

All Saints' Croxley Green

Parish Magazine
January 2024





All Saints' Croxley Green

Sunday Worship in Church

8am Holy Communion BCP
(Second Sunday of the Month)

9.45am Parish Communion

12-12.45pm Family Service
(First 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

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Website: www.croxleygreenallsaints.org

Email: office@croxleygreenallsaints.org

Magazine

magazine@croxleygreenallsaints.org

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January 2024



Revd. Canon Miriam writes:

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year!

At whatever point in January you are reading this letter, we will still be in the season of Christmas which is why we still have our Nativity Crib in place in church. In the secular world Christmas is deemed as over once Boxing Day has passed and many people take down their festive decorations soon after. Some may keep them up until 12th night. In church our celebrations of the birth of Jesus do not end on Boxing Day, the celebration of Christmas for us, has only just started and will continue until we celebrate The Presentation of Christ in the Temple on 28th January. There are lots of pictures and information about the services and activities we had in the lead up to Christmas further on in this magazine. I hope you enjoy looking and reading about them. It has been amazing few weeks and such a wonderful opportunity to welcome people into the church. Thank you so much to everyone who has worked so hard to enable all of these activities to take place, you are heroes, we could not have had the wonderful services and activities without you. There are too many of you to name here but please accept my very grateful thanks for all that you have done.

The New Year starts with the season of Epiphany, the arrival of the wise men. Despite what the images on some Christmas cards portray, the wise men did not arrive in the stable alongside the shepherds but much later. In fact they wouldn't have visited the stable at all as Jesus was probably near the age of two when they arrived. When we think about it this makes sense as their journey from the east would have taken many, many months. This is why they have their own feast day called Epiphany which falls on 6th January. These men from foreign lands arrive bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, each gift a symbol of who this child really was, a king, a Messiah, a suffering servant. We will be celebrating Epiphany on Sunday 7th January at

our 9.45am service. In the evening of that day we are having Carols and Christmas Cocktails, a chance to come together and sing our favourite Christmas carols, there is a list for you to add your favourite carol at the back of the church. I do hope you will be able to join us and bring a few friends too.

Also, on January 21st at 3.30pm we will be hosting the annual ecumenical service to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, do pop this in your diary and come along if you can.

As we start this new year I pray that you will all know that God is always with you, his love, like a blanket, enfolds you and surrounds you in all that you do and in all circumstances that you may find yourself in .

With my love and prayers for a peaceful, and hope-filled New Year

Miriam



Parish Register and Records

BAPTISM

19th November Kitty Ann Louise RANDALL

FUNERALS

6th December 2023 Valerie Jean GRIFFITHS aged 89 years

22nd December 2023 Margaret BANCILHON aged 90 years



January Readings

Sunday January 7th
1st Sunday of Epiphany

Mark 1 v 4-11

Sunday January 14th
2nd Sunday of Epiphany

John 1 v 43-end

Sunday January 21st
3rd Sunday of Epiphany

John 2 v 1-11

Sunday January 28th
4th Sunday of Epiphany

Mark 1 v 21-28



CAROLS & CHRISTMAS COCKTAILS

All Saints' Church
Sunday 7th January - 4.00pm

Join us in the Church
to sing some of our
favourite Carols
followed by Christmas
Cocktails

Free Entry
All donations towards
the Church



Report from the PCC Meeting 6th December 2023

The Church Organ

The PCC is seeking to have the organ re-tuned and to investigate options for improving its electrical controls, which are deteriorating. These matters are being actively pursued.

The Sanctuary Carpet

The red carpet between the altar and the steps to the nave is in poor condition and needs replacement. The PCC resolved to replace it with a carpet of the same colour.

Finance Report and 2024 Budget

Our Treasurer, Andrew, reported that All Saints' is on course to achieve a small surplus of income over expenditure for 2023. This is a welcome £12,000 improvement on the original budget. The biggest contributors were increased Offertory giving, donations and Gift Aid receipts, the Beer Festival, the Christmas Market and Prize Draw and donated receipts at the Friday Cafés. The PCC is grateful to everyone who gave so much in terms of their time and money to help to achieve this result.

