All Saints' Croxley Green

Parish Magazine March 2025



The flowers are blooming, the time of birdsong has come! Song of Songs 2:12



All Saints' Croxley Green

Sunday Worship in Church		Vicar:	
8am	Holy Communion BCP (Second Sunday of the Month)	Revd. Canon Miriam Mugan	
		The Vicarage WD3 3HJ	Tel: 772109
9.45am	Parish Communion	Associate Priest:	
11.30am	First Sunday (formerly Family Service	Revd. Paul Palmer Tel: (07740871289
(First Sunday of the Month) Weekdays		Assistant Curate Revd. Tolu George 07368890843	Tel:
	g Prayers 8am in Church Wednesday and Friday	Churchwardens	
Thursday	9.30am Holy Communion	Lyndon Palmer	Tel: 720856
		Anne Oke	Tel: 220782
The Church is Open Daily for private prayer and meditation.		Assistant Churchwardens:	
		Ann Palmer Gill Main	Tel: 720856
The Parish Office is open for enquiriesfrom 9am to 12 noon, Tuesday to Friday.Answerphone available outside thesehours.Tel: 772109Parish Administrator:Judith Man		Sacristan: Chris Oke Assistant: Chris Fagan Parochial Church Counci	Tel: 220782 Tel: 720319
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March 2025



Revd. Canon Miriam writes:

Dear Friends,

Here we are in March already! In March the season of spring officially starts and the clocks go forward an hour so that the evenings are lighter for longer. It is a season of colour as spring flowers bloom in gardens and in the wild and vibrant green leaves break forth on the trees and hedgerows. The wonderful smell of freshly mown grass and the spring sunshine, increasing in warmth as the weeks go on, bring us new hope and move us to a joyful expectation of summer days to come. I am reminded of the beautiful words in the Bible from the Song of Solomon:

> "My beloved speaks and says to me: Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away, For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtle dove is heard in our land." *chapter 2 verses 11-12*

March also heralds the start of Lent. A sombre season in the church calendar which carries the shadow of the cross as we journey towards Holy Week. Whilst spring is bursting with new life, joy and hope, our spiritual journey as we walk with Jesus takes us down a different path. Of course there is cause for much joy and celebration, light and hope, when we celebrate Jesus risen from the dead on Easter Sunday, but this can only be fully realised when we have walked with each other and followed Jesus' journey to the cross. Lent is the period of forty days before Easter which starts on Ash Wednesday (5th March). We have a service in the evening, at 7.30pm, which helps us to reflect on the meaning of Lent. At the service, we are marked on our foreheads with the ash of burnt palm crosses to recognise that we came from dust and to dust we shall return. In observing forty days of Lent, we copy Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for forty days. Often Christians choose to mark Lent by giving up treats or not eating meat or not drinking wine etc. to follow the example of Jesus, who fasted for forty days in the wilderness.

Some may choose to commit to Bible study or attending a Lent Course (see further in the magazine for details of the Ecumenical Lent course we are running in Croxley). For some it might be a commitment to create a time and space for God each day to enable them to draw closer to him and experience his presence with them. It may be in this time and space that they read slowly through one of the gospels, or perhaps listen to Christian music and allow the words of the songs to speak to them, or maybe it is just sitting in silence and being still.

The Church of England has published a book of daily reflections for Lent called 'Living Hope'. These short reflections have a different theme each week which lead us through Lent. There is a different theme each week as follows: Imperfect, Trusting, Together, Noticing, Courage and Transformed. These are available from Eden Bookshop or as an app on your phone/I pad called 'Everyday Faith'. If you need further information about this resource do please speak to me.

Whatever you decide to do this Lent, I pray that you will find immense blessings and a deeper connection with God.

Looking ahead, we will be having our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) on 27th April at 11.15am. Please put this date in your diary and come along to hear about how God has blessed us in our mission and ministry as a Church over the last year.

With my love and prayers

Miriam

Parish Register and Records

WEDDING

11 th February 2025	Stephanie MONTGOMERY and Daniel SHAW	
FUNERALS		
4 th December 2024	Mark Russell HORSFIELD aged 59 years	
15 th January 2025	Derek George Charles WAKEFIELD aged 85 years	
20 th January 2025	Iris Doreen MARTIN aged 93 years	
25 th February 2025	Tyler Cruz HAMMOND aged 15 years	

Gospel Readings for March 2025

Sunday 2 nd March Sunday before Lent	Luke 9 v 28-36
Sunday 9 th March Lent 1	Luke 4 v 1-13
Sunday 16 th March Lent 2	Luke 13 v 31-end
Sunday 23 rd March Lent 3	Luke 13 v 1-9
Sunday 30 th March Lent 4 Mothering Sunday	Luke 2 v 33-35



Mothering Sunday 4th Sunday in Lent

There is an old Jewish saying: God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16th century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families - which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places, the day was called Simnel Day because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed and in many ways now resembles the American Mother's Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.



