

ST PAUL'S HADLEY WOOD is an Anglican evangelical Church which enjoys a long history of being part of the community of Hadley Wood. Everyone is always welcome at our meetings and in fact we would welcome anyone within the community to join us on any Sunday at 10:30am as all our meetings are for everyone to experience regardless of race, religion or background. Our conviction is that when the bible is clearly and faithfully taught then people hear God's word and so this is what shapes our ministry here in Hadley Wood.

St Paul's Church, Hadley Wood along with everyone else has had a challenging year through lockdown. We have wept and mourned at the loss of loved ones, marked in particular on the National Day of Reflection in March. We have prayed for those in the community serving on the 'front line' during the pandemic, and for those in our hospitals or ill at home. We have offered practical help within the community, and carried on as best we can under the tight restrictions imposed.

Christmas last year was restricted with no large inside events, so an outside Christingle service was organised with people spaced out using football chalk to mark out boxes two metres apart. A giant Christingle orange was made illustrating that amongst the dark times we were experiencing that Jesus is still "the light of the world." A traditional Christmas tree for the first time was placed in the gardens along with figurines of the nativity scene which were illuminated by a festoon of lights kindly lent by the Hadley Wood Association - thank you! This enabled drivers and walkers to be reminded of the wonderful news at Christmas of the special birth of Jesus who came to save his people from all their sins. We are looking forward this coming Christmas to be able to have some mulled wine and nibbles after our Christingle services.



Multimedia came to our assistance over Easter with an 'Aspects of Easter' presentation celebrating Easter through the Bible, art and music, which was followed up with a Zoom discussion. Then on Good Friday there was a meditation online with readings, reflections and prayer focusing on the events leading up to the cross of Christ where Jesus was our substitute so that we might be forgiven our sins. On Easter Sunday there was a service with the Lord's Supper backed up with an online option for those who were unable to attend physically. To top it all there was a wonderful Easter Garden with the cross reminding us of Christ death for us and then a few feet away a floral visual aid pointing to an empty tomb, making the point that Christ rose from the dead to give us the wonderful hope of a future for all those who put their trust in him.



Our five bible study groups continued to meet over the year with some even growing in numbers which was a great encouragement to us all. This is when we study books within the Bible for a clearer understanding of what God is saying in our world and how we can be put into a right relationship with God.

Baptisms have been limited this year, but we have had a few with a grandfather sharing a baptism with his granddaughter. One regular event was the return of the dog show in September which was probably the best attended dog show run by St Paul's during the past 17 years. A new event was the 'Light Party' aimed at primary school children. This provided a fun-filled time of crafts, games and a maze winding through the main church building

where children had to find clues and adults be tested with general knowledge questions about light and electricity! The event was held to celebrate that Jesus said he was “the light of world” even though throughout history many people have tried to blow out that light. A final mention is that we always hold our Remembrance Sunday Service at 10:30am to which everyone in the community is welcome. Here we will remember all those who have died in conflict and lay a wreath at our Memorial Board. Do join us as “We Remember them.”

Retirement of Rupert, our Minister

In August the following announcement was made by the church wardens who are the lay-leaders of the ministry :

“Rupert Mackay is retiring after 17 years here. He could have stayed on for a further 8 years, but has decided what is best for the church is to search for another young Minister who will take the work on into the future. Rupert has very kindly agreed to remain in post until 30th April next year which gives us almost 9 months to look for a new Minister and should be a help to keep the interregnum as short as possible. We would like to say how greatly we have benefitted from his gentle and firm leadership, his wisdom and honest Bible teaching. To a large extent, when looking for a new Minister we think a younger Rupert would be a good model! Thank you Rupert for all that you have done for us. ”

We are now looking forward to Christmas 2021 which will hopefully be more ‘normal’ than last year. It will be wonderful see many faces - new and familiar - from Hadley Wood at our Christmas Services, and share in the joy of the birth of Jesus. We give thanks for the Hadley Wood Association and all those who serve this community in any way, and rejoice that St Paul’s Church can serve the Lord and spread His good news in Hadley Wood.

**The Churchwardens, Church Council and Trustees of St Paul’s Church,
Hadley Wood**

November 2021