

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

COLLECTS FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,
and by following in his Way come to share in his glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

READINGS

8am: Psalm 27; Luke 10.25-37

10am: Luke 10.25-37

INTERCESSIONS

We pray: for those in particular need; for those who mourn for Michael Howard, David Burke and Monica Warner; for our 10% mission giving recipients: USPG, CMS, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Church Army Marylebone Project, Alternatives Newham, Watford Schools Trust, Croxley Parish Nurse, The Trinity Project and A Rocha.

MICHAEL HOWARD RIP

The funeral of Eileen Howard's son, Michael, who died on Sunday 23rd February, will be in Church at 2.30pm on Thursday 20th March after a private committal. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

TRINITY PROJECT HOPE NIGHT

January's postponed event with a focus on early intervention and prevention of teen suicide has been rescheduled to Monday 17th March 7.30pm at St Oswald's with Guest Speaker Chris Sibley from Ollie Foundation. Please support this worthwhile event.

CLEAR-UP MORNINGS

Thank you to everyone who came to help with the last month's clear-up Mornings. There will be further opportunities to tidy up Church, Hall and grounds on 22nd and 29th March. Please put the dates in your diary.

EASTER LILY CARD

Once again there will be a card in church over the Easter period with names of people you wish to be remembered. Envelopes are available - please PRINT CLEARLY the name/s on the outside of the envelope - and you are invited to make a small donation which can be sealed

inside the envelope and placed in the "Easter Lily" flower box at the back of the church. Money donated helps to pay for the Easter displays, and any extra will be used towards flower costs at other times of the year. Names by PALM SUNDAY please, 13th April.

NEW ELECTORAL ROLL

This year St Oswald's will compile a new Electoral Roll. Formally the Roll lists those who can vote at the church annual meeting on 27th April. It also indicates informally the membership of St Oswald's. We would be grateful if those on the previous Roll together with others who attend would complete the application form. Anyone aged 16 and over can be entered on the roll and it is open to members of the Church of England and members of other churches. Forms will be provided at the back of church. Completed forms should be given to Brian Thomson or the churchwardens. The final date for applications to be received is Sunday 6th April. Any questions to Brian or the churchwardens please.

LENT COURSE IS UNDER WAY

The Churches Together Lent Course has got off to a great start. Alternative sessions at 2pm and 7.30pm continue as follows: 20th March at the Baptist Church; 27th March at the Baptist Church; 3rd April 2pm at St Oswald's Church and 7.30pm at the Baptist Church; 10th April at St Bede's RC Church. These meetings are open to anyone and everyone.

ST OSWALD'S QUIZ EVENING

Enjoy a great evening out at our annual quiz on Saturday 29th March, 7 for 7.30pm with a bring-and-share supper (bring your own drink) and raffle. Tickets at £10 per person are available from Debbie Clifford or Carole Battell.

WELL DONE TOM!!!

Tom Lisle has completed an amazing 700 miles cycle ride to Inverness in aid of New Hope's work supporting the homeless and preventing homelessness. You can sponsor him on the JustGiving website (www.justgiving.com) by searching for Thomas Lisle.

STOP THE PRESS - SAVE THE DATES!

St Oswald's Holiday Club will run from 23rd July to 25th July for children currently in Reception to Year 6. Applications for children, young helpers and adults will open 2nd April 2025. There will be a meeting for everyone involved with the Holiday Club at 8pm on 22nd April in the church. Any questions please contact Vanessa (07749880877; auntiebones@hotmail.com).

NAPPIES FOR ALTERNATIVES

In Lent this year we are asking for donations of baby products for Alternatives, East London. The following items can be left in a box provided at the church entrance: nappies - including pull ups, baby wipes, baby body wash and lotion, Sudocream, baby food, baby grow vests and bodysuits.

WATFORD SCHOOLS TRUST REQUEST

WST are planning to trial a new resource called 'Easter in a Box' in 2 schools and 1 church and are looking for 3-4 volunteers to help with each event. Each volunteer will take one of four

stations where children explore a part of the Easter story (Palm Sunday, Last Supper, Garden of Gethsemane, Trial & Crucifixion). Volunteers are needed for the following dates: Tuesday 25 March 9.15am-12noon at HARVEY ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL, Croxley Green; Wednesday 26 March 9.15am-12noon at RICKMANSWORTH PARK SCHOOL; and possibly for Monday 31 March 10am-12.15pm and 12.45-14.45pm at Woodside Community Church. You will need to have a current DBS and be willing to show ID at the school. Contact WST on info@watfordschoolstrust.org.

