

All Saints' Croxley Green

Parish Magazine
February 2025



**In God alone my soul quietly rests,
for my hope comes from Him. Ps 62:5**



All Saints' Croxley Green

Sunday Worship in Church

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

9.45am Parish Communion

11.30am 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 enquiries
from 9am to 12 noon, Tuesday to Friday.
Answerphone available outside these
hours. Tel: 772109

Parish Administrator: Judith Man

Website: www.croxleygreenallsaints.org

Email: office@croxleygreenallsaints.org

Magazine

magazine@croxleygreenallsaints.org

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February 2025

Revd. Canon Miriam writes:

Dear Friends,

St Albans Diocese has designated 2025 to be a year of Spiritual Renewal and Wellbeing. This year-long journey is designed to help us lift our hearts and minds, inspired by the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus. There's a wide selection of retreats, courses, and other events available for booking which can be viewed on the designated web page which can be found at: year.stalbansdiocese.org. Do have a look and see if there is anything that might interest you.

Before this initiative had been announced, our PCC had already agreed that we could organise a Parish Retreat. This will take place at Pleshey Retreat House which is in the beautiful village of Pleshey in Chelmsford. It will take place from Friday evening 11th July until Sunday afternoon 13th July and will be led by Reverend Canon Susanna Gunner who is a very experienced Retreat Leader. If you haven't been on a Retreat before, you might be wondering what it is. Well, a Retreat is a time away from the usual busyness of life to enable us to have time and space to reflect on our journey and relationship with God. The Retreat Leader provides short talks to help us in our thinking and reflecting. Retreats provide us with an oasis of calm to 'just be'. If you would like to know more, then do speak to me or Revd. Paul or Revd. Tolu.

You will find a list at the back of the Church for you to add your name to if you are interested in joining this Retreat. Numbers are limited to 14 so do get your name down quickly if you are interested.

Many of you may have already heard that the Bishop of St Albans, Bishop Alan, will be retiring in May after 17 years as our Diocesan Bishop. As well as being our Bishop, he has been a member of the House of Lords where he has canvassed tirelessly for better regulations within the gambling industry, especially in relation to fixed odds gambling machines which fuel problem gambling, leading

to people losing their homes, their savings and sometimes taking their own lives. There will be an opportunity in the coming months to be able to join in with Diocesan events to mark his retirement.

Lent starts slightly later this year, on March 5th. Churches Together in Croxley will be holding a joint Lent Couse again. The theme will be Streams of Living Water and will explore the six dimensions of faith and practice that have contributed to the Christian tradition down the centuries. We will explore:

- The Contemplative Tradition
- The Holiness Tradition
- The Charismatic Tradition
- The Social Justice Tradition
- The Evangelical Tradition
- The Incarnational Tradition

Each church will lead one of the traditions which will explore some discussion about it and an opportunity to experience for ourselves the tradition. Sessions will be on Thursday afternoons at 2pm and repeated in the evening at 7.30pm. Look out for the posters detailing the venues which will be available in February.

With my love and prayers

Miriam

February Readings

Sunday February

2nd Presentation of Christ in the Temple Luke 2 v 22 - 40

Sunday February 9th

4th Sunday before Lent

Luke 5 v 1-11

Sunday February 16th

3rd Sunday before Lent

Luke 6 v 17-26

Sunday February 23rd

2nd Sunday before Lent

Luke 8 v 22-25



An invitation to the World Day of Prayer Service All Saints' Church, Friday 7th March at 2pm

You are warmly invited to All Saints' Church to take part in a service to remember the World Day of Prayer.

This is a great opportunity for all the churches in Croxley Green to meet together and have time to reflect on all that has passed this year, for us and people throughout the world. We will especially be thinking of the people of the Cook Islands in the South Pacific Ocean.

