



The Pauline

April 2023

Minister Revd Martin Knight

St Paul's URC
Croham Park Avenue
South Croydon CR2 7HF
Secretary@stpaulsurc.org.uk
www.stpaulsurc.org.uk
www.facebook.com/stpaulsurc
07971 068887



I thought our Good Friday Service was wonderful - thank you Martin. Holding a nail as we said our last prayer was a new experience for me - I would imagine like using a rosary in prayer. The cross, nails, whip were all used in our Easter flower decorations (see pictures on other pages) . Generous donations for Easter flowers made it easy to fill the sanctuary with various displays - thank you to all who contributed and helped out.

As you can see from this newsletter we have been busy again with events - and what seems to be a never ending maintenance programme. Thank you to all the groups, planning, getting quotes, organising the workforce, hall lettings and to Paul our caretaker who takes care of the building with cleaning and so much more. With Spring here we will no doubt turn our attention to the garden projects and willing hands will be most welcome. We bought some plants last year, due to the exceptionally hot summer Martin & Adam have been caring for around 90 plants due to go into the church garden when the raised beds are completed.

We are continuing with our Warm Space venture - see page 8. Please contact Fran if you are able volunteer.

I am really enjoying the URC Daily Devotions at the moment - learning about Saints - including a dog - yes a dog. Well worth a look.

Thank you to everyone who has sent in an article, if you would like to contribute or would like to have particular information in our newsletter please let me know. Patgo123@aol.com or 07742859552. Pat Granville-Overton

Dear friends,

Sitting here, at the end of April, I find myself echoing words of Paul to the church in Philippi: *'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice!'*

The community was certainly not without its challenges, with internal and external pressures, yet Paul is advocating an attitude of thanksgiving – of rejoicing in God.

Our world, our nation, our local community and the church, face pressures and challenges that we know well – yet there is much to be thankful for as God is still working amongst us. It is important to name those moments, as they give us hope and encouragement as we walk forward together as resurrection people.

It has been wonderful to share in well-attended Holy Week Services with friends from Purley URC and South Croydon United Church, and then a joyful Easter Sunday celebration, with the church so full of beautiful flowers and wonderful people!



On the 16th April, it was a privilege for us to baptise Charlotte Ballard and welcome her, and Eleanor Redshaw, Tony Lindsay and Sharon Ballard into membership, with a wonderful shared lunch afterwards.

Several of us were able to attend the URC's 50th Anniversary service at Methodist Central Hall in London, which was such a celebration with amazing Jazz throughout!



More is on the way, with the redecoration of corridors, new noticeboards inside and out, signs of life in the garden, new folk becoming part of our community – all of these are reasons to rejoice! Not as a boast at our own efforts – but for the Spirit’s movement through us. They are signs of resurrection life and hope at what God’s Kingdom can look like.

It still feels like there is a level of busyness about our shared life at the moment, despite our aim for a year of reflection and consolidation. The Spirituality & Worship Team are planning a Prayer Day during the Summer, giving us space to wonder, with expectation, what the future holds with God and to pray for St Paul’s and beyond.

Perhaps take a moment to give thanks – to ‘[Rejoice in the Lord](#)’ for our life as church every day of the week and to give space for God to speak to you as we seek God’s guidance for the future.

‘Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.’ Philipians 4: 4-7

NRSV

With every blessing,

Martin



**Next church meeting
– Sunday 21st May
after worship**

COMING UP IN 2023!

April 30th: Christian Aid Spring Lunch 12pm

June 24th: Summer Fete

July: Summer BBQ - date TBC

September 24th: Harvest Lunch at 12pm

September 30th: Wine Tasting at 7pm

October 7th: Indoor Boot Sale

**October 21st: [Link to Hope Shoe Box Packing](#)
(Date change!)**

**November 11th: Christmas Gift & Charity Card
Fair**

December 10th: Christmas Lunch

December 16th: Christmas Party

2023 UNLOCK Walk - Saturday April 22nd



This year's focus was Thamesmead and the newly opened Elizabeth Line - an area of contrasts between past and present, affluence and poverty, nature and inner city.

