All Saints' Croxley Green

Parish Magazine December 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 First Sunday (formerly 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 enquiriesfrom 9am to 12 noon, Tuesday to Friday.Answerphone available outside thesehours.Tel: 772109Parish Administrator:Judith Man

Website:www.croxleygreenallsaints.org Email:office@croxleygreenallsaints.org

Magazine

magazine@croxleygreenallsaints.org

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Revd. Tolu George

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Revd. Canon Miriam writes:

Dear Friends,

'Are we nearly there yet?' is a question many are familiar with when travelling with children, especially when they are excitedly looking

forward to being at the place they are travelling to. I am sure many of us can identify times when we have been on journeys that have been fraught with traffic holdups for one reason or another. Over what seems like months rather than weeks, even a short trip to and from Rickmansworth has led to frustrating delays caused by traffic lights at the bottom of Scots Hill. A five-minute journey takes 20 minutes or even longer when the traffic lights have broken and remain on red all the time! I was told that this is caused by people 'jumping the lights' which upsets the sensors causing them to malfunction. Sitting in my car in the traffic going towards Rickmansworth recently I was reflecting on how hard it is for us all to value 'waiting' times when we are always in such a hurry. Perhaps using these 'waiting times' to look around us and really see what is happening - the beauty of the leaves changing colour, the way they dance in the wind as they leave the tree and fall to the ground, the person walking their dog, the shape and colour of the clouds in the sky, the people living in the houses close by to the road works, these all provide us with opportunities to be 'in the moment' to reflect, give thanks and pray for others. Why not try it the next time you are stuck in a queue of traffic? It may help to reduce the frustration and keep you calm!

Advent begins on 1st December. It is a time of waiting. It is also a busy time in the church calendar that sets us journeying towards Christmas at a pace, and as our energy begins to dip, we too may ask, 'are we nearly there yet?' It is often so hard to balance the busyness of Advent Services, School Carol Services, Christingle, Church Carol Service, community Christmas events, shopping, presents wrapping etc. etc. with finding time to stop and 'be in the moment,' to do what is most important, spending time with God as we journey through Advent. It is only by stopping and making space that we can fully receive from God all that He longs to share with us. Advent calls us into a discipline of waiting and listening. I wonder how you might be able to prioritise this over the coming weeks? Perhaps you might want to schedule some time into each day to just stop and be. You could set a daily alarm for a certain time each day which, when it goes off, prompts you to stop whatever you are doing and just spend a few minutes being aware of the world around you, of God's presence with you in that moment and being open to receive whatever God wants to share with you. It might be a sense of peace, a stilling of mind, body and Spirit, receiving some words of encouragement or inspiration, a feeling of being held and supported. Why not try it and see for yourself? Perhaps you might want to use time in a more structured way. If this is the case then I can recommend two Advent Reflection books - Do not be Afraid by Rachel Mann has daily reflections, prayer and ideas for further reflection based on the joy of waiting in a time of fear. Another book, Women of the Nativity by Paula Gooder, provides stories of nine women from the Bible. She weaves her extraordinary wealth of Bible knowledge and imagination, giving voice to women whose stories are often drowned out by louder voices.

I pray that your journey through Advent will enrich you with a deepening awareness of God's presence with you that will enrich and stimulate your ongoing journey of faith and lead you to great joy as you celebrate the birth of our Saviour at Christmas.

There's lots of information in this magazine about Advent and Christmas events and services. I hope that you will be able to join in whatever will be right for you and your Christian journey. Do invite others to come along with you, our services over the coming weeks are great opportunities for us to share our faith and worship with others. A survey a couple of years ago reported that, not only are people more likely to attend a church service if asked to attend with someone, they also **want** to be asked. So have courage and invite someone to come with you to the Carol Service, Christingle, Crib Service or any of the other services.

This month's magazine has information about some magnificent events that have taken place over the last couple of months including the Beer Festival and the Christmas Market. Thank you so much to Ben Guest, Sam Beard and Scott for organising a wonderful and increasingly popular Beer Festival and Ann and Lyndon Palmer and the Sofun team for organising the brilliant Christmas Market and to everyone who helped in any way at these events. Not only did they raise money for the Church they were also a great focus for the community to come together and see that our Church has so much to offer local people.

By the time you read this letter our new Stipendiary Assistant Curate, Reverend Tolu George will have joined us along with her family Leke and children Jacob, Joshua and Jessica. They will be with us for about two and a half years. I do hope that you have had the opportunity to meet them and welcome them into the community of All Saints'.

