



The Pauline

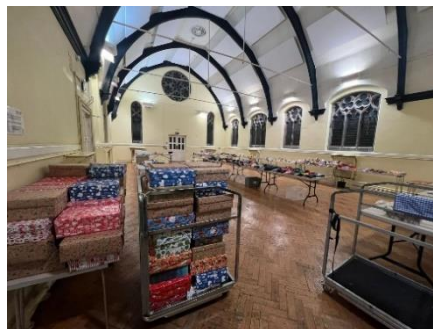
November 2022

Minister Revd Martin Knight

St Paul's URC
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Look at those cheeky little faces - they had such fun helping pack the shoesboxes and those happy faces are exactly what we imagine as they are opened nearer Christmas by families and the elderly when they reach their final destination - packed with love to bring hope. An enormous thank you to absolutely everyone who contributed - knitting scarves, donating goods, working away behind the scenes - brilliant job - well done. As you can see they have already been collected from St Paul's. Thank you also to Youth Council for the generous donation of



the transportation costs £3.00 each box packed. 130 Boxes in total.

Lots of events coming up with great opportunities to get involved: the Charity Card and Gift Sale - together with Cake stall 12th November 10 till 1pm. In the evening we have the Beetle Drive - so much fun last year! Please do come along and support the Charities involved. Details further along in this edition.

Planning for Advent - Christmas and beyond is well underway. Some really exciting ideas will be coming to life.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition of our newsletter, and as ever please send any copy for the next Pauline to me in writing or by email: patgo123@aol.com.

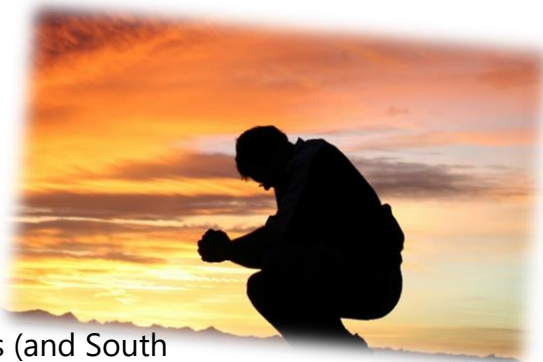
Pat Granville-Overton

Dear friends,

In the last two months, I have been blessed and renewed by time with other URC ministers and leaders from Southern Synod, a weekend away with Dad and siblings and, most recently, a life-changing trip to the Isle of Iona.

'The Gathering' of ministers and leaders normally happens each Spring but was moved to the Autumn after the national ministers gathering earlier in the year. We gathered at the High Leigh Conference centre in Hoddesdon and were ably led by Jane Holloway from the World Prayer Centre, as we focused on the place of prayer in our lives and ministry.

It was a helpful reminder that our life and work at St Paul's is being support, upheld and inspired by the faithful few who gather on Zoom for half an hour of prayer, each Friday at 6pm. It is an unpressured time of being with each other; perhaps in complete silence or with people speaking as they feel able. We very often pray for our church life, and I am hugely thankful for this foundation of prayer that holds St Paul's (and South Croydon United Church) and seeks God's guidance for our future.



In recent years, my sisters, brother and I have tried to take Dad away for a weekend. Having this time together feels more and more valuable as each year passes – especially with a gap during Covid! In 2017, for Dad's 80th, we took him back to Lauterbrunnen in Switzerland, where he had visited in 1956. A real blast from the past! This time we stayed near Winchester and enjoyed a steam train ride and a visit to Winchester itself. The Cathedral was hosting a massed choir from the RNCM and to hear then rehearsing in that majestic space was a moving treat.

I was reminded of the importance of family and time with those who love us unconditionally. Who are those people for you? Moments that help us to be aware of God's constant presence can often surprise us and come from the special and the mundane. As we are learning through the LICC 'Whole life discipleship', we are always church and always in God's presence; so, where in your everyday are you surprised to encounter the holy?



And then to Iona: a remote Hebridean Island off the Isle of Mull.

This was a trip to spend time with other Associate Members of the Iona community, staying at the Abbey, exploring what draws us to the Iona family and what it gives us and inspires us to do back in our own communities. It was both a wonderful retreat and time within community to explore together. Iona is often described as 'a thin place' between heaven and earth – it certainly was for me!

I pray that these reminders of the importance of prayer, of unconditional love, of surprising encounters with God, and those 'thin places', which have been of huge value for me in recent months, may also speak to you in the services and events at St Paul's and in your daily lives as church-in-the-world.

*Come, Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.
Charles Wesley*

With every blessing,

Martin

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It's almost Advent !

