



The Pauline

January 2022

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Happy New Year

Happy New Year to you all! Wow -it was a really busy time leading up to our Christmas celebrations - which I thought were fantastic, from the lighting of the first Advent candle, the 'new Guild' Christmas Miscellany, our beautiful Christmas tree festival, our Nativity (including Liam making a few unscripted appearances) 😊 I love those moments; - to our wonderful Candlelight Christmas Eve service (with singing (out loud)), the children (and adults) reading so beautifully, and we were able to join the United church for their Christmas Day service. Well done everyone.

So into a generally cold fresh January, we are busy again, Martin's recuperation is going well I think and we look forward to having him with us again very soon but in the meantime Bea has organised visiting preachers to whom I'm sure we will give them very warm welcome. Lots of save the dates in this edition too - Valentine's Wine tasting - that I know Dennis has worked very hard on - some exciting wines to try and some surprises! St Paul's is hosting the 2022 LICC Learning Hub first session 29th January - please speak to Fran for further information. Easter Egg Hunts - Church Lunch in April - lots more for the future. Thank you for your contributions to our newsletter. If your new year's resolution was to send in more articles/views to the Pauline - fantastic!! I look forward to receiving them. Next copy date 16th March for publication 23rd March (hopefully)

Please contact me on patgo123@aol.com or 0774285955 - Whatsapp.



Dear friends,

In my note for the October Pauline, I was expecting surgery to take place in February of this year. Given the state of waiting lists for this and other surgeries at the time, I was surprised at such an early procedure. I could not be more thankful that instead of still waiting, I am already 6 weeks post-op and, after a positive consultation on 21st Jan, ready to start physiotherapy. I will be working with the URC's Occupational Health team in the coming weeks, to discuss a careful phased-return to work.

There is an obvious but little spoken truth that everyone who faces ill-health and disability, does so in their own way – and that must be OK. Giving dignity and acceptance of an individual's way of being during such intense periods, is a gift beyond words. I want to say more than a simple 'thank you', for allowing me the gift of coping in the way that enabled me to get through and face one of the hardest times of my life.



This 'bearing with one another in love', as Paul puts it in Ephesians 4: 1-3, is a gift beyond words. Remember how you have felt in a moment of knowing you are valued.

As a church family we are called to bear with one another, which we know can be a struggle! If we follow Jesus, we are also called to bear with one another as a global community – to give each other the gift of knowing we are valued, because we are of God.

I look forward, in real joy, to being back with you, as we share this journey of loving with each other and with the world.

*May we know God's blessing
as creator of incredible diversity,
in the way of Jesus the healer,
and through the power and compassion of the Spirit.*

Martin



A year of celebrations!

On 6th February the Queen is due to mark 70 years on the throne, with a national holiday in June, and celebration event here at St Paul's on the 4th June. The BBC celebrates 100 years of broadcasting on 18th October – and the United Reformed Church is 50 years old the same month. Fifty years! What does that say to us? And what is God saying to us? What opportunities does it give us to reflect on our story, on who we are, on what we stand for, on who we follow – and how we share that with others?

As local churches and as the URC, marking our 50th can help us to plan for the future – to keep pursuing our ecumenical vision, and plan for how we will continue to be an active, engaged and faithful Christian presence in our communities and in new ones. Marking our Jubilee is a chance to give thanks. There's a Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving plus other activities on Saturday 1st October 2022, in and around Methodist Central Hall, Westminster. This is a free event so find out more and book tickets online via bit.ly/urc50.

We'll be doing something special at St Paul's that weekend too.

We discussed at Church meeting our four objectives for the year – welcoming church, Eco-church, children and youth friendly church and building our whole life discipleship. This month also sees the first event in our exciting journey with nine other churches on the LICC Learning Hub – growing us as disciples. More details on page 13.



Sue

St Paul's Christmas Celebrations 2021



St Paul's Guild Programme 2022

Talks start at 10.30. Refreshments from 10.15.