With my love and prayers for a Holy Advent and a joyous Christmas

Miriam

Parish Register and Records

BAPTISMS

23rd November 2024	Alfred Arthur SMITH-MILNE
24th November 2024	Lily Marie WAKELIN

FUNERALS

28th October 2024Anne SAUNDERS aged 87 years.

18th November 2024

Steven ZANON aged 34 years



Gospel Readings for December 2024

Sunday December 1st Advent 1	Luke 21 v 25 – 36
Sunday December 8th Advent 2	Luke 3 v 1-6
Sunday December 15th Advent 3	Luke 3 v 7-18
Sunday December 22nd Advent 4	Luke 1 v 39 – 45 (46-55)
Sunday December 29th Christmas 1	Luke 2 v 41- end

Methodist Church New Road Christmas Tree Festival

Saturday 7th December 10.30am to 4pm Sunday 8th December 2-4pm

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Were you thinking of going to the Parish Council Christmas Market on 7th December at the Library? Why not call into the Methodist Church at the top of New Road as well to see their Christmas Tree Festival?

> Open on Saturday 7th from 10.30am - 4 pm. And Sunday 8th from 2-4 pm.

They never know how the trees will be decorated, but this time the suggestion is a book, poem or film that has a Christmas theme. There are craft activities for children and there will be plenty of refreshments to enjoy in the Hall. They look forward to seeing you.

All funds raised will be sent to Crisis



During the afternoon, the Civic Service was held at All Saints'. After the service, the band and congregation processed from Church up to the War Memorial on the Green where the service of Remembrance was continued.

Despite the misty rain, a good crowd gathered on the Green to remember.

Remembrance Sunday 10th November 2024

During the 9.45am service, the children made poppy wreaths that were placed on the Memorial at the back of Church during the Act of Remembrance at the end of the service.





Social & Fundraising Committee Diary

December Events and Services

As usual there are a lot of special services and events taking place in December in the lead up to Christmas.

1st December : Advent Service

Advent service at 6.00pm followed by wine and nibbles.



7th December : Parish Council Christmas Market

We will be having a stall selling mulled wine at the Parish Council Christmas Market from 2.30pm to 6pm. The Market takes place both inside and

outside the Library by the Christmas tree. This is a lovely community event and we would be really grateful for help to man the stall, even if for only half an hour!

If you are able to help please put your name down on the sign up sheet at the back of the Church or speak to Ann Palmer.

15th December : Christingle Service

The Christingle Service will take place on Sunday 15th December from 4pm. There will be an opportunity for children to make their Christingles in the Hall first. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served followed by a short service in the Church.



22nd December : Carol Service

The Carol service will take place at 6pm followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

5th January : Carols and Christmas Cocktails

Bringing the Christmas season to a close we will be holding another Carols and Christmas Cocktails on Sunday 5th January at 4pm.

Come along and enjoy singing your favourite Carols followed by a selection of Christmas Cocktails.

Ann Palmer



Christmas Post Box

The Christmas Post Box (for Croxley Green addresses only!) will be at the back of the Church from Sunday 24th November to Sunday 15th December. The suggested donation is 30p per card and all proceeds will be donated to the housing and homeless charity Shelter.

As always, please ensure that all cards have the correct name (including surname) and full postal address including post code.

Please note we will not be able to deliver any cards which are not correctly addressed.

If you are able to help with delivering the cards, please use the sign up sheet at the back of the Church.



Ann Palmer

New Frontals and Chasuble

The new frontals and chasuble have been purchased through legacy funds in memory of Martin Harris, Margaret Hobbs and Brian Squire. We us red as a liturgical colour during the Kingdom Season (which lasts from Remembrance Sunday to Advent), Pentecost, Palm Sunday and some Saints' Days.



We are very grateful for the generosity of those who have given a donation to Church in memory of their loved ones.

The frontals and chasuble were designed by Yvonne Bell



On the Move

Those of us who have children and are getting a bit 'ancient of days' think it is appropriate to make an effort to be nearer one of them as they will probably have to make some decisions about our future wellbeing. To this end, Don and I will be moving to Cornwall on 18th November. Obviously this is a

practical decision but an emotionally sad one. Sad because it means leaving long standing friends. I shall be sad to leave All Saints' as you have all given me much support and love over the years that I have been with you. I hope you feel that you have received the same from me. You are a strong and loving community and much has happened in a very positive way over the years I have been part of your community.