The walk was a linear 7.5 mile route stopping to visit 7 churches of different denominations en route. A happy band of six St Paul's people walked the route in reverse (Abbey Wood to Walthamstow)

If you've not yet sponsored us please do to raise much needed cash for UNLOCK's work with inner city churches.

Maps can be found here [WalkLeaflet37map \(unlock-urban.org.uk\)](http://WalkLeaflet37map.unlock-urban.org.uk) to see what we did

We saw Abbey Wood's Lesnes Abbey ruins, visited the UNLOCK base at Emmanuel Baptist Church and walked Bazalgette Way (the 'ridgeway' above the original Victorian sewers)

Other highlights included sculptures by Anthony Gormley, the brutalist architecture of Thamesmead (featuring in *The Clockwork Orange* and many other films) and much more. It was an opportunity to visit an area profoundly influenced by history and churches working to meet the challenge of inequality and poverty in their communities.

How to donate can be found here: http://www.unlock-urban.org.uk/support_walk.php also please consider supporting Unlock with prayer throughout the year

Cathy Heath

MUSIC AT SANDERSTEAD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

The final concert
in our 2022-23 season:

Sunday 18th June 2023 at 3pm
THE ALFRED & SALAMANDA
SAXOPHONE QUARTET

sanderstead.music@gmail.com



Kindly supplied by Chris Dean
© Culyer Black Inherit the mirth

In & Out - Spirituality & Worship Activities

Our Quiz night on 4th March was well attended with a great Raffle - thank you to those who made donations. Thanks also to Chris & Cathy Dean for setting the majority of the questions, with the toughest round being on Deadly Animals! We served refreshments during the interval with two other rounds relating to flags & countries.

Grateful thanks to everyone who helped out and contributed at this event.

We raised £409.25 for church funds. Very welcome at the moment.

Youth Council held a Tabletop Sale at St Paul's on 11th March - table spaces were all sold and a good number of people came along to buy. Cathy Heath & Wendy Gilbert and others ran a stall for St Paul's, our double table was overflowing with donated goods and the grand sum of £96.93 was raised also for church funds.



Our Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday was a lively event with I think 23 children taking part in the end. As part of our Eco church venture we took part in the RHS Big Seed Sow - we made our seed pots out of newspaper wrapped around a wine bottle. Filled them with soil and wild flower seeds

from RHS. The last photo shows some of the seeds peeping through a couple of weeks later. Some children chose to leave their's for the church garden - these will be planted out in the next few weeks. After hunting for eggs there were lots of crafty activities in the Jubilee room -whilst the parents enjoyed a chat and sit down - the Jubilee Room is working well as a community space!

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Shoebboxes news



Dear Helen Dean:

Thank you so much for registering to join in with the 2023 Link to Hope Family & Elderly Shoebox Appeal. Your leaflets and posters will be sent out to you when they are printed in the Spring.

Your shoebox will go directly to people who are poor and marginalised in Eastern Europe. Link to Hope distributes shoeboxes through trusted partners in Romania, Moldova, Bulgaria and Ukraine. They go to families, the elderly and people that literally struggle to survive on a day to day basis. A simple gift of a shoebox shows love and care for people who would otherwise have very little hope.

Many thanks for your support, it is so appreciated.

Sincerely,



Lisa Hector
General Manager
Link to Hope
lisahector@linktohope.co.uk

We have registered to participate in Link to Hope again this year. The date for packing boxes has changed to Saturday 21st October - a week later than usual.

We are hoping you will be able to contribute, at the moment we are concentrating on the basics - toothpaste, toothbrushes, flannels, soap. Also mugs, cutlery, wooden spoons, reading glasses candles and holders. Pens, pencils and paper. Small (mini) hot water bottles, adult socks, sewing items and wool and knitting needles.

Later on in the year we will update our list with some perishable items - chocolate and sweets etc.

Thank you in advance for any contributions that you make or have already made. We are hoping to collect at least 100 of everything.

Helen Dean & Pat Granville-Overton



WarmSpace becomes WarmWelcomeSpace

Back in October St Paul's was one of the first places to declare a WarmSpace for people to come when the cost of living and heating charges shot up. Our professionally-designed(donated) flyer went everywhere and we registered with the three directories that were established locally and nationally to promote our Thursday-afternoon sessions.

