if you are happy to read out your own experience, or if you would prefer to have it read out for you.

Contact Carol directly or email [ask.stpauls@gmail.com](mailto:ask.stpauls@gmail.com) for your message to be passed on to her.

## **Exhibition at Wesley's Chapel - *Leadership on a Journey***

Inspirational stories of Methodists from across the globe are at the heart of a new exhibition, celebrating the rich diversity of heritage and experience in the Methodist Church, which opens on Tuesday 19th October at the Museum of Methodism at Wesley's Chapel in London. Coinciding with Black History Month and with the aim of inspiring young people, *Leadership on a Journey* explores the stories of Methodists from Black British, Asian and the global diaspora in Britain, each nominated for their outstanding leadership.

At the heart of the exhibition is an oral history project with interviews having taken place during the last few months at Wesley's Chapel and in churches, chapels, living rooms and kitchens across Britain. Testimonies from the President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Sonia Hicks, and Youth President, Daud Irfan, are featured. Long serving circuit stewards and activists, Norman Mullings and Bala Gnanapragasam's experiences of this country are shared alongside the views of academics Dr Margaret Byron and Professor Anthony Reddie, who have helped to shape some of the historical and theological elements of this exhibition.

The Revd Sonia Hicks, President of the Methodist Conference, said: "The annual Black History Month event highlights the need to tell the inspirational stories of the Black diaspora. This exhibition reminds the Methodist Church of the inspirational stories we have among us. It is a great privilege to share my own story for the project and I am truly honoured to be amongst so many people for whom I have the greatest respect."

The exhibition's curator, Deanna Lyncook said "The migration stories, experiences and selfless work of people such as the Revd Inderjit Bhogal have thrown into relief the clear necessity for an exhibition such as this. The words of each nominee are featured within the historical context of migration in Britain. Beginning with the Windrush Generation and their descendants and ending with more recent migrations from a variety of regions in Africa, the exhibition tracks the movements of those from across the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and the Pacific Islands. The show celebrates their achievement and the rich and diverse history of the Methodist Church in Britain."

The Superintendent of Wesley's Chapel, the Revd Canon Jennifer Smith, said "We hope this exhibition will reclaim the deep history of global Methodist leadership and further a debate on the very nature of leadership itself. Oral histories will be supplemented by artefacts from the museum including from Antigua, China, the Gold Coast (Ghana) and many from Britain – including John Wesley's own shoes and belongings, alongside the boots Inderjit Bhogal wore to walk from Sheffield to London during his Presidential year."

The exhibition runs from Tuesday 19th October 2021 until January 29th, Tuesdays-Saturdays from 11am-3pm. Entry is free.

**St Paul's Methodist Church,  
Woodfield Road, Northgate, Crawley**

***Loaves & Fishes café***  
***Monday - Thursday***  
***10:30am - 1:30pm***



**Light lunches, drinks and cakes**  
***Come in and take a break!***

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**The next newsletter** will go out for Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October. I would welcome contributions from any of you please; recipes, book reviews, news of birthdays and other celebrations and even some deep thinking! Just get them to me by Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October. *Joyce*

**Please note** that Deacon Jenny is still waiting for a phone to be installed at the manse. In the meantime, you can contact her at her email address below.

### **Contacts**

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