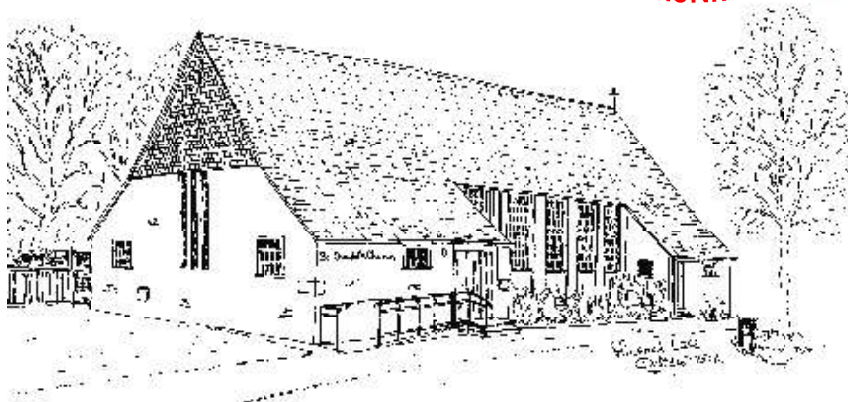
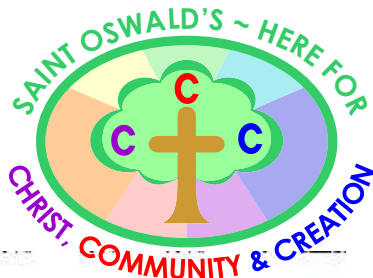


# PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST. OSWALD'S CROXLEY GREEN



## December 2024 & January 2025



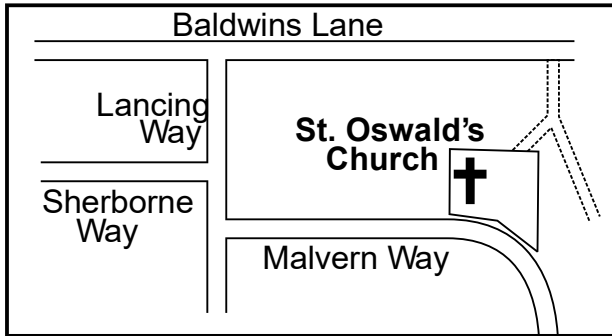
## St. Oswald's Church - About us

We are part of the Church of England in the St. Alban's Diocese.

Our website is [www.stoswaldschurch.org.uk](http://www.stoswaldschurch.org.uk)

And on Facebook : StOswaldsCG

You will find us at 17 Malvern Way, WD3 3QL just off Baldwins Lane. There is a direct footpath link from Baldwins Lane into the rear of the church grounds and car park access from Malvern Way. The office entrance is at the back of the church hall.



# Here for Christ, Community and Creation





## **CHURCH CONTACTS**



**Vicar:** Revd Robert Riley- Braley tel : 01923 332244

email: vicar@stoswaldschurch.org.uk

**Lay Readers:** Tony Barton tel:01923 897256

Email: tony.barton@stoswaldschurch.org.uk:

Magdalena Pletsch email: magdalena.pletsch@stoswaldschurch.org.uk

### **Church Wardens:**

Helen McAlpine email: hccmc Alpine@gmail.com

Anne Georgina Barnes 01923 897875

email: warden2@stoswaldschurch.org.uk

**Treasurer:** Karen Pryse email: karen.pryse@stoswaldschurch.org.uk

**PCC Secretary:** Brian Thomson email: secretary@stoswaldschurch.org.uk

**Hall Bookings:** email: hall-bookings@stoswaldschurch.org.uk

**Magazine distribution:** Hilary Broadbent

Email: broadbenth@googlemail.com Mobile: 07751 879541

## **REGULAR CHURCH SERVICES**

### **SUNDAYS**

**8.00am Communion (said) every week**

**10.00am 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month: Family Service**

**10.00am Other Sundays: Sung Communion**

**10.00am Sunday school in the hall**

**4.00pm First Sunday of the month - Evening Prayer**

**NOTE - starts 6.00pm from April**

### **TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS**

**9.00am Morning Prayer**

### **WEDNESDAYS**

**11.00am Communion**



From The Vicarage



There is an ancient tale, originating in Persia, which survives in various versions but broadly speaking goes as follows. A powerful king once asked the wise men of his court for a ring inscribed with words that would hold true in good times and in bad. After lengthy deliberation, the wise men presented to the king a simple ring

inscribed with the words “This too shall pass”. Commenting on this saying, American president Abraham Lincoln declared, “How much it expresses! How chastening in the hour of pride! How consoling in the depths of affliction!” I shall come back to the saying on the ring shortly.

It must be a regrettable sign of becoming an old fogey that I not infrequently find myself grumbling about contemporary ways and harking back to the days of my first curacy but please forgive me as I indulge in these twin vices. Back in the 1980s, it was thought quite natural that the annual carol service should take place on the Sunday after Christmas Day and not before. After all, the sombre season of Advent only finishes on Christmas Eve and there are then twelve days following in which to luxuriate in Christmas joy. Nowadays the Church has been obliged to follow the secular pattern in which premature Christmas celebration has all but obliterated Advent, except for such ghastly abominations of extravagance as “Advent Calendars” for “grown-ups”, replete with “scented goodies” (£360 for ladies from Jo Malone, £245 from Liberty for men) - aargh!

Being realistic and less nostalgic, I fully recognise the need to adapt Church practice so that we are able effectively and appropriately to share and witness to the Christmas good news in our contemporary world and not be grumpy stick-in-the-muds. But it is a shame that the opportunity to reflect in Advent on our waywardness, mortality and

need of salvation by considering the so-called Four Last Things (Death, Judgement, Heaven, and Hell) has largely been abandoned. A time of reflection on these weighty matters has the capacity to promote a more joyful celebration of the birth of the Saviour at Christmas. What we do now have is Kingdombtide, the period between All Saints' Day and the First Sunday of Advent. I've noticed that many of the appointed readings in this "pre-Advent Advent" season direct our thoughts towards the future – to Christ's return (his Second Advent), the Resurrection of the Dead and the Last Judgement.