Cook Islanders have celebrated 200 years of Christianity in the group of 15 islands which spread over nearly 800,000 square miles in the Pacific Ocean. The service has been prepared by the women of the Cook Islands and we will be part of a wave of prayer that will not only be taking part in the UK but which encircles the whole world.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world - through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

The service will be followed by a time to enjoy refreshments as we chat with old friends and make new ones.

We look forward to seeing you there. If you would like a lift to the service, or know anybody else who would, please contact the Church Office 01923 772109 or speak to Fran Bennett or Jane Bates.





An Introduction to Tolu

Many of you have asked me why I felt called to ordained ministry, and I thought I articulated it well enough at my Bishop's Advisory Panel in 2021, but I was still discerning my call even as I neared my ordination in June 2024.

As I knelt before the Bishops to pray for the ministry I was about to be ordained into, I glanced at my open palms and the lines on them. It seemed that, like the lines on my palms, the journey to ordination had some distinct traceable paths, and some were not so clear, and yet this was where God had been leading me, even before I was a thought in my parents' mind.

How wonderful and kind God is, in that He gives us the freedom to walk paths that seem disconnected from our calling, but these paths all find their origin and are sustained in His beautiful hands. The Sunday school song – ‘He's Got the Whole World in His Hands’ shows how great God is, and He reminds us to trust Him because He has got us. And it certainly reassured me that God has all my disjointed paths and wanderings in His loving hands.

The journey to ordination, like for many ordained to the ministry, is full of ‘Oh Lord, not me, Oh Lord, but wait, let me finish this degree first’ and maybe even, ‘Oh deary me, you've got the wrong woman’.

I wanted to be a barrister. I longed to advocate for others, to put together convincing arguments to turn judges' hearts to the plight of those I longed to see justice and mercy shown towards.

And as I knelt for prayer on that glorious and beautiful afternoon, the Charge for Deacons set my mind at peace – the Ordinal captures all I wanted to be for God's people. All I wanted to be as a barrister was met in that call to ordained ministry.

The words in the Ordinal state that the role of the Deacon involves searching out the poor and weak, the sick and lonely and those who are oppressed and powerless – reaching the forgotten corners of the world, that the love of God may be made visible through the proclamation of the gospel! Hallelujah!

Thus, my wanderings rested, and the Lord bid my anxious fears subside – certainly not because I embody the character of a Deacon, but I pray that my time with you will form me so that I can pray like St Paul - Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

I am with you at All Saints' to learn how to be who God has called me to be because of the support of my husband, Leke, and children – Jacob, Joshua and Jessica. They are precious to me and I am blessed to do this with them.

The support and prayers of dear friends from St Luke's Watford – my placement church; St Paul's Langleybury (my sponsoring church); St Gabriel's Cricklewood (my family church and where my calling to ordained ministry was first discerned) have held me and remain with me.

My hope for my curacy amongst you here at All Saints' is that you and I will grow in our discipleship to God – in the words of the Benedictus, to be a people who are free to worship God without fear, holy and righteous in His sight all the days of our life.

May this freedom lead us to be confident and courageous vessels that carry God's light - to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet in the path of peace.

God bless you all.

Revd. Tolu George

Essex & Herts Air Ambulance

How Gifts in Wills Enable 1 in 4 Missions



The legacy we leave behind reflects the choices we make and the values we hold dear. One significant way to ensure your values live on is by leaving a gift to charity in your Will. For Essex & Herts Air Ambulance (EHAAT), these gifts are vital, funding 1 in 4 life-saving missions carried out

by their critical care team across Essex, Hertfordshire, and beyond.

March is Gifts in Wills Month, a time to highlight how legacy donations are essential for charities like EHAAT. These contributions help keep their skilled doctors, paramedics, and pilots operational, ensuring they can continue delivering critical pre-hospital care when it's needed most.

“These phenomenal acts truly make a difference to our patients and their loved ones,” says Carmel Hudson, Legacies Manager. “Gifts in Wills not only have the potential to save lives but leave enduring legacies that will always be remembered.”

