

# All Saints' Croxley Green

Parish Magazine

June 2023





# All Saints' Croxley Green

## Sunday Worship in Church

**8am Holy Communion BCP**  
(First Sunday of the Month)

**9.45am Parish Communion**

**11.30am Family Service**  
(Third Sunday of the Month)

## Weekdays

**Morning Prayers 8am in Church**  
Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Thursday 9.30am Holy Communion

**The Church is Open Daily** for private prayer and meditation.

**The Parish Office** is open for enquiries from 9am to 12 noon, Tuesday to Friday. Answerphone available outside these hours. Tel: 772109

**Parish Administrator:** Judith Man

**Website:** [www.croxleygreenallsaints.org](http://www.croxleygreenallsaints.org)

**Email:** [office@croxleygreenallsaints.org](mailto:office@croxleygreenallsaints.org)

## Magazine

[magazine@croxleygreenallsaints.org](mailto:magazine@croxleygreenallsaints.org)

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## Churchwardens

Lyndon Palmer Tel: 720856  
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## Assistant Churchwardens:

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## Parochial Church Council:

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**Treasurer:** Andrew Nobbs

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**June 2023**

**Revd. Canon Miriam writes:**

Dear Friends,

I love this time of year, late spring/early summer. The colours are so vivid from greens of the lush grass to the leaves on the trees and hedgerow to the vibrant colours of the flowers in the fields and gardens. There is a vibrancy to life all around us that just longs for us to take notice, to rejoice and be nurtured and refreshed by it. One of my favourite psalm about creation is Psalm 8 and I especially like the modern translation of it below....

‘O God  
how wonderful and full of splendour  
You are!  
I see the reflections of Your beauty  
and hear the sounds of your majesty wherever I turn.  
When I gaze into star studded skies  
and attempt to comprehend the vast distances,  
I contemplate in utter amazement  
My Creator’s concern for me.  
I am dumbfounded that You  
should care personally about me.  
And yet you have made me  
in Your image.  
You have called me Your child  
and chosen me to be Your servant.  
You have assigned to me  
the fantastic responsibility  
of carrying on Your  
creative activity  
O God,  
how full of wonder and splendour  
You are!

*Psalm 8 from Psalms Now! By Leslie F Brandt*

This is a psalm of creation, but it is also a psalm that recognises our important role in the ongoing support and protection of God's created world. We are so fortunate to live in an area of such beauty, where we can walk along the canal and through rolling fields, where we can enjoy the wildlife on the moor and watch children paddle in the streams. And yet we are only too aware of the ecological challenges that we are facing locally, nationally and internationally. As we are instructed in the words of the psalm, '*You have called me Your child and chosen me to be Your servant. You have assigned to me the fantastic responsibility of carrying on Your creative activity*'. We all have a part to play in working for a better world.

Environmental change, climate change and social justice action are the responsibility of everyone and that includes us.

In our Mission Action Plan last year, we committed ourselves to: Recognise our responsibility as stewards of God's amazing creation, and as our legacy for future generations, to act now to limit the devastating effects of global warming. By working towards achieving a bronze A Rocha Eco Church award by the end of 2022. To explore ways to reduce our Carbon Footprint.

Eco Church is a learning community of churches of all shapes and sizes open to all denominations. It provides a framework to support your church and its leadership to take practical action on caring for God's earth. Their vision is for churches of all denominations to care for creation as an integral part of loving their neighbours and following God faithfully.

Look out for more information that will be available at the back of the Church.

With all the busyness of the 150th celebration last year we were not able to fully embrace this challenge. This is something that we really need to address in the coming months and we really need your help. Can you commit to being part of a group that oversees the implementation of our MAP target and works to raise the profile of being an Eco church? If this doesn't appeal, then perhaps you can commit to taking the plastic bags that are collected in church to the local plastic recycling bin at the CO-OP or Morrisons every 2-4 weeks? Can you help us develop our garden to be eco and wildlife friendly? If you are able to help in any way or you would like to

know more, please speak to me. We all have a part to play in tackling this crisis and every little bit helps.

We have a number of events coming up this month which we would love you to come to and support...

**4th June Celebrating the work of our Parish Nurses** at St Oswald's Church at 3pm Please come and support our wonderful Parish Nurses and hear about the sort of work that they have been doing in Croxley over the last 2 years.

