

All Saints' Croxley Green

Parish Magazine
February 2026





All Saints' Croxley Green

Sunday Worship in Church

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

9.45am Parish Communion

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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Tolu George Tel: 07368890843

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Assistant Churchwardens:

Ann Palmer Tel: 720856
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Sacristan:

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Parochial Church Council:

Secretary: Chris Fagan

Tel: 720319

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Hall hire email;

hall@croxleygreenallsaints.org



February 2026

Revd. Canon Miriam writes:

Dear Friends,

Traditionally, at All Saints', we maintain our celebration of the Christmas and Epiphany season by not removing the Christmas trees and manger scene until the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple which this year falls on 1st February. This tradition does lead to some interesting conversations with people who visit our Church and gives us such a wonderful opportunity to remind them that Christmas is more than a one day celebration, it is the start of the season of rejoicing that God came to live with us and among us and, when the time was right, revealed who he was to others both Jews and Gentiles. That God came and dwelt among us in the form of a man, experiencing all the joys and sorrows, hopes and disappointments that life throws at us is something so amazing, so humbling, that we need to spend time in these weeks reflecting and acknowledging the depth of love and understanding that God has for us.

Once we take down the tree and put away the manger scene, we are thrust into the season of Lent which this year starts on Wednesday 18th February with Ash Wednesday. Can I encourage you to join us at our Ash Wednesday service which is at 7.30pm in the evening? This beautiful service is so full of symbolism as we literally mark the beginning of our personal and communal journey through Lent by receiving a cross on our forehead derived from the burning of last year's palm crosses. The ashes are a reminder that Lent is a season of confession, reflection and preparation before the festival of Easter.

During Lent, we are encouraged to reflect on our journey of faith alongside the journey of Jesus to the cross and tomb. When we use this time to reflect and grow, the celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Day can take on a new meaning and a deeper sense of joy. We journey individually and communally alongside our sisters and brothers in our own congregation and those in other churches in Croxley. Journeying together enables us to grow in understanding and love, supporting and encouraging others as we too receive that support and encouragement from them.

To help you in your journey through Lent, you may like to use the Church of England Lent Book called '*Draw Near: Life Giving Habits for Lent.*' The theme of this book is about creating a 'rhythm of life' by developing habits and patterns of living and prayer that help us to grow closer to God.

Each week a different contributor explores a different aspect of Christian discipleship – worshipping together, praying, exploring the Bible, sharing communion, offering service and sharing the good news with others.

Alongside this book, there is one for parents and children which provides an act of kindness challenge each day for the 40 days of Lent as well as a short Bible reflection and prayer for each day. We will be providing these books for all of your young people as a gift. The adult books will be available to buy in Church from 1st February; they cost £2.99 each.

You may also like to consider joining with the Churches Together Ecumenical Lent group which will meet on Wednesday afternoons at 2pm with the session repeated in the evening at 7.30pm with the exception of the first week which will be held on the Thursday (the day after Ash Wednesday). We are using a book written by Archbishop Stephen Cottrell about the things Jesus carried as he journeyed to his crucifixion. In these sessions we will be exploring the following:

Thursday 19 th February	He carried the Cross	Venue St Bede's
Wednesday 25 th February	He Carried a Crown of Thorns	Venue All Saints'
Wednesday 4 th March	He carried His Followers'	Disappointments
	Venue Methodist Church	
Wednesday 11 th March	He carried The Hopes of God	Venue Baptist Church
Wednesday 18 th March	He carried The Sins of the World	Venue St Bede's
Wednesday 25 th March	He Carried a Broken Heart	Venue All Saints'

I do hope that you will be able to join us and journey with these thought provoking reflections.

At our morning service on Sunday 18th January, I was able to share with the congregation that Sam Jones, who is in her third year of training for ordination as Deacon, followed a year later by ordination as a priest, will be leaving us on 21st June in order to take up a role as a Self Supporting Curate at All Saints' Church Leavesden following her ordination on Sunday 5th July. It has been a joy to journey with Sam as she has explored her vocation and to support her during her training at St Mellitus College. Watching her grow in confidence and understanding has been so wonderful and we hold her and her family in our thoughts and prayers. There will be an opportunity for us all to attend her Ordination and further details will be available nearer the time.