Legacy gifts also offer personal benefits. They can honour a loved one, celebrate their life, and keep their memory alive. Additionally, gifts in Wills are tax-free, potentially reducing the Inheritance Tax rate on your estate.

With limited government funding, EHAAT relies on the generosity of its community to remain operational.

To learn more or access free Will-writing services, visit ehaat.org. Your legacy could become someone's lifeline.



Omnia



...an evening of song

Croxley Green welcomes back Omnia who present another evening of choral music in collaboration with Christian Aid. Sacred & secular songs in the church, with a break for drinks, followed by light and popular songs in the hall.

Saturday 8th February

7.15 for 7.30pm

All Saints Church, The Green, Croxley Green

£15.00 each, includes glass of wine or soft drink & nibbles

Tickets available from Chris Gregory 07818 412869 cg@chrisgregory.uk

or from your church Christian Aid rep

All profits go to Christian Aid



Order your tickets from

Anne Oke 01923 220782 or Fran Bennett 01923 773623

February Prayer Diary

Date	In our Church Family
1st	Pat Foster
2nd	Janet Francis
3rd	Sylvia Furzey
4th	John Galloway
5th	Simon, Tracy, Ian and Charles Galloway
6th	Sarah Gardner
7th	Tolu, Leke, Jacob, Joshua and Jessica George
8th	Geordee, Cecily and Chishinmi George
9th	Liz Gowshall
10th	Ben, Sarah, Abbie and Joshua Guest
11th	Richard and Patricia Hall
12th	Anne Harris
13th	Clare Hearnshaw
14th	Gretel and Ron Hibbert
15th	Francis Hilsden

16th	Matthew, Sarah, Emily and William Hilton-Dennis
17th	Phil and Linda Hobbs
18th	Val Hunt
19th	Karen, Paul, Amelie and Olivia Jarvis
20th	Sam, Simon, Carys and Nerys Jones
21st	Adam and Asia Keene
22nd	Valerie Kendle
23rd	Margaret and Roger Kircher
24th	Anni and Tom Lowery
25th	Lorraine, Nigel and Isobel McCobb
26th	Jean McLaughlin
27th	Sue and Roger McKeague
28th	James McShane



Smile Lines *from Parish Pump*

Experience

“Dad,” asked little Ted, “what does ‘a man’s better half’ mean?”
“Usually,” his father said, “she means exactly what she says.”

Boots

My young daughter needed new boots. When her friend arrived one morning in a lovely pair of new boots, I asked where she had got them. “At the store,” she answered.

“Which one?” I asked patiently.

She looked confused, and then down at her boots. “Both of them,” was her reply.

Car-ride

A teenager who had just received her provisional licence offered to drive her parents to church. After a hair-raising ride, they finally reached their destination. The mother got out of the car and said in a quiet but fervent voice: “Thank you!”

“Anytime,” her daughter replied.

As the woman slammed the car door she said, “I wasn’t talking to you. I was talking to God.”

Chocolate

A lovely heart-shaped box of chocolates was received on Valentine’s Day by a young student from her new boyfriend. On the enclosed card was the inscription: ‘To Helen, with all my allowance.’



Those notices which didn’t come out quite right...

This coming Sunday our special service will be gin at 11:00am.

When parking on the north side of the church, please remember to park on an angel.

Nature Watch

We can often feel very despondent at this time of year with the grey clouds, the cold weather, winds and rain that seem as if they go on for ever. It seems a colourless time of year and we yearn for the colours of summer. But if we can just look beyond all of that, and turn our gaze to something different, we will be amazed at the colours that we can see. I know they won't be the vibrant reds, yellows, pinks and blues of summer but there is a huge variety of more subtle colours out there.

Take a look at those green hedges and hedgerows and shrubs, peer carefully past the green leaves and inside will be a treasure trove of reds, purples, oranges and whites of the seeds and berries they are holding. And go back and look at those greens, how many dozens of different shades can you see? If you look in the Church garden, there are many different shrubs and I'm sure each shrub is a different shade of green and even within each shrub there will be different greens again.