This advent, inspired by the LICC Learning Hub sessions we're encouraging everyone to use Advent as a chance to reach out to those around you and share the excitement and anticipation as we remember the true meaning of Christmas. Each Sunday from 26th November we'll set a simple task or activity for the week and discuss briefly the next week how it's gone. Here are the types of requests:

Sunday 26th - use the week to let people know about Advent through a candle and message in your porch, window and/or car. (candle picture will do for safety!). Did people notice?

Sunday 4th - gather gifts for the Purley Food Hub and offer small gifts (eg chocolate!) to neighbours and others alongside a message of hope and encouragement. How did they react?

Sunday 11th - think about messages of encouragement and personal, positive greetings in cards, including cards to people who you'd not usually give them to. How did it feel?

Sunday 18th - take time this week to be calm, remember the meaning of Christmas and encourage neighbours friends and strangers to the carol service.

Helpers needed please – Church decorating

Friday 2nd December from 6.45 – greenery and lights

Saturday 3rd December – Tree decorating

Protecting our planet

It may not be comfortable to hear; we may be fed up listening to it but with hot, hot summer, wild fires, floods etc. surely, we cannot continue to ignore what is happening to our planet. Small changes can make a difference. So here are just a few tips ...

Go Green – air cleaning plants

The more plants the better; indoor plants absorb bad air and carbon dioxide to produce fresh oxygen.

If greenery is your aesthetic choice, avoid wasteful plastic and faux plants and opt for the real deal. The best part is that once you have a thriving myriad of plants, you can keep propagating them so that one plant can become a collection - the same goes for herbs, too.



Water is worth saving, as carbon emissions are caused by transporting the water to and from your house and treating it before and after it is used. Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth, during your skincare routine, or in between washing dishes.

Reduce, reuse, recycle



Come on – we’ve all done it – forgotten those shopping bags. Hang your shopping bags by the door so you don’t forget to grab one on your way out, and you can keep an eye on how many you are collecting. Repurposing and recycling are two impactful steps you can take as an individual to help the environment, as one more thing you reuse is one less thing ending up in a landfill.

Turn off the tap! Water is worth saving, as carbon emissions are caused by transporting the water to and from your house and treating it before and after it is used. Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth, during your skincare routine, or in between washing dishes.

Switch to LED lighting

LEDs will help reduce costs over the long run and they are much more environmentally friendly. This is because they last longer, and they do not need to be replaced regularly which means less waste. LEDs do not contain any mercury, which is toxic to the environment. They also reduce your home’s carbon footprint as they do not require as much energy to power them.



Nothing too onerous

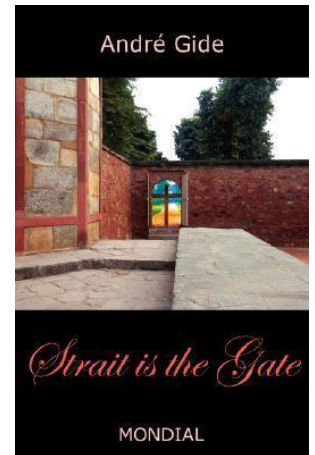
St Paul's Book Group

November 20th 12:30-2pm– André Gide *Strait is the Gate*

We will be meeting for lunch and chatting about André Gide's *Strait is the Gate* at Coombe Lodge. This is a new venue and lifts can be arranged - please ask Angela Cathy or Sue.

According to the Goodreads website "A landmark in world literature, *Strait is the Gate* describes a love affair between an acutely sensitive boy growing up in Paris and his cousin from the Normandy countryside that erupts into a soul-endangering passion.

A devastating exploration of aestheticism taken to extremes, *Strait is the Gate* is a novel of haunting beauty that stimulates the mind and the emotions." Written in 1909 and translated into English.



December 8th 6:30-8pm – Barbara Kingsolver *Unsheltered*

We will meet for our Christmas meal and a chat about this book and much more at Little Bay restaurant, Selsdon Road, CR2 6PB – Please contact Angela for more details.

Barbara Kingsolver is an American novelist, essayist and poet. She was raised in rural Kentucky and lived briefly in the Congo in her early childhood. Her work often focuses on topics such as social justice, biodiversity and the interaction between humans and their communities and environments. Each of her books published since 1993 has been on the New York Times Best Seller list and she has received numerous awards. [Wikipedia]

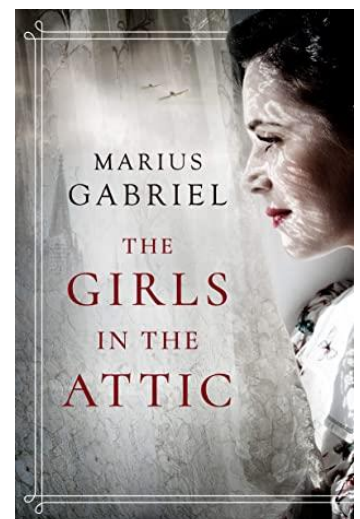
Goodreads describes *Unsheltered* as "A timely novel that interweaves past and present to explore the human capacity for resiliency and compassion in times of great upheaval."