Andrew's proposal for the 2024 budget, which PCCs are required to approve by 31st December 2023, included forecasting an end-year deficit of £3,720, which achieving incomes higher than those forecast would eliminate. Uncertainties included levels of inflation, energy and contracted services costs and levels of Hall hiring income. The PCC adopted the proposed budget without amendment.

Hall Hire Fees for 2024

The PCC considered levels of fees recommended by the Hall Committee to be charged for bookings of the Hall by outside organisations or bookings for private parties. The Hall Committee had taken account of charges for other local halls and facilities. Most fees would not change but fees for full use of the Hall to include the kitchen for cooking would increase to reflect higher energy costs. Costs for hire of the Committee room would not rise. Three months' contractual notice would be necessary for regular hirers of the Hall but new fees for one-off bookings could start on 1st January 2024. The PCC adopted the fees proposed by the Hall Committee for 2024.

Safeguarding – Safe Use Of Images Policy and Lone Working Guidelines

The PCC conducted a two-year review of its Safe Use of Images

Policy and resolved that no changes were required to the existing policy. If the parish wishes to publish photographs of any child or vulnerable adult it will request the consent of parents or guardians via completion of a consent form.

The PCC also received and adopted guidelines for anyone working alone on Church property or visiting people in their homes. The guidelines include advice for handling and ending meetings, assessing risk and informing another person of meetings arranged away from the Church.

Anne Oke and Sam Jones, the Safeguarding Team, have designed a child-friendly safeguarding poster which will be displayed in the children's area of the Church and in the Hall.

Communion Assistants

Jane Bates, Fran Bennett, Alick Burge, Richard Hall, Sam Jones, Anne Oke, Chris Oke and Lyndon Palmer were confirmed to continue to administer the chalice at the Sunday and Thursday communion services. In addition, Miriam was authorised to instruct and appoint those children she judged to be both capable and willing to serve as communion assistants from henceforth. Young Ian Galloway had administered the chalice on a trial basis at the communion service on Sunday 5th November. PCC members confirmed that feedback they had received from the congregation had been entirely positive.

Meetings Calendar for 2024/25

The PCC adopted the calendar of meetings for the PCC, the Finance and Standing Committee and the Annual Meetings until May 2025. PCC meetings will be held on Wednesday evenings in the Committee Room.

Committee Reports

Buildings – Delays have occurred with progressing various repair works but the Buildings Committee will continue to pursue them. It will also investigate installing a lockable exterior pot box for the Parish Office and the cause of water ingress into the hall boiler room.

Hall – The carpet company V Penney has kindly offered to replace the existing stage carpet at no cost to the parish. New lighting for the hall entrance is being investigated, with possible replacement of the notice boards.

Pastoral and Evangelism - The 8am communion service will be moved from the first Sunday to the second Sunday of each

month; to be publicised in the magazine. Members were very pleased that Nerys Jones and William Hilton-Dennis had received their first communion.

Social and Fundraising – There will be a Carols and Cocktails Evening on Epiphany Sunday 7 January, at which refreshments will be served.

*Chris Fagan
PCC Secretary*

Why Churchwardens love January

Hail to the Lord's anointed,
Both clergyman and lay!
But they're seldom disappointed
To get past Christmas Day!
The hectic Christmas season is
Of service constantly –
There can't be better reason
To welcome January!

The Curate and the Vicar
A busy schedule keep,
As they rush, ever quicker –
They don't get that much sleep.
And overworked Churchwardens
And their sidespersons team –
Sure don't get time for boredom,
And only seldom scream!

So, when the season's over,
The crib has been put by,
The drapes to green changed over,
They breathe a heartfelt sigh!
They laugh and smile with pleasure,
And sing a merry rhyme,
But short-lived is their leisure –
For soon comes Easter time!

