

# PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST. OSWALD'S CROXLEY GREEN



***DECEMBER 2025  
&  
JANUARY 2026***



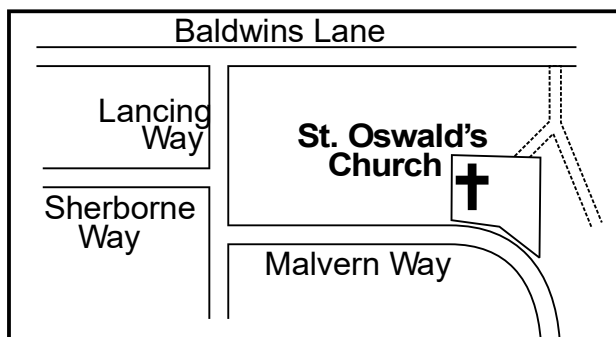
## **St. Oswald's Church - About us**

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**



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

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Magdalena Pletsch email: [magdalena.pletsch@stoswaldschurch.org.uk](mailto:magdalena.pletsch@stoswaldschurch.org.uk)

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**Magazine distribution:** Hilary Broadbent

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## **REGULAR CHURCH SERVICES**

### **SUNDAYS**

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

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

**Family Service**

**10.00 am Other Sundays: Sung Communion**

**10.00 am Sunday school in the hall**

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

**Evening Prayer**

### **WEDNESDAYS**

**11.00 am Communion**



Greetings to our readers for this edition of St. Oswald's bimonthly magazine. As you know, we don't have anyone at the moment to do an article "From the Vicarage", so I'd just like to express thanks to everyone who contributes to the magazine in any way - without the behind the scenes work there would be no magazine!

Apart from the regular articles, there are some pages of Christmas Greetings from friends and families of St. Oswald's, a write up from the "Parish Nurse Musical Afternoon" (pg 8), and the answers to the "Old Money Quiz" (pg 20).

Merry Christmas and Happy Reading!!!

Editor



# CHRISTMAS GREETINGS 1 ....

Wishing everyone a Happy  
and Peaceful Christmas from  
Muriel Farnley



Wishing all  
St. Oswald's  
Peace and Joy  
this Christmas  
and a Happy  
New Year. With  
love from Phil  
and  
Jane xx



To all my  
friends at St.  
Oswald's a Happy  
and Blessed  
Christmas.  
Christine G

To all my friends at  
St. Oswald's I wish  
you a very Happy  
Christmas and New  
Year. Love from  
Brita xxx



A  
very Happy  
Christmas to you  
all and all the best  
for a Musical  
New Year  
Michael H

Wishing  
everyone a lovely  
Christmas and all the best  
for 2026. Love Melanie  
and Robin xx



## MOTHERS' UNION OCTOBER



For this meeting our speaker was our own Alan Restarick talking about his experiences as a Bee Keeper. When Alan retired about 5 years ago, he became interested in Bee Keeping and joined West Herts Bee Keeping Association and it has snowballed from there. He now mentors others who are interested. He has several hives in Croxley.

A typical hive has 1 Queen Bee, 2,000 Drones and 50,000 workers. The Queen Bee lays 1,000 eggs a day between March and September. The worker bees live for about six weeks and can fly up to three miles from the hive to flowers to collect nectar. Alan explained that there are many different shapes and styles of hives designed mainly by clergy or in Monasteries. He went on to explain various aspects of Bee Keeping and lots of fascinating facts, some illustrated by a power point and accompanying videos.

It was a fascinating afternoon and bees appear to be so intelligent and organised in their hives that we shall all respect the bees when we are enjoying eating their honey. Lots of questions were asked and the afternoon was enjoyed by all.

Thank you, Alan, we will book you for part two. Janet



## MOTHERS' UNION NOVEMBER



For this meeting we welcomed Lynne, the founder of "Small Acts of Kindness". This Charity began 10 years ago after Lynne was without heating and hot water for a week during a very cold January. It was a very stark time, so Lynne started the Charity for the elderly – who may not have much money to balance between

heating and food. What happens when one gets cold, underlying illnesses can become worse, be less stable on one's feet and blood pressure can get higher to mention just a few issues.

The ideal temperature for the elderly is 22°C so the bags that are put together to provide a blanket, hats, gloves, and socks to keep the extremities warm and hot drinks to raise the core temperature. There is a pack of booklets where there is information that they may need called the Purple Pages (similar to the paper copy of Yellow Pages) rather than expecting the elderly to all cope with just digital access.

