

## **ST OSWALD'S – HERE FOR CHRIST, COMMUNITY AND CREATION**

### **COLLECT FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT**

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:

grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure;

that when he shall appear in power and great glory

we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;

where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### **SUNDAY READINGS**

8am: Daniel 12.1-3; Mark 13.1-8

10am: Luke 4.14-29

### **INTERCESSIONS**

We pray: for those in particular need; for those who mourn for Alan Penman and Valerie Griffiths (RIP 20.11.2023); for our 10% mission giving recipients: USPG, CMS, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Church Army Marylebone Project, Alternatives Newham, Watford Schools Trust and A Rocha.

### **RESIGNATION OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY**

The Vicar writes: "The resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury on Tuesday and the reasons behind it have been widely covered by the media, not always accurately or fairly. I have great and continuing respect for Justin Welby and am grateful for the role he has taken in the Church as Archbishop. However, in the light of the very serious failings in the Church of England as detailed in the Makin Report into abuse committed by John Smyth, I believe resignation was the right course of action. This affair has underlined the absolute necessity of creating a Church culture, both nationally and locally, in which everyone is kept safe and I am personally so grateful to our excellent Parish Safeguarding Team, Val Edwards and Catherine Farman, and others down the years, who have worked so hard towards this end at St Oswald's. Val can be contacted via the email for safeguarding matters:

[safeguarding@stoswaldschurch.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stoswaldschurch.org.uk). A final word should be a recognition of the appalling damage done to those subjected to Smyth's abuse and the deep distress caused to all victims of abuse every time issues of this nature are brought to light, even more so when there is a failure to provide proper support and redress."

### **SPOTLIGHT SERVICE**

The Spotlight Service this Sunday will focus on Homelessness and we shall be welcoming as our speaker Rebecca Palmer from New Hope, the charity we supported with our gifts at Harvest Festival. The leaflet drop in December (see below) is another opportunity to support New Hope.

### **ALL SOULS' SERVICE OF LOVING REMEMBRANCE**

This year's All Souls' Memorial Service, at which we remember loved ones who have died, takes place 3pm this Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November. Please note that names now submitted will not be read out but included on a wall display and on a printed list. However, there will also be an opportunity for those attending the service to make their own personal act of remembrance.

### **NEW HOPE CHRISTMAS APPEAL**

New Hope are planning a door drop from 3rd to 10th December, delivering leaflets for their Home for Christmas appeal to homes across Watford and the surrounding areas, as a key part of raising awareness and generating donations. If you would like to help, please contact Jane Brading.

### **MAGAZINE DEADLINE**

The deadline for material for the December/January issue of the Parish Magazine is Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November.

### **CHILDREN'S SOCIETY CHRISTMAS CARDS**

The Children's Society Christmas cards have now arrived. If you ordered cards, please collect them from the back of the Church.

### **CAFÉ O CLOSED ON MONDAY**

Due to the refurbishment of the church kitchen this week, Cafe O will be closed on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November. The work will hopefully be finished by next weekend, to be dedicated by the Bishop of Hertford on Sunday 24th November.

### **EVENSONG AT THE ABBEY**

The Vicar will be made an honorary canon of St Albans Abbey at a service of Evensong at the Abbey at 5pm on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November and members of the congregation are welcome to attend.

### **ALAN PENMAN**

Alan Penman's Funeral is to be on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 10.45am at Chiltern Crematorium and afterwards at the Hazelmere Golf Club.

### **NEW ORGAN**

Observant members of the congregation may have observed that a new organ has been installed in Church, thanks to the amazing generosity of an anonymous donor. It is hoped that the organ will be dedicated by Bishop Jane when she visits next Sunday.

### **PARISH NURSES**

Canon Miriam Mugan has responded on behalf of the Parish Nursing Trustees to the receipt of the £139 raised at our recent Taizé Service: "We really appreciate the support for the work of Parish Nursing here in Croxley. Please share our thanks with folk at St Oswald's". The next Taizé Service will be a united occasion for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on Sunday 19th January at 3.30pm.

## **PUDDING AND CRAFT EVENING**

This is going to be on Sunday 1st December from 6-8pm. Tickets are now all sold out but if you would like to go on a waiting list, please contact Margaret Cox.

## **OLD BANK NOTES**

Although we are very grateful for all contributions, please note that it is now very difficult to exchange bank notes as these are no longer legal tender.

## **CARING FOR CREATION**

The UN Climate Change Conference (COP 29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, is now underway until 22<sup>nd</sup> November. This key international conference takes place at a pivotal moment for God's creation. The Anglican Church will be represented at the conference, reflecting our Christian calling to promote hope, peace, wisdom, justice and health and wellbeing as we address the climate crisis, and calling on all participants to do likewise. Your prayers are requested.