January –Marius Gabriel *The Girls in the Attic*

Goodreads describes this as 'a sweeping story of blind faith, family allegiance and how love makes one man question everything he thought he knew'. Set in wartime Germany, a committed soldier of the Reich, home wounded, discovers his mother is sheltering two young Jewish women in their home. He has dedicated his life to Nazism, and it is his duty to turn the sisters over to the Gestapo. But he hesitates, and the longer Max fails to do his duty, the harder it becomes.

All Welcome, very informal. For details of the club please visit St Paul's website <https://www.stpaulsurc.org.uk/bookclub>



Sharing Faith in the Everyday – LICC Session 4

Eight people gathered from St Paul's for the 4th LICC meeting to look at journeying to become a whole-life discipleship church. The theme was 'Sharing faith in the everyday' – being disciples right where God has placed us – at work or school, out shopping, on the bus, walking the dog or chatting to neighbours.

Steve asked us what we thought was the most repeated phrase during lockdown – in work meetings, family Zooms or friends getting together online – the answer was 'You're on mute!' When it comes to sharing the good news, Steve suggested that is exactly how we all feel – that we're 'on mute' and not sure how to proceed.

Going into breakout groups we thought about what three words come to mind when we hear the word 'Evangelism'? Answers included 'Good News' 'banging on' 'panic' 'uncomfortable' and 'scarey'!

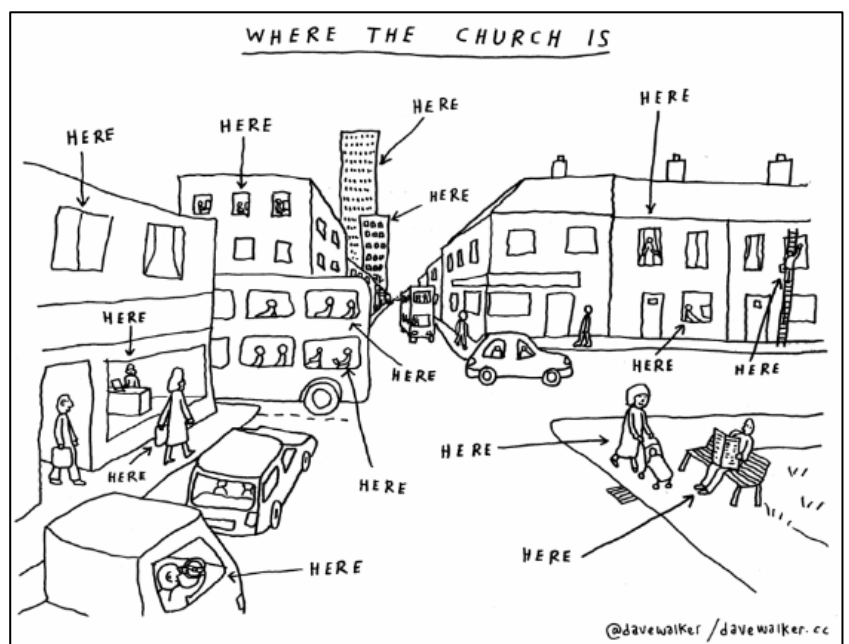
The rest of the morning was arranged into 4 sections, which relate to each other:

1. Living His story – everywhere!

It's easy to fall into the trap of seeing the church as being in one place or building when in fact we are church wherever we go – Dave Walker's cartoon shows this very well.

Hannah Steele in her book *Living His Story* says..."We are sent to the places we normally go...to do good work, to minister love and grace, snuffing out injustice, sharing Jesus in word and deed – to see transformation happen – to see people set free"

In this way the story of God comes to life in the way we live, how we are with other people (all of them!) in the things we say and the way in which we find our identity and purpose in the Gospel story. Our faith is imprinted in our lives like the lettering through a stick of rock and is a framework for our very existence. This way of looking at evangelism is a far cry from our default perceptions!



The Evangelical Alliance, The Church of England & The Barna Group undertook a survey 'Talking Jesus' in which 36% of those surveyed maintained that having conversations with a Christian was one of the top two factors bringing them to faith.

We have work to do!