Finally, I am aware that for some time there have been rumours that I will be retiring this year. I can now confirm that, yes, I will be retiring at the end of July after almost 19 very happy years at All Saints'. More about that to follow later!

With my love and prayers

Miriam

Gospel Readings for February 2026

Sunday 1st February

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

Sunday 8th February

2nd Sunday before Lent Matthew 6 v 25 – end

Sunday 15th February

Epiphany 2 Matthew 17 v 1 - 9

Sunday 22nd February

1st Sunday of Lent Matthew 4 v 1 - 11

Notes from the PCC Meeting on 7th January 2026

Organ Refurbishment and Disposal of Two Pianos

The PCC approved a list of additional works by Cousans Organs to complete the organ refurbishment at a cost of £3,200. It was noted that these costs should be recouped largely or completely from repayments of VAT already paid, or to be paid, in respect of the work done or approved.

The redundant baby grand piano and the Committee Room piano will be relocated to Rickmansworth School, which will shortly collect and transport them.

Prevention of Flooding Risk to the Church Hall and Parish Office

Following a site visit by the Church Surveyor, the PCC has accepted a proposal from contractors YPM to excavate a new drainage channel from outside the Parish Office in front of the rear Hall door and under the tarmac path at the rear of the Hall which will drain water into a soakaway to be constructed in the wild garden area. The contractors have been requested to carry out the work as soon as practicable. The work will cost £1,789 plus VAT.

As the works quotation arrived after the PCC meeting it was circulated to all PCC members by email and their replies were unanimously in favour.

Annual Report for 2025

The PCC agreed the number of reports to be included in the Annual Report for the 2025 calendar year, together with the proposed authors for each report. The Report, when finalised, will be approved by the PCC meeting on 4th March and presented with the 2025 Annual Accounts and the report of the Independent Examiner to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 26th April. An Annual Summary Leaflet for 2025 will also be produced.

Electoral Roll Revision 2025

The annual revision of the Church Electoral Roll will be carried out between February and April 2026, in time for completion and report to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Anyone wishing to apply for inclusion on the Roll or seeking further information should speak to Chris Fagan, the Electoral Roll Officer (tel: 07931 587189). Further details will be published in the March magazine.

Future Projects and the Future Mission of the Church

The PCC agreed to commence work which is intended to lead to an overarching vision for All Saints' of its mission during the next few years, which could provide a context for our thinking and a guide for assessing and prioritising individual projects. The process will commence with a half-day special PCC meeting on the afternoon of Saturday 21st of February and will lead ultimately to the formulation of a new Parish Mission Statement.

Committee Reports

Ann Palmer, Chair of the Social and Fundraising Committee, expressed thank to everyone who had assisted with fundraising events through December 2025 and the Carols and Cocktails event held on 4th January.

Anne Oke reported from the Buildings Committee that damage to the gates had been caused by the large van used by the NHS Blood Transfusion Clinic when entering the Church grounds. The Church is in contact with the Clinic to discuss the situation.

The PCC considered that the existing wooden ramp should be replaced as it was not safe for use with wheelchairs. The Churchwardens are investigating whether a metal ramp owned by the parish will enable safer access for wheelchair users.