Experiencing a deeper life

Churches Together in Croxley Green present

Streams our 2025 Lent course based on Richard Foster's 'Streams of Spirituality'

6th March A Prayer Filled Life 2pm & 7.30pm @ All Saints Church

13th March A Virtuous Life 2pm & 7.30pm @ Croxley Green Methodist Church

20th March A Spirit Empowered Life 2pm & 7.30pm @ Croxley Green **Baptist Church**

3rd April

A Word - Centred Life

2pm @ St Oswald's Church

Church

27th March A Compassionate Life 2pm & 7.30pm @ Croxley Green **Baptist Church**

7.30pm @ Croxley Green Baptist 10th April A Sacramental Life 2pm & 7.30pm @ St Bede's Church



Interfaith

As part of my training, I am required to visit and learn about other faiths to enable me in future ministry to engage appropriately and respectfully with those from other faiths. Nerys and I went on the Watford Interfaith Pilgrimage at the end of November and it was so interesting to engage with Muslims at the Mosque and



Jews in the Synagogue. We also had a brief trip to a Quaker house which was Nerys' least favourite as she didn't like to sit in quiet for 5 minutes (to her credit she did it well).



Please do ask me or the girls about our trip. I know they would love to share their thoughts with you.

Sam

This week we were also welcomed to the Hari Krishna Temple. It is in such a beautiful, peaceful setting with a lake and quiet peaceful gardens to sit in. The best bit for the children was that they got to feed the cows!



The Interfaith Pilgrimage was first organised 16 years ago in Watford. In 2009, the Interfaith Network for the UK initiated National Interfaith Week and, although this network has closed, Watford has decided to maintain this annual event in November.

Nature Watch for March Looking after the environment

As we look forward to some brighter warmer days and getting out and about more, here are some tips for us being environmentally friendly:

Look after the insects – ladybirds

Shop green by buying Fairtrade to help struggling farmers

Shop at the Green Shop in New Road opposite the Co-op; it really is a treasure trove of exciting things. Not hidden in plastic or cardboard packaging, you can really see what you are buying. Each time I go in there, there is something new and enticing for me to fill up my cupboard with or try something new.

Take along your empty containers and have them refilled with all delights: shampoo, conditioner, washing up liquid, environmentally friendly cleaning fluids and so many more. I was thinking about how many plastic bottles and containers I throw away in a month and what a saving for the planet refilling them would be.

Fran Bennett



Omnia Concert for Christian Aid

Many thanks to all who supported the Omnia Concert on 8th February at All Saints'. It was a highly enjoyable evening. Omnia filled the Church and the Hall with people and music.

We raised over £840 for the work of Christian Aid who fight poverty across our world.

Dorothy Sims

Sadly, we share the news with you that Dorothy Sims died, very peacefully, on 16th February. She has been a member of All Saints' for many years and compiled the Prayer Diary (when we listed local groups and the wider world as well as members of our Church family) for this magazine for a long time. Please hold her nephew, Lawrence, and her wider family in your prayers.

March Prayer Diary

Date	In our Church Family
1st	Gill and Brian Main
2nd	Jude, Yin and Alex Man
3rd	Jane, Ed, Joseph and Ben Manning
4th	Janet, Graham, Zoe and Samantha Martin
5th	Sue Middleton
6th	Jan Mills
7th	Miriam and Rao Mugan
8th	Judith and David Muir
9th	Faith Nazir
10th	Sheila Newman
11th	Andrew Nobbs
12th	Anne and Chris Oke
13th	Margaret and Dick Paddick
14th	Paul, Siu and Kelly Palmer
15th	Lyndon and Ann Palmer

16th	Wendy and Peter Rennoldson
17th	Francesca Sams
18th	Cathy Scarborough
19th	Sarah and Cameron Selleck
20th	Wendy Shafe
21st	Revd. Anne and Don Shaw
22nd	Robert Sheminant
23rd	Anthony and Mary Smith
24th	Marjorie and Tommy Stevenson
25th	Alice Tims
26th	Lilian and Jenson Tsang
27th	Vicky, Katherine, William and James
28th	Katie and Scott Wakefield
29th	Lin Welch
30th	Mary Wong
31st	Chima, Winston, Huldah and Chiamaka Agha



THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN

KEEPING CROXLEY SPECIAL



TOGETHER WE WILL UNITE WITH THOUSANDS OF #LITTERHEROES NATIONWIDE AS WE PARTICIPATE IN THE NATION'S LARGEST MASS-ACTION ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGN.