By Nigel Beeton from Parish Pump

Christmas Market 2023 Grand Prize Draw Winners

	Prize	Ticket number	Winner
1	£350 cash	1707	Caroline Nahainowicz
2	Dinner for Two at The Grove	2059	Sue Fenton
3	Family Ticket to Harry Potter Studio Tour	2101	Rafferty Gunn
4	Cockburn's Special Reserve Port	2241	Maureen Grimley
5	£245 Gift Voucher Venture Photography	2508	David Bennett
6	OPI Hollywood Collection Bliss Beauty	1678	Denise Coleman
7	Bottle of Prosecco	3	Sarah Gardner
8	£20 Voucher Fox and Hounds	2942	Luke Burton
9	Bottle of Famous Grouse Whisky	1614	Vicky Hills
10	Bottle of Croft Original Sherry	2195	Ashton Miles
11	1 month's free classes for 2 Jazzercise	2601	Natalia Mirochinokov
12	Bottle of Gordon's Pink Gin	21	Elizabeth Tims
13	£550 Gift Voucher Venture Photography	2757	Colin Plested
14	Bottle of Rose Cava	965	James McShane
15	Pamper and Prosecco voucher for 4 Tropic Skincare	828	Vicki Jarman

SOFUN

Thank you to everyone who has supported our events over 2023. We have had a very successful year and managed to raise a lot of money for the Church as a result.

The committee will be meeting at the beginning of January to plan our calendar for 2024 and look forward to another year of varied and, hopefully successful, events for you to enjoy.



Our first event will be **Carols and Christmas Cocktails** on **Sunday 7th January at 4.00pm** when we will be bringing the Christmas season to a close by celebrating all our favourite Christmas Carols.

Following the carol singing we will be serving a variety of Christmas Cocktails (including non-alcoholic choices) for you to enjoy.



If you have a favourite Christmas Carol you would like to sing along to please add it to the sign up sheet at the back of the Church.

Finally, on behalf of the committee I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year!

Ann Palmer

All Saints' Grand Prize Draw

The All Saints' Grand Prize Draw was made at the Christmas Market on Saturday 18th November. 3,339 tickets were bought, which is an amazing total, raising more than £3,300.

We are very grateful to everyone who kindly donated prizes, bought tickets or gave their time to selling the tickets.

Chris Fagan

Admission to take Communion



During our morning service on Sunday 3rd December, the First Sunday in Advent, two of the younger members of our congregation were admitted to take communion and took communion for the first time.

Miriam gave them a gift from All Saints' to mark the occasion which was very soon being read and shared.



Please remember them in your prayers as they go forward in learning and growing in faith.



I found my class interesting that I did with Miriam and Paul as I got to learn more about God.

Having communion was amazing today and I felt lucky that Paul gave me a blessing and communion.

I feel like I got a warm heart from it from all God's love in it.

I also did a prayer in the service: Dear God, I pray for neighbours and people around the world in wars. Amen.

Thank you to everyone for the Bible you gave me I love it and look forward to reading it at bedtime tonight.

Nerys

January Prayer Diary

Date	In our Church Family
1st	Maureen Cliff
2nd	Jane Colbourne
3rd	Anne and David Dougans
4th	Kathryn and Jemima Duffy
5th	Pamela Evans
6th	Chris Fagan
7th	Shirley Ford
8th	Pat Foster
9th	Janet Francis
10th	Sylvia Furzey
11th	John Galloway
12th	Simon, Tracy, Ian and Charles Galloway
13th	Sarah Gardner
14th	Liz Gowshall
15th	Ben, Sarah, Abbie and Joshua Guest

Date	In our Church Family
16th	Richard and Patricia Hall
17th	Anne Harris
18th	Clare Hearnshaw
19th	Gretel and Ron Hibbert
20th	Francis Hilsden
21st	Matthew, Sarah, Emily and William Hilton-Dennis
22nd	Phil and Linda Hobbs
23rd	Val Hunt
24th	Karen, Paul, Amelie and Olivia Jarvis
25th	Carly, Paul, Lucas, Oliver and Finley Johnson
26th	Sam, Simon, Carys and Nerys Jones
27th	Valerie Kendle
28th	Margaret and Roger Kircher
29th	Anni and Tom Lowery
30th	Lorraine, Nigel and Isobel McCobb
31st	Jean McLaughlin

Christmas at All Saints' 2023



Over several days, different groups at Church made angels ready to decorate the Church. Children from Yorke Mead and Harvey Road also helped as a lot were needed.

