



# The Pauline

November 2021

Minister Revd Martin Knight

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Hello everyone

Welcome to our last Pauline of this year - this edition is jam packed with dates and info for December - January and beyond - please take note and don't miss out!

We are praying for Martin that his operation, due on 6<sup>th</sup> December goes well and that his 6-8 weeks convalescence flies past followed by a gradual return to work. In the meantime we look forward to welcoming Bea Pollard and Joyce Brissett from our congregation preaching also Rev Roger Wood, Albert & Elizabeth Wood, Jenny Sheehan, Rev David Skitt, Rachel St Clair and John Ponsford. Thank you to Bea for organising this.

Although we are unable to operate the Night Shelter this year, we still have an opportunity to continue our work with homeless people. Throughout the year churches in Croydon have provided hot meals each evening for the Safe place to stay Hub by Croydon University Hospital - St Paul's did this in October. The churches have also been providing 80 sandwiches each evening to NightWatch; Saturday nights in January it's our turn. If you could come along on a Saturday in January at 6:30 pm to make sandwiches, please let me know. 3 or 4 people are needed - it really doesn't take long and everything will be provided. I will deliver the sandwiches to Nightwatch later in the evening.

Any chance you could come along and help? Please do let me know - contact details below.

It would be wonderful to hear your news and views! Please continue to send in any information you would like to share with us.

*Wishing everyone a Very Merry Christmas*

*and look forward to seeing you at the services and  
Festival*

Please contact me on [patgo123@aol.com](mailto:patgo123@aol.com) or 0774285955 - Whatsapp.

Pat Granville-Overton



# Dear friends,

We are about to take a wonderful journey together.

We are about to inhabit a timeless story.

We are about to be encouraged into strange and surprising places.

I am delighted to be walking with you, even in my absence.

Advent offers us focused time to prepare for the coming of the Christ child; a time of profound hope even as we live in the world as it is. Calendars and candles count us down to joyful celebration!

You may feel that this season is not for you; that something in your life means you are not welcome at the stable. I have to confess that current pain saps my joy and leaves me feeling that a season of hope and happiness might not be for me.



Yet I also know, deep in my heart, that anyone feeling overwhelmed, in pain, crushed by life, on the outside and not welcome, are precisely Gods long-awaited guests at the stable. Berated and despised shepherds, mysterious strange wise-ones, and fearful parents – their stories remind me of the truth, that all are welcome to witness and praise the child in the manger.

In coming weeks we will sing:

*'O Come all ye faithful...to Bethlehem'.*

*O Come **ALL** ye faithful.*

***ALL** ye faithful!*

An amazing angel chorus calls **all** of us to walk together to behold and follow Jesus. I hope we hear the call of this Advent season and let the joy and hope of Christmas reshape us.

My friends, I wish you a very Happy Christmas and I look forward to being with you in-person, in the New Year!

*With every Christmas blessing,* **Martin**



## Situations Vacant - Please apply here!

Well what a fantastic effort - 100 shoeboxes

Along with our 100 - many, many other shoeboxes will be delivered to families and elderly people - this may be the only Christmas gift they get. They were lovingly filled with all sorts of goodies - sweets, toiletries, hats, radios, pens, paper, mugs, cutlery, mini hot water bottles etc. Pam Oubridge organised this venture for many years (over 20 I believe) - so there is now a situations vacant - would you consider taking this on? Help - guidance and support will of course be available; Cathy Dean who assisted Pam over the years will guide you through the organization. We thought this could be something that we could start collecting for in the new year and continue until it is packing time in October. If you would like to take this venture on please let Cathy or myself know - that would be wonderful.

As ever Junior Church were amazing - John Fisher School also made a great contribution with packed boxes and helpers and of course contributions from the congregation and beyond - a brilliant team effort.

Pat Granville-Overton



Easy like Sunday Morning.....

Below is the new 'slim line' Duty rota for December 2021 - February 2022  
 This is a new system with an Elder, Duty Officer and Welcomer for each service (with an additional person for Communion). Please make a note if you are on duty; however, if you are unable to make it please agree a substitute and let Pat Simmonds know.

Many thanks to Pat Simmonds for rearranging the rota's.

If you would like to join the team please talk to Pat or any of the elders.