WEDNESDAY 26TH MARCH 12PM - 5PM

Meeting at the Parish Council Offices for an adventure around our public footpaths and boundry.

SUNDAY 30TH MARCH 12PM - 3PM

Meet at the Mill Lane side of Weston Wood, WD3 3AT, to embark on a litter picking journey around the woods, canal and Croxley Common Moor.



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Mary Bittles

Many of you will know Mary Bittles, our retired Church Army Sister, who has been a member of All Saints' Church since her retirement. She loved to sit at the back of Church every Sunday morning ready to greet those coming for the 9.45am service. You might have noticed that you haven't seen her for a while.



After many happy years living in Chalmers Court, Mary decided that the time had come for her to be somewhere where she would have someone on hand to support her night and day. It so happened that she was given the opportunity for some respite care at Greenbanks Care Home in Watford over the Christmas period. This went so well that, when she was offered a full residency there, she was very pleased to accept and she has really settled in.

A team of Church friends has helped move Mary's belongings to Greenbanks, including her favourite chair. Mary has enjoyed seeing friends from All Saints' when they have gone to visit her. If you would like to visit her yourself, or go with someone, please get in touch with Jane Bates 07763 226092 or Anne Oke 07855 454564 for further details.

Smile Lines from Parish Pump

I'm giving up eating chocolate for a month. Oh, wait, sorry, bad punctuation. I meant, I'm giving up. Eating chocolate for a month.

Miscellaneous observations on daily life

A bank is a place that will lend you money if you can prove that you don't need it.

A word of encouragement can sometimes make the difference between giving up and going on. -Anon

Join us for a Bingo afternoon

Sunday 23rd March All Saints' Church Hall 2.30pm for 3pm start



Only £1 a game Fun for all the family Prizes Refreshments on sale

We read the Gospel of St John, and the Epistle of St James, both of which contain intensely beautiful and meaningful passages of scripture. But I wonder how it came about that these two brothers, both so godly, came to be referred to by Jesus as the 'Sons of Thunder?'

Sons of Thunder

Have you ever come to wonder Why James and John were 'Sons of Thunder'? It seems quite strange, because you see The two were sons of Zebedee! In truth, it seems that, very sadly They didn't suffer fools that gladly.

And if somebody caused them grief Their temper blew beyond belief! So when a village caused them gloom Refusing flat to give them room, So terrible was these men's ire They wanted God to send down fire!

But Jesus told them, "Don't be mean!" And for their plan He was not keen. Along the road they went ahead And found another place instead, These Sons of Thunder learned that day Revenge is simply not the way.

Jesus showed them how to live To show great mercy, and forgive. So if through anger you may blunder Think about the Sons of Thunder And up to Jesus lift your face And know, like them, His gift of grace.

By Nigel Beeton



Find the words from the questions too!

All in the month of March from Parish Pump

It was:

175 years ago, on 5th March 1850, that the Britannia Bridge linking Anglesey and mainland Wales across the Menai Strait was officially opened. Designed and built by railway engineer Robert Stephenson, it had to be replaced after a disastrous fire in 1970.

150 years ago, on 7th March 1875, that the French composer Maurice Ravel was born. Best known for *Bolero*.

125 years ago, on 28th March 1900, that the British archaeologist Arthur Evans began excavating the ancient city of Knossos, capital of the Minoan civilisation, in Heraklion, Crete. Knossos is regarded as the oldest city in Europe. It was abandoned (unknown reasons) more than 3,000 years ago.

100 years ago, on 21st March 1925, that Murrayfield Stadium in Edinburgh was officially opened.

90 years ago, on 16th March 1935, that driving tests were first introduced in Britain. Three days later, on 19th March, a speed limit of 30 mph in built-up areas was also introduced, under the Road Traffic Act of 1934.

70 years ago, on 11th March 1955, that Sir Alexander Fleming, Scottish bacteriologist died. Joint winner of the 1945 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for discovering penicillin

60 years ago, on 8th March 1965, that the first US troops arrived in Vietnam. This marked the beginning of the USA's main involvement in the war.

Also 60 years ago, on 18th March 1965, that Soviet cosmonaut Aleksei Leonov became the first person ever to make a spacewalk.

40 years ago, on 3rd March 1985, that British miners voted to return to work after a year-long strike over pit closures and job losses.

10 years ago, on 12th March 2015, that Terry Pratchett, British fantasy novelist best known for his Discworld series, died of Alzheimer's, aged 66.