New Curtains for the Committee Room

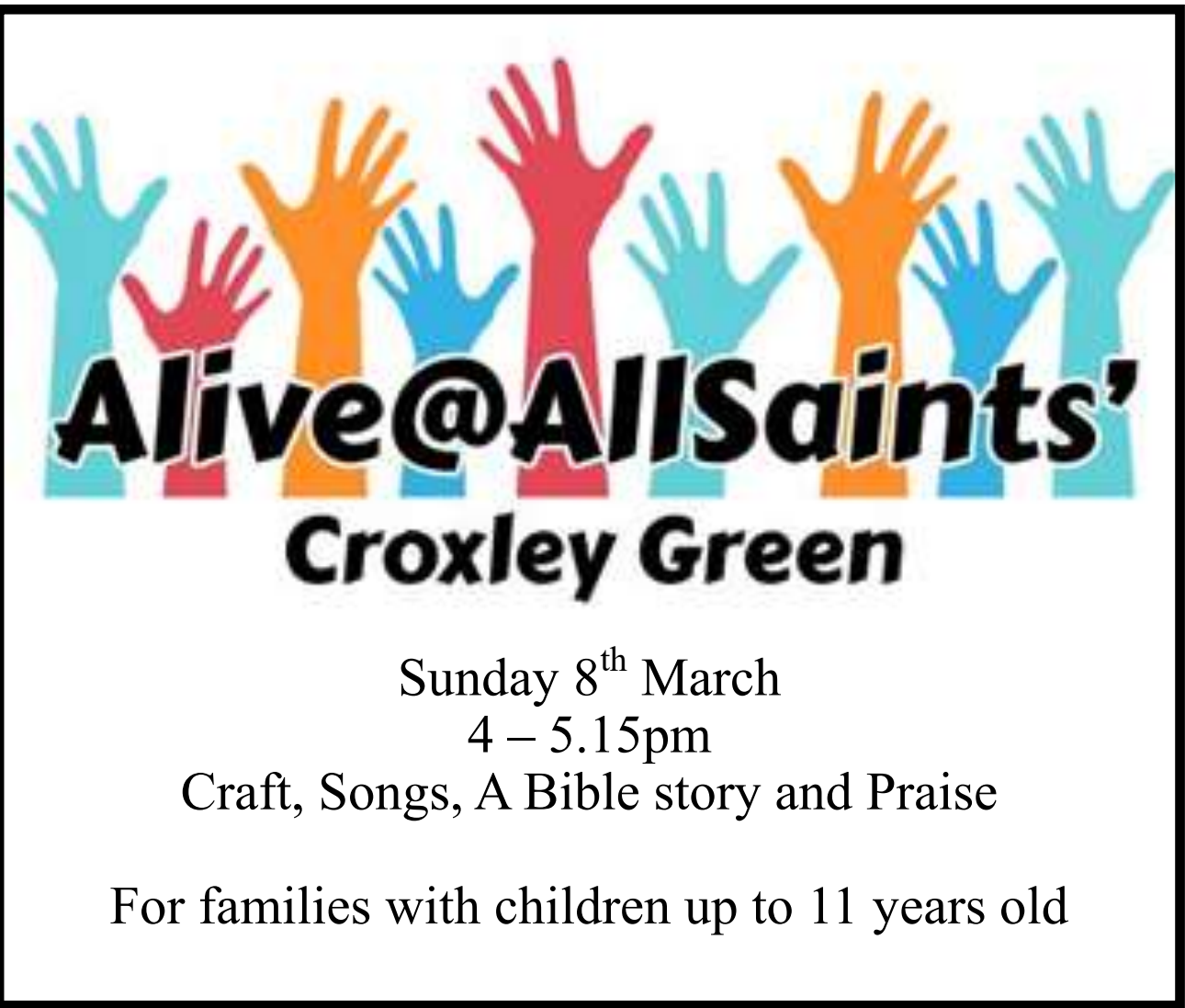
The new curtains, which were largely funded from the proceeds of the December Afternoon Tea, are now in place and look very good. Do take a moment to check them out when you're next in the Hall!

Reverend Miriam's Retirement

Revd. Miriam informed the PCC that she would be retiring as Vicar on 31st July.

Chris Fagan
PCC Secretary





Smile Lines *from Parish Pump*

Portrait

A teacher told her young class of children to try and draw the portrait of someone they knew. While they worked, she walked about, keeping an eye on their progress.