In the Gospel reading from Mark 13 appointed for the Sunday prior to my writing, Jesus speaks about the future, both immediate and more general. He foretells of would-be leaders "deceiving many", of "wars and rumours of wars", of "nations rising against nations", of earthquakes and famines. In these warnings he may have had the immediate future in mind, but it still all sounds very contemporary to our own times. Such events Jesus describes as only "the beginning of the birth pangs", heralding his eventual return and the fulness of God's kingdom. This teaching is preceded by a discussion with the disciples about the Jerusalem temple in which their enthusiasm about its dimensions and magnificence is tempered by Jesus's warning, "Not one stone here will be left on another". The temple was indeed destroyed by the Romans only a few decades later after the unsuccessful Jewish Revolt.

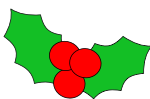
As I reflect on this teaching of Jesus, I am reminded of the fragility of life and how foolish it is to be complacent. We need to remember of the good things we so easily take for granted – health, peace, freedom, prosperity – the real possibility that "This too shall pass." But conversely, the same can be said of our troubles and the troubles of the world – these too shall not last forever.

But not everything lacks permanence. At our All Souls' Service of Loving Remembrance, I used a reading from 1 Peter which speaks of "an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade...kept in heaven for you". Our hope for eternal life beyond this present existence of change and decay is based on the unchanging love and commitment of God. As one of my favourite hymns, "All my hope on God is founded", puts it:

Pride of man and earthly glory,  
sword and crown betray his trust;  
what with care and toil he buildeth,  
tower and temple fall to dust.  
But God's power,  
hour by hour,  
is my temple and my tower.

The love and commitment of God our “temple and tower”, were proved to us by the birth we remember at Christmas, God’s coming among us as a vulnerable, mortal human being to share his life as he shares in ours. We have reason to celebrate, whatever our circumstances and whatever state the world be in. And on that note, I conclude by wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Many blessings. Robert



## CHRISTMAS MUSIC AT ST. OSWALD'S

Our traditional Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols will be held in our candle-lit church on Sunday December 22nd at 6.30 pm. We do hope you can join us.

For those attending Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve the choir will also be singing carols in the baptistry from 11.00 pm

*And don't forget the "Pop-up  
Carols" on Friday 20th December  
from 2.15 pm - fun for all the  
family!*




## RESIGNATION OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

The Vicar writes: “The recent resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the reasons behind it have been widely covered by the media, though 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 on 07790 330981 and the email for safeguarding matters is: [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.”

### A COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS DAY



*Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin. Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit.*

*Through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*



## REVIEW OF THE “LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH” COURSE

I have attended this 5 session course with members of St Oswald’s Church. It was written and developed by the Church of England. This course aims to help us think more deeply about what it means to be human and about how to live in love and faith through bible study interviews and discussion.

In the sessions we explored; How does our identity in Christ relate to sex and gender? What kinds of relationships does God call us to? Where do our bodies and sex fit in to all of this? And how do diversity and difference affect our lives together as a church?

Throughout the course we watched stories of people in diverse relationships, from a gay celibate priest to a Transwoman (who was the father of their children) and wife. It showed people from all walks of life living in love and faith in their own way, having made peace with God over their diversities. The course was well received and provoked much thought and discussion.

In December 2023, the Church of England's bishops approved a selection of prayers and readings for same-sex couples to use in services. These prayers are intended to help couples express their love and commitment to each other before God and their community. Individual ministers can choose whether to offer these prayers. We, as a church need to decide if this is something we would attest to.

There are many ways to access this course. There is on line content, with videos and podcasts. A book accompanies the series and has links to the bible readings. I’m sure St Oswald’s can run another course if there is sufficient interest.

Attending the course has helped me to explore what scripture has to say and gain a greater understanding of the issues the church faces. At some point we will need to make a decision. This course has help me immensely to form my opinion and I would recommend it to adults of our Church.  
Vanessa Mackay





# THE YEAR OF SPIRITUAL RENEWAL AND WELLBEING

## *Reconnecting with God and each other*

Next year we embark on a “Year of Spiritual Renewal and Wellbeing.” It will be launched on **Saturday 11 January** by Archbishop Justin who will visit the Cathedral in the morning and Woburn in the afternoon. The year is designed to offer clergy, lay ministers, congregations, schools and chaplaincies a series of enriching opportunities to deepen their spiritual life and grow in holiness and wholeness.

Many things, not least the legacy of Covid, have turned our eyes ‘downwards’. It is my belief that the time has come to lift our hearts and minds to God in prayer and thanksgiving, and seek the renewing life of the Holy Spirit. We know from the Emmaus story in Luke’s Gospel that the risen Christ travels with us in all times of challenge and uncertainty, just as he walked with the two bewildered disciples, listening to their concerns and renewing them in hope and love. In company with many others, I believe the time is ripe to re-gather with compassion and kindness, to open and re-engage with the scriptures, ‘to break bread’ with the risen Lord in our midst, and be transformed.

*The Year of Spiritual Renewal and Wellbeing is a golden opportunity for all our church communities to be renewed in grace. Its objectives are to:*

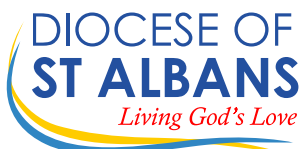
*Lift our eyes to God and make it a visible priority*

*Enhance our spiritual and personal wellbeing*

*Enable spiritual growth which will resource numerical growth*

*Respond to those issues highlighted by wellbeing surveys*

*Build on the momentum of this year’s Clergy Conferences.*



**Going Deeper into God**  
**Transforming Communities**  
**Making New Disciples**

## HARVEST FESTIVAL THANKS .....



The Leprosy Mission gives thanks to St.Oswald's for raising £425.23 through the Bishop's Harvest Appeal.