NEW HOPE CELEBRATION

This year New Hope celebrates 35 years of supporting the homeless and preventing homelessness at a service on Monday 24th March at 7.30pm at Beechen Grove Baptist Church in Watford. All friends and supporters welcome.

THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN

The Parish Council is organising two litter-picks on 26th and 29th March and it would be good to have St Oswald's taking part. The litter-picks are as follows: Wednesday March 26th 12 noon to 5pm, meeting at Parish Council office, Barton Way car park 'for an adventure round our public footpaths and boundary'; Saturday March 29th 12 noon to 5pm meeting 'at the Mill Lane side of Weston Wood to embark on a litter picking journey around the woods, canal and Croxley Common Moor'.

TOTO LUNCH

The next TOTO Lunch (for Those On Their Own) will be on Wednesday 2nd April, at the Red House.

CHRISTIAN AID ARTS CAFÉ

The Arts Café will be held at our church again on the first Saturday after Easter, 11am to 4pm 26th April. We would be most grateful for volunteers to help set up (9am to 11am), clear away (4pm to 5pm), serve tea (a shift during the event) and make donations of cakes. Chris Gregory would be delighted to hear from you on cg@chrisgregory.uk if you can help with any of these.

RECYCLABLES

At the moment we have no way of recycling pens. Please separate plastic components from your pens for the recycling bin at home if possible and put what's left into the household refuse bin. We keep looking for alternatives to the recycling we have been using in the past and we will let you know when alternatives become available.

CROXLEY REVELS

The Revels this year will be on Saturday 28th June and Café O plans to be there! Please put the date in your diaries. Incidentally, the somewhat later date than usual means it will be possible to attend the amazing Alban Pilgrimage (www.stalbanscathedral.org/alban-pilgrimage) as well since this is on the previous Saturday, 21st June. Worth putting that date in your diaries too!

NEW RAINBOW LEADERS NEEDED

The Rainbows are on the lookout for new leaders. The Vicar can put you in touch if you are interested.

THE ENVIRONMENT AND ESCHATOLOGY...NOT THE END OF THE WORLD?'

A Panel Discussion and Debate is to be held at Croxley Green Baptist Church on Thursday 10th April 2025 at 7pm. This event is being hosted by Faith & Thought, a Christian forum exploring science, ethics and culture since 1865. The panel comprises several leading experts in the field, Celia Deane-Drummond, Dave Gregory, Margot Hodson, John Weaver, David Wilkinson, Tim Middleton and Tim Judson. This is part of a series of lectures on the subject, but you do not need to have attended the other lectures to join in. More details and free registration is here: <https://www.faithandthought.org/2025-lecture-series.html>. The organiser is Alan Kerry who can be contacted on admin@faithandthought.org. There is also a very short promotional video at <https://youtu.be/AxX0AbIJF0o>.

VICAR'S LAST SERVICE

The Vicar's last service at St Oswald's will be at 10am on Easter Sunday.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 27th April Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Wednesday 21st May 7.30pm Robert's licensing in Sawbridgeworth as Associate Minister

Thursday 5th June 7.30pm Parish Vacancy Meeting with Bishop and Archdeacon open to all members of St Oswald's

EASTER MONDAY PILGRIMAGE

On Easter Monday, 21st April, St Albans Cathedral hosts a joyful service at 2.30pm that brings people together from across the Diocese. Pilgrims from St Oswald's will leave from the bottom shops at 9.30am. Please speak to Julie Carpenter to avoid leaving anyone behind!

A SEASON TO SING

Croxley Green Community Choir, directed by Gerry O'Beirne, will present a new choral re-imagining of Vivaldi's Four Seasons by Joanna Forbes-L'Estrange on Wednesday 2nd April at 7.45pm in Holy Rood Church, Market Street, Watford, with refreshments afterwards in the Parish Centre. Tickets are £15 (accompanied under 18s free) in aid of Rennie Grove Peace Hospice and the Society of St Vincent de Paul and available by email at choir.cgcc@gmail.com.

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 at jcox208@gmail.com or speak to him in person.

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>.

SAFEGUARDING

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.

CHURCH FINANCES

Many church members contribute regularly to St Oswald's through the Parish Giving Scheme (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), 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