Thank you to everyone for keeping it running so smoothly.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH – DUTY ROTA

<u>DECEMBER</u>		<u>JANUARY</u>		<u>FEBRUARY</u>	
5th Helen Dean Pat GO Caroline Corfield Wendy Gilbert	Elder DO Wlc Cm	2nd Cathy Heath Ron Pollard Eleanor Redshaw Angela Bannerman	Elder DO Wlc Cm	6th Christine Spurgeon Dennis Simmonds Pat Simmonds Cathy Heath	Elder DO Wlc Cm
12th Pat GO Robert Spurgeon Joyce Brissett	Elder DO Wlc	9th Angela Bannerman Sue Eardley Roger Brimble	Elder DO Wlc	13th Cathy Heath Caroline Corfield Dawn Webb Desouza	Elder DO Wlc
19th Bea Pollard Celia Blackburn David White	Elder DO Wlc	16th Helen Dean Steve Catling Peter Sutcliffe	Elder DO Wlc	20th Angela Bannerman Steve Catling Ron Pollard	Elder DO Wlc
26th There will be on service on 26 <sup>th</sup> December		23rd Pat GO Dennis Simmonds Pat Simmonds	Elder DO Wlc	27th Helen Dean Pat GO Jean Gundlach	Elder DO Wlc
<b>NOTE – No service on Boxing day</b>		30th Bea Pollard Christine Spurgeon Robert Spurgeon	Elder DO Wlc		

**Summary of roles**

**The Elder** arrives by 10am, distributes the collection bags, and is responsible for ensuring that all duties are carried out, the collection is counted and countersigned, noting details of anyone new to St Paul's to look out for in future and ensuring the Church is left tidy and secure.

**DO** - The Duty Officer should arrive by 9.45am. They will receive the keys from the previous DO and pass them on to the next DO. A full list of duties is on a sheet pinned outside the Vestry.

**Wlc** – Welcomer arrives by 10.10am and with the Duty Elder, welcomes people at the West Door and North Door, offering service sheets and (with the Elder) sensitively gathering details of anyone new to St Paul's. They should take the collection together with the Elder, count it, prepare and sign the receipt and ask an Elder to counter-sign. All collections and Freewill Offering envelopes should be handed to Dennis Simmonds or Caroline Corfield. Someone should remain near the West Door during the service to welcome late-comers, the Elder on duty will usually do this or appoint someone.

**Cm.** The member assisting with Communion. They should liaise with Cathy Heath and help prepare Communion, then assist in the serving of Communion. At the end of the service, they should assist with the removal of the elements and ensure the glasses and elements are clean and put away.

Free Event

Trees decorated  
by the local  
community



# St Paul's Christmas Tree Festival

St Paul's United  
Reformed Church,  
Croham Park  
Avenue, South  
Croydon, CR2 7HF

See website to  
book or just  
drop by!



Trees will be displayed in the Church and available  
to view at any of the following drop in events:

Saturday 18th December 4pm- 7pm

Family friendly - this particular event has music,  
refreshments and fun activities such as biscuit  
decorating and a lucky dip!

Tuesday 21st December 4pm - 6pm  
Thursday 23rd December 7pm - 9pm

with music and refreshments

Why not join in  
and decorate a  
tree?

To download a Festival info  
pack visit our website  
[www.stpaulsurc.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsurc.org.uk)

For more details/book tickets:  
[www.stpaulsurc.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsurc.org.uk)  
07971068887  
[secretary@stpaulsurc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@stpaulsurc.org.uk)



You are warmly invited, along with your friends and family, to our popular

**Christmas Carol Concert-Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 12:50pm**  
St Giles-in-the-Fields, London WC2H 8LG

The event will include Christmas music with the wonderful Tredici Choir, and a special opportunity to hear from a couple who have lived with the effects of leprosy themselves.

It's a wonderful time for us to celebrate the hope of Christmas together, and hear more about the hope you are providing for people affected by leprosy. I hope that you will be able to join us and other supporters of The Leprosy Mission.

Every Blessing  
Peter Waddup - Chief Executive.

P.S You are welcome to just turn up, but it would be helpful for organising seating if you could RSVP by 1 December by calling 01733 370505 or email [post@tlmew.org.uk](mailto:post@tlmew.org.uk)

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**Poppy Appeal – November 2021**

Thank you to everyone who bought poppies at church. The total donated was an amazing £27.48 sent off to the Royal British Legion.

# The Leprosy Mission (TLM) cake sale

The cake sale which took place during the Charity Christmas card sale, raised £333 towards The Leprosy Mission. Thank you to everyone who baked a cake and to those who bought one or more...