You have a very positive and caring incumbent, Miriam, and now you have an assistant priest, Paul. Sam is training for the priestly ministry and perhaps there is someone else fluttering in the wings. Time will tell. Many other positive things have been going on as so many of you share Christian love and its expression to those around you and the community at large. Long may this continue as it is the only way the Christian Church will move forward today. Never underestimate the value of showing Christian LOVE to whoever where ever. To quote Tesco's once famous phrase 'Every little helps'!

With love and prayers to each one of you

Revd. Anne

Praying Our Farewell

Sunday 17th November was the last service that we shared with Anne at All Saints'. The Church was full of people wanting to be with Anne and Don to wish them well before they move away. At the end of the service, Anne



was surrounded by us all as we Prayed Our Farewell, asking God to go with Anne as she meets new challenges and change.



When the service had finished, we all gathered at the back of the Church for tea, coffee or wine and cakes and nibbles as we chatted together and with Anne.

Anne was presented with a bag of spring bulbs to plant in her new garden before she cut the cake for us to share.

Anne will be greatly missed at All Saints'.

We wish Anne and Don well and will keep them in our prayers as they start the next phase of their lives.



You are invited to



Afternoon Tea at All Saints'

On Friday 20th December at 2pm We do hope you will be able to come for a catch up chat and some carol singing.

Please RSVP by phoning the Office : 01923 772109

Notes from the PCC Meeting on 6 November 2024

New Red Altar Frontal

The new frontal, vestments and falls for the lectern and legilium were installed on 8 November. They were funded by legacies from former congregation members Margaret Hobbs, Martin Harris and Brian Squire.

Church Organ

The work to improve the organ, intended to start in November, has had to be postponed to the Spring, owing to an accidental injury sustained by Mr Tarquin Wiggins, the organ builder. In the meantime a log of problems arising with the organ has been commenced.

Finance Report

At the end of October, the accounts for the Church and Hall showed a surplus of income over expenditure of £2,634. Depending on the financial outcome of the Christmas Market, the full year accounts could show a profit. The Beer Festival in October was a financial success as well as an enjoyable social experience for all who attended. The PCC expressed its grateful thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make it such a success and to thank the Anchor, Tap and Bottle for a generous donation to All Saints'.

Safeguarding

The PCC conducted its annual review of the six activities which involve children or vulnerable adults which are organised and run by Church members: the Church Choir, the Youth group, Afternoon Teas, the Monday Toddlers group, the Friday Drop-in Cafés and the Pop-up Cafés for young children. Each activity has a trained leader who has received an appropriate DBS clearance. In accordance with the Church of England's latest guidance, all newly-appointed activity leaders will receive an induction and ongoing support and oversight, to be provided by Anne Oke, our Parish Safeguarding Officer, and Sam Jones, the Assistant Safeguarding Officer.

Refurbishment of the Male Toilets in the Hall

The PCC received a report on initial proposals to improve the male toilets, whose condition needs improvement. These could potentially cost several thousand pounds. The PCC asked the Hall Committee to investigate and report to the PCC on several additional options and to seek the views of male users on any proposals.

Recent Heavy Rainfall

The recent particularly rainfall has caused rainwater to seep into the office and the hall. The existing drainage is not able to prevent this. The Buildings Committee will be investigating ways of securing a permanent solution to the problem.

Charities to be Supported in 2025

The next PCC meeting in December will be asked to choose four charities to be supported during 2025, principally from donations for after-service refreshments.

Christmas Tree Festival at the Methodist Church

All Saints' have been invited to supply a decorated tree on the general theme of Christmas Stories. Entrance free, with donations to Crisis. The Festival is open from 11am -4.30pm, with making of Christingles for a short service. It had been suggested that the All Saints' tree decoration might feature the Parish Nursing service, with volunteers young and older being invited to make decorations.

Cutting Back of Hedge on The Green Frontage

The PCC expressed its warm thanks to Andrew Nobbs, who had cut back the hedge along the frontage with The Green. Over the years the hedge had spread outwards to overhang the footway adjoining the busy road, which had severely reduced its usable width for pedestrians. Andrew's work had made it far more commodious.

Appointment of a Stipendiary Curate

Revd Miriam informed the PCC that a decision was imminent on the appointment of a stipendiary curate to All Saints' Parish. If appointed their service would commence in November.

Chris Fagan PCC Secretary

A Date for Your Diary: Saturday 5th February 2025

On 5th February 2025, at 7.30pm, there will be an Omnia Concert at All Saints' Church. Wine and nibbles will be served in the break. Omnia is a choral group that has entertained us in recent years with their beautiful unaccompanied singing of ancient, folk and modern songs.