February 2022

- 1st Ruth Markus talks about 'The new AMECA Maternity Unit, in rural Malawi'.
- 8th Ray Wheeler talks about 'Genealogy'.
- 15th Jan King speaks about 'Greece part II'.
- 22nd Craft and Natter

March 2022

- 1st Rev Nadine Snyman on 'Your Synod Green Apostle'.
- 8th Police/Neighbourhood Watch, staying safe,
by Joseph Nelson
- 15th Hearing Dogs for the Deaf
- 22nd Craft and Natter
- 29th Eleanor Redshaw talks about 'Lemurs, Volcanoes and
Giant Tortoises - an Indian Ocean Odyssey'.

April 2022

- 5th Easter Miscellany
- 12th Break for Easter
- 19th Annual General Meeting
- 26th Craft and Natter

May 2022

- 3rd Outing to the Horniman Museum - tba

Copies of the programme are available from Sue - 07971068887 or Secretary@StPaulsURC.org.uk.
See our website or Facebook pages for up-to date details www.stpaulsurc.org.uk or www.facebook.com/stpaulsurc



Membership of St. Paul's Guild is open to all. New members, men and women, are welcome throughout the year. The annual subscription is £10 which runs through to September, plus a contribution when we have external speakers. Guests are welcomed for a voluntary charge of £2 to cover costs



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2022



FRIDAY 4 MARCH

A SERVICE FOR EVERYONE

1.30pm

**St Mildred's Church,
Addiscombe, Croydon,
30 Bingham Road, CR0 7EB**

*Limited Car Parking in nearby roads and in walking distance
from the Addiscombe Tramlink & Bus Routes: 289, 312, 367*

Evening Service – 7.00pm

OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION

R. C. Church, Bingham Road, Addiscombe, Croydon, CR0 7EN

Bus Routes: 367 & 130 & Car Parking available

I know the plans I have for you

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Movement • Ecumenical • Global • Women-led • 365 days a year • Informed
Prayer • 24-7 • Prayerful Action • Prayer Movement • Ecumenical • Global
Men-led • Women-led • 365 days a year • Women-led • Prayerful Action
24-7 • Prayerful Action • Prayer Movement • Ecumenical • Global • Informed Prayer • 365 days a year • Women-led • Prayerful Action

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Shoebox update

When looking at exactly what went on to make this project a success - we realized it was a big operation needing detailed planning - Helen Dean and I have taken on the organisation of the Shoebox Appeal - but we need your help - all of you!

It's a lot of work, in the past hundreds of shoeboxes have been covered, products sourced, etc largely all unnoticed - certainly by me and many others - until it got to September/October when it came to our attention. Cathy and Pam must quietly worked away in the background laying the foundation for our weekend packing in October.

So we intend to keep this project in your minds from the beginning of the year. We will be collecting goods throughout the year starting this month. If you are having a post-Christmas sort out - or a Spring clean - please bear this cause in mind. We aim to pack at least 100 shoeboxes- we will need decent sized shoeboxes - these need to be covered with wrapping paper - then filled with goodies and finally sent on their merry way with a £3.00 transport contribution for each shoebox. Cathy Dean has kindly given us all the surplus from this year in very well organised boxes - thank you Cathy.



January - February	Flannels, soap, knife, fork, spoon, wooden spoons, DIY hand tools - screwdrivers, hammers, pliers etc, wrapping paper.
March - April	Toothpaste, toothbrush, shower gel, reading spectacles, warm winter hats. (All sizes please).

We are new to this and are hoping this will be good way of keeping check of what we have and what we still need. Obviously please bring items in as you find/buy them.