It was so nice to see so many of you contributing to making it a big success. Your generosity is transforming the lives of people affected by leprosy.



Your gift will make sure that Leprosy Mission hospitals can remain a place of welcome and healing for their patients. After a devastating year, hospitals are at breaking point because of the pandemic. They must now focus on urgent Leprosy treatment needed by so many.

Thanks again for all your support.

Caroline Corfield

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Photos of the Charity Card Sale organised by Bea Pollard - there were a great range of



stalls selling cards, Christmas goodies and more. Junior Church had an activity table. It was great to see plenty of folk coming along with a chance to chat whilst eating some delicious scones. A great success. Many thanks you to all who contributed.

## 7<sup>TH</sup>/12<sup>TH</sup> CROYDON SCOUT GROUP AND CROHAM VALLEY EXPLORERS

All sections of the Group and the Explorer Unit have been very active since the summer break, and no more so than in November.

The Beavers held a sleepover at the Scout headquarters on November 13, and then walked down to South Croydon United Church where they joined the other sections for the Remembrance Service and Parade. It was well attended with great support from parents and families.



A few days later the Cubs made tea and sold cakes at a fundraiser in aid of Children In Need and raised £135.65. Meanwhile the Scouts took part in Parliament Week and gave their opinions on a range of issues. They thought that dogs are better than cats, that fast food shouldn't be banned (no surprises there!) and on a more serious note that all houses should have solar panels and a Monarchy was better for the UK than a Republic. In all this the Leaders merely facilitated and did not have a vote.

Scouts have also spent an evening making simulated wounds with the Casualties Union, and very recently took part in the District Widgame on Shirley Hills. The Explorers have welcomed some new members and on November 6 supported Caterham Round Table at their Charity Firework and Bonfire event helping to marshal 3,000 members of the public.

We are now approaching Christmastide and section programmes will reflect this. We will be taking part in the Christmas Tree festival and are also holding a Young Peoples' carol service at St Paul's on December 22 – do join us. At this stage we are not sure whether the Peacelight will make it to the UK as there are Covid problems in Austria where transfer takes place at a service in Salzburg Cathedral. Updates will be given at intimations in church during Advent.

Chris Dean – Leader (tel 01883 723081)

## *A touch of nostalgia - kindly sent in by Chris Dean –*

Eating in the UK in the 1950 .....

- \* Curry was an unknown entity.
- \* Olive oil was kept in the medicine cabinet.
- \* Spices came from the Middle East where we believed they were used for embalming.
- \* Herbs were used to make rather dodgy medicine.
- \* A takeaway was a mathematical problem.
- \* A pizza was something to do with a leaning tower.
- \* Bananas and oranges only appeared at Christmas time.
- \* The only vegetables known to us were spuds, peas, carrots and cabbage, anything else was regarded as being a bit suspicious.
- \* All crisps were plain; the only choice was whether to put the salt on or not.
- \* Condiments comprised salt, pepper, vinegar and brown sauce if we were lucky.
- \* Soft drinks were called pop.
- \* Coke was something that we mixed with coal to make it last longer.
- \* A Chinese chippy was a foreign carpenter.
- \* Rice was a milk pudding, and never, ever part of our dinner.
- \* A Big Mac was what we wore when it was raining.
- \* A Pizza Hut was an Italian shed.
- \* A microwave was something out of a science fiction movie.
- \* Brown bread was something only poor people ate.
- \* Oil was for lubricating your bike not for cooking, fat was for cooking.
- \* Bread and jam was a treat.
- \* Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves, not bags.
- \* The tea cosy was the first real energy saving device.
- \* Tea had only one colour, black. Green tea was not British.
- \* Coffee was only for when we had no tea.. and was Camp, and came in a bottle.
- \* Cubed sugar was regarded as posh.
- \* Figs and dates appeared every Christmas, but no one ever ate them.
- \* Sweets and confectionery were called toffees.
- \* Coconuts only appeared when the fair came to town.
- \* Black puddings were mined in Bolton Lancashire.
- \* Jellied eels were peculiar to Londoners.
- \* Salad cream was a dressing for salads, mayonnaise did not exist.
- \* Hors d'oeuvre was a spelling mistake.
- \* The starter was our main meal.
- \* Soup was a main meal.
- \* The menu consisted of what we were given, and was set in stone.
- \* Only Heinz made beans, any others were impostors.
- \* Leftovers went in the dog.
- \* Special food for dogs and cats was unheard of.
- \* Sauce was either brown or red.