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New Hope thanks St Oswald's for "the very generous donation of food and household items" collected at Harvest Festival.

"These gifts will be used across our different services, enabling men and women to receive healthy and nutritious meals, which is a vital part of the humanitarian aid we offer to people experiencing homelessness.

At New Hope, we know that having a full stomach needs to come before any other help we offer!


Thank you for loving your neighbour by meeting this fundamental need, enabling people to receive the support they need to move away from homelessness."

### **MORE NEWS FROM NEW HOPE.....**

#### **SUPPORTING PEOPLE WHO ARE STREET HOMELESS**

Rebecca Palmer from New Hope, who spoke at the November Spotlight Service, gives the following advice:

In Watford, you can call 0300 012 0168 and speak to a member of New Hope staff who can pass a message onto the Outreach Team or give advice.

Nationally, there is the StreetLink website  <https://thestreetlink.org.uk/> which also works in Watford and New Hope often get alerts this way.

New Hope recommend not giving money but asking if they want a drink or a sandwich.

The Haven at 4 Whippendell Road is open between 8.30am and 3pm, Monday to Friday, for advice.

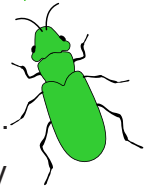
Additionally, with the winter shelter in operation, people can call the Watford Council out of hours number which is 01923 226 400.

For Three Rivers, their emergency number is 01923 776611 and they also have a Housing Team.

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### AND THANKS .....

Many thanks to all who supported the Beetle Drive held on 9th November 2024 and for making it such fun.



Young and not so young rolled their dice and frantically drew beetles, and congratulations to all the prize winners.

I would like to thank Helen McAlpine and Anne Thomas for their support and catering skills and also Philippa and Colin Nunn for organising the raffle.

A total of £432.85 was raised for St Oswald's Church funds and the parish project.