**10th June Our Mission Action Plan** review/update morning 9.30am -1.30pm We need your input at this meeting as we reflect on all that God has enabled us to do and explore what he has in store for us in the future. Everyone is welcome. We will meet at the Church.

**11th June Hymns and Pimm's** at 4pm in Church. Come and sing along to your favourite hymns and enjoy Pimm's and strawberries in the Church garden afterwards. What a lovely way to spend a summer afternoon! (All proceeds towards the Church Hall Refurbishment Fund).

**17th June Croxley Revels.** As always, we have a stall to promote our amazing Church as well as selling cakes and hosting children's games and activities. If you can help speak to Ann Palmer.

Lots to keep us busy!

With my love and prayers

*Miriam*



# Parish Register and Records

## BAPTISM

30th April 2023

Sopheria Maryam Pritchard FENNER

## FUNERALS

9th May 2023

John Alfred Haydn TAYLOR OBE, Aged 88 years.

11th May 2023

Sheila HISCOCK, Aged 90 years.

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## CONGRATULATIONS

Over the last three years, Sam has been exploring her vocation to ordained ministry. It is a long and often challenging process with assignments to complete (written and practical) and a series of meetings with people in the Diocesan Exploring Vocation team. There is a set criterion that anyone who is exploring ordained ministry has to meet. Alongside this, there are two external interviews, one online and the second an in-person residential over a period of 48 hours. We are really pleased to share with you that Sam has been recommended to train for ordained ministry. She will begin in September and study at St Mellitus College in London for one day a week whilst having on-the-job training here at All Saints' for approximately 3 days a week. Congratulations Sam we really look forward to journeying with you as you train for Ordination to the priesthood.



## Pets' Corner : Finding Evie

Those of you who have visited my house or met me on Zoom meetings will have met my cat Evie. She rules the house deciding when is the best time to wake up and when to eat! She is approximately seven years old and she has lived with me for five of these.

Evie was quite feral and living rough when an elderly lady took her in, however the lady couldn't commit to looking after her so Evie was "allowed" to come to me.



She arrived on one of the hottest nights of the year. Unfortunately, by 3am, it seemed that she had disappeared by the only small window slightly open in the loft bedroom. I was walking around Gonville Ave at this time calling for a cat who at that time has no name but "Little puss".

There was no sign of Evie by 10.30 that morning so I phoned the elderly lady as she only lived in Watford and could imagine that Evie could possibly have found her way back there. "Oh, what have you done!" was the cry and she and her husband rushed round to my house. Her husband reassured me that she could not have got through the small window and, searching every place I had already searched many times, she was located at the back of the airing cupboard!

Since then, she has settled in well. She has given all the family their own jobs or routines to follow. She certainly is not feral any more and has only caught one mouse and bird in five years! She has found many scratching posts around the house rather than using the one purchased specifically for this.

I really love coming home after a day out and seeing her sitting at the window waiting for me (or is it food?). The most recent interesting thing is that she seems to have learnt that if I am going out and she is outside I always entice her in with a few treats. Now if she sees me putting on a coat she will ask to go out knowing that if she doesn't return quickly I will be out there shaking the treat packet for her!

# **Notes from PCC Meeting on 3rd May 2023**

## **PCC Membership 2023/23**

Following the elections and the Annual Meetings the PCC membership is:

Revd. Miriam and Revd. Paul (clergy, not elected)

Anne Oke and Lyndon Palmer, the Churchwardens

Deanery Synod lay representatives – Fran Bennett and Andrew Nobbs

Lay members (elected) - Jane Bates; Sam Beard; Chris Fagan; John Galloway; Sam Jones; Gill Main; Janet Martin and Ann Palmer. One vacancy remains to be filled.

The PCC also appointed members to its committees and working groups and also to posts with particular responsibilities, as follows:

Lay Vice-Chair – Ann Palmer

Assistant Churchwardens – Ann Palmer and one other, to be appointed

PCC Secretary – Chris Fagan

PCC Treasurer – Andrew Nobbs

Planned Giving Officer – Janet Martin

Safeguarding officer – Anne Oke

Assistant Safeguarding Officer – Sam Jones

Health and Safety Officer – Ann Palmer

Electoral Roll Officer – Chris Fagan

The PCC wants to encourage people to find out about its work and to think about possibly joining in. If you want to know more about serving as a PCC member or the work of any of the jobs listed, please speak to Miriam, Chris or any of the people named above.