*Any more to add?*

1. **Opening prayer, welcome and apologies:** Sue led the meeting as the Minister was unwell. 18 members and 3 observers attended. Apologies from Heather R, David, the Dean family (congratulations on Lawrie's baptism today), Peter, Heather C, Joyce W.
2. **Pastoral items;** Martin's operation was planned for 6<sup>th</sup> December, all being well there would be 6+ weeks recovery then a phased return. The McCormacks had found a church in Dunbar and were transferring their membership. We wish them all well.
3. **Minutes of last meeting** on 12 September were accepted. No matters arising.
4. **Christmas Arrangements 2021:** The In & Out and Spirituality and Worship teams had developed a programme including a Christmas Tree festival from 17<sup>th</sup> December. Members were encouraged to join in – suggest organisations who might contribute a tree, and visit / help at one or more of the events. Full details will be in the Pauline and on the website.
5. **Relaunching the Guild.** Thanks to Caroline Christine and Heather building on Martin's work in the summer meetings would restart in January, with a miscellany on 15<sup>th</sup> December. Speakers were being sought and suggestions are being requested for a new name. More details in the Pauline. **Post meeting - confirmed Tuesdays**
6. **Authorized persons;** Synod had requested that churches appoint / reappoint those willing and trained to minister Holy Communion. Angela Bannerman, Joyce Brissett and Bea Pollard were nominated and agreed unanimously.
7. **Maintenance – Heating:** Sue explained that Peter had presented a thorough report to the M&R team about the future of the heating system in the light of ageing equipment and the green / eco policy plans. The report concluded
  - a) Gas radiant heaters in the church are currently appropriate – swift, low cost heat.
  - b) For the halls the 40+ year old boiler is best for now – solar panels produce heat at the wrong time of year. Heat pumps only work up to about 60deg, the gas boiler reaches 80deg. With poor insulation in the halls (no cavity wall or secondary glazing) a heat pump would not maintain temperature. We should keep the boiler going for as long as possible
  - c) Currently gas is the cheapest option – we spend about £4000 per year on gas.Insulation of the building would be unlikely to recoup costs in saved fuel in the short term. In future, Steve explained, methane/ hydrogen mix or pure hydrogen is likely – full electric working across Britain would require significant infrastructure so change will be a longer term thing.
8. **Maintenance – stonework and roofs:** Sue had circulated a paper summarizing the work required and estimates for repair of the large hall roof (£30k), sanctuary roof (£35k) and various stonework (copings and turret) (£30k). There was some discussion about the work required and the arrangements for scaffolding It was agreed that the sanctuary roof works could wait although the scaffold design will be done with the other one for economy of scale.

**9. Finance situation:** Dennis circulated a summary of the church's cash and investments position, noting the significant income from the Connect letting and Saturday events. Sue pointed out that synod may provide a grant of up to £20,000 towards the works.

**10.** Having reviewed the financial situation the meeting agreed the following proposals.

***“Church meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> November 2021 agrees to proceed with work to repair the large hall roof and cupola problems up to a maximum of £30,000 and separately to repair the coping stone fallings, investigate and make safe the turret and other high level maintenance work to a maximum of £30,000. Costs must be subject to scrutiny by the elders and Maintenance and Resources team with regular reports to church meeting”***

***“The Church meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> November 2021 supports the application to Synod for a grant towards the repair of the roof, stonework and associated works to large hall, coping stones and turret”***

**11. Our Sunday welcome:** Given church was virtually back to 'normal' albeit with specific guidance on protections against covid such as face coverings, Sue explained that the duty rota for the sanctuary on Sunday mornings had been updated and thanked Pat Simmonds for taking on its oversight. Guidance for duty elders, duty officers and welcomers was being refreshed so all are clear on their role; thanks to all who help.

**12.** There was a request to revert back to the offertory bag being passed amongst the congregation. This was felt to be low covid infection risk and was agreed by the meeting

**13.** We reflected on the welcome that visitors (and visiting preachers) receive and that our priority needs to be **ensuring all feel welcome in St Paul's** alongside us catching up with friends and doing the admin/clearing up after worship. This is helped by the large tables at coffee so all feel part of the group. We need to remind and encourage one another to chat to those not included whilst recognizing that we all are needing care and a listening ear.