Once again, many thanks and best wishes Val Edwards

~~~~~

*A massive 'Thank You' to all who volunteered and helped at this years Jumble Sale held on the 12th October 2024.*

*There were many tasks from designing and printing posters, delivering leaflets, digital communications, sorting jumble prior to sale, setting up on the day, manning stalls, refreshments and clearing up after the event.*

*As always, a brilliant team effort that raised £1228.83 on the day and there are still more funds coming in from the sale of left over items.*

*Once again, many thanks, Anne and Val.*



**Churches Together**  
In Croxley Green

## **PARISH NURSES**

### **MUSICAL MEMORIES AFTERNOON TEA**



This was the first event of its kind organised and co-ordinated by the Parish Nursing Team and volunteers from Croxley Green Churches Together. It was hosted by the Baptist Church and the room looked lovely with the tables set up with colourful fabric and embroidered tablecloths, (not the usual plastic ones!), flowers, and

the china set out with colourful serviettes. Very inviting.

Over 50 people attended, which included people living with memory loss and dementia, and their carers. Cathy, our Parish Nurse, welcomed everyone and explained how the afternoon would flow. She introduced the first choir, The Watford Philharmonic Voices who volunteered their time and energy. They sang a selection of songs including Jazz, The Beatles, and Glen Miller.



Afternoon Tea was served with a variety of finger sandwiches, cups of tea and a selection of cakes made by members of the Methodist, St Bedes, All Saints and St Oswald's Churches. It was all delicious and went down well with everyone. This gave everyone a chance to chat.

This was followed by a Sing-A-long lead by choir members from The Watford Philharmonic Voices and St. Oswald's Choir. All the music had been beautifully organised by members of St Oswald's Church. There were song sheets for all to join in with many popular songs, for example, Bring Me Sunshine, How much is that Doggie In The Window, Old MacDonalD, The Hills Are Alive and many more. Looking around the room everyone was singing along, clapping and swaying with the music, thoroughly enjoying themselves.



During afternoon we were also fortunate to be joined by two members from the Association of Reflexology who offered gentle Hand Massages which help provide stress relief and promotes the body's own feelings bringing balance to the body. There was representation from

Cognitive Books and signposting to Hertfordshire Libraries Memory Boxes, Music for My Mind and various support groups.

There was much positive feedback, how enjoyable the afternoon had been with the music, singing and tea! One asked, when is the next one?

There are 1,000,000 people living with memory loss or dementia in the UK – though as yet there is no cure, music does seem to help. Songs can bring back treasured memories and provide powerful well-being benefits for people living with memory loss or dementia. This was proved this afternoon by the many smiles.



The Croxley Parish Nursing Service received funding from the Lottery Community Fund for one year to develop dementia/memory loss initiatives within the Croxley Green community. Cathy is leading on this project and the Trustees hope to gain further funding for another two years.

Please contact her if you would like support/advice or would like to be included in any further events.

email:-[croxleyparishnurseecathy@gmail.com](mailto:croxleyparishnurseecathy@gmail.com)  
phone 07562 515791.

If you would like to make a donation to the Croxley Parish Nurse Service, please either visit our website [www.croxleyparishnurse.org](http://www.croxleyparishnurse.org) and click on the 'Donate' button or via post: Churches in Croxley Green CIO (Parish Nurse Project) c/o All Saints Church, The Green, Croxley Green, WD3 3HJ. Thank you.

So, it just remains for me to say a huge "Thank you" to everyone organising the event, helping on the day and attending. A wonderful example of Churches working very happily together, a great success and a template for such further events.

Janet Staerck Croxley Parish Nursing Volunteer St. Oswald's Church



***The second Parish Nurse for Croxley is Ruth  
who can be contacted by***

***email:- [croxleyparishnuseruth@gmail.com](mailto:croxleyparishnuseruth@gmail.com)***

***Phone :-07305 084948***

***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.***

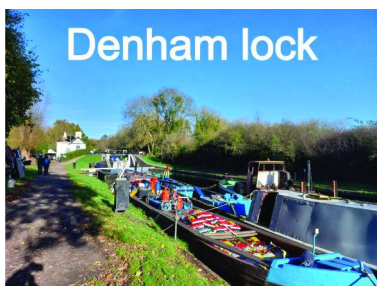
***Please share our thanks with folk at St Oswald's".***

***The next Taizé Service will be a united occasion for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on Sunday 19th January at 3.30pm.***

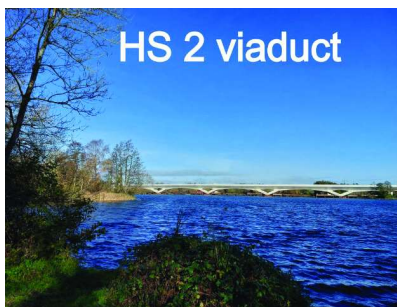


## A CROXLEY RAMBLER'S DIARY

It was amazing sunny weather after weeks of grey skies as I left the train at Uxbridge station to join friends walking the London Loop. The Loop stretches around outer London for 150 miles. For the walker it is what the M25 is for the motorist but much pleasanter. My friends had completed much of the journey over the past year and planned to walk from Uxbridge to Moor Park.



We left the High Street behind and descended to the bridge where the Oxford Road crosses the Grand Union canal. Here we joined the towpath with the sun casting strong shadows and sparkling blue sky ahead. The path crosses the canal on a whitewashed 'turnover' bridge, designed to give the towing horse some relief by changing the shoulder pulling the barge. We followed the canal beneath the A40 bridge to Denham lock which has the deepest drop (11 feet) on the canal. Here there was a collection of working boats including a tug and a barge full of bags of coal. There was not time to visit Denham Country Park and we pressed on, choosing the Harefield side of the canal and a track alongside one of the fishing lakes. We noticed coots, tufted ducks and a great crested grebe. Just before the Chiltern line viaduct the scenic waterfowl on the lake were overlooked by ugly piles of rubble in the rubbish transfer station beside the railway line.