As you can see, it was a long climb to the Church ceiling ... thank you Simon and Nik.



The trees are up ...
inside and out.





Christmas Lights 2023

There was a good gathering of people on a cold evening for the Churches Together carol singing at the turning on of the Christmas Lights outside the Library on 28th November 2023.

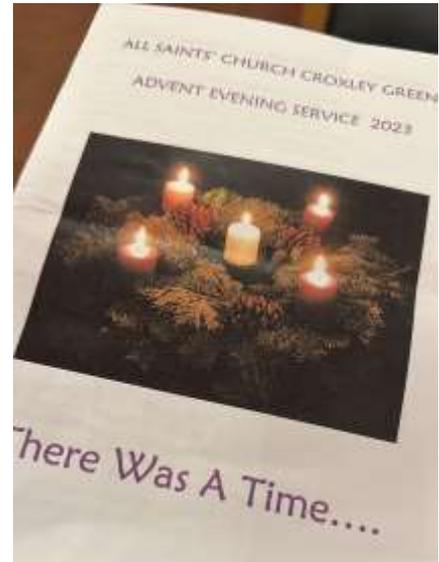


Advent Service

Sunday 3rd December

Everybody said what a wonderfully moving service this was.

The poem that Fran read in the service was enjoyed



so much that you can find it again on pages 16 and 17.



Ready for Quiet Church on Thursday 7th December at 7.30pm. Everyone enjoyed a quiet time of reflection away from the bustle of preparations.

Unfortunately, the Churches Together Walk of Witness, planned for 16th December, had to be cancelled this year.



Christingle

Sunday 10th December

The Christingle Service started in the Hall with craft activities and Christmas refreshments



The atmosphere created by the candles and lanterns in Church was wonderful.



before moving into Church with the Christingles and lanterns that had been made.





Congratulations

Congratulations to Rory and Rachel on the arrival of Frankie Riley. He came to Church for the first time on Christmas day at only five days old.



Toddlers

After a morning of Christmas fun crafts and activities on 18th December, Father Christmas and his Elf dropped in at Toddlers to deliver some bags of presents and meet the children. A great deal of fun was had by all.

Thank you to Jane for arranging for Father Christmas to visit and for a fantastic term of fun crafts, songs and activities.



Carol Service

17th December at 6pm

The Church was full for the Carol Service on 17th December and the lit candles around the Church created a wonderful atmosphere. The choir was joined by three of the younger members who sang the first verse of 'Once in Royal David's City' at the start of the service.



There Was a Time: An Advent Poem

There was a time when there was no time,
When darkness reigned as king,
When a formless void was
all that there was in the nothingness of eternity,
When it was night.
But over the void and over the night Love watched.
There was a time when time began.
It began when Love spoke.

Time began for light and life, for splendour and grandeur.
Time began for seas and mountains, for flowers and birds.
Time began for the valleys to ring with the songs of life,
and for the wilderness to echo with the wailing of wind
and howling of animals.
And over the earth, Love watched.

There was a time when time began to be recorded.
A time when Love breathed and a new creature came to life.
A new creature so special that it was in the image and likeness of
Love
Of Love who is God.
And so man was born and the dawn of a new day shone on the world.
And over man, Love watched.

But there came a time when the new day faded.
A time when man who was like God tried to be God.
A time when the creature challenged the creator.
A time when man preferred death to life and darkness to light.
And so the new day settled into twilight.
And over the darkness, Love watched.

There was a time of waiting in the darkness.
A time when man waited in the shadows,
And all creation groaned in sadness.
There was waiting for Love to speak again—for Love to breathe again.
And kings and nations and empires rose and faded in the shadows.
And Love waited and watched.

Finally, there came a time when Love spoke again.
A Word from eternity—a Word
Spoken to a girl who belonged to a people not known by the world
Spoken to a girl who belonged to a family not known by her people
To a girl named Mary.
And all creation waited in hushed silence for the girl's answer.
And Mary spoke her yes.
And Love watched over Mary.