We weren't sure who to expect – but were prepared for anyone with four volunteers each session and activities for all. Over the five months to end March we have been delighted to welcome a regular group of wonderful people who have become friends; we've shared our ups and downs, faith, laughter, awful jokes and team games over tea, coffee, lots of biscuits and supper. It's been an absolute privilege to be part of the team and it just seemed wrong to suddenly stop the group on 20th March as planned. So we are continuing on a monthly basis over the summer, with a smaller pool of volunteers to see where God is directing us.

So if you're passing on the third Thursday afternoon 3.30-6.30 do drop by, say hello and you might even be offered supper! Huge thanks to Fran for the concept and making it all happen!

Here's a photo (with permission!) of our lovely guests and helpers at supper in March.





SPRING LUNCH

12pm Sunday 30th April

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

Includes guest speaker

Joseph Vambe from Christian
Aid & Quiz!

Everyone is welcome to join us for a delicious
lunch. Donations on the day to Christian Aid

To book please contact: franboto@aol.com or 07969 173457

www.stpaulsurc.org.uk



Christian Aid Week 14-20th May 2023

Hello everyone! It's nearly here again and it's time for my nagging. This year the focus is on Malawi and restoration following Cyclone Freddy.

Ahead of Christian Aid week, I do hope that many of you will come to the Spring Lunch on **Sunday 30th April 12pm**. We have Joseph Vambe guest speaker from Christian Aid, a short quiz and a delicious lunch! Please let me know or

sign up on the sheet in the corridor. This has been advertised on the Churches Forum and via other Christian Aid reps in South Croydon Churches.

Secondly, I am looking for anyone willing to do one street or even half of a street in the South Croydon area in terms of house-to-house collections. You can really pick your preferred street! I have ordered some deliver only envelopes too. It may seem totally soul destroying when household after household swears blind that you didn't deliver an envelope, when you know you did the day before, but that time when a householder pops in a £5 note or even all the change they have, makes it all worthwhile. You know that this money will go such a long way in the destination country and really make a difference. Also, the walking is good for our health as we learnt at Guild recently! We raised around £400 from street collections last year so it is worthwhile. I have ordered materials from Christian Aid, which hopefully will come soon so please let me know if you are willing to do a road and I will get them to you before I go away for all of May! (not good planning!) Please keep the bags until my return at the beginning of June.

Sue is kindly coordinating the South Croydon Station collection on **Thursday 18th May, 7-9 am & 5-7 pm**. If you can help for a 20 or 40 min shift, please contact Sue.

Many thanks - Fran

1. **Welcome and apologies** - There were 22 members present plus 4 friends. Apologies from Jeannette, Heather C, Chris, Stuart, Caroline
2. **Minutes of last meeting** on 29 January were accepted
The AV system in the sanctuary was mostly completed with a couple of small items to finish off.
3. **Membership:** The Minister announced four people seeking membership – Charlotte Ballard, Sharon Ballard, Tony Lindsay and Eleanor Redshaw. It was proposed this occur on 16th April. The meeting agreed enthusiastically and unanimously to welcoming the new members.
4. **Building works** – Sue explained that external works are complete with just some minor repairs and pointing outstanding. The crumbling stonework over the South Door required repair but not urgently.
5. **Other works** – Martin showed the new external noticeboard design which was accepted; new noticeboards for the corridors were about to be ordered (funded by the synod mission grant). Full re-decoration of the corridors had not been covered. Two quotes had been obtained, at £3,495 and £2,000, both tradesmen known to members. Dennis confirmed that currently cashflow was not a problem.
The meeting was asked whether to proceed with the corridor decorating at £2000: 20 in favour, 2 abstentions.
6. **Inreach and Outreach** – Helen highlighted the 2nd April Easter Egg Hunt and the lunch on 16th April – other events will be in Pauline. The Quiz night raised £410 and the St Paul's stall at the Table Top Sale raised around £100. Thanks to all who supported these two important outreach events.
7. **Spirituality and Worship** – highlighting the 'bible breakfasts' – an hour with refreshments and food discussing informally the verses from the lectionary and their relevance to our lives today – a sneak preview and a chance to influence and enhance the imminent service! 9.30 every second Sunday.
8. **Safeguarding Policy** – the updated policy had been made available to members on request and was adopted nem con
9. **Any Other Business** – Martin and Bea had attended the Churches Together meeting and Bea will summarise for the Pauline. The Minister reflected on a **new URC video on becoming truly antiracist**. For discussion at a future meeting.
David suggested we host a **discussion evening on faith** including representatives from other faiths – referred to S&W to consider. Also that Croham Park Avenue are planning a **street party** on 7 May, with closure; Sue will ensure all are aware.
Robert asked about the **photos of ministers** – The Minister responded that the photos would be reinstated as part of a montage of St Paul's past and present but whether this would be in the vestry or one of the vestibules should probably have input from a future church meeting.
10. **Date of next meeting** – 21 May after worship