The first year 50 bags were put together on the kitchen table and they were taken to GPs, Churches, libraries, and meeting places that the elderly may visit. The second year volunteers helped to put together 200 to 1,000 bags. Feedback cards were included and proved how necessary the items were and how grateful the clients were that someone was thinking of them and helping them. Ten years later 1,500 bags will be distributed and they now cover Herts and Beds.

The Charity carried on throughout COVID and were awarded the highest honour for special recognition for the work through COVID – The Queens Award for Voluntary Service.

It was World Kindness Day today which was appropriate. Lynne thought there would come a time when these purple bags would not be needed but, if anything they are needed more than ever with the ever increasing fuel bills and food prices. We had donations and many items for Lynne to take away with her.

Many thanks Lynne it was a very informative talk and shows how small acts can develop and help so many people.

## **NEXT MEETING 11<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER - Christmas Celebrations**

**We wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year.**

**Also a healthy winter! Janet**



## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS 2 ....

*My very  
best wishes for  
Christmas and the New Year  
to everyone in church and  
Mothers' Union. Keep  
safe. Love Eileen*

Pat and  
Quentin wish  
everyone a  
very Happy  
Christmas

*To all our friends at St.  
Oswald's and beyond  
we wish you a very  
Happy and Peaceful  
Christmas and a  
Healthy and Joyous  
New Year.  
Love to all, Des, Vicky,  
Liz & Richard and  
families .xxx*

To all my  
friends at St.  
Oswald's to wish you  
all a very Happy  
Christmas and a  
Wonderful New  
Year. Love from  
Hilary xx

**Wishing all my  
friends a Blessed &  
Peaceful Christmas  
and New Year.  
Lynda**

*Have a  
Happy  
Christmas  
and a  
Healthy  
New Year.  
All my love  
Lynn xx*





The Methodist Church  
New Road Croxley Green

**SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER 10.30 - 4.00**

Christmas music played by  
"Warp Weft and Weave" at 11.30 & 2.30

**SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER 2.30 - 4.00**

Tea, coffee, cake and craft activities in the  
hall both days.

**IN AID OF CRISIS**

## PARISH NURSE MUSICAL MEMORIES AFTERNOON



The 14<sup>th</sup> November was the second Musical Memories Afternoon, organised by Croxley Parish Nursing team and it was such a gloomy wet afternoon outside with so much rain water laying on the surface. Inside the Baptist Church hall it was bright with the embroidered table cloths, colourful serviettes, and lovely flower decorations and all the smiles lit up the room, with the laughter and singing.



Over 50 people attended, which included people living with memory loss and dementia, and their carers. Cathy introduced the session with the order of the afternoon and various housekeeping information. The first choir the Watford Philharmonic Voices, sang songs from the “1930 Swing Era in the USA” which included “The

Continental” (a song featured in the film *The Gay Divorcee*, starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers), *Somewhere over the Rainbow* sung by Judy Garland in the film *The Wizard of Oz* in 1939, and Glen Miller numbers. Then they did a medley of the Beatles songs and *Bring me Sun Shine* made famous by Morecambe and Wise which everyone happily joined in with.



This was followed by Afternoon Tea, a selection of delicious sandwiches and a variety of wonderful homemade cakes with a cuppa. This gave everyone a chance to have a chat. Many comments were made about how they really enjoyed the tea with the variety of sandwiches and cake.



Our last session was with Michael and the St. Oswald's Choir, with everyone having a song sheet they sang along to various songs including Old MacDonald, The Hills are Alive, and Beside the Seaside. Looking around the room, everyone was

singing along, clapping and swaying with the music, thoroughly enjoying themselves. One lady was imitating playing the piano and she had obviously been a very good player.

During the afternoon we were also fortunate to be joined by Ursula from the Association of Reflexology who is one of our Parish Nurse Volunteers, who offered gentle Hand Massages which help provide stress relief and promotes the body's own feelings bringing balance to the body. Many enjoyed the massage saying how relaxing it was.

There was much positive feedback, how enjoyable the afternoon had been with the music, singing and tea! Again, several asked, when is the next one? It was also commented by several couples how good it was to be able to go out somewhere together, rather than just sitting at home on their own. They enjoyed being in a safe place with such good company and entertainment, and thought the tea was delicious. One comment by a husband to his wife when they were ready to go home, as she held the bunch of flowers, was that she looked just like a bride and she gave such a lovely smile.

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.



So I must now say a big thank you to everyone who helped make this event possible and run so smoothly: The Baptist Church for providing the venue, St. Oswald's Church for providing the music, The Methodist, St. Bedes and All Saints Churches for making the delicious spread, the washer-uppers, Sue Pope for putting together the flower posies, and all the volunteers who have contributed to making the afternoon so successful.