**14. Church Meetings:** Dennis proposed that hybrid attendance with Zoom is distracting and with papers in advance those unable to attend can contribute beforehand. We agreed:

***“Church Meetings should in future be held in person without remote access”***

**15. Sound system:** The microphone in church required urgent overhaul / battery change

**16. Thanks;** Gill proposed thanks to the secretaries and elders for 'keeping the church going!'

**17. Date of next Meeting:** There being no further business the next meeting on 16 January after worship was announced and the meeting closed at 12.55

**The minutes are draft for approval at the next church meeting. Comments to Sue.**

# St Paul's at Christmas

Come and help decorate our tree and church for Christmas

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December – 3-5pm

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December from 9am

Just come along or call Fran on 07969 173457



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*Save the date - Valentines wine tasting - Saturday 12th February 2022*

*We've mastered both online and in person so no excuses!*

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**Hope you're enjoying this edition - why not write something for next time or send in ideas or notices?  
Copy date is January 15<sup>th</sup>.**



*“Would you prefer me to hover over you silently or awkwardly try to make small talk?”*

## Hot water coming soon!

Great news for all of you who have tried and failed to get the hot water going in the kitchen! We are in the process of getting a replacement water boiler – one that actually works without the combined wisdom hope and prayers of several members of the congregation and hall users. The Maintenance and Resources team have researched the options and we hope the new one will be in by Christmas. Hooray!

Thanks to Robert Christine and Steve for helping make it happen!

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## Christmas Post!

I'm usually asked in around September if we're having the Christmas mailbox up this year. Well even if we head into lockdown St Paul's Christmas post will be running! Please pop your cards to St Paul's people in the box in the corridor (or through the church letterbox) by SATURDAY 18 DECEMBER and cards will be available to collect on 19<sup>th</sup>.



# St Paul's Book Club

## **New Members Welcome!**

**All are welcome  
to join for a  
cuppa and chat  
about the chosen  
book and a few  
other related  
topics!**

## **Dates for the diary...**

Thursday December 9<sup>th</sup>  
Music and Silence by Rose Tremain  
7.30 at Church and decorating the tree

Thursday January 6<sup>th</sup>  
Piranesi by Susanna Clarke  
12.30 at Coach House Café, Coombe Lane

Thursday February 10<sup>th</sup>  
Circe by Madeline Miller  
7.30 at Church

Thursday March 10<sup>th</sup>  
Where the Crawdads sing by Delia Owens  
12.30 at Coach House Café, Coombe Lane



## Relaunching The Guild & Christmas Miscellany Event

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 10:15 for 10:30



We are excited to be restarting The Guild at the beginning of 2022 !!!

Before the pandemic it was strongly supported as one of our most popular gatherings including those people who live around the area. Everyone has missed it.

We are launching with a pre Christmas get together - on WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup>

There will be the usual Christmas nibbles and a raffle - so contribution would be gratefully appreciated. If you need a lift or have any questions please contact Christine

The committee is shortly putting together a programme for the New Year, on Tuesday mornings, probably from 4<sup>th</sup> January at 10.15. Please watch out for details.

We look forward to seeing you all & celebrating being together on 15<sup>th</sup>.



Dear Friends

### Christmas 2021 letter from the synod moderator

*'Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Glory to the new-born king'*

Last year Christmas with our families was cancelled, and we wonder if it will happen this year too. The uncertainty continues.



It may seem that after the pandemic we entered a new way of hybrid living, part on zoom and part in person, life might at times feel chaotic and strained at the edges.

Churches will have seen my letter recently about deployment and maybe moaned at Synod, the national church or even your minister. It doesn't seem very fair that there aren't the number of ministers that we used to have.

As the Hebrews sang in Egypt, it's hard to sing the Lord's song in a strange land. Jesus knew all about strange lands, he ended up in Egypt after he was born, to escape Herod. Sometimes we are taken to a place we don't know, even at Christmas time. Of course, while we have strangeness around us, we can hold onto something that is familiar to us, Christmas and the coming of the Lord Jesus. It doesn't matter what kind of land or liminal space we are in; the story of Christ's birth reminds us that God came to be 'with us' in our strife.

Herald angels come to announce good news:

*<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Luke 2: 8-12*

These angels brought good news to bring joy. We, who have heard this good news, are invited to share this news of joy at a time when others need to hear it, rather like the herald angels. Not only your ministers or Elders, we all have someone we could share this amazing news with. Jesus is still coming to us, especially at this time of challenge and uncertainty.

As the evenings grow longer and the darkness seems to deepen, let us hold onto the fact that God is doing what God did 2000 years ago. God is doing a new thing, and we need to take time to recognise it, and embrace it.