St Paul's URC Annual General Meeting – 26 March 2023



Present: 22 Members plus 4 friends. The Minister opened the meeting with a reflection about what people have seen and see of us, as beloved of God, and mentioned a moving comment made to him by a visitor at the summer fete. "I have seen God's love through you as a church and how you relate to people, and prayer

1 Notes of previous meeting: Last year's AGM minutes had been agreed in May church meeting. Notes of the last church meeting on 29 Jan were agreed nem con. David highlighted his list of questions that followed the meeting.

2 General Reports for 2022: These were summarised by the Minister with some members providing verbal reports. We stood in silence to remember Rev Alistair Hutcheson, Harry Collins and Mina Oundijan who died in the year.

- Minister and elders – Noting three weddings and a baptism
- Inreach and Outreach – Helen presented a summary of the year's activities, trying new things, creative ideas and two very busy 'Jubilee' weekends.
- Spirituality and Worship – We noted the special services and joint work with I&O around Christmas and Easter. Christmas was very busy with several usual helpers unwell.
- Junior church – Huge thanks to all who help with creche as well
- Maintenance and Resources – Steve underlined the significant amount of building and refurbishment work that had taken place. Robert mentioned that the sanctuary heaters are likely to need replacing soon. The West end tarmac path required repair. Peter asked about progress with the accessible pews, these items will go to M&R.
- Uniformed organizations and Youth Council – report accepted with thanks
- Tuesday Guild – Significant charity support. Numbers attending currently very good
- Safeguarding – new item to be part of annual reporting.

3 Treasurer's report and accounts: Dennis Simmonds spoke briefly to his report which had been discussed in January. In year we spent £91k on buildings with £44k received in Synod grants and £19k from fabric fund. . Letting income was £62k including £28k from Connect, much less this year from Vita. Gas costs have doubled and a net monthly outflow of £2k needs addressing with increased income or giving. Excluding the building works there was a net surplus of £17k.

4 Adoption of accounts: proposer David, seconder Steve, agreed unanimously.

The examiners were also thanked; Steve Savage had agreed to reappointment for 2023. This was agreed unanimously.

5 There being no further business, the AGM closed at 12.35

Report from Synod Together meeting - March 11th 2023

We met at the Brighthelm Centre, conveniently placed between the station and the beach. Everyone was delighted that our moderator, Rev. Bridget Banks could be with us after her recent hip operation. The Synod Clerk explained that as the moderator was still on a phased return to work it was likely that she would not preside over the whole meeting, and that Rev. Kim Plumpton would take over when needed. Kim will soon become Moderator of Northern Synod, so this was seen as a useful experience for her.

Our worship was led by Revs Andrew and Sally Willett with an enthusiastic all-age group of singers and prayer leaders from West Thamesmead Christian community. Later on in the meeting we heard how this Christian community was founded and the wide number of ways they bear witness locally, pamphleting, chat sessions, messy Church. I was particularly struck by their production of the Nativity, outdoors in an urban setting. We were told that asking the local councillors to be Wise Men (and Woman) was a good idea as it ensured their very willing co-operation. The first afternoon service in a school hall was in January 2017 and by the 2022 Church anniversary, there were 100 people present. Maurice and Juliana Omorojie gave an account of how they became involved in the church family after moving to the area. Maurice is now training for ministry.