2. Sharing His Story – with confidence!

Hannah Steele sums up the challenge for many of us who have “relied on the Church to do the work of evangelism and have not seen the individual role that each one of us is called to play as a witness in our everyday lives...we need to become better at starting the conversation with people...”

Steve identified four ‘**confidence boosters**’ which we can draw upon and which are interlinked.

1. **It’s not selling a product – it’s sharing a journey** : we don’t have to do the ‘hard sell’ and win over someone to our faith, we just need to do our bit, be ourselves and share how God’s story has influenced our faith and worked in our lives.
2. **It’s not judo – it’s a jigsaw** : We don’t have to overthrow someone’s viewpoint single handed, but be ourselves and make our unique contribution, being just one piece of the jigsaw which enables someone to see the full picture clearly.
3. **It’s not all down to you – it’s a partnership with God** : God is already out there ahead of us busy working in the lives of others and uses many different people to speak to them. Our job is to discern what God might already be doing and play our part.
4. **Prayer changes things** : It really does!

We thought about ways in which these four ‘confidence boosters’ might shape the way we encourage and equip each other for our ‘frontline work’ and acknowledged that every one of us is here for a purpose and has a role to play which no one else can do (no one else can be you!)

3. Connecting His Story – Listening and sharing our own stories and Gospel stories

God doesn’t expect all of us to be supremely eloquent or have amazing academic qualifications. He just wants us to be our own authentic selves and share something of God’s story and our own story “...suppose he just wants you to be able to ‘give a reason for the hope that you have’...” [1 Peter 3:15]

He gave the example of 7 year old Joy who when asked about all of the different children at her multicultural school and how she talked with them about Jesus said

“I ask them what they like about their God and then they ask me what I like about mine.”

Steve spoke about Joy’s response – it’s “positive, respectful, interested in others and opens the door to sharing not confrontation.” Steve has asked adults what they like about Jesus/Jesus’ love and got varied responses including ‘I love the way he treats women’ ‘I love that he’s just so radical’. What would you say? For me I love the way Jesus treated those on the margins of society.

He next spoke about the importance of listening to and being interested in others – “being heard is so close to being loved that for the average person they are almost indistinguishable.” We are invited to complete a timeline of our own lives, plot major life events, when we have seen God at work, times when we felt that God was more present and think of recent situations when God has been particularly in evidence. Sharing our own experience and stories is very authentic and, together with linking in examples from Gospel stories, enables us to connect with the stories of others.

4. Discovering His Story – What next?

We started to think about the next steps for us all. How to change the way we see evangelism and make it into an everyday thing? How to connect with the 'confidence boosters'? How to develop our ability to share stories? How to make sure that we all know that we have a part to play?

A 'Whole church awayday' is being planned for the New Year where we can explore these ideas in a wider context, all together. Look out for the date!

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Visit to India April 2022

It is now six months since I returned from visiting my sister Florence in Ludhiana, Punjab. How time has flown! During my visit the weather was almost unbearable; 39-40 degrees in the shade. Thank goodness for air-conditioning. So it was good to return home to much cooler weather, and rain! That is just before our own unbearable, extreme heatwave. Florence would like to thank all members of St Paul's Guild, Robert and Christine and Cathy Dean who so generously gave me money to help in Florence's charity work. The money goes a long way towards purchasing good quality equipment for the charity. I personally saw to the Autistic Centre and the street animals.

Unfortunately, Florence's involvement in charity work has had to come to an end owing to ill-health. However, the centre is well taken care of while the animals appear to be in good hands, thank God. Over the years I have seen big changes for the good, mostly for the animals since many were spayed and sterilised during Florence's tenure. That cut down considerably the hundreds of stray dogs roaming the streets, most in deplorable condition. Before her retirement Florence worked as a theatre nurse and was also scrub nurse to many eminent surgeons at the Christian Medical College Hospital. Her nursing skills and experience have stood her in good stead during all the years she has been actively involved with the animals.

At the Autistic Centre I have seen many little children develop into adults. Sadly there is still much stigma within the country against people with disabilities. I noticed there has been little change in attitude in recent years. Florence's input is greatly missed, not only by the charities but also by the very poor who used to come to her with all their ailments! Once again, on behalf of Florence who isn't able to write due to suffering from a stroke, thank you for all your help over the years.

I have a thank you card and a picture from the Centre for anyone who may wish to see them. With best wishes

Jean Gundlach

ST PAUL'S CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARD & GIFT FAIR

SATURDAY 12TH NOVEMBER
10AM - 1PM

ST PAUL'S URC, CROHAM PARK AVE, CR2 7HF



FREE ENTRY



LOTS ON OFFER!