## **Appointments to Committees and Working Groups**

The PCC made appointments to its committees and working groups. These bodies do the detailed work of running the parish and are responsible for a number of activities such as Buildings, Church Services and Study Courses, the Church Hall, Fundraising, Communication including IT, the Magazine, the Choir and the Church garden. You do not have to be a PCC member to join one of them. To know more please speak to Miriam or Chris Fagan.

## **Appointment of Sidespeople for 2023/24**

Shelagh Booth; Rae Bowyer; Val Hunt; Valerie Kendle; Sue McKeague; Janet Martin; Andrew Nobbs and Ann Palmer.

More people are needed to join the existing sidespeople. The work



involves welcoming people to services, checking attendances, taking the communion bread and wine to the altar, taking collections at certain services and inviting people by rows to come forward to receive communion. Please see Miriam if you are interested in joining the rota.

### **Verification, Appointment and Monitoring of Contractors**

The PCC adopted a document prepared by Chris Oke of the Buildings Committee containing procedures and a flowchart for appointment and monitoring of all major contractors employed to work on major projects for All Saints' parish.

### **Hall Refurbishment**

The PCC considered proposals for refurbishing the hall received from a number of firms. It made the following decisions:

- To employ Phil Walker to carry out specified electrical works
- To employ The Curtain Mill to provide and fit new curtains
- Not to replace the existing radiators on grounds of cost but to have them repainted
- To select Ironwood Flooring as the preferred flooring contractor for further discussions on options for the flooring and for the Hall Committee to agree a recommendation to the PCC for final approval.
- To fit a key safe to the hall door for access use by hall hirers.

The objective is to have a programme of works agreed within the available financial resources and carried out during the school summer holiday period.

### **Safeguarding**

The PCC reviewed its policy for reporting to the Charity Commission incidents defined as Serious Incidents and it re-appointed individuals to the Serious Incidents Trustee Group responsible for making reports. It also adopted a Role Description for the Youth Group Leaders, like those adopted to guide the leaders of other PCC activities and agreed to display a C of E poster offering a 'safe space' contact for use by survivors of historic abuse.

### **'Come and Sing' Choir Practices**

These practices will be increased from once to twice per month from henceforth to provide for more thorough preparation for services during the rest of the year. Anyone who is interested is welcome to take part - just speak to a Choir member about attending practices.



## **Sheila Hiscock**

**August 1932 - April 2023**

Sheila, born in August 1932, was the eldest child of Alice and Herbert Tolley. She spent her early years living with her parents and grandad in Liverpool Road, Watford. In the late 1930s, they moved to a house in North Watford and grandad went with them. Her sister, Marilyn, was born in 1949.

Sheila married Ken in 1952 and they lived with her Parents and Marilyn. Two years later David, their eldest child, was born. When David was two, they moved into a family home of their own in Watford.

In 1958, their daughter, Alison, was born. They continued to live in Watford until 1966 when Ken's company moved to Nottingham and the family relocated. Sheila never really settled as she missed family and friends and in 1968 they moved back to Watford.

Sheila worked for the Civil Service in her younger days and commuted to London until she decided the travelling was too much. She then took a part-time job with her brother-in-law, Keith, at Watford Heating Supplies where she was loved by all the employees and tradesmen alike, keeping them on the straight and narrow at all times.

Very much a family person, Sheila was generous, kind and caring. When Ken retired, they moved to Croxley Green to a more manageable home and garden. Her latter years were spent focusing on the grandchildren, great grandchildren and the wider family.

Sheila also took great comfort and strength from being part of the All Saints' community, especially when Ken, her beloved husband, went into a home and then sadly passed away.

I speak for the whole family when I say she has left a large void and will be forever held in our hearts and minds.

*Her sister, Marilyn*

## Readings for June

Sunday June 4th  
Trinity Sunday

Matthew 28 v 16- end

Sunday June 11th  
1st Sunday after Trinity

John 15 v 12-17

Sunday June 18th  
2nd Sunday after Trinity

Matthew 9 v35 - 10 v 8(9-23)

Sunday June 25th  
3rd Sunday after Trinity

Matthew 10 v 24-39

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## Coronation Tree Planting

On Tuesday 9th May, at 11am, a tree was planted on The Green outside Stone's Orchard to mark the Coronation of King Charles III.