It is a privilege and our pleasure to organise such events which you all so obviously enjoyed. Here's to the next one!

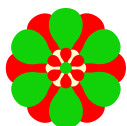
Janet Staerck: Croxley Parish Nursing Volunteer

*A footnote: Croxley has been one of five locations in Hertfordshire to pilot a new Accreditation Scheme for shops and organisations to become Dementia Friendly (and memory-loss supportive). Our Parish Nurse Cathy has lead on this, working closely with Memory Support Hertfordshire – local connection, information and advice for everyone affected by dementia and memory loss The Croxley Parish Nursing Service received funding from the Lottery Community Fund for one day a week over three years to develop dementia/memory loss initiatives*

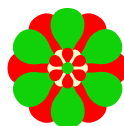


*within the Croxley Green community.*

*This funding ends next year. There is still much to be done to enable a dementia friendly (and memory-loss supportive) community in Croxley. The Trustees hope to raise further funding to continue this work. 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. Thankyou.*



Cathy Scarborough 07562 515791  
[croxleyparishnurseecathy@gmail.com](mailto:croxleyparishnurseecathy@gmail.com)



## CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT A GLANCE

**FRIDAY 19th 2.15 pm POP UP CAROLS**

**SUNDAY 21st 6.30 pm Carols by  
Candlelight**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**4.00 pm CRIB SERVICE**

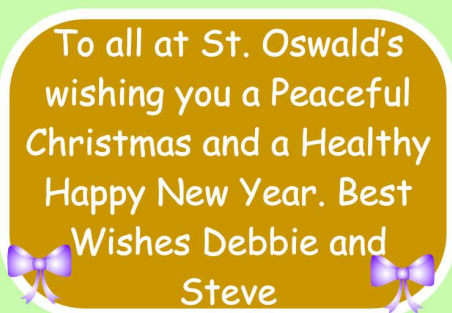
**11.30 pm Midnight Communion**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**10.00 am Christmas Communion Service**



## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS 3 ....



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

**February 14th 2026**

**18.45 for 19.00**

**“Animal Heroes in War and  
Peace”**

**at St. Mary’s Church,  
Rickmansworth.**

*An entertaining talk about the role of animals in art  
by Hilary Hope Guise, who entertained us with her  
“Wine and the Vine” talk a couple of years ago.*

*6.45pm for 7pm start: talk with glass of wine  
followed by supper, raffle and art auction - £15 per  
ticket.*

**ARTS CAFÉ from 11.00 am**

**Saturday April 18th 2026**

**St. Oswald’s Church**



Earlier this year the “Arts Café” raised over £1300 for Christian Aid, and encouraged a couple of hundred people into the church. There was a variety of people exhibiting their work - if you have not done so before and would like to exhibit next April at this event please contact Chris Gregory at [cg@chrisgregory.uk](mailto:cg@chrisgregory.uk)





## CHRISTMAS AND ANY OCCASION CARDS

For the last three years we have still made the cards for Bovingdon Prison. I have delivered them and have often emailed for information relating to the cards and there has been no response whatsoever! It has been decided that we will no longer provide them for the Prison, I have notified them and the response was less than satisfactory.

I have found a new outlet and the Mothers' Union Team at St. Albans are happy with this and the only change is we have to put a sticker on the back of the cards saying Made With Love by Mothers' Union St. Albans Diocese.

The first set of cards was given to the new recipients earlier this year, the DBA have replied with the following letter:

*"Morning Janet, As you aware I'm the Training Development Manager & Lead Facilitator at the DBA Project. DBA stands for Dream; Believe: Achieve.*

*A humanistic person centred organisation that delivers Life Skill courses to individuals in their time of need, where they are rebuilding their lives and opportunities. The cards that you kindly donate to our organisation are distributed to our clients at organisations such as East of England Probation, DrugLink and various HMP establishments. They are a vital method of our participants staying connected with loved ones and rebuilding relationships with those close to them.*

*One of our participants through the card donations to Bovingdon Prison was able to maintain close family ties during his time in need. To this day he has on display one of the cards he received from The Mothers' Union Project, in his new abode. Intrinsically the card gave him hope and a sense of belonging and that people care. Please pass our appreciation to those involved with the cards. Kind Regards DBA Project Team"*

It is so good to know how some appreciate these cards, so, I am asking again that you save your old Christmas Cards and Any Occasion Cards for me by putting them in the Church porch with my name on the package. If anyone has card blanks, card or envelopes

they no longer need please pass them on to me. We can not use cards with glitter on them, or cards that have writing on back of the picture. If possible, please remove the back of the card as this saves us a lot of time.