Musical Memories Afternoon Tea



This was the first event of its kind organised and co-ordinated by the Parish Nursing Team and Volunteers from Croxley Green Churches Together. It was hosted by the Baptist Church and the room looked lovely with the tables set up with colourful

fabric and embroidered tablecloths (not the usual plastic ones!), flowers, and the china set out with colourful serviettes. Very inviting.

Over 60 people attended, including people living with memory loss and dementia and their carers. Cathy, our Parish Nurse, welcomed everyone and explained how the afternoon would flow. She

introduced the first choir, The Watford Philharmonic Choir, who volunteered their time and energy. They sang a selection of songs including Jazz, The Beatles, and Glen Miller.

Afternoon Tea was served with a variety of finger sandwiches, cups of tea and a selection of cakes, all made by members of All Saints', St.



Bede's and The Methodist Church. It was all delicious and went down well with everyone. This gave everyone a chance to chat.

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

During the afternoon we were also fortunate to be joined by two members from the Association of Reflexology who offered gentle Hand Massages which help provide stress relief and promotes the body's own feelings bringing balance to the body. There was representation from Cognitive Books and signposting to Hertfordshire Libraries Memory Boxes, Music for My Mind and various support groups.



There was much positive feedback about how enjoyable the afternoon had

been with the music, singing and tea! One asked, 'When is the next one?'

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

The Croxley Parish Nursing Service received funding from the Lottery Community Fund for one year to develop dementia/memory loss initiatives within the Croxley Green community. Cathy is leading on this project and the Trustees hope to gain further funding for another two years. Please contact her if you would like support/ advice or would like to be included in any further events. Her email is croxleyparishnursecathy@gmail.com and phone number is 07562 515791. If you would like to make a donation to the Croxley Parish please Nurse Service. either visit website our 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.

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

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



December Prayer Diary

Date	In our Church Family
1st	Sam, Simon, Carys and Nerys Jones
2nd	Adam and Asia Keene
3rd	Valerie Kendle
4th	Margaret and Roger Kircher
5th	Anni and Tom Lowery
6th	Lorraine, Nigel and Isobel McCobb
7th	Jean McLaughlin
8th	Sue and Roger McKeague
9th	James McShane
10th	Gill and Brian Main
11th	Jude, Yin and Alex Man
12th	Jane, Ed, Joseph and Ben Manning
13th	Janet, Graham, Zoe and Samantha Martin
14th	Sue Middleton
15th	Jan Mills

16th	Miriam and Rao Mugan
17th	Judith and David Muir
18th	Faith Nazir
19th	Sheila Newman
20th	Andrew Nobbs
21st	Anne and Chris Oke
22nd	Margaret and Dick Paddick
23rd	Paul, Siu and Kelly Palmer
24th	Lyndon and Ann Palmer
25th	Wendy and Peter Rennoldson
26th	Francesca Sams
27th	Cathy Scarborough
28th	Sarah and Cameron Selleck
29th	Wendy Shafe
30th	Revd. Anne and Don Shaw
31st	Robert Sheminant







Beer Festival 11th - 13th October

This year the third Annual Beer Festival was held at All Saints' Church. This event has gone from strength to strength and the Church was packed with people enjoying a drink, a chat, something to eat



and live music too.

An event like this takes a lot of organising and manpower to set up, run and clear away. Thank you to Ben Guest, Sam Beard, Scott (from the Anchor Tap and Bottle), Janet Martin (for the food) and everyone who came to help in any way.

This is a fantastic event that not only raises funds but also brings our community together.



Service of Remembrance for the Departed Saturday 2nd November

The Church was full on Saturday morning when people travelled from near and far to remember their loved ones who have died. During the service, names of those to be remembered were read out, a rose was placed in an arrangement for each name read out and a candle was lit and placed on the altar. The candles have been saved so that they can be used during the services over Christmas so remembering our loved ones will be included in those services too.



After the Service, tea, coffee and cakes were served at the back of Church and everybody had the chance to catch up and have a chat.

It was a lovely service that is greatly appreciated by those who attend.

Thank you to all those who helped by baking cakes, setting up, washing up and clearing away and thank you to Fran Bennett who organises the flowers and refreshments.



Christmas Market 16th November 2024

It was a lovely crisp autumn morning for our annual Christmas Market. The weather stayed dry but chilly to add just the right atmosphere to this wonderful event.