Beyond the bridge we walked to the bank of Harefield Lake No. 2 and a stunning view of the HS2 viaduct - pristine white arches stretching across the blue water. The rail line may be horrendously expensive but the engineers deserve credit for creating something beautiful. It is

the longest viaduct in Britain at 2 miles long, carried on 56 piers on a gently curving alignment. Of course, its construction has been controversial. In particular the local Wildlife Trust has drawn attention to the impact on wildfowl in the Broadwater Lake nature reserve, especially pochard ducks which are on the national red list for species of conservation concern.

I spotted an autumn marvel - the shocking pink seed cases of an otherwise insignificant spindle tree. The path took us beneath the viaduct, skirting the work site and into woodland on the edge of the lake. We emerged on Moorhall Road in South Harefield and made our way back onto the canal towpath near Harefield marina. With Broadwater lake on our left we continued northwards glimpsing the viaduct occasionally through the trees on its way to the Chiltern tunnel beyond West Hyde. We were soon at Black Jack's lock where water spills from the canal into the old mill race. Apparently, Black Jack was one of the millers who was notorious for cruelty to his donkeys.

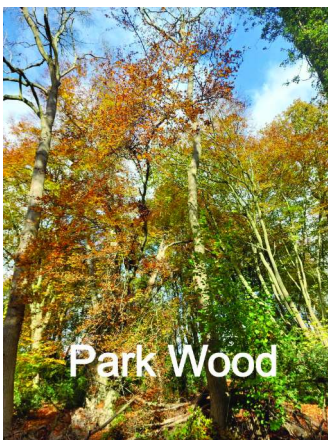
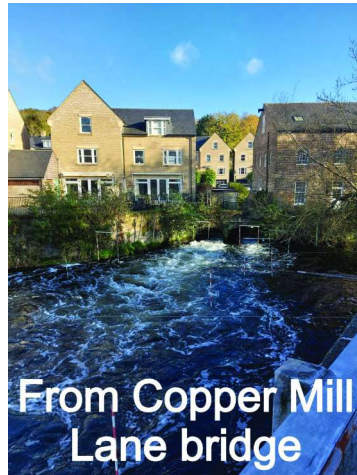
The Harefield side of the canal has been developed with some smart houses, with their own wharves and some expensive looking boats. The Coy Carp proved a good place to stop for lunch. It seems to have grown in size since I was last here so I hope that their business has recovered after the shock of covid. The narrow road bridge allows a good view of the old copper mill site, now developed for housing, and the canoe slalom course where the water tumbles down from the higher section of the canal.

This is where the London Loop leaves the canal and joins the Hillingdon trail along Summerhouse Lane and then climbs steeply through the autumn colours of Park Wood. We crossed Hill End Lane just north of Harefield Hospital, conscious of a strong odour. Was it blowing from the Thames Water sewage plant in the valley below or was it muck-spreading on the fields of White Heath farm? Perhaps it was the latter since the verdant pastures looked to be growing strongly. As well as cattle enjoying the sunshine there was a gaggle of Egyptian geese grazing. Then over the stile a



large flock of Canada geese occupied the next field while an impressive and noisy 'clattering' of jackdaws wheeled overhead. The path led us across a small valley, through the stubble of the summer's maize crop back into Hertfordshire at Fieldways Farm. Here I said goodbye to my companions who continued towards Moor Park while I descended Woodcock Hill towards Rickmansworth and made my way home.

Brian Thomson



*Thank you Brian for another walk with lovely photos - the descriptions make you feel as though you are actually there.*



## IN MEMORY

### DECEMBER

*James BANKS ~ 8<sup>th</sup> May 1912 to 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 1989*

*Jean Margaret DAVIES ~ 7<sup>th</sup> Nov 1925 to 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 2008*

*Bernard BATES ~ 11<sup>th</sup> May 1901 to 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 1990*

*Betty Cecilia GIBBENS - 1st Feb 1929 to 12 Dec 2017*

*Doris Emma WALFORD ~ 15<sup>th</sup> August 1921 to  
13<sup>th</sup> December 2015*

*Fred AVERY ~ 17<sup>th</sup> May 1904 to 9<sup>th</sup> Dec 1977*

*Cynthia Mary PHELAN ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Sep 1923 to 9<sup>th</sup> Dec 2005*

*Cyril Roy ATKINSON ~ 7<sup>th</sup> Nov 1908 to 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 1988*

*May WILKINS ~ 29<sup>th</sup> May 1906 to 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 1997*

*Patricia KINGSTON ~ 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1942 to 27<sup>th</sup> Dec 2010*

*Ronald John MOXON - 7<sup>th</sup> Dec 1933 to 27<sup>th</sup> Dec 2013*

*Winifred Joan SMITH ~ 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1917 to 28<sup>th</sup> Dec 2006*

*John SMITH ~ 9<sup>th</sup> Jan 1926 to 30<sup>th</sup> Dec 2008*

*Sarah TILLEY - 20<sup>th</sup> Oct 1966 to 30<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022*

### JANUARY

*George Victor TILLEY ~ 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 1909 to 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2005*

*Kenneth WALKER ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 1929 to 7<sup>th</sup> Jan 2000*

*Edward Ernest WARMAN ~ 19<sup>th</sup> June 1909 to  
9<sup>th</sup> Jan 1991*

*Christopher Robin DENTON ~ 7<sup>th</sup> July 1938 to  
12<sup>th</sup> Jan 1962*

## JANUARY

*Emily Jane MORRIS ~ 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 1899 to 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 1978*

*Ingrid Sharma WARD ~ 1<sup>st</sup> August 1936 to 16<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023*

*Marjorie Nancy (Ann) GROVER ~ 27<sup>th</sup> March 1913 to  
24<sup>th</sup> Jan 1996*

*Alan BLAYTHE ~ 15<sup>th</sup> September 1947 to 29<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021*

*Vera RESTARICK ~ 14th August 1927 to 7th Jan 2018*

**CHRISTIAN AID NEWS .....**



## **OMNIA CONCERT - Saturday 8th Feb 7.15 for 7.30 at All Saints Church**

Croxley Green welcomes back Omnia who present another evening of choral music in collaboration with Christian Aid. Sacred & secular songs in the church, with a break for drinks, followed by light and popular songs in the hall. The choral group includes local singer, Ed Parks. All proceeds will go to support the work of Christian Aid. Tickets £15 each including glass of wine or soft drink and nibbles - please contact your church Christian Aid rep or Chris Gregory on 07818 412869, [cg@chrisgregory.uk](mailto:cg@chrisgregory.uk)