One little girl was working diligently, and the teacher asked who she was drawing. The child replied: "I'm drawing God."

The teacher protested that no one knows what God looks like. Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

Palm Sunday Evening

Every year, on Palm Sunday evening, we have an hour's service, telling the story of Jesus and his journey to the cross. The music, with Bible readings interspersed, is called The Cross of Christ. It contains a beautiful collection of music composed over the centuries.

This year it will take place on Sunday 29th March at 6pm. It is a wonderful way to begin Holy Week so do put the date in your diary.

If you like singing, perhaps you would you like to join us as we rehearse this music. All voices are welcome, and tenors or basses would be especially welcome.

We will be meeting in the Church from 7.30 – 8.45pm on the following Monday evenings:

3rd February, and 9th, 16th and 23rd March,
with the final rehearsal on the day, 29th March, at 4.30pm.

If you are interested in joining us even if you can't make all the practice dates, or would like to know more, speak to Anne Oke or call on 07855454564 or email Sam Beard samjb_12@hotmail.com or anne.oke@btinternet.com



Congratulations

Congratulations to Andrew on the birth of his great niece, Willow, who was born on Christmas Day.



We will be supporting this charity with our donations at Sunday Coffee



Friends of the Holy Land care for Christians living in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (which you may know as the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza), Jordan and Israel. As we know, all people living in these areas are experiencing extreme suffering in the prolonged war. They are in dire need of basics like food, water, homes and medical attention. Friends of the Holy Land help to provide immediate relief and long-term practical support to help Christian people in these areas.

In times of peace, they help to provide practical assistance with every-day living costs. They help people access healthcare and education and to start and grow businesses. They help to improve water and energy poverty when they can. Every single day, they aim to provide opportunity and hope.

They are guided by Christian virtues of love and justice which are carried out through practical means, by raising awareness and through prayer, as Christ taught.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Christians made up roughly 29% of the overall population of the Holy Land. Today they account for less than 2%. Those remaining face such difficult conditions that many will be forced to leave their homes. Soon this dwindling community may cease to exist at all without our help. This fact, little recognised by Christians around the world, is what drives the vision of Friends of the Holy Land.

Their committee and staff team in the West Bank, as well as their partners in Gaza, Israel and Jordan, identify families in need of help and ensure your donations go directly and quickly to them.

Friends of the Holy Land embraces and supports all Christians in the Holy Land. They connect them to a worldwide community of other Christians and people who want to see them live in peace. By supporting them we can help them achieve this.



Charity Donations for 2025



Thank you to all the Sunday morning coffee and tea drinkers for the generous donations you have made in 2025.

We supported four charities during the year and made the following donations for which they have been very grateful.

The 2025 takings were:

£307	Save the Children
£359	British Heart Foundation
£408	Sands
£388	Sue Ryder
£1,462	Total

This is an amazing amount as it is extra to all the other fundraising we do.

We are supporting another 4 charities this year, the first of which is explained on the opposite page.

Please keep drinking the tea and coffee and donating to our chosen causes.

Social & Fundraising Committee Diary

On **Monday 9th March** we will have our next social evening at **The Red House** from **7pm**. Everyone is welcome. There is no need to book, just come along if you can and enjoy an evening of conversation and fellowship.

Our next two social evenings will take place on **Monday 11th May** and **Monday 13th July**

Bingo Afternoon : Sunday 22nd March

We will be having another Bingo Afternoon on Sunday 22nd March at 2.15pm for a 2.30pm start. Refreshments will be available.