The Church and Hall looked very



festive with the stalls and tombolas set up and soon the customers flooded in. We were very busy all day with people buying and meeting up for a snack and a chat.

Thank you to Centre Stars and Night Train who provided live entertainment in the Church adding yet more Christmas atmosphere.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the day: planning and preparing, setting up, running stalls and clearing away and, of course, providing all the items for the refreshments, cake stall and tombolas – we couldn't have done it without you!



The chart shows preliminary takings results.

These may be subject to minor changes.



Stall	Takings
Refreshments Church	305.10
Refreshments Hall	731.40
Chocolate Tombola	558.70
Children's Tombola	212.00
Bags	253.40
General Tombola	819.51
Mulled Wine	489.00
Cakes	581.50
Children's Activities	32.20
Prize Draw (£1427 at the Beer Festival)	3672.54
Outside Stalls (rent)	650.00
Donation (Honey sales)	7.00
Expenses	-811.29
TOTAL	7501.06

STRENGTH & BALANCE EXERCISE CLASS



Every Tuesday 11.45am-12.45pm and 1pm-2pm All Saints Church, Croxley Green, WD3 3HJ

Are you 65 over years of age? Are you worried about falling? Have you had a fall in the last year? Do you feel unsteady? Do you have brittle bones (osteoporosis)? Do you feel weakness in your legs? Would you like to improve your **strength**, **mobility**, **balance** and **confidence**?

Join a physiotherapist led 60 minute exercise class to help improve your strength, balance and confidence and reduce your risk of falls.

NO CLASSES OVER DECEMBER. RESTARTING 7TH JANUARY 2025

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Blind Bartimaeus and Archdeacon Charles

Archdeacon Charles visited All Saints' at the end of October. He met with the PCC on 24th October and then then led the service on 27th October and met with the congregation for coffee afterwards.







As you can see from the phots, great fun was had by all during the service. The sermon was about Blind Bartimaeus and the children's activity was to decorate some glasses frames which they did with great enthusiasm.

Archdeacon Charles thanked us all for our warm welcome and said how much he had enjoyed spending time at All Saints' meeting and chatting with everyone.



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	(24 hour service)	
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The Magazine Team would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas

anda

Happy New 2024

Croxley Parish Nurse Cathy Scarborough 07562 515791

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Croxley Parish Nurse Ruth Owusu-Ansah Registered Mental Health Nurse 07305084948

croxleyparishnurseruth@gmail.com

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Letter of Thanks to Toddlers

To the Church,

My grandchildren (and I) have enjoyed the benefit of playgroups for seven years now. Three of those years have been with Jane's playgroup which is the best. Many thanks to the volunteers who help run the group and of course Jane who seems happy to take on all the stress of running the group as well. Also, I applaud All Saints' for their support and making available their beautiful Hall; what a wonderful facility.

My grand-daughter has learned so much there in the last three years. Her first year, when she must have been one and a half, she spent a lot of time watching the adults and how they interacted with each other, with their own children and with other children. Of course, as she got older direct communication with other children became more of her focus. She also learned how to be comfortable in a big space, so I don't expect her to be intimidated by the size of her new school; she will take it in her stride.

Of course, it is not just my grand-daughter that has benefitted, it is all the children who attend. Then there is the benefit to all the parents such a relief from keeping the child entertained hour after hour at home. Playgroups are such valuable institutions. All involved at All Saints' should be very proud.

Please let me have bank details so I can make a donation to the Church.

Anon

Smile Lines from Parish Pump

Christmas gifts

Grandfather was talking to his grand-daughter, "When I was a child all we got for Christmas was an apple and an orange." The little girl clapped her hands in joy. "Brilliant! I'd love a new computer and a mobile!"

MAGAZINE EDITORIAL TEAM

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by the copy dates below. If you have any queries, please contact one of the team above. Thank you.

Final copy date:	15th December	for	January
	15th January	for	February

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This month's cover is a design from

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



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Youth Group: Sam Beard and Kelly Buckle	Tel: 772109
Parent and Toddler Club Contacts: Monday: Jane Bates	Tel: 492890
Guides, Brownies and Rainbows: Contact	girlguiding.croxley@gmail.com
Badminton/Games Group Chris Oke	Tel:220782
Email:office@croxleygreenallsaints.org	

The Croxley Mummers present St George and the Dragon

Traditional Christmas entertainment for all the family



Sunday 22nd December

2024







All Proceeds to The Watford Peace Hospice





The Croxley Mummers