As I write this, we are still in January and if I look carefully I can see the beginning of green shoots pushing up through the cold earth and I think about the lovely colours of the flowers that will be at the end of those shoots in a couple of weeks time and then amongst those green shoots I suddenly notice a little white flower, the wonderful snowdrop has made it through yet again no matter how much wind, rain, frost and snow is heaped upon it. I hope by the time you read this, there will be many more for us to see in grass verges and front gardens.

I wonder how many different colours you can see from where you are. It's a great way to spend a few moments each day, being still, whether inside or outside, and looking at the different colours around you and saying a little thank you to God for the beautiful colours of our natural world.

Fran Bennett

8th February St Kew and the wild boar

St Kew has nothing to do with gardens or the ‘Q’ of James Bond fame. This Kew was a girl who lived in Cornwall in the 5th century, and who should be the patron saint of girls with difficult older brothers.

Kew’s older brother was a hermit who felt his younger sister was not worthy to even visit his cell. But big brothers often underestimate their younger sisters, and he was no exception. One day Big Brother saw a wild boar charge out of the woods towards his sister. Kew spoke to it kindly in tones of such purity and sweetness that it immediately slowed down to a peaceful walk.

Big Brother was so shaken by this that he repented of his superior attitude. When he then bothered to spend time talking with young Kew, Big Brother discovered her nature to be of “rare virtue and holiness”. Other people thought so too, and after her death they decided Kew had been a saint, and so should have the parish church named after her.

Perhaps the moral of all this is that if you want to win over a difficult older brother, you should first practise on wild boars.

Age UK Hertfordshire is an independent charity providing services to anyone over the age of 50 living in the Hertfordshire area. Our mission is to support older people by delivering services that help make later life a fulfilling and enjoyable experience.



We are looking to recruit Volunteers to support residents who are experiencing loneliness across Hertfordshire, particularly in the Rickmansworth & Chorleywood areas. Anyone over the age of 18 can become a volunteer and there are different ways in which they can contribute.

Maybe you know someone who is lonely and would like some company or needs some support? If so, please contact us to see how we can help.

To speak to us about our services or volunteering, please call 07525 070472 or look at www.ageuk.org.uk/hertfordshire

We are collecting tinned food for the foodbank this month. Donations of any tinned fruit, vegetables, meat such as mince, casseroles or hotdogs would be very gratefully received.



Please place any donations in the green tray at the back of the Church.

Thank you for your help.

14th Feb: Valentine's Day

There are two confusing things about this day of romance and anonymous love-cards strewn with lace, cupids and ribbon: firstly, there seems to have been two different Valentines in the 4th century - one a priest martyred on the Flaminian Way, under the emperor Claudius, the other a bishop of Terni martyred at Rome. And neither seems to have had any clear connection with lovers or courting couples.

So why has Valentine become the patron saint of romantic love? By Chaucer's time, the link was assumed to be because on these saints' day -14th February - the birds are supposed to pair. Or perhaps the custom of seeking a partner on St Valentine's Day is a surviving scrap of the old Roman Lupercalia festival, which took place in the middle of February. One of the Roman gods honoured during this Festival was Pan, the god of nature. Another was Juno, the goddess of women and marriage. During the Lupercalia it was a popular custom for young men to draw the name of a young unmarried woman from a name-box. The two would then be partners or 'sweethearts' during the time of the celebrations. Even modern Valentine decorations bear an ancient symbol of love - Roman cupids with their bows and love-arrows.

There are no churches in England dedicated to Valentine, but since 1835 his relics have been claimed by the Carmelite church in Dublin.