Items we plan to pack and would be very grateful for are:- Warm winter hats, scarves and gloves for children & Adults, flannels, soap, shower gel 250ml please, reading spectacles, individual cutlery sets, mugs, wooden spoons. Sewing accessories- needles, threads, buttons etc. Small toys and small soft toys - playing cards, dominos, chess sets. Later on sweets, chocolates - bags of boiled sweets, Colouring pens/pencils - paper, pencil sharpeners and erasers, small colouring books. Candles and candle holders, thin ladies scarves, Hair brush and combs and hair accessories. Small hot water bottles, wind up torches and radio's. Lots to think about! Also contributions to the transport costs please. If you are unsure what to buy then please feel free to make a contribution of cash and we will buy what we need on your behalf. I think that's enough to be going on with! Please look for an update in the next edition.



Pat Granville-Overton & Helen Dean

Finance Update

I am in the process of finalising the accounts for the year to 31 December 2021 and thought that it would be appropriate to give you all a brief update, based on the draft accounts - before they have been reviewed by our auditor. Even though our activities continued to be limited by Covid restrictions, 2021 was a far more positive year compared with 2020. We are showing a small surplus of £6,000, but this is due mainly to an interim insurance claim pay out, in respect of lost revenue in 2020, of £7,000. In addition, the income from letting our Church and Halls following the relaxation of Covid restrictions gave our accounts a boost.

This meant that at the year-end we held the healthy sum of £46,000 in our various bank accounts. At the same date our investments were valued at £158,000.

I am pleased to report that the generosity of Church members has continued through the year with our donations to other charities. In the past four months we have supported the Shoe Box appeal (£173), Leprosy Mission (£91), Nightwatch (£146), The Children's Trust (£59) and St Christopher's Hospice (£215). Our total giving to charities for the year was £1,393.

Dennis Simmonds - Treasurer 16 January 2022



SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERTS at SANDERSTEAD URC

Our concert season continues into 2022:

- Sunday 27th February at 3pm : a piano recital given by Tau Wey
- Sunday 27th March at 3pm : Victoria Bernath, viola soloist
- Sunday 3rd July 2020 at 3pm : The Alfred & Salamanda Saxophone Quartet

For further information please do email us at sanderstead.music@gmail.com

All our concerts take place at Sanderstead URC on Sanderstead Hill [next to the library] CR2 0HB



Tickets are going fast to our Valentine's Wine Tasting evening – in person, but spread out in our large, well ventilated church hall.

We will set your Valentine's weekend off in style with an interesting selection of wines – including pink fizz and chocolate, of course! To sustain you (and to soak up the wine!) we will provide a fish supper (or veggie alternative) and a cheese board. There will also be other activities including a quiz, raffle and games.

But it will not be just any pink fizz, to start we will be serving a Rosé Champagne - the real thing! There will then be two whites, two wines that may be a surprise to complement the fish supper, two reds and we will finish with two wines that will go with chocolate. Obviously there will be nothing to stop you trying chocolate with all the wines! Again, it will not be just any chocolate - we will have a selection from Green and Black's and Hotel Chocolat, or others of a similar quality.

We plan to make the start to your Valentine's weekend special and all this will cost only £25 per person. Any surplus we make will be used to help transform our church front garden into a community space.

We will aim to reduce movement within the hall as far as is practical and will make sure that tables, and seats are adequately spaced. For more details, and to reserve your place, please email me at: dennis.simmonds@gmail.com. Best wishes, and happy drinking! **Dennis**

7th/12th Croydon Scouts & Croham Valley Explorers

Christmastide is a fading memory, but looking back it was a busy time perhaps even busier than usual although there was no Christmas Post this year !

All our sections from 6 to 18 years decorated a tree for the Christmas Tree Festival and a small number gathered for our own Carol Service on December 22. The Explorers travelled to Bentley Copse campsite near Shere to take part in the annual Peacelight Ceremony, and the flame was brought into St Paul's on Christmas Eve. Also, as part of the Christmas celebrations the Explorers had their own Secret Santa gift exchange and this proved very popular. Well at least I haven't received any complaints.

We are now in January and our sections have resumed meeting. It is really good that we have been able to meet face-to-face without a break since the end of last March, and with no cases of Covid-19 either.