The Synod deployment guides are now available on the [Southern Synod website](#). I can share my copies if anyone is interested. Churches are to be expected to provide much of their own leadership and certainly to

share the limited number of ordained ministers in future. Vision Days and Prayer Days are planned to prepare churches for this.

The energy surveys update was being adjusted to encourage each church to cut its own carbon usage. New manses are now being updated to improve insulation etc.

Tom Hackett, Children's and Youth Development Officer, described some new initiatives and resources. URC Children had just launched a new resource for ages 0 – 11, Faith Adventures for Children Together - a weekly Bible-based resource for children's groups from the URC - [See URC website](#)

The Children and Youth Friendly Church Synod Scheme was about to be taken forward and anyone interested in helping in the planning was invited to get in touch with Tom. Caterham URC had just been awarded Children and Youth Friendly status and representatives from Caterham received a letter confirming that they were now a Children and Youth Friendly Church.

The 2023 all-age resource book Love is... had been sent to all URC churches in February 2023. It was also available online https://bit.ly/URC_CYW resources or as hard copy from children.youth@urc.org.uk Commitment for Life- annual resources had been produced for some of the countries associated with this scheme

Talking about.... There was a monthly online gathering for all who work with children and young people, hosted by the CYDO+ team held at 7pm on the fourth Thursday of each month. www.bit.ly/URC Talking About Topics for the next few sessions were 27 April 2023 - Eco Church 25 May 2023 - Recruiting and Retaining Team Members 22 June 2023 - Resources – where to find them & what to look out for.

Youth Mental Health training is still available online, see the Synod's monthly training newsletter.

We watched the Legacies of Slavery video "Telling it like it is" , and hope to show in at a future St Paul's church meeting.

Rev. Jacob Bali spoke about his work as a special category evangelist minister, emphasising the need for faith in action, hope in the community and love on display.

Next Synod together meeting will be Saturday 21st October, 2023.

Bea Pollard

Hold the Date - Synod Area
meeting - all welcome Sat 17th
June - come and meet the
'officers' and Synod staff!

4,842 meals provided in our second busiest March

Last month was our second busiest March in the Food Hub's 10-year history, behind only March 2020 (at the start of the first Covid pandemic lockdown). It was also the fifth busiest month since we started. **No one can quite remember it happening before, but during April we completely ran out of one of our major stock items for clients.**



Food for **4,842 meals** was delivered in March for 538 hard-pressed clients and family members across South Croydon, Purley, Coulsdon and Waddon - 1,600 more meals than in February and nearly 1,300 more than in March 2022. Last month's total took us past **300,000 meals overall** since 2013.

Louise Willmer, acting Management Committee Chair, says: "We continue to experience very high client demand and we thank everyone for your generous response following our urgent appeal for extra donations.

"Every donation received is very much appreciated and makes a significant difference to people facing food hardship at this time."

It's back to basics for our 'most needed' list

To replenish the shelves after our busy March, it's back to basics in our monthly appeal for the items we need most during May.

Small 500g bags of sugar. Tinned tomatoes and tinned rice pudding which are close to becoming completely depleted.

Hot chocolate drinking requiring only water	Tins of dessert fruit
Microwave tray meals for toddlers	Bars of soap
Unisex shampoo and unisex deodorants	Washing powder tablets.

[Click here](#) to view this month's full list.

Donations can be delivered on **Monday, Wednesday and Saturday mornings between 9.00am - 12.00noon** to our base at Purley United Reformed Church in Purley town centre (next to Purley Hospital). Or they can be dropped off at any of our local in-store and roadside collection points [listed here](#). Or bring items to church and they will be taken to the Hub

Wednesday 7th June - please save the date now

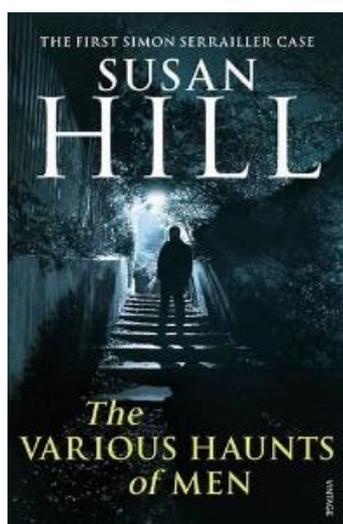
To mark the Food Hub's 10 years of service this year the Trustees and Management Committee are holding an **Evening of Thanksgiving on Wednesday 7th June from 5.00pm**.