I must say a big thank you to Lynda Marshall and Sue Middleton for their continued help, ideas and support in being able to provide the cards.

Many thanks for your continued support

Janet



## BEETLE DRIVE

Many thanks to all who supported the Beetle Drive held on 15th November 2025. It was great to see our loyal followers and to welcome new friends to our fun event.

Young and not so young rolled their dice and frantically drew beetles trying to be the first to shout 'Beetle'.

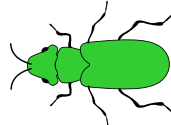
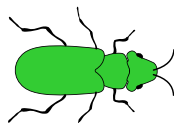
Congratulations to all the prize winners.

There was also a very enjoyable supper prepared by Helen and Catherine McAlpine, assisted by Anne Thomas and Colin Nunn.

I would like to thank Helen, Catherine and Anne for their help and support and also Philippa and Colin for organising the raffle.

£327.45 was raised for St Oswald's Church funds.

Once again, many thanks and best wishes,  
From Val Edwards



## **SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **DECEMBER**

Friday 5th 3.30 pm Donut Club  
Friday 5th 5.15 pm Hotdog Club  
Sunday 7th 10.00 am Advent Christingle Family service  
Sunday 7th 2.30 pm Community Orchestra concert  
Sunday 7th 6.00 pm Christmas Pudding and  
Craft Evening  
Thursday 11th 2.30 pm Mothers' Union  
"Christmas celebration"  
Friday 19th 2.15 pm Pop up Carols  
Saturday 20th 7.45 am Men's Breakfast  
"Christmas Quiz"  
Saturday 20th "Telling the Christmas Story" (see below)  
Sunday 21st 10.00 am Spotlight service  
Sunday 21st 6.00 pm Festival of  
Nine Lessons and Carols  
Wednesday 24th 4.00 pm Crib Service  
Wednesday 24th 11.00 pm Carols by the Choir  
Wednesday 24th 11.30 pm Midnight Mass  
Thursday 25th 10.00 am Christmas Day Communion

### **DECEMBER 20th 5.00 pm - 6.00 pm** **"Telling the Christmas Story"**

**Instead of the "Christmas Walk of  
Witness" people will gather together  
outside the library to sing carols which  
will be interspersed with bible readings.  
Mulled Wine available!**

## JANUARY

Sunday 4th 10.00 am Family service  
Friday 9th 3.30 pm Donut Club (NB 2nd Friday for  
this month due to school holidays)  
Friday 9th 5.15 pm Hotdog Club (NB 2nd Friday for  
this month due to school holidays)  
Thursday 8th 2.30 pm Mothers' Union  
Thursday 15th 7.30 pm Churches  
Together AGM at All Saints  
Saturday 17th 7.45 am Men's Breakfast - "Eyewitness  
to History" - Brian Thomson  
Sunday 18th 10.00 am Spotlight service  
Sunday 18th 3.00 pm Week of Prayer for  
Christian Unity service at All Saints  
Sunday 25th 10.00 am Anniversary  
of the Consecration

## FEBRUARY

Sunday 1st 10.00 am Family service  
Friday 6th 3.30 pm Donut Club  
Friday 6th 5.15 pm Hotdog Club  
Thursday 12th 2.30 pm Mothers' Union  
Sunday 15th 10.00 am Spotlight service  
Wednesday 18th 8.00 pm Ash Wednesday service  
Saturday 21st 7.45 am Men's Breakfast - tba



## ANSWERS FOR THE "OLD MONEY" QUIZ SHEET

We had very few completed answer sheets handed in and no one got all the answers correct. Judging by the many conversations about the Old Money Quiz, it certainly got the "little grey cells" working! Two people Pat Hayes and Phil Brading both got 27/30 so it has been decided as we have no outright winner, we will give £5 to each one. Congratulations to you both.

Solutions on opposite page with a reminder of the questions in brackets.

Many thanks, goes to Lynda for compiling the Quiz, Sue, Marjorie, and Hilary for helping to sell the quizzes. Then many thanks must go to each and everyone of you that purchased one and helped us raise a total of £115 to send to the Mothers' Union at St. Albans.