Members of Three Rivers District Council, representatives from the Parish Council and pupils from local schools attended the ceremony.



Several trees on The Green have been planted to mark key events in our nation's history. You might like to take a stroll to discover them.

For those who don't know me, I am the saxophonist in your resident Tuesday band.

I've recently joined a creative writing group and my first exercise was to write about a place that means a lot to me. I thought of All Saints' immediately and I wrote the attached piece.

*Mark*

## **Keeping the Faith: Music for Pleasure**

I've lost track of how many years Night Train has been rehearsing at All Saints'. A serendipitous encounter with a Church Committee in the block behind The Sportsman led to us being offered the far more convivial surroundings of the Church itself. The music we make together spans jazz, pop and dance. It is a unique outlet for us to leave our troubles behind and express ourselves within the chemistry that we manage to generate together. Night Train has been the constant through the trials and tribulations of life.

That magnificent building and the community that surrounds it has become woven into our lives. The Church adopted us and is part of the sound that we make. I've tried to capture a flavour of this special place for a recent creative writing exercise that I thought might be of interest:

The Church at Croxley Green commands the landscape as it has for the past one hundred and fifty years. The broad tiled roof and brick exterior complement the stonework and mullioned windows. A late nineteenth century marriage of the old and the new.

A driveway and a hundred years separate the Church from its Hall and offices. The car tyres crackle on the gravel as I arrive. Grand doors invite parishioners in for sanctuary, solace and celebration. Entry for me though is via the vestry – I am a trusted keyholder. The bright yellow yale lock is incongruous in the ancient studded door. I turn the wrought iron handle and enter, breathing in the familiar scent of church life. Dust, candles and furniture polish combine to tickle my nose in a silent welcome. Stone steps and another key take me into Church itself.

It is a cavernous space. Pitch black until I feel my way across the nave to the light switches. A flicker and the interior is revealed: A red domed ceiling between perpendicular windows frame the mix of the old and the new. A daringly modern frieze depicting the Light of the World draws the eye.

The central heating creaks into life, banging and humming as the pipes complain. An appropriately musty hint of burnt dust fills the air. Dry reed and cold metal collide in my mouth as I blow into my saxophone, warming the air with a cascade of bluesy notes. The church bell interrupts and tolls the hour: it's eight o'clock. The others will be here soon. Another rehearsal begins.

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## **Smile Lines** *from Parish Pump*

### **Church bulletin notices that didn't quite work...**

- ~ The Revd. John Adams spoke briefly, much to the delight of his audience.
- ~ The students will present Shakespeare's 'Hamlet' in the church on Friday at 7pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
- ~ A new loudspeaker system has been installed in the church. It was given by one of our members in memory of his wife.

### **Find and Replace?**

A minister whom I know of uses a standard liturgy for funerals. To personalise each service, he enters a 'find and replace' command. The computer then finds the name of the deceased from the previous funeral and replaces it with the name of the deceased for the upcoming one.

Not long ago, the minister told the computer to find the name 'Mary' and replace it with 'Edna'. The next morning, the funeral was going smoothly until the congregation intoned the Apostles' Creed. "Jesus Christ," they read from the pre-printed programme, "born of the Virgin Edna...'

## June Prayer Diary

Date	In our Church Family
1st	Ben, Sarah, Abbie and Joshua Guest
2nd	Richard and Patricia Hall
3rd	Anne Harris
4th	Clare Hearnshaw
5th	Gretel and Ron Hibbert
6th	Francis Hilsden
7th	Matthew, Sarah, Emily and William Hilton-Dennis
8th	Phil and Linda Hobbs
9th	Val Hunt
10th	Karen, Paul, Amelie and Olivia Jarvis
11th	Carly, Paul, Lucas, Oliver and Finley Johnson
12th	Sam, Simon, Carys and Nerys Jones
13th	Valerie Kendle
14th	Margaret and Roger Kircher
15th	Anni and Tom Lowery