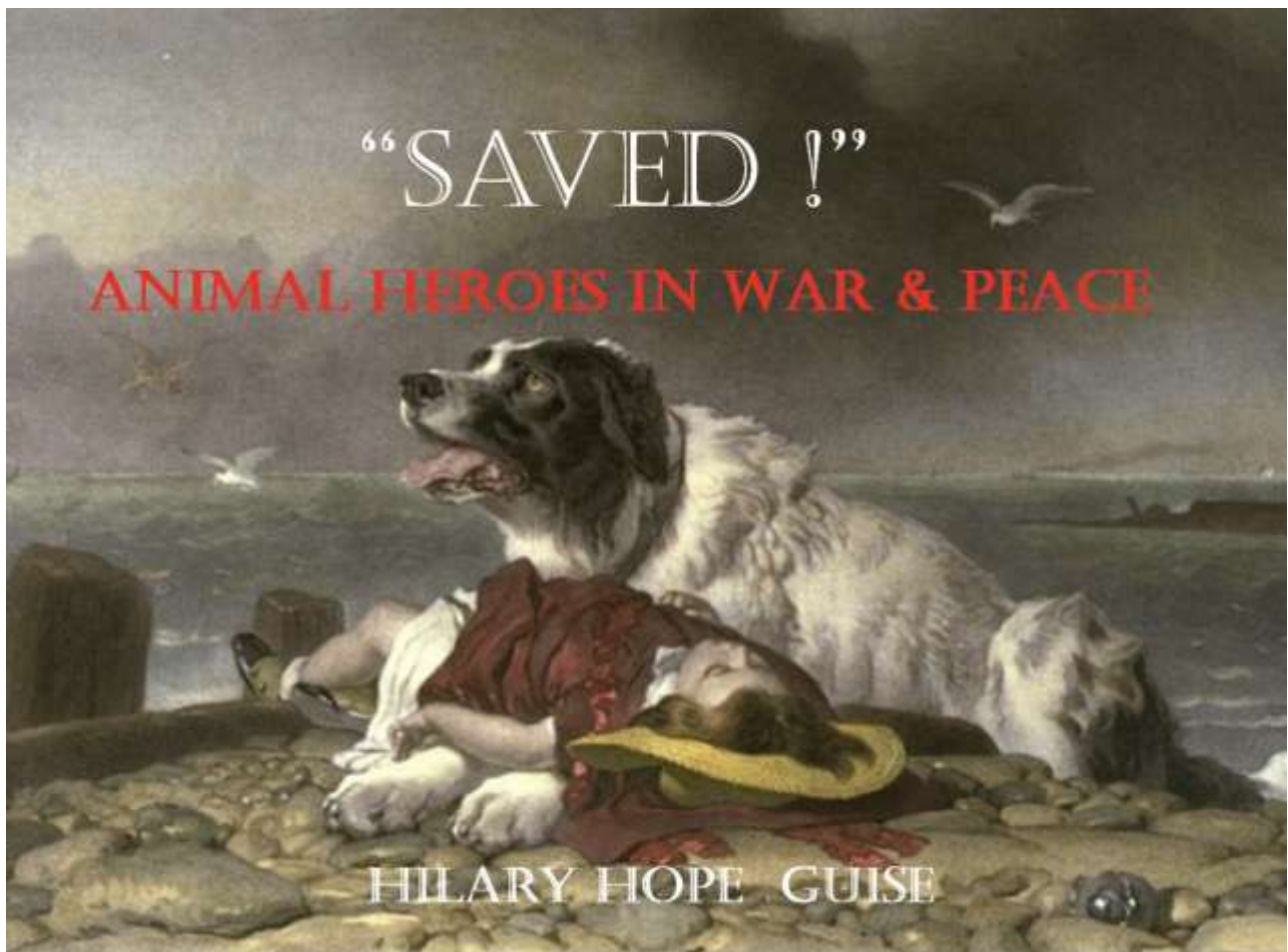
Ann Palmer

February Prayer Diary

Date	In our Church Family
1st	Robert Sheminant
2nd	Anthony and Mary Smith
3rd	Marjorie and Tommy Stevenson
4th	Alice Tims
5th	Lilian and Jenson Tsang
6th	Vicky, Katherine, William and James
7th	Katie and Scott Wakefield
8th	Lin Welch
9th	Mary Wong
10th	Chima, Winston, Huldah and Chiamaka Agha
11th	Shirley Barnes
12th	Gillian Barrett
13th	Jane Bates
14th	Sam Beard
15th	Nik and Fran Bennett