Again many thanks to you all Janet

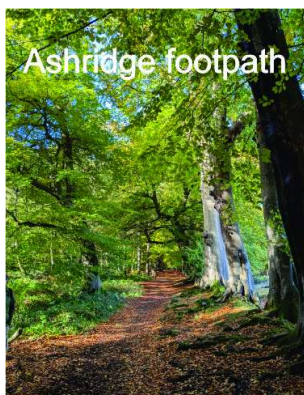
	<b><u>(question)</u></b>	<b><u>ANSWER</u></b>	<b>£</b>	<b>s</b>	<b>d</b>
1	<i>(works with leather)</i>	TANNER			6
2	<i>(sounds like chimps patella)</i>	APE KNEE			$\frac{1}{2}$
3	<i>(mars, the moon and the sun)</i>	THREE FAR THINGS			$\frac{3}{4}$
4	<i>(parquet can be used for this)</i>	FLO(O)RIN		2	0
5	<i>(an old bike model)</i>	PENNY FARTHING			$1\frac{1}{4}$
6	<i>(how much to cross the Mersey)</i>	TWO PENCE			2
7	<i>(this Mrs was famous for her hats)</i>	SHILLING		1	0
8	<i>(a horse of any small breed)</i>	PONY	25	0	0
9	<i>(short for Robert)</i>	BOB <i>(shilling)</i>		1	0
10	<i>(price of the first stamp)</i>	PENNY			1
11	<i>(many sided coin)</i>	3 PENNY BIT			3
12	<i>(cost of the mad hatter's hat)</i>	10/6		10	6
13	<i>(where is the wren)</i>	FARTHING			$\frac{1}{4}$
14	<i>(a short hair style)</i>	BOB		1	0
15	<i>(sing a song of....)</i>	SIXPENCE			6
16	<i>(you might spend this in a rush)</i>	PENNY			1
17	<i>(a king's headware)</i>	CROWN		5	0
18	<i>(mammal with a prehensile tail)</i>	MONKEY	500	0	0
19	<i>(had a ship on it)</i>	HALFPENNY			$\frac{1}{2}$
20	<i>(a sort of fowl)</i>	GUINEA	1	1	0
21	<i>(a baby kangaroo)</i>	JOEY(silver 3d bit)			3
22	<i>(ailing sea creature)</i>	SICK SQUID(six quid)	6	0	0
23	<i>(cockney Lady Godiva)</i>	FIVER	5	0	0
24	<i>(this is grand)</i>	A THOUSAND	1000	0	0
25	<i>(supreme ruler)</i>	SOVEREIGN	1	0	0
26	<i>(a Bobby Moore)</i>	A SCORE	20	0	0
27	<i>(Pavarotti, Domingo &amp; Carreras)</i>	THREE TENORS	30	0	0
28	<i>(half a king's headwear)</i>	HALF A CROWN		2	6
29	<i>(14 of these make a stone)</i>	POUND	1	0	0
30	<i>(the last one's free)</i>	NOTHING	0	0	0
	<b>TOTAL - £1590 6s 1 <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> d</b>				

## A CROXLEY RAMBLER'S DIARY: 18 JULY

24th October 2025

The rain and wind of storm Benjamin had passed through the day before. In contrast, the day was pleasant sunshine, albeit with a cool northerly breeze. We made our way through the autumn tints of Cassiobury park to Watford Junction. London North Western have smartened their trains since my last trip, albeit some time ago. We alighted at Berkhamsted aiming to walk to Ashridge. Our route took us alongside the castle ruins and into the playing fields beyond, which are named after Field Marshal Kitchener. During the First World War this was a training camp for the Inns of Court Officer Training Corps and there are remains of training trenches nearby. Now it is home to cricket and bowls clubs.

The footpath took us through horse pastures at Wells Farm and into the woods of Berkhamsted common. The upward slope proved surprisingly testing to someone like me, clearly unfit. This is the place where local people successfully resisted the attempts by Lord Brownlow to enclose the common. On 6 March 1866 the Open Spaces Society organised a trainload of navvies to remove the illegal iron fences. The National Trust took ownership in 1926. The common today is a mixture of open space and woods, a favourite of dog walkers.



The strong sunshine highlighted the colours of bracken turning from gold to brown. There were fungi on the edge of the path - one with an egg-shaped cap which I subsequently discovered was a 'shaggy parasol'. Turning northwards we walked through the woods and into the Ashridge estate. At this time of year, on a bright day, the slanting rays of the sun create beautiful effects of shadow and colour. The white trunks of birch trees seemed almost luminous. This year the beech trees, turning bronze, have been particularly attractive and seem to be holding their leaves for longer.

