

ST OSWALD'S – HERE FOR CHRIST, COMMUNITY AND CREATION

Alleluia, Christ is risen.

HE IS RISEN INDEED. ALLELUIA.

COLLECTS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:
teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command,
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,
that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

1 John 3.16-24; John 10.11-18

A PRAYER FOR THE HOLY LAND

O God of all justice and peace, we cry out to you in the midst of the pain and trauma of violence and fear which prevails in the Holy Land. Be with those who need you in these days of suffering; we pray for people of all faiths - Jews, Muslims and Christians and for all people of the land. While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end to violence and the establishment of peace, we also call to you to bring justice and equity to the peoples. Guide us into your kingdom where all people are treated with dignity and honour as your children – for to all of us you are our Heavenly Father. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

(Archbishop Hosam Naoum of The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem)

INTERCESSIONS

We pray: for all in particular need; for all who mourn for Bernard Rummery; for Rev Stephen Elmes as he begins his ministry at Croxley Baptist Church; for our 10% mission giving recipients: USPG, CMS, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, ASCEND, Church Army Marylebone Project, Alternatives Newham, Watford Schools Trust and A Rocha.

SPOTLIGHT SERVICE

This week's 10am service will be a shorter communion with a focus looking forward to the APCM afterwards.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL AND ELECTORAL ROLL

Our APCM will take place after the 10am service on Sunday 21st April and the revised roll of those eligible to vote is now on display in the porch. Papers for the meeting are available in Church. At the APCM we will elect churchwardens and members of the PCC. If you would like

to volunteer or nominate someone else please use one of the forms available at the back of the church.

ARTS CAFÉ

A huge thank you to all who exhibited, supported, baked and volunteered their time for the Arts Café. We will confirm how much was raised as soon as we can.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 12th to 18th MAY

Please let Chris Gregory know if you can help again with dropping off Christian Aid envelopes this May: 07818 412869 cg@chrisgregory.uk – thank you. Note that we no longer ask anyone to knock on doors – we only drop the envelopes off. Where appropriate we provide addresses to return cash donations and details for making online donations.

CLEAR-UP MORNING

Many thanks to those who came along to last month's Saturday Clear-up morning. Willing helpers will also be appreciated at the next Clear-up on Saturday 27th April. There are lots of jobs, suitable for different abilities and energy levels, which need doing to keep the Church, Hall and grounds in good shape. Refreshments and lively banter provided!

CHURCHES TOGETHER QUIZ NIGHT

Churches Together are running a Quiz Night in aid of Christian Aid on Saturday 11th May at 6.45 pm for 7 pm. Please contact Michael Hart if you would like to make up a team. Tickets are £15 per person. Supper (cold meats/cheese etc.) will be served at 7 pm, with sweet treats & tea/coffee at the halfway point in the quiz. Bring your own drinks.

DONUTS AND HOT DOGS

Donut Club, now meeting monthly on Fridays, has been a great success and we plan to start another Club for new Year 7s in the autumn. However a number of participants in the current Club have expressed a desire to carry on meeting when they reach Year 8. We are therefore considering the possibility of running a new "Hot Dog Club" for Year 8s on a monthly basis after Donut Club. If you might be interested in helping on a rota basis, please speak to Helen McAlpine, Margaret Cox or the Vicar. Helpers will need to be DBS checked and have relevant safeguarding training as part of the Safer Recruitment Process.

HOLIDAY CLUB UPDATE

Please put aside any empty cereal boxes, kitchen roll tubes and yellow tissue or crepe paper for the Holiday Club. A yellow swim noodle is also needed! Queries to Julie Carpenter, please. BOOKINGS ARE NOW OPEN and forms are available in Church/Hall and on St Oswald's website.

EVENING PRAYER TIMING CHANGE

By "popular demand" the said service of Evening Prayer on the first Sunday of each month will revert to the winter timing of 4pm. The next service is on 5th May. This Book of Common Prayer service which includes two hymns is proving attractive to a regular congregation who

appreciate a quiet, more reflective style of worship. Why not come and experience for yourself?

TRINITY PROJECT PRAYERS

The next event hosted by the Trinity Project, the Rickmansworth Deanery Mental Health Project will be at 7.45pm on Monday 22nd April at St Peter's Church, Berry Lane, Mill End, WD3 7HQ. If you can't attend in person, please email hello@trinityproject.uk and ask for a copy of the evening prayers. For more information about the project or sign up to the mailing list please fill in your details at: <https://www.trinityproject.uk/mailling-list-sign-up>.

NEW HOPE CELEBRATION

The annual New Hope celebration service, "Hope and a Future", will be held at St Luke's Church, Langley Way, Watford on Wednesday 24th April at 7.30pm. Rev Tony Rindl from St Mary's Church, Watford will be sharing some thoughts on hope and New Hope's chaplain, Sarah Shaw will be leading worship. Parking is available at the church and refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

PLASTIC WARRIORS

Croxley Danes are hosting a film screening of Plastic Warriors, a film about the damaging effects plastic pollution, on 22nd April (Earth Day) 6pm-8pm. Tickets are free and are available at www.tickettailor.com/events/croxleydanesschool1/1193759 (click on 'join the guestlist').