16th	Mary Bittles
17th	Shelagh and Tony Booth
18th	Rae Bowyer
19th	Ben, Michelle, Sanna and Sophie Brogden
20th	Kelly Buckle
21st	Alick and Hazel Burge
22nd	Brian and Jennifer Clemow
23rd	Maureen Cliff
24th	Lise Coughlan
25th	Rosemary Daines
26th	Anne and David Dougans
27th	Kathryn and Jemima Duffy
28th	Pamela Evans





An entertaining talk about animals in art by

Hilary Hope Guise

Followed by supper, art auction and raffle

6.45 for 7pm Saturday 14th February

St Mary's Church Hall, Rickmansworth

£15 a ticket

(Tickets from Fran Bennett 001923 773623,

Anne Oke 01923 220782

or Chris Gregory 07818 412869 cg@chrisgregory.uk

All proceeds to



Animal Heroes in War & Peace – This is a **Christian Aid fundraising event**: an entertaining talk about the role of animals in art by Hilary Hope Guise, who entertained us with her Wine and the Vine talk a couple of years ago. Venue: St Mary's Hall, Rickmansworth, Saturday 14th February 2026. 6.45pm for 7pm start: talk with glass of wine followed by supper, raffle and art auction - £15 per ticket. More information and tickets now available from your church Christian Aid reps: Fran Bennett 01923 773623, Anne Oke 01923 220782 or email office@croxleygreenallsaints.org

A Letter from Carys



Dear everyone!

Thank you so much for all your generous donations and supporting me to raise money for the Royal Manchester Children's hospital. We raised £210 in memory of Rosie which is amazing!

Thank you for supporting me. It was nice to be able to pass the money on and know how much we have helped. I have plans to raise more money this year so watch this space!

Here is a picture of me and Rosie before she died.



Love

Carys

The Boffins and the Technocrats

The boffins and the technocrats
Help folk like me and you
Inventing lots of clever things
That tell us what to do!

My car now has a clever light
Dispelling doubt or fear,
Without it I'd have not a clue
When to shift up a gear!

Of course there is the Sat Nav
To help me find my way
The time I learned to read a map
Was just a wasted day!

My PC's a law unto itself
So busy telling me
To upgrade this or restart that –
The net I never see!

And sometimes, when my work is done
I turn on my TV
All chance to watch my programme gone –
“Retune” it says to me.

The oven, fridge, and microwave
They make a beeping sound
Or else they have bright lights which flash
To order me around.

And so I am a harassed man,
I live a hassled life;
The one who shouts at me the least
Is my sweet and lovely wife!

By Nigel Beeton



15th February Sigfrid, apostle of Sweden

If you have something big to forgive, Sigfrid may be the saint for you. This monk from Glastonbury was sent by King Ethelred to Norway and Sweden in 995. The King of Norway, King Olaf, had recently converted to Christianity, and wanted help in converting his people.

Sigfrid went first to Vaxjo in Sweden, taking along his three nephews. There he built a small church, commissioned it, and consecrated his nephews as bishops. Then Sigfrid left them, in order to evangelise the more remote regions.

So far so good, but when Sigfrid returned, he found the church had been burned to the ground and his nephews murdered. The attackers had been caught, and the king was about to put them to death. It would be an act of justice.

Instead, Sigfrid pleaded with the king for mercy. It was agreed that a large fine should be paid to Sigfrid. He did not keep a penny for himself but used it to rebuild the church and continue the mission. Sigfrid went on to minister in Sweden, Norway and Denmark for many years, until his death in 1045. He was remembered with love and credited with many miracles.

Parish Pump

Smile Lines *from Parish Pump*

God made us

A little girl sitting on her grandfather's lap reached up to touch his wrinkled cheek. "Grandpa, did God make you?" "Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago." "Oh," she paused. "Grandpa, did God make me too?" Her grandfather assured her that He had. Feeling his wrinkled cheek again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't He?"