## **CHRISTIAN AID "ARTS CAFE"**

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April**

**11.00 am - 4.00 pm**

**St. Oswald's Church**



## SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### DECEMBER

Sunday 1st 10.00 am Advent Christingle Service  
Sunday 1st 4.00 pm Evening Prayer  
Sunday 1st 6.00 pm Christmas Pudding & Craft  
Friday 6th 3.00 pm Donut Club  
Friday 6th 5.15 pm Hotdog Club  
Friday 6th - Monday 9th Methodist Church  
Christmas Tree Festival  
Thursday 12th 2.30 pm Mothers' Union  
Saturday 14th 8.45 am Men's Breakfast  
Saturday 14th 3.00 pm Christmas Walk of Witness from  
Croxley Station to the Green  
Sunday 15th 10.00 am Spotlight service  
Friday 20th 2.15 pm Pop up Carols  
Sunday 22nd 6.30 pm Nine lessons and Carol Service  
Tuesday 24th 4.00 pm Crib Service  
Tuesday 24th 11.00 pm Carols followed by Midnight Mass  
Wednesday 25th 10.00 am All Age Communion Service

### JANUARY 2025

Wednesday 1st **NO 11.00am COMMUNION SERVICE**  
Sunday 5th 10.00 am Family Service  
Thursday 9th 2.30 pm Mothers' Union  
Thursday 9th 7.30 pm AGM of Churches Together in  
Croxley at the Methodist Church.  
Friday 10th 3.00 pm Donut Club  
Friday 10th 5.15 pm Hotdog Club  
Saturday 11th Launch of "Year of Spiritual  
Renewal and Wellbeing"  
Sunday 19th 10.00 am Spotlight Service  
Sunday 19th 3.30 pm Taize Service for the "Week of  
Prayer for Christian Unity" at St. Oswald's  
Saturday 25th 9.30 am Clear Up Morning



## FEBRUARY

Sunday 2nd 10.00 am Family Service  
Friday 7th 3.00 pm Donut Club  
Friday 7th 5.15 pm Hotdog Club  
Saturday 8th 7.15 for 7.30 pm "Omnia Concert" at  
All Saints church  
Thursday 13th 2.30 pm Mothers' Union  
Sunday 16th 10.00 am Spotlight Service



## ST. OSWALD'S CHRISTMAS TREE PLEDGE SCHEME 2024



**Mark Russell, the Society's Chief Executive, writes :**

*'The past few years have been challenging for all of us - and especially for young people and their families. They have needed our help more than ever before, and I'm so grateful to you for your support. Thanks to your generosity, we're able to be here for young people, to let them know they're*

*not alone. That means so much.*

*Last year our services supported 72,000 young people, helping them when they were facing huge life challenges like abuse, neglect and exploitation.*

*Our work to change the systems surrounding young people has impacted hundreds of thousands more children. Our Strengthen the Safety Net campaign helped to make an additional £1.5 billion available to low income families, and we successfully lobbied for statutory guidance on domestic abuse to recognise abuse within teenage relationships for the first time.*

*Together, we're building a society that works for all children. We're making real progress, but there's still more to do . I know that with you continuing to stand alongside us and young people, together we can create the future every child deserves.'*





*'Were you thinking of going to the Parish Council Christmas Market on 7th December at the Library? Then why not call into the Methodist Church at the top of New Road as well to see their Christmas Tree Festival. They are open on Saturday 7th from 10.30 am - 4 pm. If you can't make the Saturday they will also be open on Sunday 8th from 2-4 pm. They never know how the trees will be decorated but this time the suggestion is a book, poem or film that has a Christmas theme. They are arranging craft activities for children and there will be plenty of refreshments to enjoy in the Hall. They look forward to seeing you.'*



## MOTHERS' UNION NOVEMBER

This afternoon we got into the spirit of Christmas by making a candle decoration from a jam jar. It was a little fiddly but everyone managed to make one. It was just a shame that so many were unable to come along for one reason or another. We were then able to have a chat over a cuppa and biscuits discussing what we have planned for next year.

Next Meeting 12th December Christmas Celebrations Janet



## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



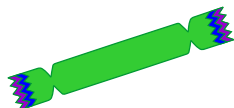
As in previous years, there will be a page on our website where you can put your Christmas Greetings if you would like to. Please let me know what you would like to say by FRIDAY 20th December.

Text 07890 161705,

landline 01923 778915

email [musicali2kn1@leeglanville.plus.com](mailto:musicali2kn1@leeglanville.plus.com)

Thank you Alison





## INTERCESSIONS



*The following suggestions for prayer week by week are by no means exhaustive. They are intended as prompts to encourage our prayers for: the life of our church; the charities with which we are connected; the roads of our parish; the village and the wider community.*

### **Sunday 1 to Saturday 7 December**

Churchwardens, Treasurer and PCC

Trinity Project and Bible Reading Fellowship

Dulwich Way, Lincoln Drive, Lincoln Way, Little Green Lane

The King and Royal Family

### **Sunday 8 to Saturday 14 December**

Baptism preparation and follow-up

Trinity Project and Church Mission Society

Baldwins Lane, Kenilworth Drive, Manor Way, Rochester Way

Archbishop Justin, the Church of England and the

Anglican Communion

### **Sunday 15 to Saturday 21 December**

Café O

Trinity Project and The Marylebone Project

(Church Army Women's Hostel)

Durrants Drive, Hastings Way, Lewes Way, Norwich Way

Parish, District and County Councillors



### **Sunday 22 December to Saturday 4 January**

Study Courses and Prayer Fellowship

Trinity Project and Christian Solidarity Worldwide

Merchant Taylors Place, Appleby Drive, Gloucester Court,

Hertford Close, Pevensey Way, St Mawes Close,