16th	Lorraine, Nigel and Isobel McCobb
17th	Jean McLaughlin
18th	Sue and Roger McKeague
19th	James McShane
20th	Gill and Brian Main
21st	Jude, Yin and Alex Man
22nd	Jane. Ed, Joseph and Ben Manning
23rd	Janet, Graham, Zoe and Samantha Martin
24th	Jan Mills
25th	Miriam and Rao Mugan
26th	Judith and David Muir
27th	Valerie and Michael Murray
28th	Faith Nazir
29th	Sheila Newman
30th	Andrew Nobbs



## **Reg Dee *continued***

And with Roderick, this is where the antiques come in. As a family, we had simple but glorious holidays in the Yorkshire Dales and also in the Norfolk coastal town of Sheringham. One time in Sheringham, Dad walked into an antique shop and bought a small black lacquered tea caddy for £7. He later sold it for £21, and his adventure in antique dealing had begun. He opened a shop – named Sheringham Antiques, in honour of that tea caddy, and had the boys at the V & A carved and gilded all the missing letters that were needed to spell that name, in the style of the original gold lettering of the previous owners which read ‘HINGES AND CAPEL’, after it had been rearranged to show the gaps. Roderick, the bank manager, was instrumental in providing funds to get the business off the ground and not only the shop but also our house was very soon filled up with ‘stock’. As Susan said, sometimes we would return from holidays with a large wardrobe on the roof, and on more than one occasion mum had to give up her place in the passenger seat for an ornate chest of drawers and sit squashed in the back with us for the five hour journey home. We spent many happy hours on holiday sitting in the car, waiting for Dad to return from the local antique shop with his latest grand purchase. They were still great holidays. I have photos.

The shop ended after ten years, the stock took a little longer to sell, but Dad’s passion for great art and beautiful furniture which he developed at the V&A was undiminished, and that’s certainly something he’s passed on to me. Some of my best days with him were strolling round the place where he worked for 44 years. He said he was never ever bored there. How could he be, he said, surrounded each day by such great architecture and beautiful art? As we walked round he would nonchalantly describe how, for instance, he had rebuilt whole sections of an exquisite piece of furniture over a period of time without leaving a trace. I was there with him just before he retired, chatting away in his workshop with a very valuable Frank Lloyd Wright chair between us on the bench. He suddenly noticed something wrong and took out a rasp file and, to my horror, quite aggressively set about this chair with it to remove whatever was causing the problem. But he knew what he was doing. You can see that in the work that he did there and also in the list of other jobs and private commissions that he undertook. For St Mary’s Church in



Harefield, Sizergh Castle, Hever Castle, Sotheby's, Aberdeen Museum, the Duke of Bedford, the Duke of Hamilton and many more. And he treasured his letters of thanks for his excellent work on Henry VIII's four hundred year old drinking bowl from the Marquis of Bute. He was also offered commissions at Uppark and Ham House and even as consultant to oversee restoration of the wooden floor at Windsor castle, damaged during the fire. He didn't take them up – at that time he'd just retired, after all. But those who sought his advice knew how good he was at what he did.

I could go on with so many of his other passions, and there are many more, for instance his fine dress sense, always smartly attired in fine suits or jackets and almost always wearing a collar and tie – even when he was sailing. It seemed as if the only time he didn't wear a tie was when he was wearing a cravat. Some say his dress sense, the colourful trousers and blazers, and those hats, was influenced by presenters on TV auction shows. Has nobody considered that those presenters may have got their cues from him? And he loved to dance, as shown in his choice of hymn that we've just sung, and the story of how he met Joan at a dance at Wembley town hall after first waltzing with her sister Sheila – those ballroom lessons above a pub in Harrow in the 50s really paid off and served him well throughout his life. And dancing or no dancing, he loved a party. From those he organised for the Sailing Association, the boozy parties at the V&A, a memorable party at home in the 1970s where all the boring white light bulbs were changed for red or yellow or green – we were very young at the time but it's not easily forgotten. And of course, all those parties and get-togethers with all the wider family over the years.