All PFH volunteers, friends, donors and supporters - past and present - are warmly invited to the event, to be held at our base at Purley United Reformed Church, 906 Brighton Road, Purley CR8 2LN (next to Purley Hospital).

St Paul's Book Group

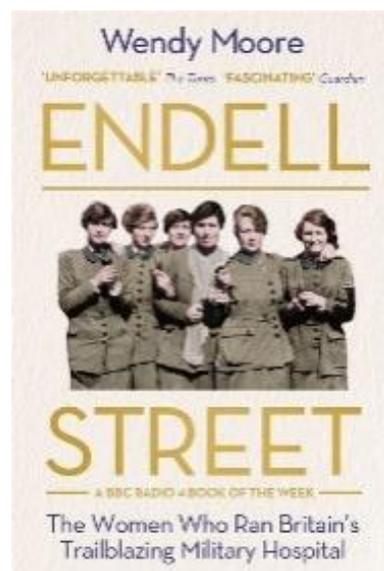
It's been a busy few months. Some of the group made it to The Barbican Theatre to see the play *Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead*. It is based on the book of the same name by Polish author and Nobel prize winner Olga Tokarczuk, which we read back in February. The hero of the play, an elderly lady with a passion for animal rights, takes centre stage and members of the local hunting club are gradually killed off. The performance was totally absorbing yet very simply done. Our hero spent much of her time at the central microphone, yet the stage was filled with video and lighting effects. Deer are played by actors with raised hands reflecting her belief that animals have the same right to life as humans. The book was quite controversial; for inciting eco-terrorism and for being anti-church. A thoroughly enjoyable evening

Here are the next two books. If you know anyone who might like to join do take a flier to give to them.



May 11th 12:30pm (Coombe Woods Café)
- The Various Haunts of Men by Susan Hill

Cathy



June 8th 7:30pm (Jubilee Room) *Endell Street* by Wendy Moore.



Reflect and connect at our prayer forum on Thursday 18 May 7:30-8:30pm (Zoom online)

The A Rocha UK Churches team will lead us in prayer before we meet in smaller breakout groups to pray with others for the work of caring for creation in our churches and for each other.

Register [here](#)

Tuesday Guild

The Tuesday Guild has been part of the social scene of St Paul's for many years - A friendly, all age group, we meet on Tuesdays in our 'small hall' for tea or coffee at 10.15 am then our speaker or activity starts at 10.30am. We finish around 11.30

We invite anyone in the local community to join us on a regular or occasional basis & share in friendship. Through many of our guest speakers we raise awareness & support a wide range of different charities.

May 2023

2nd Outing to Watts Gallery and village nr Guildford then Break for Summer.

July/August/September: summer coffee mornings.

19th September 2023: New programme starts

Membership of St. Paul's Guild is open to all and new members, men and women, are welcome throughout the year.

The annual subscription is £15 payable in September plus a voluntary donation for refreshments.

Guests are welcomed for a small charge of £2 per session

More details from the Church Secretary, Sue Eardley

Contact : 07971 068887 Email: Secretary@StPaulsURC.org.uk



David comes a cropper, like St Paul's?

May I first thank Cathy, overseen by Fran, for patching me up, after a recent fall, my luck has not changed yet, (see my latest article). Now coming to St Paul's, some may be shocked that unless something radical happens, we only have 5 years to go, but church is us, not our 120-year old building. East Croydon are demolishing and re-building, we could do the same, despite grade 2 status, with a large block of flats and a smaller, warmer St Paul's, built, designed for multi use, at the centre of our community. Lets discuss this as this radical, but possible, future solution, so St Paul's lives on.

David White

IS JESUS RELIGIOUS OR POLITICAL?