Scarborough Drive, Scotney Close

Our Diocesan Bishops, Alan, Richard and Jane



## **Sunday 5 to Saturday 11 January**

Sunday School

Trinity Project and New Hope Trust

Dover Way, Ludlow Way, Richmond Way, Warwick Way

Our local shops and businesses



## **Sunday 12 to Saturday 18 January**

Our Mission Action Plan

Trinity Project and Christian Aid

Canterbury Way, Gade Bank, Links Way, Rousebarn Lane

Our local schools

## **Sunday 19 to Saturday 25 January**

Choir and church musicians

Trinity Project and Watford Schools Trust

Dorrofield Close, Hazelwood Road, Mayfare, Sansom Close,

Watford Road

All Saints' Church

## **Sunday 26 January to Saturday 1 February**

The Vicar and readers

Trinity Project and The Children's Society

Beechcroft Ave, Oakleigh Drive, Sycamore App,

Sycamore Road, Valley Walk

Parliament and our MP Gagan Mohindra



**Please remember our 10%  
giving recipients in your prayers:-  
USPG, CMS,  
Christian Solidarity Worldwide,  
Church Army Marylebone Project,  
Alternatives Newham, A Rocha  
And Watford Schools Trust**

## NEWS FROM ST. OSWALD'S PCC

The PCC met in July and September. Safeguarding was high on the agenda. The Safeguarding Officer, Val Edwards, reported on the progress made to meet the standards set in the Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard. St Oswald's score was gradually improving but there was still work to do. The PCC thanked Val and the Safeguarding Team for their hard work.

The Vicar informed the PCC about the course on Living in Love and Faith concerning prayers of blessing for same sex couples. The PCC will consider its position on this topic at its next meeting.

The PCC approved two important improvements to the church; upgrading the church kitchen and a new digital organ. The organ has already provided a better musical experience at services and the kitchen will make it easier to provide refreshments after services and at Cafe O. Work on the kitchen will be completed by the end of November. The PCC also approved replacement of the washbasins in the Hall ladies' toilets.

The PCC decided to use part of the 10% giving scheme to support the Croxley Parish Nurses in 2024. The Christmas Tree Pledge scheme this year will be for the Children's Society.

Brian Thomson. PCC secretary

*(Copies of the PCC minutes can be made available to those on the Electoral Role on request to the secretary.)*



**EASTER DATES FOR 2025**  
**GOOD FRIDAY: 18<sup>th</sup> APRIL**  
**EASTER SUNDAY: 20<sup>th</sup> APRIL**

# HOMOEOPATHY



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# **THE KITCHEN**

**CAKES FOR ALL OCCASIONS**

**CROXLEY**

**AT THE KITCHEN, WE BAKE BEAUTIFUL  
CAKES AND CUPCAKES  
USING FAIRLY TRADED INGREDIENTS**

**WE CATER FOR BIRTHDAYS, WEDDINGS,  
CHRISTENINGS AND ALL OTHER  
CELEBRATIONS**

**WE WOULD LOVE TO DESIGN A CAKE  
TO SUIT YOUR OCCASION AND BUDGET**

## **FIND US:**

**198 WATFORD ROAD, CROXLEY GREEN**

**WEB: [WWW.THEKITCHENCROXLEY.COM](http://WWW.THEKITCHENCROXLEY.COM)**

**TWITTER: [@KITCHENCROXLEY](https://twitter.com/KITCHENCROXLEY)**

**PHONE: 07912 847295**

**HA!**

**HA!**

**HA!**

**1. When is a boat  
like snow?**

**2. What's the  
best possible  
Christmas  
present?**



**3. WHAT DO YOU GET  
IF YOU CROSS A  
SNOWMAN WITH A  
VAMPIRE?**

**4. What do  
snowmen eat for  
breakfast?**



**5. What did the  
wise men say after  
they offered their  
gifts of gold and  
frankincense?**



**6. What do you  
call Santa when  
he stops moving?**

## HAND MADE CARDS

Cards for all occasions  
At the back of the church  
Hand made by members of St.  
Oswald's  
Please leave a donation  
Thank you



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172 New Road  
Croxley Green  
Rickmansworth  
HERTS WD3 3HD  
01923 775013

51 Lower Road  
Chorleywood  
HERTS WD3 5LG  
01923 286102

## PUZZLE PAGES

ODD ONE OUT PUZZLE No 5 - a little mental exercise by Richard Lee

The clues below (A to O) should direct you to two of the words in the column on the right.

Some of the answers suggest two words which can be individually linked to the clue, some may give two separate words which together give a two word answer and some join two words together to form a new one word answer.

Most are straight forward but a few may be cryptic and there are choices to be made for the correct pairing of words to make your answer - you can't be sure until every clue has been solved.

There is a space at the end of each clue to write in the numbers of the words you have used. When all clues have been solved one word will be left over and this is the ODD ONE OUT. Good luck!!

### THE CLUES

- A - Two anagrams \_\_\_\_\_
- B - Two associated with red \_\_\_\_\_
- C - Two Opposites \_\_\_\_\_
- D - Two seen by the sea \_\_\_\_\_
- E - Two sound the same \_\_\_\_\_
- F - Two measures of length \_\_\_\_\_
- G- Two with similar meanings \_\_\_\_\_
- H - Two with a hot filling \_\_\_\_\_
- I - Two make a Bedfordshire town \_\_\_\_\_
- J - Two to form a group of letters \_\_\_\_\_
- K - Two African Countries \_\_\_\_\_
- L - Two create a novel storage system \_\_\_\_\_
- M- Two palindromes \_\_\_\_\_
- N - Two form a bird \_\_\_\_\_
- O- Two create an underground station \_\_\_\_\_
- The Odd One Out Is ..... \_\_\_\_\_

- 1 - AISLE
- 2 - ALPHA
- 3 - ANCIENT
- 4 - ARCH
- 5 - BET
- 6 - BOOK
- 7 - BUZZARD
- 8 - CASE
- 9 - CENTIMETRE
- 10- CHAFF
- 11- CLASSROOM
- 12- COLOSSAL
- 13- CURRANT
- 14- DECKCHAIR
- 15- DEIFIED
- 16- DICHOTOMY
- 17- DRAINAGE
- 18- ENORMOUS
- 19- ERITREA
- 20- FOOT
- 21- GARDENIA
- 22- INCH
- 23- ISLE
- 24- LEIGHTON
- 25- MADAM
- 26- MARBLE
- 27- NEW
- 28- PHOTOCOPY
- 29- PROMENADE
- 30- SOMALIA
- 31- WINE

## WORDSEARCH

There are 33 names of famous painters in the grid. The unused letters when rearranged will spell out 2 famous paintings

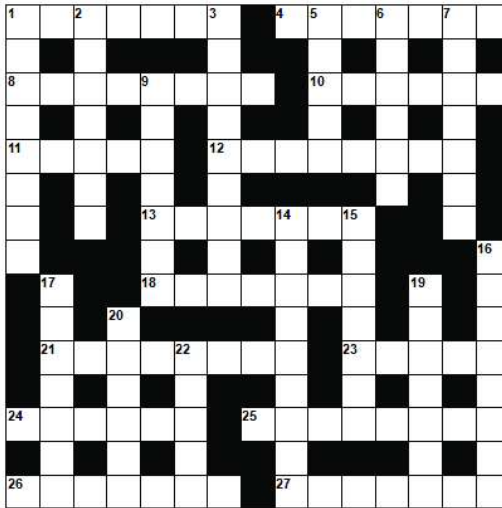