- Charity Christmas cards on sale
- Gifts -Including homemade jams, Christmas cakes, pin badges, cracker kits & personalised wooden homewares.
- Festive Refreshments available to buy including hot chocolate!
- Tombola- run by the Scouts
- Children's craft activities- Free!
- Cake stall
- The Church sanctuary will be open- enjoy festive music played on our wonderful church organ!

Lifeboats COMBAT STRESS Amica Believe in children Barnardo's RSPB StChristopher's More than just a hospice Help for Tanzania For more information please visit www.stpauls.org.uk

Cakes sale at the Cards sale

Please come and support the cakes sale on 12th November in aid of TLM and Tuesday Guild. Could you bake a cake for the fair and buy one to help raising much needed funds for TLM and all the other charities the Guild is supporting. Thanks. Caroling in the field.

Stop press - What a weekend! The Beetle Drive raised £480 for Shoeboxes, Tuesday Guild cake stall / raffle raised £278 for Leprosy mission and the Guild, Craft / card fair raised over £144. Scouts bottle stall made £60 for cancer research plus charity stalls' own takings. And what a great welcoming atmosphere! Thanks to all who planned, organised, participated and cleared up!

Family Fun!

St Paul's Beetle Drive

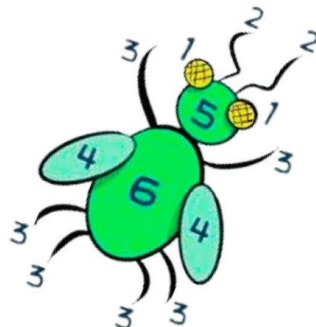
Saturday 12th November 7-9pm

Croham Park Avenue, South Croydon, CR2 7HF



Raffle!

Prizes for the winners!



Tickets £3 per person

Light Refreshments

All Proceeds going to the Christmas Shoe Boxes (Link to Hope)

www.stpaulsurc.org.uk

Oldies but goodies – kindly sent in by Chris Dean.

1. The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.
2. The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight is: 'Searching for Jesus.'
3. Ladies, don't forget the jumble sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
4. Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.
5. Miss Mary Mason sang, 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
6. The Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'
7. Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
8. Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
9. At the evening service tonight, the sermon will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.
10. Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.
11. Potluck supper Sunday at 5pm - prayer and medication to follow.
12. The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.
13. The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
14. Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

Church Lunch – 11th December

Following on from the October Jubilee weekend we've realised how nice it is just to have time for lunch together. Another simple lunch is planned for Sunday 11th December after the gift service – everyone welcome, minimal kitchen activity needed, pop it in your diaries!

Sue

NEWS UPDATE | NOVEMBER 2022



Dear All,

Just under 4,000 meals delivered in October

Food for just under 4,000 meals was provided by the Food Hub to 443 clients and family members during October, the most in a single month since January.

October's 3,987 meals took to more than 10,000 the total delivered in the last three months, and past 31,500 meals overall so far this year - with the busy months of November and December still to come.

Because of the increasing demand, we continue to be VERY GRATEFUL INDEED for each and every donation we receive from our donors and supporters, and especially this autumn to the local schools and churches who have donated their Harvest food collections including St Paul's. We have been blessed with fantastic support, and thanks to our donors' generosity we have been able to support Purley and St Francis Food Stops, The Vine Food Bank, Croydon Nightwatch and Croydon Refugee Day Centre as well as two charity organisations in Thornton Heath.

Money donations over the year have exceeded the cost of running the Food Hub, though we expect these to decrease over the coming year as donors really feel the pinch of rising food and energy costs. However, we are a food hub as well as a food bank and want to support others around us and not just ourselves. We will continue to do this for as long as we are able.

Squash, sugar and rice head our priority items

Small bottles of squash and 500g packets of sugar and long grain rice are among this month's Top Ten priority items, along with tinned peas, carrots and potatoes, and tinned rice pudding, cartons of long life whole milk and packets of sweet biscuits. Unisex shampoo and washing powder capsules/tablets are this month's most wanted non-food items. There is a collection box in church.

'Really dire times' for vulnerable local people

A stark warning about the "really dire times" being faced by vulnerable local people has been sounded by Julia Lee, who heads up the Food Hub's Client Support Volunteers. Who would have thought we would be facing such frightening challenges: 80 per cent energy increase, 10 per cent inflation, deep cuts on the horizon. These affect everyone, but the hardest hit are people on fixed incomes including basic state pension, those with disabilities or medical problems who can't work, and parents with young children with no childcare support.