In the world there are 3 types of person

- a. Those like a PM or Chief Executive or a Field Marshall, who create policy or strategies
- b. Then most who are senior directors, executives, generals etc with the troops and workers, who do stuff, at a cost, which is where I spent my finance career - and
- c. A small group consisting of Ghandi, Mandela, Bonhoffer, and among the young including Malarla and Greta Thunberg, but also Zelensky and myself, who challenge both groups.

This requires great energy and courage, something Rev Barbara Exley realised I had, as a gift from God, hence why she persuaded me to membership, but I am also an ideas person. There is one person whom I have omitted from this group, and it is Jesus, who via the Holy Spirit, inspires each of us, through the journey of life. At a recent LICC, I witnessed many coming to realise that the, URC church, will not only change 'gathered' but also 'scattered' worship. For some, this change may feel uncomfortable, when we have a government, which is both intellectually and morally bankrupt. I await with patience to see what happens, all playing their part, do not underestimate the Power of God in this world.

David White.

7th/12th Croydon Scouts and Croham Valley Explorers

I am pleased to report that the pace of Scouting activity has not slackened over the past 6 weeks, and as the weather warms up we have been operating more outside.

District and County events have been to the fore. The older Cubs and younger Scouts took part with other Groups in the Cub and Scout Linking Day at Bears Wood. There were eight different bases ranging from using an axe to cut timber to first aid training and CPR, and from cooking backwoods style to whittling tent pegs - no injuries were reported thankfully.

A Scout team took part with 40 other teams in the County Night Exercise near Box Hill and were out until 3.00 am when the judges decided to retire them. They were a young team and their chance will come again. Five Scouts also successfully completed their Pioneer badge by learning knots and lashings and reeving pulley blocks before constructing a 30 feet long monkey bridge.

The Beavers have been busy with badgework and on Palm Sunday several took part in the Easter Egg Hunt at the church.

The Explorers have had a varied programme which has included making peppermint creams, and hot cross buns in a mug, bin bag fashion creation, a widegame in Lloyd Park, and a Lego Building Challenge. Four Explorers completed the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award practice expedition from East Grinstead to Horsted Keynes but not via the Bluebell Railway! They camped overnight at Blackland Farm.

Finally congratulations to Eagle Patrol who won the Scout Inter-Patrol Competition in March, and welcome to Chi Igwe who has joined the Scout Leadership Team.

Chris Dean (GSL/ESL)



Advance notice - Summer fete 24 June

We're planning for the fete already! Please put aside your donations - bric-a-brac, items for the tombola, plants, spare family members*, books, ideas, and plenty of your time to help set up and make the day the success it was last year. Thank you!

In and Out / Guild teams

(*to help!),

Online Youth Mental Health First Aid

Learn to support young people

- Gain an in-depth understanding of mental health and factors that can affect wellbeing in the youth sector
- Develop practical skills to spot the triggers and signs of mental health issues
- Feel confident to step in, reassure and support a young person in distress
- Enhance your interpersonal skills such as non-judgemental listening and learn to champion self-care

For more info and to book, contact:



Children's & Youth Development Officers
Mersey Synod - Steven Mitchell cydo@urcmerseysynod.org.uk
Southern Synod - Tom Hackett cydo@urcsouthern.org.uk

Visit the MHFA England website at mhfaengland.org
Find us on social media @MHFAEngland

Fully Funded Spaces Available

Register at:

www.bit.ly/may-mhfa

May 2023 - Evening Course

18:30-21:30

4 online sessions

Tues 16, Thurs 18

Tues 23, Thurs 25



Contact Tom Hackett - CYDO@urcsouthern.org.uk for more about MHFA

ST PAUL'S

SUMMER

FETE

Saturday 24th June

2pm - 4:30pm

**ST PAUL'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
CROHAM PARK AVE, CR2 7HF**

FREE ENTRY

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!

- Bouncy castle •
- Face painting •
- Outdoor games •
- Cake • Ice cream •
- Refreshments •
- Children's craft activities •
- Plant stall • Tombola •
- Bric-a-brac stall •
- Soul Symphony Choir •
- and much more!

www.stpaulsurc.org.uk