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | Y | W | D | U | R | E | N | R | U | T | A | H | M |
| E | S | H | V | A | N | G | O | U | G | H | I | L | U |
| Z | K | E | A | T | V | S | N | R | H | U | N | T | N |
| A | N | L | H | N | S | I | P | D | U | E | R | F | C |
| N | A | B | A | E | M | S | N | I | E | B | L | O | H |
| N | B | A | T | E | P | I | T | C | C | S | E | N | P |
| E | T | T | I | R | G | A | M | U | I | A | A | N | T |
| S | I | S | D | H | E | L | C | A | B | I | S | P | S |
| D | O | N | A | T | E | L | L | O | T | B | M | S | G |
| S | T | O | L | R | E | I | T | I | O | I | S | R | O |
| A | T | C | I | A | N | M | T | S | L | N | S | E | Y |
| G | E | N | I | G | U | A | G | K | I | Y | S | S | A |
| E | R | E | N | O | I | R | S | R | E | H | C | S | E |
| D | L | E | A | H | P | A | R | H | Y | R | W | O | L |

MATISSE  
 MILLAIS  
 MUNCH  
 NASH  
 PICASSO  
 RAPHAEL  
 RENOIR  
 ROSSETTI  
 RUBENS  
 STUBBS  
 TITIAN  
 TURNER  
 VANGOUGH  
 WHISTLER

|           |          |
|-----------|----------|
| BANKSY    | GAUGIN   |
| CEZANNE   | GOYA     |
| CONSTABLE | HOGARTH  |
| COONS     | HOLBEIN  |
| DALI      | HUNT     |
| DAVINCI   | KLIMPT   |
| DEGAS     | LOWRY    |
| DONATELLO | MAGRITTE |
| EMIN      |          |

|        |   |           |
|--------|---|-----------|
| ESCHER | 1 | - - - - - |
| FREUD  | 2 | - - - - - |





### ACROSS

- 1 High ranking officer sounding like a bit of a nut (7)
- 4 Walks vigorously like one of great virtue travels on horseback (7)
- 8 Thankful that the fire place is fully loaded (8)
- 10 Grapple silently displaying fruit (6)
- 11 Falls for journeys (5)
- 12 Throw away a fish to make a suet ball (8)
- 13 A gentle change can become gracefully refined (7)
- 18 Retains in a way that is more unpleasant (7)
- 21 This year could create a bout of uncontrolled emotional behaviour (8)
- 23 Made a mistake but finished undeterred (5)
- 24 Tune I'm re-writing for a stately court dance (6)
- 25 Length of a journey from Detective Inspectors point of view (8)

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD BY RICHARD LEE

- 26 Stunted, dishevelled pupil (7)
- 27 Most tidy directions to get article at an exam (7)

### DOWN

- 1 Cottage with one alteration to think deeply about (8)
- 2 In the fore but aligned differently (7)
- 3 The french remove their clothes for the woman who cleans them (9)
- 5 Join public transport quietly for a vagabond (5)
- 6 Make worse when a mischievous fairy has a simple tune (6)
- 7 A note came together and came out of concealment (7)
- 9 Nearest sort of oriental (7)
- 14 Move it again to show a feeling of worried turmoil (9)
- 15 A small hill split in a deluge (7)
- 16 Treading carefully seeing a slope (8)
- 17 Unbeliever attending a robbery perhaps (7)
- 19 Unusual short way with the limit of effectiveness (7)
- 20 Distributed but is taken to court it seems (6)
- 22 Devoured in a teen tantrum (5)

# ANSWERS

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

|    |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |
|----|---|----|---|---|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|
| 1  | C | O  | L | O | N  | E  | L |    | 4  | S  | T  | R  | I | D  | E  | S  |
|    | O |    | E |   |    |    | A |    |    |    |    | R  |   | M  |    | M  |
| 8  | G | R  | A | T | E  | F  | U | L  |    | 10 | A  | P  | P | L  | E  | S  |
|    | I | D  | A |   |    |    | N |    |    |    | M  |    | A |    | R  |    |
| 11 | T | R  | I | P | S  |    |   | 12 | D  | U  | M  | P  | L | I  | N  | G  |
|    | A |    | N |   |    |    | T |    | R  |    |    |    |   | R  |    | E  |
|    | T |    | G |   |    | 13 | E | L  | E  | G  | 14 | A  | N | 15 | T  |    |
|    | E |    |   |   |    | R  |   | S  |    | G  |    | O  |   |    |    | 16 |
|    |   | 17 | A |   |    | 18 | N | A  | S  | T  | I  | E  | R |    | 19 | S  |
|    |   |    | T |   | 20 | I  |   |    |    |    |    |    |   | T  | R  | A  |
|    |   | 21 | H | Y | S  | T  | E | R  | I  | A  |    | 23 | E | R  | R  | E  |
|    |   |    | E |   | S  |    | A |    |    | T  |    | N  |   | A  |    | I  |
| 24 | M | I  | N | U | E  | T  |   |    | 25 | D  | I  | S  | T | A  | N  | C  |
|    |   | S  |   | E |    | E  |   |    |    | O  |    |    |   | G  |    | N  |
| 26 | S | T  | U | D | E  | N  | T |    |    | 27 | N  | E  | A | T  | E  | S  |

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | Y | W | D | U | R | E | N | R | U | T | A | H | M |
| E | S | H | V | A | N | G | O | U | G | H | I | L | U |
| Z | K | E | A | T | V | S | M | R | H | U | N | T | N |
| A | N | L | H | N | S | I | R | D | U | E | R | F | C |
| N | A | B | A | E | M | S | N | I | E | R | L | O | H |
| N | B | A | T | E | P | T | C | C | S | E | N | P |   |
| E | T | T | I | R | G | A | M | U | I | A | A | N | T |
| S | I | S | D | H | E | L | C | A | B | I | S | P | S |
| D | O | N | A | T | E | L | L | O | T | B | M | S | G |
| S | T | O | L | R | E | I | T | I | O | I | S | R | O |
| A | T | C | I | A | N | M | T | S | L | N | S | E | Y |
| G | E | N | T | G | U | A | G | K | I | Y | S | S | A |
| E | R | E | N | O | I | R | S | R | E | N | C | S | E |
| D | L | E | A | H | P | A | R | H | Y | R | W | O | L |

## WORDSEARCH

The unused letters when rearranged spell out THE HAYWAIN THE LAST SUPPER

Solution to ODD ONE OUT PUZZLE No 5

A = 17, 21; B = 13, 31; C = 3, 27; D = 14, 29; E = 1, 23;  
F = 9, 20; G = 12, 18; H = 16, 28; I = 24, 7; J = 2, 5;  
K = 19, 30; L = 6, 8; M = 25, 15; N = 10, 22; O = 26, 4;  
ODD ONE OUT = 11 - CLASSROOM

**HA!**

**HA!**

**HA!**

**1. When it is  
A-drift**

**2. A broken  
drum, it's  
impossible to  
beat!**

**3. FROSTBITE!**

**4. ICE-crispies**

**5. Wait - there's  
myrrh!**

**6. Santa - *PAUSE***

**Please send articles for the  
FEB/MAR 2025  
edition of the magazine to  
magazine@stoswaldschurch.org.uk  
By 12<sup>th</sup> Jan Thank you**