The Week of Prayers for Christian Unity

The service for the beginning of the week for Prayers for Christian Unity was held at All Saints' last Sunday (18th January). It was full of a wonderful selection of hymns and songs that had all been chosen by members of the congregation who were from all the churches in Croxley.

Many of us came together for the 'Songs of Praise' service to sing our praises, to listen to readings and to pray for our community and for peace and justice throughout the world in a joint service of Churches Together.

The hymns and songs that had been chosen ranged from one that was over 300 years old to modern day ones and, however old they are, the words in them are very relevant to us all today. Sometimes it's the words that have special meaning for us and sometimes we love the tune. Singing them often evokes memories of our childhood at school or being in church or events, happy and sad, that have happened in our lives.

Some of the people told us why they had chosen a particular song: Paul Wray chose 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross'.

He said, Even though it was written over 300 years ago, the words still sum up the Christian message that Jesus Christ suffered and died for us on the cross and that was because he loved us so much. The third verse says '*see, from his head, his hands his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.*' It was that love which meant that he was willing to suffer for us. What should our response be? Well, the writer uses very strong words when he says: '*this DEMANDS my soul, my life, my all.*'

Jane said that she chose 'In Christ Alone' because it is an amazing song so inspired by the Holy Spirit. The lyrics tell about the story of The Gospel and how it is powerful and touching. It reminds her that Jesus is her solid rock and the cornerstone of her faith,

‘This is my Body’ was chosen by Ursula. She said, ‘It is one of my favourites because it perfectly encompasses the celebration of the Eucharist as taught by Jesus. The words remind us that following Jesus’s commands will bring us peace and fulfilment and our actions will radiate the message of love to others. The words are clear and simple and I also love the tune.’

Some of the songs were peaceful and prayerful such as the one Marjorie chose, ‘Breathe on me Breath of God’ and ‘Beauty for Brokenness’ chosen by Magdalen.

We ended the service with two rousing hymns that encourage us to go out into the world and tell people how wonderful God’s love is. Christine chose, ‘How Great Thou Art’ and Michelle and Stephen, ‘Tell Out My Soul’.

There was such a joyous, thoughtful and reflective atmosphere in the Church and the singing was absolutely wonderful. The whole congregation singing out sounded like a full choir, harmonies included, which I felt rang out around the whole of Croxley.

I wonder what song or hymn inspires you. There are so many wonderful ones to choose from. Maybe you’d like to write and tell us or send an email or come along to a service one Sunday and join with us as we sing God’s Praises.



Happy Singing
Fran



All in the month of February...

125 years ago, on 2nd Feb 1901 that the funeral of Queen Victoria took place.

80 years ago, on 14th Feb 1946 that the Bank of England was nationalised.

Also 80 years ago, on 19th Feb 1946 that mathematician and cryptanalyst Alan Turing presented a detailed paper for the national Physical Laboratory that gave the first reasonably complete design of a stored-programme computer.

65 years ago, on 9th Feb 1961 that the Beatles played at the Cavern Club in Liverpool for the first time.

50 years ago, on 11th Feb 1976 that John Curry won Britain's first-ever Olympic gold medal in figure skating.

Also 50 years ago, on 23rd Feb 1976 that artist the L S Lowry died. Known for his bleak industrial landscapes of north-west England, populated with matchstick men.

40 years ago, on 12th Feb 1986 that the Treaty of Canterbury was signed by Britain and France. It was the agreement to construct the Channel Tunnel linking the two countries. The tunnel opened in 1994.

30 years ago, on 15th Feb 1996 that the oil tanker Sea Empress ran aground near Milford Haven in Wales, causing a major oil spill along the coastlines of Wales and Ireland.

Smile Lines *from Parish Pump*

Off to the vet

In his younger days our golden retriever Catcher often ran away when he had the chance. The vet's surgery was about a mile down the road, and Catcher would usually go there. The nursing staff knew him and would call me to come pick him up. One day I called the vet to make an appointment for Catcher's yearly vaccine. "Will you bring him," asked the receptionist, "or will he come down on his own?"