These people are on a cliff edge. It's the worst situation many of us have seen in our lifetime, and over the next few months it's going to get even harder. We are facing really dire times, with needs increasing while resources are reducing. The Client Support team had helped over 150 clients in the past year, offering advice and signposting them to specialist agencies. Among several cases, she highlighted a client who had walked from Purley Downs Road to Purley Food

Stop in Old Lodge Lane. She was exhausted. She has asthma, post traumatic stress disorder, and has two children. She was £2,500 in debt with British Gas and had been switched to a prepayment meter. Although she was listed as a vulnerable, priority customer on their system, when her money ran out they said they couldn't help. Here meter reading balance was 99p. We are trying to find another organisation to help until her next Universal Credit payment comes through.

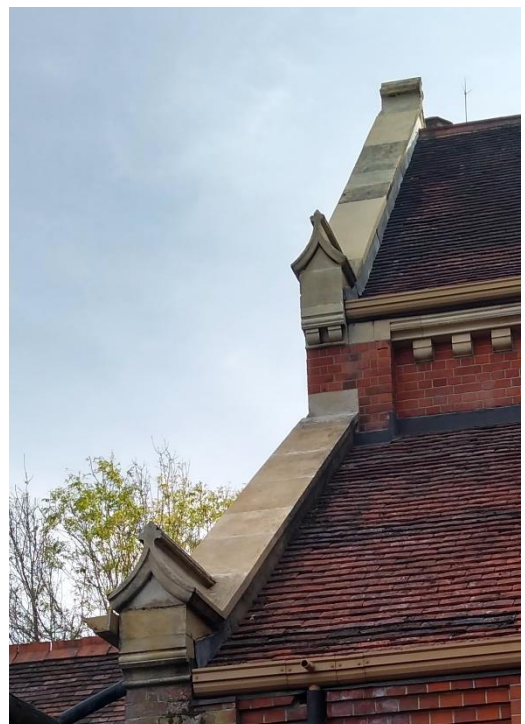
At Harvest, God warns us against trying to draw (often impossible) distinctions between self-inflicted and circumstantial poverty. Instead, He invites us to remember the true source of all our (fragile) wealth and our (transitory) ability to produce it - Himself.

Find out more on <https://www.purleyfoodhub.net>

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Update on our building work

You'll have seen that the scaffolding mostly came down towards the end of October with Alan and the team having completed the refurbishment of the Spirelet on the large hall and it does look magnificent. Sourcing the right (reclaimed) tiles and ensuring everything was well protected for another 70+ years look a little longer but we are delighted that Synod have kindly agreed to cover the extra expenditure to keep our listed building intact. The coping stones over the Jubilee Room have been replaced and all the brickwork cleaned up as far as the scaffold could reach. Only left is repairs to the support stonework for the turret on the North West corner which should be complete this month (November) ahead of Christmas. Thank you for your patience with the limited parking over the summer. Sue Eardley.



WELCOME TO *Warm Space*

at St Paul's United Reformed Church
Croham Park Avenue, CR2 7HF.

Thursdays from 3.30pm - 6.30pm and every Thursday from
October 20th to March 24th 2023.

For families, single people, working people, older and younger.
Children aged up to 14 with a parent/carer or 14-17.

Hot drinks, games, crafts, opportunities to chat in the warm, plug
in your laptop, work or do homework. Family suitable films
available on some occasions.

Light hot supper available from 5.30pm.

Please register your wish to come at either 07971068887 or
secretary@stpaulsurc.org.uk by 12 noon on the Thursday as places
have to be limited to 12 per session.



Church Meeting – 20th November after worship

All welcome, light agenda this time, looking at
pastoral care, budget and planning events for next
year.

Celebrate Christmas at St Paul's

Croham Park Avenue, South Croydon, CR2 7HF

Saturday 12th November 10am-1pm
Charity Christmas Card & Gift Sale
Refreshments on sale

Sunday 11th December 10:30am
Christmas Gift Service
Food donations will go to the Purley Food Hub

Saturday 17th December 4pm-6pm
Outdoor Nativity & Family Christmas Party
Dress Warmly!