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.

Call to join the waiting list

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Royal British Legion Women's Section (Charity Number 219279) Tel: 01923 720509 https://www.facebook.com/rblwscg

100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

At All Saints Church hall, Croxley Green

Saturday 29th March 15.30 till late

To recognise the formation of the Croxley Green Women's section of the British Legion



Tickets will be £20 per person with a cut off date 21st of march. There will be a licenced bar where you can purchase alcoholic and soft drinks

Tickets from Barbara on 01923 720509 limited number available

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Croxley Parish Nurse Cathy Scarborough 07562 515791

croxleyparishnursecathy@gmail.com

www.croxleyparishnurse.org

Croxley Parish Nurse and Macmillan Cancer Support Churches Together in Croxley Green

Nurse-led Cancer Support Group Croxley

First Thursday of the month All Saints' Church Hall 2.30-4pm

We will be meeting on Thursday March 6th, Thursday 3rd April and Thursday 1st May

We welcome anyone who has been affected by cancer. Join us to meet others, share your experiences and learn coping techniques in a warm and friendly group.

For more information please call 01923 436326 or croxleyparishnursecathy@gmail.com

Wordsearch for March from Parish Pump

March brings us Lent and Mothering Sunday. Lent is a time of spiritual self-assessment as we prepare for Easter. It is a time to turn to God, and to grow closer to Him. Mothering Sunday reminds us of not only the mothers that have loved and raised us, but of Mother Church, who has spiritually loved and nurtured us throughout our Christian pilgrimage. How many words can you find on these themes in this month's Word Search?



Lent	repentance	learning
spiritual	seeking	teaching
easter	finding	disciples
preparation	growing	worldwide
fasting	mothers	flowers
prayer	love	thankyou
desert	care	nursing
selfdenial	nurture	family



5th March Eusebius, friend of St Jerome

Eusebius is the saint for you if you believe in the Bible, and also in providing hospitality. He was born of a good family in Cremona, Italy, in the fourth century, and felt called to become a monk. As Eusebius was ascetic by

nature, he sought out St Jerome in Rome, who advocated an austere lifestyle for monks. They became life-long friends. At that time, Jerome was secretary to Pope Damasus, who commissioned him to produce for the Western church a translation of the Bible in Latin.

It was a time when Christian theologians were defending the faith from various heresies which had arisen concerning the nature of God. Eusebius was a loyal friend of Jerome, and so became involved in Jerome's theological disputes against various heresies.

When the Pope died in 384, Jerome decided to leave for the Holy Land. Eusebius begged to accompany him. At Antioch, they were joined by two female friends of Jerome's and together they made a pilgrimage to all the places connected with the earthly life of Jesus. Later, they decided to make their home in Bethlehem, where Jerome continued with writing, studying, and overseeing a monastery.

Jerome noticed that the vast number of pilgrims to Bethlehem were extremely poor, so he decided to build a hostel for them. Eusebius was sent to Croatia and Italy to raise money for the building project. He even sold his own property at Cremona to help with finances.

Meanwhile, the theological disputes continued, and it seems that Jerome next sent Eusebius to Rome, to support Pope Anastasius I.

In 400AD, Eusebius may have returned to his native Cremona, or else to Bethlehem to become the abbot of the church there. One (unproven) tradition credits him with founding the abbey of Guadalupe in Spain. Another late tradition credits him with raising three men from the dead - an event painted twice by Italian Renaissance painter Raphael Sanzio.

Wherever Eusebius spent his last years, he continued to support Jerome's interests, and they regularly corresponded on theology. Eusebius died in 423 and it is thought he is buried alongside Jerome in Bethlehem. Parish Pump

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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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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FREE OPE		E SESSIONS Let's
	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
KATIE 19.00 ST. MARY'S HALL JACQUIE 19.15 NASCOT WOOD ROSA	ID.00 ALL SAINTS WENDY I8.45 NEW DENHAM WENDY 19.15 NASCOT WOOD KELLY	09.45 NEW DENHAM WENDY 10.00 ALL SAINTS ROSA
THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 09.45 NEW DENHAM ROSA 18.45 NEW DENHAM WENDY 19.15 NASCOT WOOD ROSA 	09.45 NEW DENHAM WENDY	 09.00 ST. MARY'S HALL JACQUIE 09.00 NASCOT WOOD KELLY
		ALL - HIGH STREET, HAREFIELD, UB9 6BX OD INFANT SCHOOL - NASCOT WOOD RD, WATFORD, WD17 4YT Jazzercisenwlondon@gmail.com an ce





Blood Donation at All Saints'

The next session at All Saints' has been booked for Friday 21st March