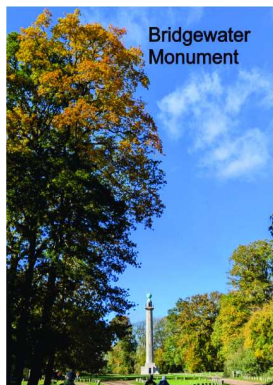
We passed Coldharbour Farm and took the well-marked track to Woodyard cottages. On a previous visit in autumn I had been fortunate to see a herd of deer in the fields nearby but not this time. I'm sure there were plenty of deer around but lying low in the middle of the day. There were, however, some young cattle, some reddish brown and some almost pure white, taking their ease on the grass.



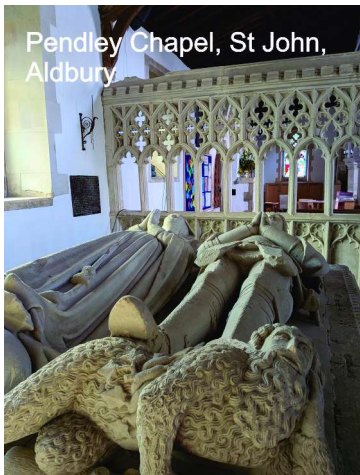
The path took us through a sweet chestnut grove in Thunderdell wood where the ground was covered in spiny cases and plenty of the shiny nuts. It has been an abundant year for them, as for other fruits and nuts. A passing walker drew our attention to a veteran beech tree which the National Trust has defended with a surrounding fence to keep people from trampling the roots. The tree has a World War 2 significance since American troops based at Ashridge before D-Day carved into the bark the names of eight US States plus the letter V for victory. One can only wonder what happened to them.

We emerged from the woods onto the Prince's Riding which connects Ashridge House with the tall monument to the 3rd Duke of Bridgewater, the 'father of inland navigation', who made his money from coal and canals. We turned towards the monument and the visitor centre where we enjoyed some coffee in the autumn sunshine.

From there it is a relatively short walk down the wooded slope into Aldbury where we arrived at the village Peace Memorial Institute, suitably decorated with poppies and union flags. Aldbury's duck pond and stocks are a magnet for photographers. The scene could almost be timeless but for the parked cars.



After an enjoyable lunch at the lately refurbished Trooper we called in on the church of St John the Baptist. The medieval building has Saxon origins and historical links to Missenden Abbey and the manors of Pendley and Ashridge. There are enough curiosities to keep someone like me interested in the church for a while. Those include a hairy 'wild man' on the tomb of Sir Robert Whittingham of Pendley, a church mouse in the colourful organ and a tablet to Sir James Craufurd who was churchwarden for 50 years until 1970! (I imagine he would have found someone else to do the work.)



The pleasant graveyard is still in use. A recent gravestone, decorated with images of a red kite and a rabbit, bears the legend "So Loved, So Loving, So Loud".

From the church it is a short walk to Tring station where we caught the train to Watford and, in deference to tired legs, found a bus home.

Brian Thomson



Thanks for another interesting ramble Brian - I wonder how many "steps" you have clocked up over the years you have been writing about these!

Editor



## PASTORAL CONTACT GROUP



Pastoral Contact Group: Formerly led by the vicar; this group aims to ensure contact is maintained with anyone who finds it difficult to get to church, for whatever reason. Where appropriate, arrangements can be made for a lift to church, or for a home visit with the possibility of Communion at home. If you become aware of anyone who you think the group could make contact with, then please speak to

Tony Barton [tony.barton@stoswaldschurch.org](mailto:tony.barton@stoswaldschurch.org)  
07803 608230,

Gill Thomson - [gillthomson48@gmail.com](mailto:gillthomson48@gmail.com)  
Pat Phillips or Sue Barton.

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS 4 ....

With love and very  
Best Wishes to you  
all for a very  
Happy and  
Blessed Christmas.  
From Rupert,  
Anne-Georgina,  
Dorothea and  
Edgar  
Barnes

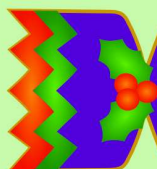


*Wishing you all a  
very lovely  
Christmas and a  
smooth 2026.  
Sending lots of love  
at this festive time.  
Karen, Dave, James  
and Stephen xxxx*

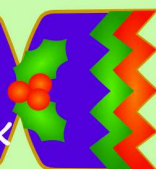
A  
Merry  
Christmas and  
Peaceful  
New Year  
from Richard  
and Alison



To all  
my dear friends  
in the Parish of St.  
Oswald's, I pray you all  
have a safe, warm and  
Merry Christmas and very  
best wishes for the New  
Year. Love Val  
Edwards



Happy Christmas  
to you all. Lots of  
love Wendy & Ronxx





## 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 Cecília 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*

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

*Ingrid SHARMA-WARD ~ 1st 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 BLYTHE ~ 15<sup>th</sup> September 1947 to 29<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021*



*Vera RESTARICK ~ 14<sup>th</sup> August 1927*



*to 7<sup>th</sup> Jan 2018*

## **COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS DAY**

*Almighty God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure Virgin: Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.*



## 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 30 November to Saturday 6 December**

Café O

Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership

Dorrofield Close, Hazelwood Road, Mayfare,

Sansom Close, Watford Road

Our local schools

### **Sunday 7 to Saturday 13 December**

Prayer Fellowship

A Rocha

Beechcroft Ave, Oakleigh Drive, Sycamore App,

Sycamore Road, Valley Walk.