May the light of Christ shine in your darkness this Christmas,

Every blessing

*Budget*



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Not at St Paul's - we hope - a cautionary cartoon

#Welcoming church



THE CHURCH KITCHEN



# CAROLS IN CROYDON

THURSDAY 16TH DECEMBER 5PM - 7PM  
NORTHEND

**A PROGRAMME OF CAROL SINGING,  
TESTIMONIES & SHARING  
THE GOSPEL**

St Paul's has signed up to participate in an ecumenical event organised by Croydon Churches Forum to reach out to shoppers in Croydon with the Christmas Message

We'll be handing out sweets, flyers, and a table for people to take away a free tin or two of food. (Everyone involved will be asked to bring a contribution of five items for the food table if they are able to)

We need to field at least 4-5 people (we've already got three) to come to sing Carols, the more the merrier.

Please join us – and other Christians from across Croydon for this Joyous event – you can register here: [Carols in Croydon 16 Dec 2021Eventbrite](#)

## Structural works at St Paul's

At November's church meeting we agreed to proceed with external works to fix the leaking roof on the Large Hall and also repair some of the stonework (Coping Stones and Turret) that need attention before they become dangerous. We agreed at the meeting that although work is required to the church spirelet and roof this could be postponed for a year or two without significant impact.

More information was circulated ahead of the meeting and there were slides shown to explain the works. Please let me know if you would like a copy, I'm happy to go through it.

At this stage we have appointed a surveyor and structural engineer to design the scaffolding that will be needed to reach the areas needing repair. It is the scaffolding that is the main part of the cost for the large hall and we will be seeking tenders to ensure the best value for money. For the stonework the main expense is in the builders' expertise and we need to get this right to preserve the listed building in all its splendour.

Ball-park costs were £30,000 for each of these two pieces of work. We will come back to church meeting each time with a report and the elders and M&R are closely monitoring the works. It was also proposed to apply for a grant from Synod and this will be possible now that church meeting has agreed overall to proceed.

Thank you for all your support on this – nobody likes to spend money but in this situation it is essential to prevent further damage, and we are fortunate to be able to afford it – see opposite

Sue Eardley



## **Treasurer's Report for Church Meeting: Sunday 21 November 2021**

How time flies when you are having fun! It does not seem possible but it is now nine months since you appointed me as Treasurer for St Paul's. I feel that I am fully conversant with the day to day finances of the Church now but there are still things that pop up that Robert Spurgeon is always willing to advise me on.

In terms of investments and savings the church is in a very healthy position but, as we are hearing today, we also have to bear in mind that our buildings are ageing and as such require constant care and maintenance, which will be costly. Whilst considering these works we need to maintain sufficient funds to meet the day to day running costs of the church. Our income from hall bookings has increased this year and we are almost breaking even on standard monthly activities.

I circulated at church meeting a draft income and expenditure account for the first ten months of the year showing a small deficit of £2,351, a huge improvement on last year. In our accounts we have historically set aside a capital fund, to address major works, and this currently stands at £116,139.

Also shown are our bank balance currently totalling £42,151.

If you would like the full document please contact me or Sue

**Dennis Simmonds**

**Church Treasurer**



# Christmas at St Paul's URC



Croham Park Avenue. South Croydon. Surrey CR2 7HF

**Sunday 12th December at 10:30am**  
Gift Service - donations to Purley Food Hub &  
Croydon Nightwatch

**Saturday 18th December 4pm- 7pm (Drop in)**  
Christmas Tree Festival - Family friendly event with  
children's activities, music & refreshments

**Sunday 19th December at 10:30am**  
Nativity Service led by the Junior Church

**Tuesday 21st December 4pm-6pm (Drop in)**  
Christmas Tree Festival - with music & refreshments

**Wednesday 22nd December at 5:30pm for tea**  
(service starts at 6pm)  
Young People's Carol Service

**Thursday 23rd December 7pm-9pm (Drop In)**  
Christmas Tree Festival - with music and refreshments

**Christmas Eve at 6:30pm**  
Carols by Candlelight with refreshments after the  
service. Collection in aid of St Christopher's Hospice

**Christmas Day at 9:15am**  
Christmas Day Worship at South Croydon United  
Church, Aberdeen Road, CR0 1EQ

## All are welcome!

For more details:

[www.stpaulsurc.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsurc.org.uk) or 07971068887

**NOTE - there will be no Boxing  
Day worship at St Paul's**

