

# Vacancy Update – 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Mark Goodman and Rosalyn Holiday

## What's been happening?

We have continued our visits to LIFE groups and will be starting to run both Zoom and garden meetings for those of you not currently in a LIFE group. We have agreed provisional interview dates for our new vicar, and we have arranged some dates to pray for the vacancy process. Please see the information boxes below and add the dates to your diaries.

**We have been asking groups to consider 5 questions before we visit so that you can give us your considered opinions.**

**5 Questions for St Paul's family members to consider:**

1. What are the strengths of St Paul's?
2. Where do we think Jesus is leading us?
3. What would it be like for someone to minister and live in the parish?
4. What might be the challenges ahead?
5. What are your concerns for the process of selecting a new incumbent?

## Martin and Wendy's leaving parties

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to the events on 18<sup>th</sup> July. We look forward to it being a very special day.

If you would like to write a thank you note to Martin, please either pick up a blue A6 sized card from church and send it to Mark Goodman, 26 Northey Avenue, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 7HR or email your message to Mark or Rosalyn and we will incorporate it into part of his present.

## Possible time-line

Both the Bishop and Archdeacon will be involved with us in shortlisting and interviewing prospective candidates to be our new vicar. We have agreed the following provisional dates with the Bishop's office: shortlisting on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022; interviewing on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

This means that we will be advertising in January 2022

## Zoom Meetings and Garden coffee meetings

If you aren't in a LIFE group and would like to give your input into the process, Rosalyn will be hosting Zoom meetings immediately following the Sunday services on 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> July. Zoom number - 604 787 6725. Alternatively, please follow the link on the website.

On both these dates, Mark will be hosting coffee in his garden, 26 Northey Avenue, for people who would like to chat in person, rather than on Zoom.

This will also be an opportunity to ask any questions about the process, answer the above 5 questions and seek clarification about anything in connection with the vacancy.

## Prayer Meetings

We want to earnestly seek God's plan for our church during the vacancy and for His plans for our future. To do this, we encourage everyone to prioritise these meetings so that we can all take an active part in the way forward. These months without an incumbent are a time for us to grow in relationship with one another and to deepen our relationship with God. We hope you will be excited about what these times of prayer will bring to each of us as we seek God's face and listen to His guidance.

We will be meeting on Zoom on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, beginning on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August in the Hearts Cry slot on Zoom and the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month, beginning on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July in the church. Please put them in your diaries now.

Tuesday timings – 8.30-9.15pm

Wednesday timings – 8.00-9.30pm