Sunday 18th December 10:30am
Children's Christmas Service
led by the Junior Church

Christmas Eve 6:30pm
Carols by Candlelight
Festive refreshments after the service

Christmas Day 9:30am
Family Christmas Service
South Croydon United Church, CR0 1EQ



The Jubilee room and Vestry - works in progress



Our former Youth Room has been overdue for updating for several years, and the young people from St Pauls had input to what they wanted - a multipurpose warm room that reflected our modern welcome theme. So far we have secondary glazed, redecorated, rewired and started to furnish one end of the room. Given the year we've done it - the 50th anniversary of the URC, our summer celebrations and the theme of renewal, church meeting agreed to rename it the Jubilee room. It's the base for our 'WarmSpace' sessions and provides a cosy area for chats and refreshments, whilst all easily shifted if the room is to be used for other activities. To complete the look there will be blinds, curtains and new children-sized furniture

The vestry is also being upgraded to a cosy meeting room that still provides an uncluttered space for worship preparation. There's a screen on the wall, new furniture and heating plus a stunning picture on the wall reflecting colour and hope. The pictures of ministers and secretaries are being preserved in an album.





1. **Opening prayer, welcome and apologies:** The Minister opened the meeting with a prayer. There were 23 members present plus three observers.
2. **Minutes of last meeting** on 17 July were accepted and pastoral news was shared
3. **Vision Refresh for St Paul's 2022-4:** The revised vision "A welcoming church that loves all our neighbours" were shared and discussed in table groups with feedback, responses attached below. Elders will monitor quarterly.
4. **Financial Position** – Dennis tabled the 9-month report and took questions. The high spend on buildings this year has been planned and discussed. The pattern of freewill giving is not uniform over the year. We are grateful to all members who continue to support the work of the Church through regular giving. Dennis was thanked for the clear report.
5. **Youth Room and Vestry** -Sue presented on works to date against previously agreed plans. The potential for different uses of the rooms was discussed and it was agreed unanimously to rename the Youth room the Jubilee Room.
6. **Audio Visual system** – quotes totaling £19,235 were presented to the meeting. We can use around 90% of the equipment donated by Hurst Green Methodist. Training of members to use the system was included and it should once set just require turning on. It will be as future-proof as possible but technology moves on and the current system is over 30 years old. The system for the halls is separate although it will benefit from wireless microphones which are currently compatible. The Synod Mission Fund may cover a large part of the cost together with noticeboards, and the garden phase 2. An application would be made for their November meeting, if refused then church meeting will be reconsulted.

The following resolutions were proposed and carried unanimously

'As an integral part of our Welcoming Church Vision, St Paul's URC Church Meeting on Sunday 9th October 2022, supports the installation of the proposed AV system and encourages the Elders/Trustees in their application for a Synod Mission Grant.'
and

'As an integral part of our Welcoming Church Vision, St Paul's URC Church Meeting on Sunday 9th October 2022, supports an application to the Synod Mission Fund, to help us move forwards with the following elements of our Vision:

The installation of the proposed AV system

Phase 2 of our Community Garden project

Installation of new external and internal noticeboards and signage.'

- 7. Accessible Pews** - Sue shared early proposals to adapt the pews to accommodate wheelchairs more inclusively which would be developed into a range of options with the voice of those who use chairs included. Sue was testing with the Listed Building Advisory Committee whether in principle they supported the adaptation of pews for this purpose and will revert to a future meeting with options if this was supported.

The following resolution was carried unanimously

‘As an integral part of our Welcoming Church Vision, St Paul’s URC Church Meeting on Sunday 9th October 2022, supports the intention to create accessible spaces among the pews – seeking advice from users and listing, before receiving a further recommendation from the Elders’ and M&R Team.’

- 8. Building work update** – Sue explained the progress with work on the large hall roof, the coping stones and north west turret support which was more extensive than anticipated and costs had risen for the roof and turret works. Repair to the rose window cover was more technically complex than anticipated. The additional works came to around £22k above an initial estimate of £60k for which Synod had promised £20k and **it was proposed and agreed unanimously** that Synod building grants fund should be approached for this top up.

‘As an integral part of our Welcoming Church Vision, St Paul’s URC Church Meeting on Sunday 9th October 2022, supports the additional expenditure required to complete urgent structural works, as proposed, and endorses seeking support for this from the Synod Buildings Fund.’

- 9. Warm Space initiative** – Fran outlined plans to open on Thursday afternoons 3.30-6.30 from 20 October to end March offering warmth, fellowship, a space to work, activities, a light supper and refreshments. There would be space for up to 12 guests initially, and four volunteers a week would be needed from 3pm. The idea was supported and advertising would commence asap.

- 10. Church awayday** – planned for 18th or 25th February 2023. A ‘faith talks’ discussion in the morning with Andy Twilley from Synod, other discussions in the afternoon. Location perhaps Purley or Sanderstead URC. The date will be confirmed asap.