Notes from the PCC Meeting on 8th January 2025

Electoral Roll Renewal 2025

All Saints', like every other Anglican parish, maintains an electoral roll. Anyone on the Roll is entitled to take part in key decision-making by voting to appoint lay members to the Parochial Church Council and the Deanery Synod, standing themselves for election to the Council and attending the Annual Meeting of Parishioners. The Roll is reviewed annually, but in every sixth year a completely new Roll must be produced. 2025 is one of those years. This means that everyone who wishes to be on the new Roll, including all those in the current roll, must apply to the Electoral Roll Officer, Chris Fagan, using a form produced by the St Albans Diocese.

The PCC agreed the following timetable for the renewal process.

Saturday 22nd February – notice of renewal posted.

Sunday 23rd February until Sunday 22nd March - distribution of enrolment application forms with completed and signed forms to be returned to the Electoral Roll Officer directly or via the Parish Office.

Monday 1st to Friday 4th April - Preparation of the new Roll

Posting, and display of the new Roll – Saturday 5th April.

N.B. The posted and published Roll will show only the names of those enrolled. All other information including addresses will not be published.

In advance of the renewal process Chris Fagan will be happy to provide any further information on request.

Annual Report for 2024

Every year the PCC produces and adopts a report on its work and activities during the preceding calendar year, which is published and sent to the Diocese . It will also be presented to the Annual Church Council Meeting on 27th April. As the PCC is a religious charity, a summarised report is sent to the Charity Commission. The Report consists of a number of individual reports on the work of the PCC itself, its committees and working groups, and on a number of significant activities, run by church members. Along with essential factual information, the individual reports will speak about the pleasures and benefits of what we as a church community are doing in serving our community. Miriam's Vicar's report on the year's work is always well worth reading. The meeting agreed a list of reports to be included, with the authors for each report.

Building Works

The PCC accepted quotations totalling £1,892 plus VAT for outstanding repair works obtained by our Church Surveyor, Tony Booth. The works involved making good the connections between metal on the Church window bars and their surrounding stone work; repairs to the Hall spire; refixing pigeon netting to the window on the west side of the Church and dealing with internal wall damp in the Parish Office. They also accepted a quotation of £1,416 for cutting back of some trees in the Church garden.

Forthcoming Retirement of Bishop Alan

The PCC was informed by Revd. Miriam that the Bishop of St Albans, the Right Reverend Alan Smith, has given notice of his retirement on 31st May 2025. Bishop Alan has served as our Bishop for the last 16 years.

Chris Fagan
PCC Secretary

Come and join us at the Pub

We have planned a social evening at the Red House on Monday 24th February. Please come along any time after 7pm for a chat and a drink. See you there!



A date for your diary... Sunday 23rd March



SOFUN are planning a Bingo afternoon on Sunday 23rd March. Put the date in your diary so that you don't miss it. Details to follow in the next magazine.



Thank You



Thankyou to everyone who supported my sale of key rings and lavender bags. I took the remainder to my college session where I'm training to be a Mental Health Expert by Experience and together with the Cake sales we made £125 for Herts Mind Network.

Alice

Christmas Post Box

The Christmas Post Box raised £163 and the Friday Café on 10th December raised an additional £98 so a total of £261 was sent to Shelter to support their important work.

Thank you to everyone who supported the post box by posting cards or by sorting and delivering.



Coffee Charities



After the 9.45am service on a Sunday we serve coffee and tea (and cake) and gather for a catch-up with our friends. Each year, we choose four charities to be supported through the donations made for the refreshments. During 2024, we supported the following charities and sent donations amounting to:

UNICEF	£488
Alzheimer's Society	£509
Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust	£385
Christian Blind Mission	£284

In total, that makes an amazing total of £1666.

Please keep drinking the coffee (and tea) and supporting our charities

All in the month of February...from Parish Pump

It was:

175 years ago, on 23rd Feb 1850 that Cesar Ritz, the Swiss hotelier, was born. He founded several notable hotels including the Ritz and Carlton Hotels in London, and the Hotel Ritz in Paris.