Over the weekend of 14-16 January 13 Scouts and 3 Leaders held a Winter Camp near Lancing in Sussex. Whilst the Scouts slept inside a building onsite yours truly was relegated to a hike tent outdoors. It was quiet but very cold to such an extent that the tent was frozen solid! During the weekend we went on a hike, visited a nearby farm to see early lambing, ate Christmas Dinner, enjoyed a campfire and watched the film Mr Bean Goes On Holiday.



Looking ahead we have a Group Camp at Bears Wood over the Jubilee weekend in June, and even the Beavers will be camping. This year also coincides with the Scout Group's 85th Anniversary - we were founded by 'Arkey' McLeod in 1937- and also our Group President's 70th year of service to young people in Scouting

In the summer the Scouts will be camping again for a week in Sussex while the Explorers may well be going abroad to Luxembourg. Hopefully the Beavers and Cubs will have their share of camping and other activities as well.

Membership in all our sections is increasing rapidly and our Beaver Colony and Cub Pack are almost full. Rumour has it that we may start a Squirrel Drey in September. Squirrels are boys and girls aged 4 to 6 years. Watch this space!

Chris Dean, Group Scout Leader/Explorer Scout Leader

(Tel 01883 723081)

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Caring for the Homeless in Croydon

Although we have not been able to operate the Floating Shelter in Croydon - St Paul's has played its part in displaying 'Love in Action' together with many other churches in Croydon we have supplied 80+ sandwiches to NightWatch each night for the last 2 years - each Saturday night I have delivered the sandwiches to The

Quacker meeting house - where there has been a dedicated team from NightWatch busy making soup and sorting out contributions for distribution. We have also supplied a meal and dessert for 5-7 people for the Safe Place to Stay Hub each Friday evening from January to mid February. Their site in the grounds of Croydon University Hospital is due to close shortly - another site with accommodation for up to 15 homeless people in Croydon has been secured. This site has single room accommodation with cooking facilities for each person.



Pat GO

Being Mortal

This is the name of a book, by Atul Gawande given to me by a senior member of this church, and discusses illness and what matters in the end. We all want a good life.

Little did I know, that only that 2 years later, I would be battling cancer, and I would like to thank all who prayed for me.

I have so many friends who are or have battled with cancer, or other life threatening diseases, and for many due to Covid, their lives have changed forever. As a Christian, am I scared - yes, as I am only human, only knowing this life, but quality verses quantity comes to mind as research finds new substances or procedures, to extend life.

None of us knows God's plans, which frequently take us into new directions, just look at the changes at St Paul's where we try to offer new events, in new ways, and be there for our community. Remember Footprints.

May I wish you all a belated Happy New Year

David White

Stamp Collecting for the RNIB



The RNIB appeal for used postage stamps is ongoing. There is now a collecting box on the table by the car park entrance.

How stamps make a difference By collecting stamps you're helping to break down the barriers that stop people with sight loss living life to the full. We accept all stamps: new or used, first or second class, foreign, first day covers, presentation packs or albums. Stamps are sold by weight and we raise £20 per kilogramme of stamps, so it's a brilliant way to raise money.

Cathy Heath

*Anagrams: Presbyterian = Best in Prayer The eyes = They see
Astronomer = Moon Starer The Morse Code = here come dots
Slot Machines = Cash Lost in me Eleven plus two = Twelve plus one*



2022 UNLOCK Walk - Saturday April 23rd

This year's focus is Tower Hamlets (Stepney, Bethnal Green and Poplar). This is an area of contrasts between past and present, affluence and poverty, nature and inner city.

The walk is a circular route stopping to visit 7 churches of all denominations en route. There is usually an option for using public transport for part of the way for those who would prefer. It can be done individually or as a group and everyone can sponsor the participants to raise much needed cash for UNLOCK's work with inner city churches.