We urge you to visit the V&A if you've never been or just haven't been for a while, to have a look round at the exquisite objects on display, especially the furniture, and of course the magnificent Indian cabinet he worked on for almost 9 months. Dad was there for a very long time and worked on a great many other objects. Perhaps as you browse the exhibits you might pause and ask 'Did Reg have anything to do with bringing such a beautiful object back to life?'. The answer is a definite... 'maybe'. But whether he did or not, he is absolutely part of the fabric of that great institution, so please do go along in his name. And that's about it. Farewell Dad, thank you and God Bless.

*Robert Dee*

## **Neither Here Nor There (cont.) by *Ron Hibbert***

### **‘Close Encounters of the Strange Kind’**

Over my many years of travel and ministry, I have met many strange people, with strange names in strange places. With my famous lack of political correctness, I have found it hard to control myself when confronted with a name, which when pronounced in English has been both funny and very rude. I regret that many are unprintable, especially in a Parish magazine.

Once, in Romania in the 50's, I met a member of the Communist Government, who introduced himself to me as ‘Silly Rascal’ (actually ‘Sillay Raskov’), but just ask yourself how you would react and how would you remember him. He used some words that Nikita Krushev had recently uttered ‘By 1980, the last Christian in Eastern Europe would have abandoned his faith and would be introduced on TV as a testimony to their triumph.’ Having just preached, the previous day, at one Baptist and two Pentecostal Churches, each numbering over 1,000 (which keep on growing to this day, I often wonder what happened to ‘Silly Rascal’? By the way, it was always known that Krushev’s own Mother remained a staunch Christian, throughout his time in office.

On a similar theme, I found myself in Bulgaria meeting with a Communist Government official who rejoiced in the name of Dimitar Grabbitov, who was responsible for religious affairs. One of our church leaders had been removed from his position and put to work on a building site. His ‘crime’ was that he had opened his church building at unauthorised times to allow young people from his church to do their homework in a secure and peaceful environment and I went there to try to negotiate his reinstatement. He was a hard man and it was a tough meeting which was getting nowhere and my negotiating position was weak. When we were almost finished and it seemed there was no way forward, I was surprised when he dismissed his staff and wanted to see me alone (he spoke excellent English). When we were alone, he informed me that his mother had died a couple of weeks before and the funeral had been the previous week (a very secular affair, as befitting his position). He requested that he collect me from my hotel when it was dark that evening, take me to her grave so that I could say some words of Christian Committal and ‘pray for the repose of her soul’ (in a secret ceremony). This I did

and the next day, he orders that my church leader friend was allowed to resume his position at the church.

Pride of place, when writing about strange names which required a degree of self control, must go to a church leader I met in New York at a meeting with other leaders. He invited me to visit his church when I returned and gave me his business card. When I looked at it, I almost lost control. His name was 'Reverend Carl E Pongs'. Whenever I meet someone with a name like that, I am bound to question the wisdom of parents who insert initials into their offspring's names that offer a whole new world of meaning. I mean, if you have to suffer with a surname like "Pongs" then either change it or make sure you don't make it worse.

Obviously language, culture and traditions play a large part in names and behaviour and this is reflected in church life. Having said that, there is always a comforting uniformity in Anglicanism wherever you are, it can be compared to eating in a McDonald's. Believe it or not, I was actually, personally involved in the first expansion of the McDonald's Empire from the USA to the UK and Europe (did you know that their first move was to establish a manufacturing plant in Watford?).

It's just a story that's too long and incredible to tell, but suffice to say that it stemmed from a relationship that Gretel and I had with a couple from Indiana, USA, who turned out to be the principle owners of the McDonald's parent company. Their vision was that a person could eat at McDonald's in any place in the world and be sure of the same product, produced to the same exacting set of rules, if you were eating it in Watford, Washington or Warsaw. I know from personal experience, how obsessive this couple were about this rule. What our friends did not understand was that in most of Europe, particularly in Eastern Europe, there was no concept of "Fast Food" as eating was a social event. It was not so bad when they opened their first outlet in London in 1974 and the Brits soon adapted, but when they moved behind the Iron Curtain, long lines soon formed as customers took at least an hour to consume one Big Mac. Having been involved in establishing many churches in many countries, I could have advised them of the need to socially adapt.

By the way, here is a couple of good quiz questions. Which 3 European countries have McDonald's tried and failed to invade?

(Answer – Iceland, Macedonia and Montenegro.) Secondly, where have they never even tried to penetrate? (Answer – Albania and Kosovo).