And so there came a time when Love breathed again
When Love breathed new life into Mary's yes.
And a new day dawned for the World
A day when light returned to darkness, when life returned to dispel
death
And so a day came when Love became man—a mother bore a child.
And Love watched over Love—a Father watched His Son.

And, lastly, there came a time when you and I became a part of time.
Now is the time that you and I wait.
Now we wait to celebrate what the world waited for.
And as we wait to celebrate what was at one time, we become a part
of that time
A time when a new dawn and a new dream and a new creation began
for man.
And as a part of time, Love waits and Love watches over us.

Fr. Joseph Breighner



Afternoon Tea

Thursday 21st December

The Church Hall was full of people and the tables were laden with delicious sandwiches, cakes, scones and savouries as the Christmas afternoon tea got under way. There was a quiz to challenge everyone and then carol singing to round off the festivities.

So much fun was being had that nobody stopped to take any photos!

Thank you to Fran for organising the event, David for playing the carols and everybody who helped by preparing the food, setting up and clearing away.



Crib Service

24th December

The Crib Service was based on the story 'The Christmas Surprise' by Steph Williams and copies were given out for children to take home.



Members of the congregation were encouraged to join in and notices were held up at the appropriate moment.





Croxley Mummers

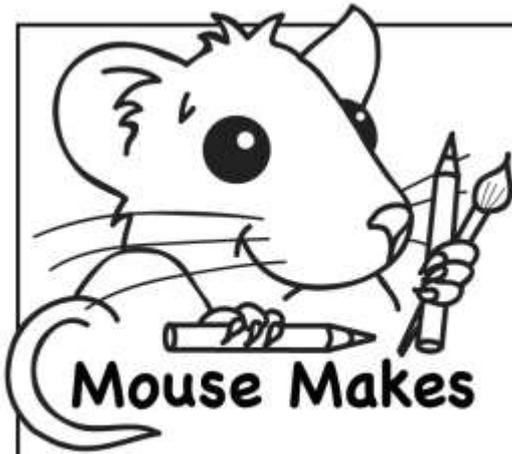
On Christmas Eve, the Croxley Mummers toured Croxley Green to perform their version of George and the Dragon (with a few topical additions!).

Their first performance was in All Saints' Church Hall to a packed audience. Great fun was had by all before the Mummers continued on their way.



The money that they have raised each year has been donated to The Peace Hospice.





EPIPHANY is the time in the Church year that we remember when the 'wise men' or 'Magi' followed a star that led them to the Christ child Jesus. They bowed down, worshipped him and left *three* special gifts.

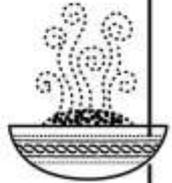


Where was Jesus born?

 Luke 2:1



What three gifts did the wise men give Jesus?



 and -----
 Luke 2:11



Who was the king?

 Luke 2:1

Where did the wise men come from?
 the -----
 Luke 2:1

How were the wise men warned not to return to Herod?
 In a -----

Luke 2:12

What had the wise men seen?

a -----
 Luke 2:2



Look up the Bible verses, fill in the blanks, find them in the word search then look for the words opposite.

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

JESUS
 WISEMEN
 WORSHIP
 SHEPHERD
 KING • JEWS
 CHRIST • CHILD
 BORN • RULER
 ISRAEL • REJOICE
 JOY • HOUSE • MARY
 GIFTS • EPIPHANY

How many other words can you make from the letters in EPIPHANY?



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Smile Lines *from Parish Pump*

Why?

A young couple invited some people to dinner. At the table, the mother turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?"

"I don't know what to say," the girl replied. "Just say what you hear Mummy say," the father answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, "O Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

Windows

A wife texted her husband on a cold winter morning: "Windows frozen."

Her husband texted back: "Pour some lukewarm water over it." The wife texted back five minutes later: "Computer's completely not working now."