## **SUPPORTING THE PERSECUTED CHURCH**

Last Sunday was the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. On 20<sup>th</sup> November, many churches will observe Red Wednesday, initiated by Aid to the Church in Need, as an opportunity to stand with the millions of Christians across the world who endure unimaginable hardship simply because of their faith. Bishop Alan has written to encourage the churches of the diocese to engage more fully with the realities of religious persecution through the new set of resources launched by the Church of England at:

[www.churchofengland.org/about/views/international-religious-freedom](http://www.churchofengland.org/about/views/international-religious-freedom). ACN have drawn up an Open Letter calling on the Government to make persecuted Christians and other religious minorities a priority for taxpayer-funded UK aid. The letter can be signed at: <https://acnuk.org/our-campaigns/red-wednesday-advocacy-letter>.

## **A PRAYER FOR THE PERSECUTED**

Almighty God, who sustained the apostles of your Son through trials and imprisonment, give strength and hope to all who are persecuted for their faith. Keep them under the shadow of your wings, that they may trust in your unfailing love, and stand steadfast in the face of trouble. Help us, with them, to labour for the coming of your kingdom of righteousness and justice, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **ST OSWALD'S PRAYER FELLOWSHIP**

Our Prayer Fellowship is a small group of church members who give confidential prayer support and undertake to pray for each person each day. While including names on the main intercessions means that all church members are able to bring the person to God in prayer, for a variety of reasons this is sometimes not appropriate, which is why the Prayer Fellowship was set up. If you would like us to provide prayer support for yourself or others please contact Jane Brading. Please also speak with Jane if you would like to join the Prayer Fellowship, which is an invisible but important part of St Oswald's ministry. We would be pleased to hear that you feel called to join us.

## **DRINK MORE WINE!**

Around 100 wine bottles (empty!) are needed for a craft activity at Donut and Hotdog Club in December and also for the Pudding and Craft Evening. They can be left in a box to be provided in Church. It would be very helpful if they could have had their labels soaked off. Also needed are letters from old scrabble sets - doesn't matter if some are lost.

## **MEN'S BREAKFAST**

The last meeting of the year will be on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 7.45am and will be an opportunity to share a seasonal reading, joke or recommendation for something seen, watched or visited during the year.

## **SARRATT CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL**

Holy Cross Church's Christmas Tree Festival runs on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November (9.30am-2.30pm), Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> (10am-4pm) and Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December (10am-3pm). Entry by donation. Refreshments available. Live music at various times. Enquiries: [holycrossstpauls@outlook.com](mailto:holycrossstpauls@outlook.com); 01923 264377.

## **YORKE MEAD OPEN MORNING**

Yorke Mead Primary School are hosting an Open Morning for prospective parents on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 10am -12pm, with fun activities provided for children.

## **FACING THE FINANCIAL CHALLENGES**

As we face financial challenges as a church, it's vital to consider our long-term future. The PCC believes fresh thinking is essential, and so we're forming a small working group to explore how to make our church buildings work harder financially. We're looking for about six people to join the group to explore all ideas—big or small! Rest assured, any proposals will involve input from the congregation. If you're interested in joining the working group, please contact Jonathan Cox or speak to him in person.

## **TOTO LUNCH**

The next monthly meeting of the TOTO Lunch Club (for Those On Their Own) will be on WEDNESDAY 4<sup>th</sup> December (venue tba). It is intended to vary the day of the week each month to enable a variety of people to attend.

## **CYBERCRIME EVENT**

Visit Croxley Green Library on 26th November between 10.45am and 3.30pm for a programme of informative talks by fraud and cyber professionals from Hertfordshire Police, Hertfordshire County Council's Shared Anti-Fraud Service, Trading Standards and Beacon/Victim Care Fraud Hub.

## **GIVE AS YOU LIVE AND SUPPORT ST OSWALD'S**

Church members have already raised over £70 so far for St Oswald's by shopping through Give as You Live Online. By signing up to the scheme, the church receives a donation every time you shop online at a registered store, including John Lewis, eBay, Currys, Booking.com, M&S

and Just Eat, at no extra cost to yourself. For more information, please visit:  
<https://www.giveasyoulive.com>.

### **FOODBANK DONATIONS**

A bag at the back of Church is available for donations to Croxley Food Bank.

### **SAFEGUARDING NEWS**

At St Oswald's we take our safeguarding responsibilities very seriously. Our aim is to provide a safe place for all. Val Edwards is our Parish Safeguarding Officer. Val is supported by Catherine Farman. The email for safeguarding matters is: [safeguarding@stoswaldschurch.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stoswaldschurch.org.uk).

### **CHURCH FINANCES**

Many church members contribute regularly to St Oswald's through the Parish Giving Scheme ([www.parishgivingscheme.org.uk](http://www.parishgivingscheme.org.uk)). You can join the scheme by telephoning 0333 002 1271, providing your bank account details, church/parish name (Croxley Green St Oswald) and PGS parish code (320632193). "One off" donations can be made on the church website ([www.stoswaldschurch.org.uk](http://www.stoswaldschurch.org.uk)), by a cheque payable to "St Oswald's PCC" or directly to the Church's bank account for which the details are: St Oswald's Church Hall, sort code 20 45 45 and account number 60135720.

### **GLUTEN FREE WAFERS AND READING GLASSES**

Please inform a sidesperson if you require a gluten free wafer. There is a tin of various glasses at the back of church which can be borrowed if needed and replaced at the end of the service.

Blessings,  
Robert