For example when visiting some African countries, it's nearly driven me to distraction trying to get them to work to schedules for teaching programmes (at least one half turned up late), I was politely informed that 'The Englishman has a watch, but the African has the time'. In the Middle East it's nigh on impossible to get them out of the habit of a long lunch break and a nap. In many Continents, when needing to discuss something of importance, it would be considered impolite to immediately try to get to the heart of the matter. I reluctantly had to accept, that first there had to be some kind of 'World Tour' covering long accounts of family and national history. I used to call this sleep-inducing session as 'trips around the lighthouse' (all laboriously translated). Whenever someone says 'you are our Father', it's going to be followed with a request for money.

Lastly, speaking of time keeping, I well remember a visit to Accra, Ghana. I was asked to speak at the installation of a new Bishop. I had noticed that there were three prominent seats at the front left vacant, despite a packed congregation of at least 2,000. The service got underway and I got up to speak. After about 5 minutes I heard the sound of police sirens in the distance. As they got louder, I was asked to stop speaking and accompany the Church Leader to the doors and as we did so a number of armed guards ran in. As we reached the door, a motorcade arrived containing the President and First Lady of Ghana and after greeting them, we processed up the aisle to their reserved seats and I was asked to resume preaching. When I had finished and the Bishop was installed, the President was invited to come to the pulpit and say some words (3 hours had elapsed since the start). I was then given the unexpected privilege of praying for him. All this, by the way, was broadcast on live TV and when I reached the airport the following day, all the staff seemed to have watched the programme and I was escorted by a Presidential Aide through all the very brief formalities and upgraded to the First Class cabin for the flight to London. It was worth having my sermon interrupted.

## Social and Fundraising Committee Diary

We have a number of events coming up over June and July for you to put in your diaries!



### **Hymns and Pimm's : Sunday 11th June**

Would you like to sing some of your favourite hymns and enjoy a nice glass of Pimm's? Then join us for 'Hymns and Pimm's' on Sunday 11th June at 4.00pm.

If you would like your favourite hymn to be included, then just put your name and the title of the hymn on the sign-up list at the back of the Church.

This will be a fundraiser for the Hall Renovation Project so please put the date in your diary and let your friends know.

### **Croxley Revels : Saturday 17th June**

We will again be having our usual stall at Croxley Revels on Saturday 17th June and would be really grateful for help on the day to run the stall.

We will need help setting up in the morning, manning the stall during the course of the afternoon and with dismantling at the end of the day.

If you can help in any way (even for only half an hour) please add your name to the sign-up sheet at the back of the church or speak to either myself, Lyndon or Miriam.

Also, as in previous years, we will be having a bake-off session on Wednesday 14th June (time to be confirmed) to make and decorate large cakes to sell on the stall. If you can help with this, please let either myself or Janet know.

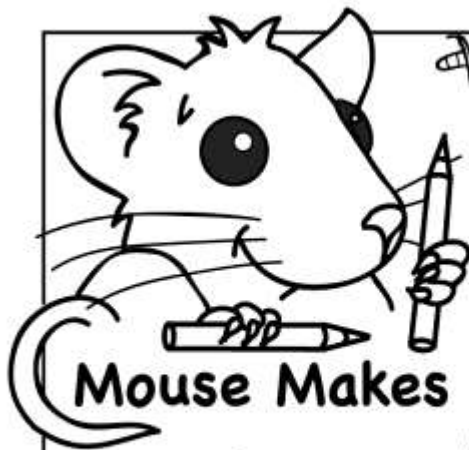


### **Saturday 15th July : Music Concert**

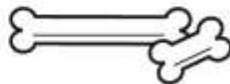
As announced in last month's magazine we will be holding a music concert on Saturday 15th July at 7.30pm with interval refreshments of Pimm's, Prosecco and soft drinks available.

Tickets will cost £7.50 (for adults) and £5.00 (for children under 16) and will be on sale very soon.

*Ann Palmer*



The Lord said to Moses,  
 "Your brother Aaron shall tell Pharaoh  
 to let the people of Israel go out of his land...  
 The Egyptians shall know that I AM the Lord  
 when I stretch out my hand against Egypt..."  
 As Pharaoh's heart was hardened against the  
 Israelites, God sent ten plagues upon him...