STRENGTH & BALANCE EXERCISE CLASS



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(24 hour service)



		1		6			8	
8			5				7	2
		9	2	4		3		
	5							
		3	7	1	5	2		
							5	
		8		7	9	5		
2	9				6			8
	3			2		7		

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Sudoku

Arrange the digits 1 - 9 in each square and horizontal and vertical line.

Solution on page 28

Rainbow Cottage Catering

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for more details

**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 5th February

Thursday 5th March

No meeting in April

**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 croxleyparishnurseecathy@gmail.com



Croxley Parish Nurse

Cathy Scarborough

07562 515791

croxleyparishnurseecathy@gmail.com

www.croxleyparishnurse.org

Midday Meditative Song

Our friends at Companion Voices are inviting us to take a break in our day to immerse ourselves in the beautiful sound of their singing. Rest in songs of peace, of love, of all nature.

venue: *All Saints' Church, Croxley Green*

March 18th

Arrive around 11.50am,
take a seat and relax for 15-20 minutes from midday.

Coffee and Tea will be served afterwards
for anyone wishing to stay.



Smile Lines *from Parish Pump*

Famous last words

Step back a bit, I can't get you in the picture.

Don't worry, it's not used any more.

I thought it tasted rather strange.

You have driven this before, haven't you?

And that one over there, the red flashing one, what does that mean?

It's okay, I saw them do it on TV.

Political leaders

"Don't worry about your son, he is set to become a great politician," the teacher said. The parents were delighted and asked how she could tell. "Well, he can say more things that sound well and mean nothing at all than anyone else in the class."

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After Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan where did the Holy Spirit lead him to? v1

How many days was Jesus being tempted by the devil? v2

What did Jesus eat? v2

What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into?
What did Jesus say? v3-4

What did the devil offer Jesus if He worshipped him?
What did Jesus say? v7-8

What did the
devil ask
Jesus to do?
What did
Jesus say? v9

*"I will give you power
and wealth if you worship me."*

JESUS REPLIED:
*"Worship the Lord your God
 and serve only Him."*

Read Deuteronomy 6:13

WE LEARN:
Put God **first**
Worship *only* Him.

①

F O R T Y D A Y S S O N K L
T D O W N O N W O R S H I P
T E S T W O R L D L T U N B
L V T E M P T A T I O N G R
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JESUS • BAPTISED • RIVER • JORDAN • HOLY SPIRIT • LED
WILDERNESS • DESERT • FORTY DAYS • HUNGRY • DEVIL
TEMPTATION • STONE • BREAD • WRITTEN • SON • WORLD
KINGDOMS • GLORY • WORSHIP • SERVE • GOD • HIGH
JERUSALEM • TEMPLE • SON • JUMP • DOWN • LIFT

JERUSALEM • TEMPLE • SON • JUMP • DOWN • LIFT • FOOT • LORD • TEST • LENT

**THE
DEVIL SAID:**

"If you are God's Son order this stone to turn into bread."

JESUS REPLIED:

"Man shall not live on bread alone."

Read Deuteronomy 8:3

WE LEARN:
Read the Bible
Learn God's word.



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



**THE
DEVIL SAID:**

"If you are God's Son throw yourself down, the scriptures say God will take care of you."

JESUS REPLIED:

***"Do not put the Lord
your God to the test."***

Read Deuteronomy 6:16

WE LEARN:
God cares, trust
Him do not test Him.



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3	2	1	9	6	7	4	8	5
8	4	6	5	3	1	9	7	2
5	7	9	2	4	8	3	1	6
7	5	4	6	9	2	8	3	1
6	8	3	7	1	5	2	9	4
9	1	2	4	8	3	6	5	7
4	6	8	1	7	9	5	2	3
2	9	7	3	5	6	1	4	8
1	3	5	8	2	4	7	6	9

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