Highlights include a Hawksmoor church, the Regents Canal and the kaleidoscopic Brick Lane. Do join us in this opportunity to visit an area steeped in history and churches working to meet the challenge of inequality and poverty in their communities. More details in March – maps will also be available. Let's get a team together! More on http://www.unlock-urban.org.uk/support_walk.php

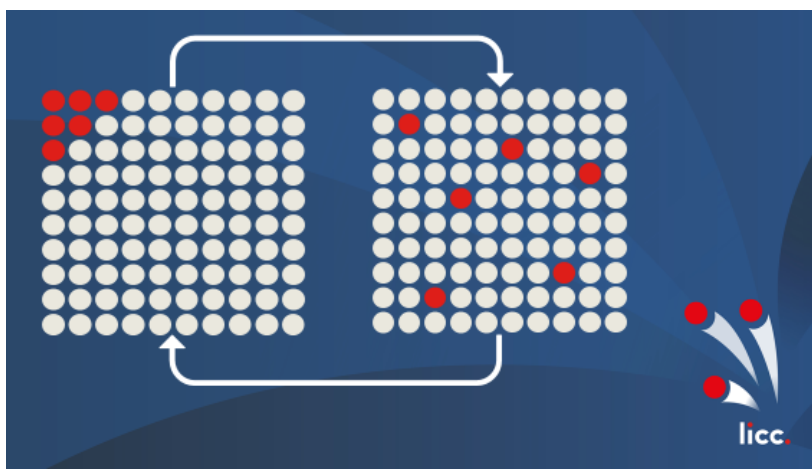


Cathy Heath

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LICC Learning Hub - Join us in a vision for Whole Life Discipleship

With nine other churches but based at ours, the Synod-funded Learning Hub is an exciting way to discover how to revitalise us to be disciples in our community. At work, at croquet, visiting friends, on holiday, when shopping, at school. There are 8 Saturday morning sessions over 2 years, the first on Jan 29th 9-1.



6% of people attend church regularly on Sunday, all together. We need to support each other to be seen out there amongst people, not hiding in a corner.

Why not come along and see?
More details from Fran or Sue



- 1. Opening prayer, welcome and apologies:** Sue led the meeting as the Minister was still recovering from hip surgery. There were 19 members and 2 observers present and apologies from Helen, Gill, Jeannette, Peter, Chris, Cathy D, Heather C, Joyce W
- 2. Pastoral items:** Martin was awaiting a consultant appointment to confirm progress and hoping for a gradual return from February.
- 3. Minutes of last meeting** on 21 November were accepted with the amendment that the boiler was 30 years old, not 40! No matters arising.
- 4. Looking ahead:** Sue outlined the four themes for the church this year, which had been discussed at previous meetings
 - a. Welcoming church – continuing to complete projects agreed in May and September
 - b. Children and Youth friendly church – agreed in July
 - c. Eco church – insulating our buildings, garden developments – agreed in November
 - d. LICC – Whole Life Discipleship scheme – Agreed in SeptemberFran explained more about the LICC programme of 7 Saturday morning events over 2 years (plus one full day session). So far there are six members signed up for the first session, which is being held at St Paul's – hoping for more, everyone welcome
- 5. In and Out – plans for the year.** The group had not been able to all meet together but some provisional dates were suggested for events through the year.
 - o Wine tasting – 12 February in person
 - o Spring Church lunch – 3 April
 - o Youth groups' Table Top sale – 9 April
 - o Easter egg hunt – maybe 16 April
 - o Unlock walk through London – 23 April
 - o Christian Aid Big Brekkie – 15 or 22 May
 - o Jubilee Afternoon Celebration – Saturday 4 June
 - o Beetle Drive – 3 or 10 September
 - o URC 50 years celebration events 1 / 2 OctoberOther activities supported by the group include the Tuesday Guild, work on transforming the Youth Room / Room of Possibilities, internal and external signage projects, organizing leaflets and posters and support for the shoe box scheme
- 6. Date of next Meeting:** There being no further business the next meeting will be the AGM on Sunday 19th March after worship. The meeting closed at 12.30

Accepted as a true record of the meeting

Signed

Date

South London Synod Area 12 hours of Prayer in a time of change

Rev Lesley Charlton, Synod Area Leader is organising 12 hours of prayer online, on Tuesday 22nd February, 9 am- 9 pm. Pop in for a few minutes or stay for hours.