90 years ago, on 22nd Feb 1935 that US President Franklin D Roosevelt banned aircraft from flying over the White House – because the noise kept him awake at night. The ban remains in place today, but mainly now for security reasons.

Also 90 years ago, on 26th Feb 1935, that British radio engineer Robert Warson-Watt demonstrated a working radar system for the first time, in Daventry.

75 years ago, on 8th Feb 1950 that the world's first payment by credit card took place. The founders of Diners Club (now Diners Club International) used it to pay their restaurant bill at Majero's Cabin Grill in New York City.

65 years ago, on 8th Feb 1960 that Queen Elizabeth II issued an Order-in-Council stating that she and her family would be known as the House of Windsor, and that her descendants would use the surname Mountbatten-Windsor.

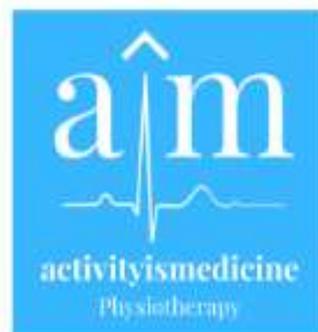
50 years ago, on 11th Feb 1975 that Margaret Thatcher became the first female leader of the Conservative Party. She became Britain's first female Prime Minister in 1979.

Also 30 years ago, on 23rd Feb 1995 that James Herriot, veterinary surgeon and best-selling author, died. Best known for his autobiographical book *All Creature Great and Small*, which was adapted into a popular TV series.

20 years ago, on 7th Feb 2005 that yachtswoman Ellen MacArthur broke the record for the fastest solo circumnavigation of the globe, gaining international renown.

Also 20 years ago, on 14th Feb 2005 that YouTube, the online video-sharing service, was founded. It was purchased by Google in 2006.

STRENGTH & BALANCE EXERCISE CLASS



Every Tuesday 11.45am-12.45pm and 1pm-2pm
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13th February Modomnoc and the bees of Ireland

Legend tells us that it was St Modomnoc who first brought bees to Ireland, in the early 540s AD.

Although it's more likely that the bees had drifted over from Britain after the last Ice Age all by themselves, certainly Modomnoc did his bit to help them.

Modomnoc was a 6th century abbot, probably one of the royal O'Neill family of Ireland. When he sailed over to Wales to study under St David in his Pembrokeshire monastery of Menevia, he was given the duty of caring for the bees of the monastery.

This he did so well that the bees must have grown very fond of him, because when he was setting sail to return to Ireland, a swarm of his bees settled on his ship and went back with him. Thus apiculture – and hopefully lots of honey – was introduced to Ireland.

Even the Martyrology of Oegus the Culdee (c800) records that it was “in a little boat from the east over the pure-coloured sea my Domnoc brought ... the gifted race of Ireland's bees.”

In time, Modomnoc, and presumably his bees, settled in Tibberaghny (Co. Kilkenny). Today, there are about 3,500 – 4,000 bee-keepers in Ireland.



Parish Pump

Congratulations

Congratulations to Miriam and Rao on the birth of their third grandchild, Nancy, a second grand-daughter, who arrived on 6th January.



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Croxley Parish Nurse
Cathy Scarborough
07562 515791

croxleyparishnurseecathy@gmail.com

www.croxleyparishnurse.org

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and Macmillan Cancer Support**
Churches Together in Croxley Green

Nurse-led Cancer Support Group Croxley

**First Thursday of the month
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2.30-4pm**

**We will be meeting on
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**For more information
please call 01923 436326
or croxleyparishnurseecathy@gmail.com**

MAGAZINE EDITORIAL TEAM

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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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15th March for April

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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 opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editors.



...are you late with your 'Vicar's Letter' again, dear?

Choir : Anne Oke and Sam Beard

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Anne Oke

Tel: 220782

safeguarding@croxleygreenallsaints.org

Hall Bookings:

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