Friday

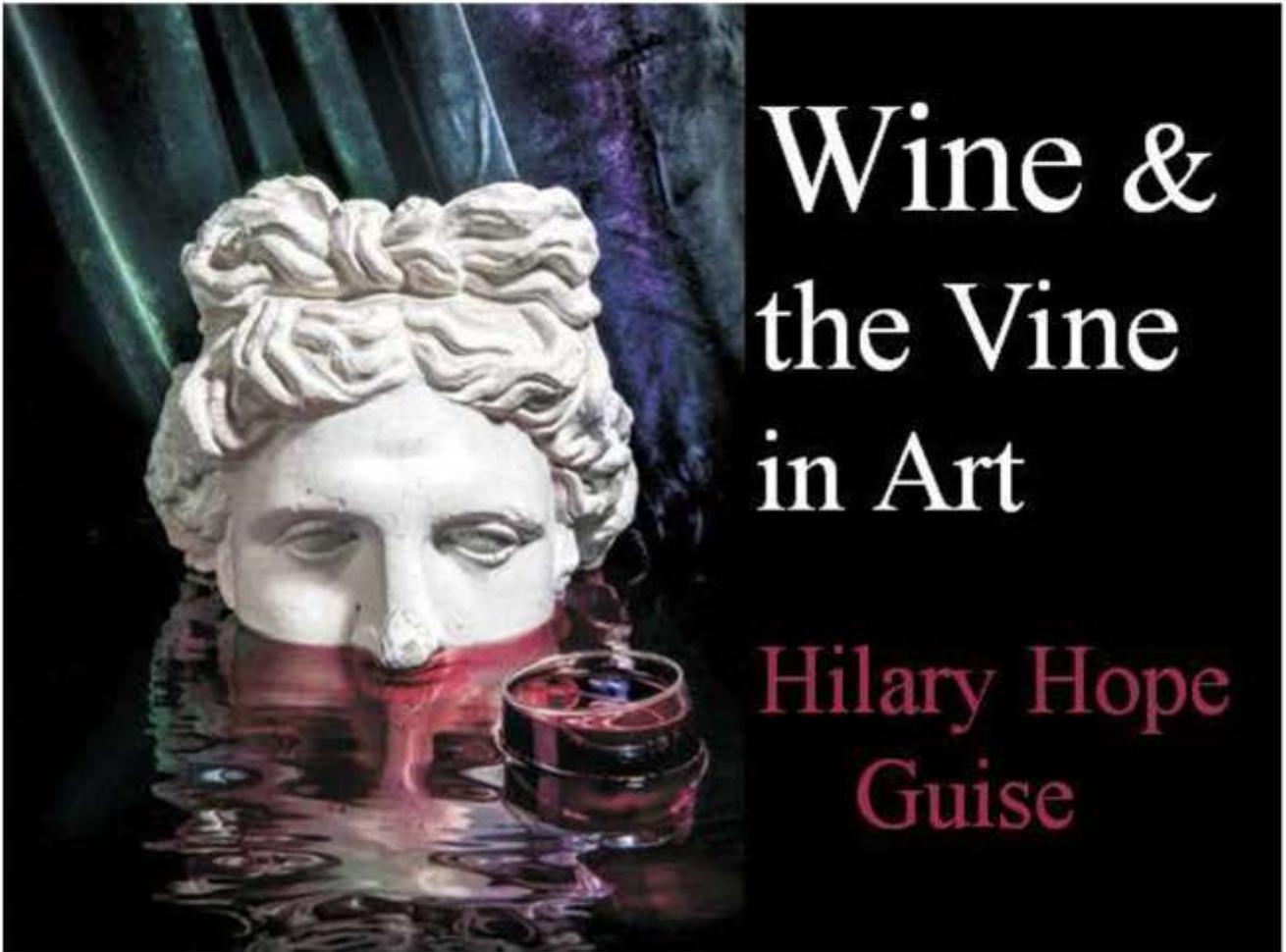
Nothing ruins your Friday like realising it's only Wednesday.

Sunday School Lesson

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan, in which a man was beaten, robbed and left for dead. She described the situation in vivid detail so her students would catch the drama. Then she asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?"

Jenny, a thoughtful little girl, broke the hushed silence, "I think I'd be sick!"