All Saints' Church

### **Sunday 14 to Saturday 20 December**

Sunday School

Alternatives

Byewaters, Evensyde, Basildon Close, Gill Close,

Heckford Close, Longmans Close

Parliament and our MP Gagan Mohindra

### **Sunday 21 to Saturday 27 December**

Our Mission Action Plan

Bible Reading Fellowship

Girton Way, Malvern Way, Sherborne Way,

Winchester Way, Shaftesbury Court

### **Sunday 28 December to Saturday 3 January**

Choir and church musicians

Church Mission Society

Claremont Crescent, Lancing Way, Winton Crescent,

Winton Drive

Churches Together in Croxley Green



### **Sunday 4 to Saturday 10 January**

Readers and Churchwardens

The Marylebone Project (Church Army Women's Hostel)

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

Our local doctors' surgery

### **Sunday 11 to Saturday 17 January**

Mothers' Union and Men's Breakfast

Christian Solidarity Worldwide

Baldwins Lane, Kenilworth Drive, Manor Way, Rochester Way

The King and Royal Family

### **Sunday 18 to Saturday 24 January**

Safeguarding Team and Pastoral Contact Group

New Hope Trust

Durrants Drive, Hastings Way, Lewes Way, Norwich Way

Parish, District and County Councillors

### **Sunday 25 to Saturday 31 January**

Uniformed organisations – Rainbows, Brownies and Guides

Trinity Project

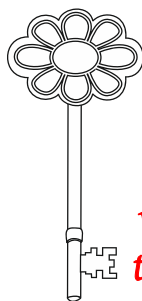
Merchant Taylors Place, Appleby Drive, Gloucester Court,

Hertford Close, Pevensey Way, St Mawes Close,

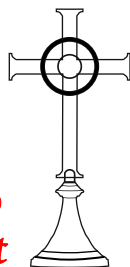
Scarborough Drive, Scotney Close

Dame Sarah Mullally - the new Archbishop of Canterbury, the Church of England and the Anglican Communion.

### **A PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH**



*Lord, call to this your church and ours a true shepherd, a man or woman of God, a minister of Christ; and make us, together, a church joyful in worship and united in witness, working, caring, praising, loving to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*



*Timothy Dudley-Smith (adapted)*



## **PCC UPDATE 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

We considered how to strengthen communication between the congregation and PCC members. Contact details will continue to be in the newsletter and magazine and photos of members will be placed in the church. Please do contact us if you have any concerns or ideas about the church.

We expressed our thanks to Mark Saunders for the work he has done to improve the wireless microphones and noted the positive feedback from the congregation following removal of the rear pews.

The PCC agreed in principle to erect a display of kneelers on the wall of the baptistry as an attractive and informative addition to the church while commemorating the considerable efforts made by the congregation to create them. The proposed display will need detailed design and approval from the Diocese. There will also be a record book to include the background to the 1997 kneelers project and the names of all those involved.

The PCC began a review of the church's data protection policy. We also reviewed the hall rents and agreed to keep them at the current level, which was raised last April, for 2026. The hall is an important resource for local community organisations.

Brian Thomson      PCC Secretary



*Copies of PCC minutes are available to those on the Electoral Roll on request to the Secretary Brian Thomson,  
[secretary@stoswaldschurch.org.uk](mailto:secretary@stoswaldschurch.org.uk)*



### **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**



# **THE KITCHEN**

**CAKES FOR ALL OCCASIONS**

**CROXLEY**

**AT THE KITCHEN, WE BAKE BEAUTIFUL  
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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**

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## PUZZLE PAGES

## WORDSEARCH

There are 25 words in the grid all associated with Santa - not all the letters will be used.