- 11. AOB** – Warm thanks to Fran for the sandwiches to sustain us for the long meeting

- 12. Date of next meeting:** Sunday 20 November 2022. Meeting closed at 1.50pm

Vision Action feedback - (9 October church meeting)

..children and young people – we have listened to them and acted in

- *The garden project New Jubilee room décor and style*
- *Jubilee fete / beetle drive – need for ice cream and children activities*
- *Links with scouting through Chris and to some extent Sue*
- *Reached out to Rutherford and Coombe Wood schools*
- *WarmSpace aims to include children and families*
- *But sad that the Girlguiding groups have ceased.*

..church family –

- *We need to communicate better and differently - more than email, phone chats*
- *Show love to those not linked to the church locally through Tuesday Guild etc*
- *Is there a 'skills register' for the congregation?*

..sharing our faith

- *through training (LICC), organized bible study and planned faith talks*
- *through hall users – e.g. Liesl's baby baptized here*
- *people worship and pray differently – how do we reach and engage them?*
- *Use groups such as Tuesday Guild to attract – it doesn't 'force' religion on visitors.*
- *Work with other churches as were all worshipping the same God.*
- *Think about whether it should be 'our' theology. (one for the awayday!)*
- *People at events share things with the Minister, start of faith talking.*

..in local and global community –

- *Monthly gardening work with community volunteers*
- *Continue every second Sunday collection for food hub but also encourage people to bring in what they can and when. Invite the Good Neighbours group to lunch*
- *Shoeboxes (Link to Hooe)*
- *Communion collections – branch out further to global charities?*
- *More tea parties with table top sales, garden parties leg making mojitos!*
-

..safe warm buildings

- *Consider opening the sanctuary more often. Does it need to be manned?*
- *Improve physical visibility of the church by lowering the hedge*
- *Have regular garden days with the community involved.*



International Needs

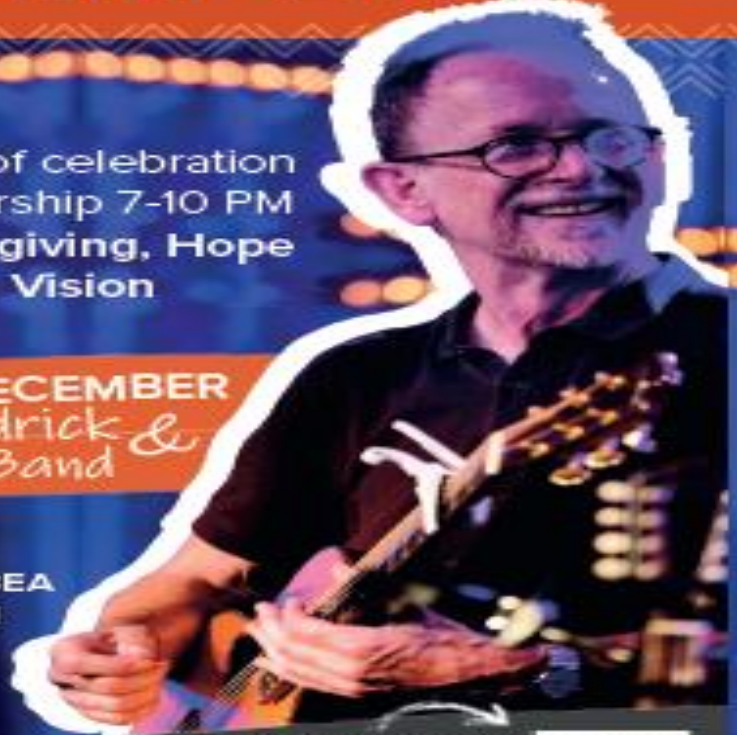
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Training in *pastoral* care

January 24: **SESSION 1: Introduction to Pastoral Care**

February 21: **SESSION 2: Building the team and Boundaries**

March 21: **SESSION 3: Developing your Listening Skills**

VENUE: Faversham United Church (LEP),
Preston Street, Faversham ME13 8PE.

TIME: 10.30 – 13.00

EVERYONE WELCOME

For more details or to book your place, contact Andy Twilley:
training@urcsouthern.org.uk

COMPETITION - Win this gorgeous throw

This beautiful throw, hand made by Angela, is being raffled ahead of Christmas. It will be on display on 12th November activities, at Tuesday Guild and other events.

It includes 240 squares within the overall border, so we're selling 'squares' at £1 (minimum) each. Squares will be on sale from now till Christmas eve (or sooner if all sold) when the draw will take place. Funds raised will go towards the further development of the Jubilee Room. To enter and choose your square look out for the In and Out stall on 12th November or contact Pat GO, Sue or Helen.



We hope you enjoyed this copy of the Pauline. Please send your articles ideas and news for the next edition to PatGO123@AOL.com.