FOOD BANK ACUTE SHORTAGES

If you are kindly considering donating to the food bank, current shortages include: tinned meat e.g. mince/casseroles/ham, tinned vegetables, tinned tomatoes, pasta sauce, tinned fruit, jam, tea, washing-up liquid, laundry soap, hand soap (liquid or bars), shampoo. Please note that corned beef, pasta & soup are currently in good supply, so preferably not these items. Items can be left at the Foodbank at the Baptist Church on Mondays between 1pm and 3pm. Thank you from Mill End Community Trust.

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Parish Nurse Cathy is running a Cancer Support Group in conjunction with Macmillan Cancer Support on the first Thursday of each month. The next meeting is on 2nd May 2.30-4pm at All Saints Church. Anyone who has been affected by cancer is welcome to attend.

DEANERY ASCENSION DAY SERVICE

Ascension Day on 9th May is one of the great feasts of the Church Year. There will be a Deanery Service at 7.30pm at St Mary's Rickmansworth and all are welcome.

LEADING YOUR CHURCH INTO GROWTH

The Diocese is sponsoring another LYCIG Conference from 6pm on Friday 27th September until 2pm on Sunday 29th September 2024, at High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon. The conference will take the form of open seminars with interactive talks, practical exercises, workshops and time for personal reflection to enable the learning to be applied to your

context. Members of St Oswald's who attended a previous conference found it extremely worthwhile and also enjoyable. The subsidised price is £120 per delegate for the weekend. Please speak to the Vicar if interested.

DYSLEXIA FRIENDLY BIBLE

The Bible Society has made dyslexia friendly editions of every book of the bible available for purchase. We have copies of the four gospels in the Church library. Visit www.biblesociety.org.uk for more information.

LET'S TALK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

The next meeting in a series of monthly drop-in sessions about Mental Health organised by Parish Nurse Ruth will take place in the Committee Room at All Saints' Church Hall on Friday 26th April from 12.30 to 2pm and the topic will be Bipolar Disorder. Tea and biscuits provided.

COUNT ON NATURE WEEKEND

Please put in your diaries the 15th-16th June for the Count on Nature Weekend – a nationwide event to promote nature! Over the weekend there will be a number of activities at St Oswald's for people of all ages, including a litter pick and a species count in the church grounds (Saturday 15th), an All-Age Spotlight Service and a family picnic and activity session (Sunday 16th). There is plenty happening for everyone and a chance to make a difference in the local community, so please do make a note and look out for more details closer to the time!

GREAT IDEA FOR SUPPORTING THE PARISH PROJECT!

Why not hold a tea (or coffee or lunch) party for your friends and neighbours in aid of the Parish Project? It's a great way to enjoy company and raise funds for a good cause. Or you could help build up shared life at St Oswald's by inviting two people you know well and two people you know less well.

CHRISTIAN LITERATURE FESTIVAL

St Andrew's Bookshop in Great Missenden is holding a Literature Festival on Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd June with an impressive line-up of speakers including New Testament Scholar Paula Gooder, comedian Paul Kerensa and author and Presenter of The Bible Course Andrew Ollerton. Spaces are limited so book tickets ASAP at www.stalitfest.co.uk.

GIVE AS YOU LIVE AND SUPPORT ST OSWALD'S

Church members have already raised over £70 so far for St Oswald's by shopping through Give as You Live Online. By signing up to the scheme, the church receives a donation every time you shop online at a registered store, including John Lewis, eBay, Currys, Booking.com, M&S and Just Eat, at no extra cost to yourself. For more information, please visit: <https://www.giveasyoulive.com>.

HUBBARD CUPBOARD

The Hubbard Cupboard at the back of Church is available for donations to Croyley Food Bank.

SAFEGUARDING NEWS

At St Oswald's we take our safeguarding responsibilities very seriously. Our aim is to provide a safe place for all. Val Edwards is our Parish Safeguarding Officer. Val is supported by Catherine Farman. The email for safeguarding matters is: safeguarding@stoswaldschurch.org.uk.

CHURCH FINANCES

Many church members contribute regularly to St Oswald's through the Parish Giving Scheme (www.parishgivingscheme.org.uk). You can join the scheme by telephoning 0333 002 1271, providing your bank account details, church/parish name (Croxley Green St Oswald) and PGS parish code (320632193). "One off" donations can be made on the church website (www.stoswaldschurch.org.uk), by a cheque payable to "St Oswald's PCC" or directly to the Church's bank account for which the details are: St Oswald's Church Hall, sort code 20 45 45 and account number 60135720.

GLUTEN FREE WAFERS AND READING GLASSES

Please inform a sidesperson if you require a gluten free wafer. There is a tin of various glasses at the back of church which can be borrowed if needed and replaced at the end of the service.

Blessings,
Robert