St Paul's and South Croydon United have offered to lead a slot sometime after 12.30 - we'll hear our allocation soon - Sue will email round nearer the time.

Zoom details are: **Meeting ID: 811 1137 9419 Passcode: 017023**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81111379419?pwd=amhCK3BBUmE4SW5LL0JZRvV5dW1XUT09>

We know this is a season of change.

It is a time of change for all the world Church
and for the URC as well.

What is God saying to the church?

We are going to have 12 hours of prayer

We want to listen and to pray together.

We have over fifty churches in the area so we should be able to surround the area in prayer.

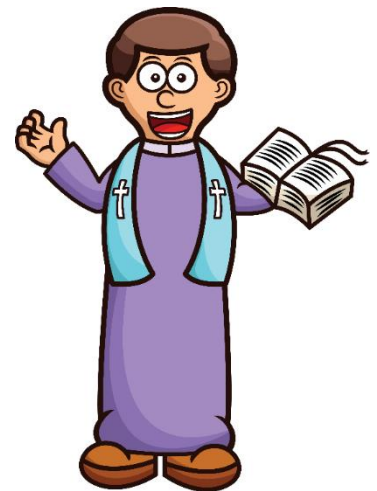


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Who's preaching this month?

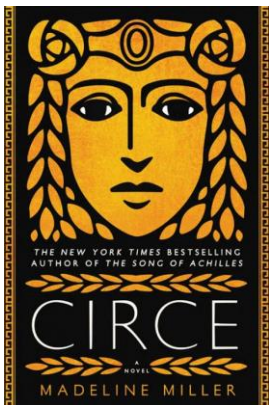
Thank you to the Preachers who have given up their time to come along and join us for Worship. Thank you also to Bea for continuing to make these arrangements whilst Martin is recuperating.

Jan. 23 rd	Albert and Elizabeth Wood
Jan. 30 th	John Ponsford
Feb 6 th	Rev. Roger Wood
Feb. 13 th	Jenny Sheehan
Feb. 20 th	Rachel St Clair
Feb. 27 th	Major Lesley Baker
March.....	wait and see!



St Paul's Book Club – February & March

The Book Club began during lockdown in April last year and meets monthly alternating between lunchtime and evening to allow more people to attend.



February 10th 19:30-21:00

Our book is Circe by Madeline Miller.

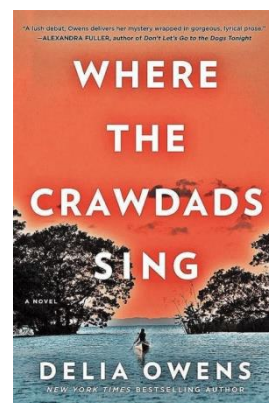
We meet at St Paul's United Reformed Church, Croham Park Ave, South Croydon CR2 7HF (if we can)

March 10th 12:30-14:00

Our book is Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens.

We meet at The Coach House Café, Coombe Woods CR0 5RQ (if we can)

New members are very welcome.



For more details please contact Angela Bannerman, Cathy Heath, or Sue on 07971 068887 / secretary@stpaulsurc.org.uk

**Neil Diamond used
to be called Neil Cole
- until the pressure
got to him..**

**I thought it was our ability to feel
emotion that made us human.
Turns out it is actually our
ability to select each image
containing a bus**

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More dates for your diary - details next Pauline

- Church lunch - 3rd April
- Table Top / Boot sale - 9th April
- Easter Egg Hunt - 16th April
- Christian Aid Big Brekkie - 15th May (or 22nd)
- Jubilee Celebration Afternoon - 4th June
- Beetle Drive - 3rd September
- URC 50th Celebration - 1st / 2nd October