BEARD

BELLS

BOOT

CARROT

CHIMNEY

COLD

ELVES

EXCITEMENT

FLYING

HAPPY

HAT

LAPLAND

LETTERS

LISTS

MIDNIGHT

MILK

MINCE PIE

MOON

PACKAGING

PRESENTS

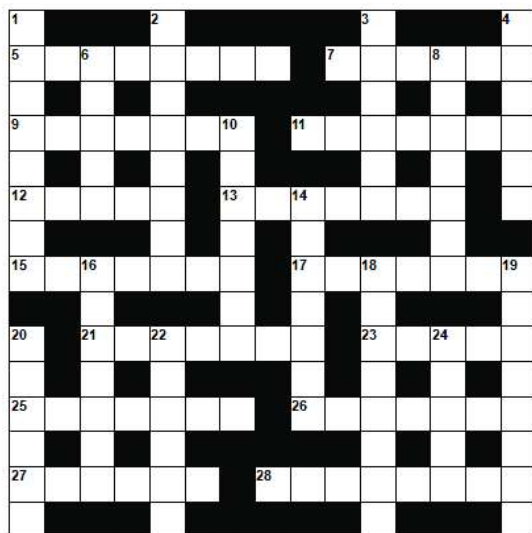
REINDEER

SACK

SKY

SURPRISES

WAITING



## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD BY RICHARD LEE

26 Infuriated when a small eastern garden has been messed about (7)  
27 Corrosion with the onset of a little lethargy can create a soft sound (6)  
28 Intimidate then tear around (8)

### DOWN

1 Ruffians move around amusement parks (8)  
2 Showed the strangest deal ever (8)

### ACROSS

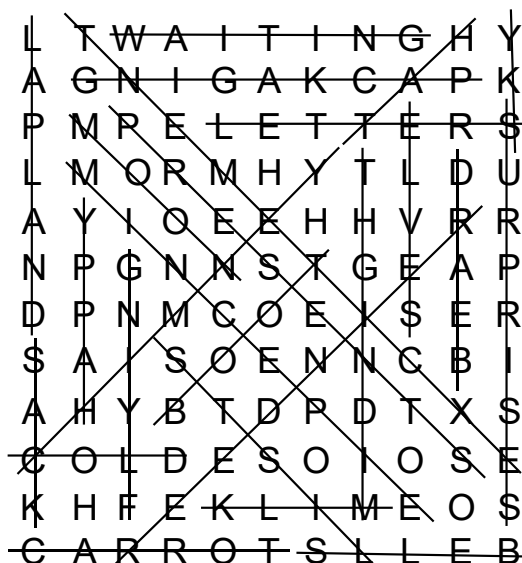
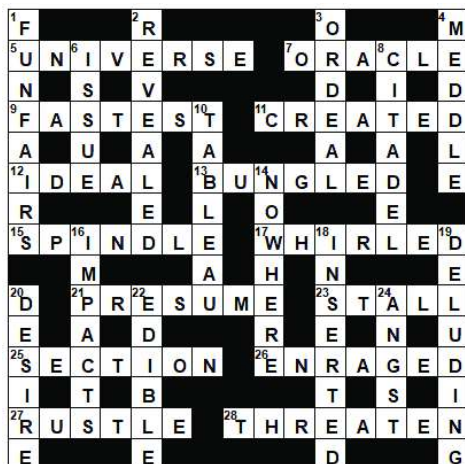
1 Everything in space is ever in us in a way (8)  
7 Aurora clearly visible for one who is wise and highly regarded (6)  
9 Most speedy starting for a second exam (7)  
11 Reacted in a strange way that made something new (7)  
12 The very best when its me sharing the cards (5)  
13 Stopper showed the way getting messed up (7)  
15 Five hundred and fifty with backbone can make a small axle (7)  
17 World spun around we hear (7)  
21 Supreme change to take for granted (7)  
23 Market sales pitch for a holy man with everything (5)  
25 Part notices change (7)

3 Refrigerator dealership creates a painful experience (6)  
4 Interfere improperly to get a decoration by the sound of it (6)  
6 Hand around a cut down paper handkerchief (5)  
8 Strange dialect for a religious building (7)  
10 A dramatic scene showing furniture and part of Australia (7)  
14 Not in any position to be at this location at this time (7)  
16 A mischievous sprite takes a role that hits hard (7)  
18 A new resident was slipped in (8)  
19 Indulged in a way that is misleading (8)  
20 Craving to reside for a change (6)  
22 Belied in a way that is fit to be devoured (6)  
24 Gnats, moving around, create anxiety (5)



# ANSWERS

# CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



## WORDSEARCH

**Please send articles for the  
FEB/MARCH edition  
of the magazine to  
[magazine@stoswaldschurch.org.uk](mailto:magazine@stoswaldschurch.org.uk)  
By 14<sup>th</sup> Jan Thank you**