Wine & the Vine in Art

Hilary Hope
Guise

Saturday 17th February

6.45pm for 7pm start

St Mary's Hall, Church St, Rickmansworth

Lecture and wine tasting evening with raffle

www.hilaryguise.com/lectures

Tickets £20 per person from Gill Gowing gmgowing@btopenworld.com

or from Chris Gregory chris.gregory@tec-architecture.com

Proceeds will go to support the work of Christian Aid



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11th January : Mary Slessor of Calabar

Courage, vision and leadership are found in the most unlikely of places. Mary Slessor was born in December 1848 into a wretchedly poor family.

Her father was an alcoholic who lost his job as a shoemaker. Mary was the second of seven children, and in 1859 they moved from Aberdeen into the fetid slums of Dundee. Her father and mother worked in the mills, and Mary joined them there when she turned 11.

When Mary's father and both brothers died of pneumonia, Mary's mother struggled on to keep Mary and her two sisters alive. By the time Mary was 14 she was doing a 12-hour day as a jute maker.

But life was not all drudgery. Mary's mother was a devout Christian who read the family Bible to her daughters, and also the *Missionary Record*, a monthly publication from the United Presbyterian Church. The stories of the missionaries captivated Mary. When she heard that David Livingstone, the great missionary explorer, had died, she decided that she would follow in his footsteps. She wanted to devote her life to taking the gospel to Africa. She was 25.

In August 1876 the Presbyterians sent her out to Calabar, Nigeria, an area where no European had ever yet set foot. With her red hair and blue eyes, Mary grabbed attention wherever she went, but despite recurring illness and constant danger, Mary settled happily among the tribes. She learned their traditions, quickly becoming fluent in their language, Efik. Soon she won the confidence of their tribal leaders. She taught their children and was soon determined to put an end to some of their barbaric practices, such as the killing of twins (whom they thought were evil).

Over the years Mary put an end to many witchcraft practices, and she adopted every twin child she found abandoned. And she talked endlessly about Jesus Christ, the passion of her life.

Mary was tough – she made long trips through the jungles and took canoes up remote rivers. When her shoes gave out, she went barefoot. Her great passion was to go to 'the regions beyond' with the Gospel. She thrived in places and among people who would have terrified most women in her day.

It has been written of her: "Practically singlehanded she tamed and transformed three pagan communities in succession. It is a question if the career of any other woman missionary has been marked by so many strange adventures, daring feats, signal providences, and wonderful achievements." (Dr Robert H. Glover, *The Progress of World-Wide Missions*.)

When in 1901 Southern Nigeria became a British Protectorate, Mary was appointed the first ever female Magistrate in the British Empire. She became a skilful diplomatic emissary.

She was known for saying: "It is not Mary Slessor, but God and our united prayers that have brought the blessings to Calabar. Christ shall have all the honour and glory for the multitudes saved."

When she finally died of fever in January 1915 the native Christian girls and women wept bitterly: "Our mother is dead. Everybody's mother has left us."

Mary Slessor once wrote to a friend who had long prayed for her: "I have always said that I have no idea how or why God has carried me over so many funny and hard places, and made these hordes of people submit to me, or why the Government should have given me the privilege of a Magistrate among them, except in answer to prayer made at home for me. It is all beyond my comprehension."

Parish Pump



Croxley Parish Nurse
Cathy Scarborough
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Croxley Parish Nurse
Ruth Owusu-Ansah
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07305084948
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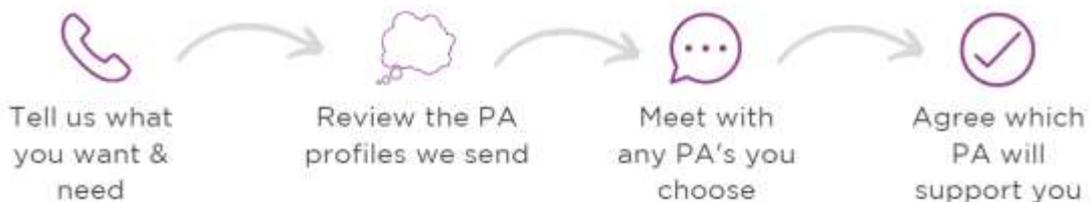
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- Shopping
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Please e-mail contributions to magazine@croxleygreenallsaints.org by the copy dates below. If you have any queries, please contact one of the team above. Thank you.

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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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