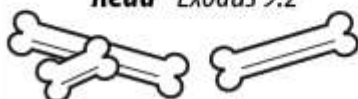
**1**  
**Water turns to Blood**  
 Which water turned  
 to blood?  
*Read - Exodus 7:19*

**2**  
**A Swarm of Frogs**  
 In which  
 places were the  
 frogs found?  
*Read - Exodus 8:3-4*

**3**  
**A Plague of Gnats**  
 When Aaron struck his  
 staff on the ground  
 what became Gnats?  
*Read - Exodus 8:16-17*

**4**  
**Swarms of Flies**  
 In which land were the  
 flies not be found?  
*Read - Exodus 8:22*

**5**  
**Death of Animals**  
 Which animals that belonged  
 to the Egyptians died?  
*Read - Exodus 9:2*



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

GOD • PLAGUES • MOSES • AARON  
 WATER • BLOOD • STAFF • RIVER • NILE • FISH  
 FROGS • SWARM • GNATS • DUST • FLIES  
 GROUND • DEATH • ANIMALS • SOOT  
 BOILS • PEOPLE • HAIL • THUNDER • FIRE  
 MAN • BEAST • LOCUSTS • WIND • LAND  
 DARKNESS • FIRSTBORN • MIDNIGHT

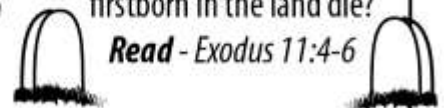
**6**  
**A Break out of Boils**  
 What did Moses throw into  
 the air before boils appeared  
 on people and animals?  
*Read - Exodus 9:10*

**7**  
**A Rain of Hail**  
 What also rained  
 down with the hail?  
 Where did it not hail?  
*Read - Exodus 9:24-26*

**8**  
**A Swarm of Locusts**  
 Where did the wind  
 come from that brought  
 the locusts to the land?  
*Read - Exodus 10:13*

**9**  
**Darkness over the Land**  
 How many days did  
 it remain dark?  
*Read - Exodus 10:21-22*

**10**  
**Death of the Firstborn**  
 At what time would the  
 firstborn in the land die?  
*Read - Exodus 11:4-6*



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**All Saints' Church**  
Croxley Green

# Hymns & Pimm's



Join us in the Church  
to sing some of our  
favourite hymns followed  
by Pimm's in the garden

**Free Entry**  
All donations towards the  
Church Hall  
Refurbishment Project



**All Saints' Church**  
**Croxley Green**  
**Sunday 11th June - 4.00pm**

# Smile Lines

*from Parish Pump*

## **Found in church pew-sheets....**

The youth group will be presenting Shakespeare's *Hamlet* in the church hall this Friday at 7pm. The congregation is warmly invited to attend this tragedy.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm at the church. Please use the large double door at the side entrance.

## **Fire**

There was a fire at the main Inland Revenue office in London, but it was put out before any serious good was done. – *Ronnie Corbett*

## **Mark**

When the late Dean of York was asked why he called his stumpy-tailed fox terrier 'Mark', he explained: "The New Testament contains the life-stories of our Lord by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Mark's is the shortest tale!"

## **Life abundant**

Two students from a theological training college decided to spend part of their holiday in the countryside doing outreach. They stopped at an old farm house and proceeded up the path through a group of screaming children and a washing line heavy with wet clothes. When they got near the door, the woman of the house stopped scrubbing the steps, brushed her hair and perspiration from her brow, and asked them what they wanted. "We'd like to tell you how you can live forever," they answered.


The exhausted woman hesitated for a moment, and then replied, "Thank you, but I don't think I could stand it!"

## **Married**


How many women can one man marry? A little boy who attended his first wedding worked that one out pretty quick: the answer is 16. It is easy, if you think about it. Four better, four worse, four richer, four poorer. Comes to 16.



Friday Coffee, the day before the Coronation, was a very patriotic gathering as you can see from the cakes on display.



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Final copy date: 15th June for July  
15th July for August

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTOR: Fran Bennett

**This month's cover** is a design from *Parish Pump*

### **Acknowledgement**

Unless otherwise stated, pictures are taken from Parish Pump or else they are produced by members of the magazine team.

*We encourage articles from a wide range of contributors and the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editors.*

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