

Dear all

DON'T FORGET CLOCKS GO BACK THIS WEEKEND!

GOD BLESS THE NHS

This past week I had a dental problem which needed treatment, which I received from a local practice, swiftly, safely, professionally and caringly and all for a very modest fee, considering the costs involved and the skills required. It was a reminder of how much we have to be thankful for in our National Health Service. As winter approaches and the pandemic shows few signs of abating, let's not forget to pray for all who work in different capacities across the NHS. The following prayer from the Christian charity CARE may be helpful.

Almighty God, at this time we lift to you those who are working on the front line in our medical services. Our wonderful NHS staff, who are working so hard to ensure people who are unwell are well looked after. We ask that you would give them your peace and wisdom at this challenging time. May they know your presence and have a new zeal for caring well for their patients. We also ask that you would help the government whilst they are thinking of new ways to support our NHS workers. Amen.

READINGS THIS WEEK

Nehemiah 8.1-12

Matthew 24.30-36

COLLECTS FOR THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (BIBLE SUNDAY)

Blessed Lord,
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:
help us so to hear them,
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,
we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Merciful God,
teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty,
that trusting in your word
and obeying your will
we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord.

INTERCESSIONS

Please remember in your prayers: Paula Timmins, Fr. Philip Cross, Jean Langston, Alan Clifford, Tony Furr, Joan Morris, Pen Smith, Myra Banks, Angela Sedgwick and David Musket; for Alternatives East London and the Bishop's Harvest Appeal (see below); and our 10% mission giving recipients, facing particularly acute challenges at this time: USPG, CMS, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, ASCEND, Church Army Marylebone Project, Alternatives Newham, Watford Schools Trust and A Rocha.

WORSHIP THIS WEEKEND

This Sunday is Bible Sunday and Tony Barton will be preaching on that theme in church and online.

Please note that neither of our current services in church is yet up to capacity so please don't hold back from attending if you would like to do so. Message services@stoswaldschurch.org.uk by lunchtime the day before if you plan to attend - and don't forget your face covering and sanitiser! We are continuing to maintain a record of attendees for Test and Trace purposes but, in addition, a QR code for St Oswald's is now on display and its use is recommended.

Our online service can be found on the St Oswald's Croxley Green YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/channel/UCLmVxUaFiFW4eqz5NHY-9kQ or via our website or the St Oswald's or Rev Robert Facebook pages.

Please keep on telling family, friends and neighbours about these services.

WORSHIP NEXT WEEKEND

Next Sunday, All Saints' Day, two services will run concurrently at 10am so there should be plenty of room for anyone wanting to attend worship. The regular service of Holy Communion will take place in Church, with the usual arrangements. In the Church Hall there will be a Family Service following the same pattern successfully pioneered last month.

Continuing our 2020 Family Service theme, our animal for November will be the St Bernard Dog, best known for its work as a rescue dog in the Swiss Alps. Our speaker will be Rev'd Anne Lovegrove, well known to many as a former Vicar of St Oswald's. Once again we are asking families to bring a picnic rug with them so they can sit on the floor. Family groups will be socially distanced on their 'pitches' and adults and anyone over the age of 11 is asked to wear a face covering inside the hall. You should sanitise your hands, on arrival and leaving, using the sanitiser provided. Please reserve your place by emailing services@stoswaldschurch.org.uk indicating the number of adults and children in your group. For those unable to come along, we are hoping to stream the service live via Facebook, after which it will be made available on the St Oswald's YouTube channel.

SUNDAY MORNING VIRTUAL CHAT GROUPS

From now on, we are hoping to hold Zoom groups at 10.30, 11.00 and 11.30am each Sunday and new participants are welcome to join, so:

(a) if you want to join a group on an occasional basis, please email janebrading@hotmail.com by midday on the previous day and say which time(s) you would prefer.

(b) if you would like to join as a regular please email janebrading@hotmail.com with your time preference(s) and you will be included each week unless you say otherwise.

It may not be possible to offer three different times every week, as this will depend on availability of hosts and on the numbers registered, but we will do our best to accommodate as many of you as possible.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING AND NEW PCC

Thanks to everyone who attended our virtual APCM last week and to all who prayed for this important meeting. Our doughty Churchwardens Steve and Maurice were re-elected. Guy Parks and Richard Doughty now join Tony Barton on Deanery Synod, replacing Rupert Barnes and Jane Brading. Jonathan Cox, Richard Griffiths, Thomas Lisle, Helen McAlpine, Anne Thomas and Lynn Williamson were all voted onto the PCC, with Elen Cook and Val Edwards stepping down. Our congratulations to all those elected and thanks to all those retiring for their service on the Church Council. Because of the current pandemic there will be no formal commissioning in an act of worship but please pray for our PCC as we face the challenges of this time.

CHURCH FINANCES

As Karen our Treasurer reported at the APCM last week, our finances are in a better state than we might have expected and this is due to some very generous donations, in addition to the regular giving on which we depend. Please note that because online giving via the donate button on the church website is anonymous, we are not able to personally thank those who donate in this way. However, all giving is much appreciated.

In addition to the online donation facility on the church website, which has the facility for adding Gift Aid, donations can be made direct 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

If you wish to contribute regularly through the Parish Giving Scheme (www.parishgivingscheme.org.uk) and are not yet a member, you can do so online by telephone on 0333 002 1271. You will need to have your bank account details, church/parish name (Croxley Green St Oswald) and PGS parish code (320632193) to hand.

Last year we benefited from some church members contributing their winter fuel allowance and it has been suggested that some might like to do so again.

REAL ADVENT CALENDAR

Carole Battell has kindly offered to arrange our bulk order for the Real Advent Calendar again this year. The calendars cost £3.99 each. Please submit your orders to Carole (carole_battell@hotmail.co.uk) by Wednesday 4th November. The calendar comes with a Christmas story-activity book illustrated by Martina Peluso with a page for every day of Advent and some fun Advent challenges along the way. Behind each of the 25 windows and along with a chocolate treat, there is a line from the Christmas story. The chocolates are foiled for freshness and palm oil free in a recyclable box and tray. This is a great way for parents, grandparents and Godparents to share the Christmas story.

LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH EVENT

The Diocese is holding a half-day taster event on 14th November on 'Living in Love and Faith' in which Eeva John, Enabling Officer for the Church of England's Living in Love and Faith project, has agreed to take part. Accompanying resources are being published in early November and more information about the project is

available at: www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/general-synod/bishops/living-love-and-faith.

The Living in Love and Faith project aims to engage a wide range of people in using its resources to learn how questions about human identity, relationships, marriage and sexuality fit within the bigger picture of what it means to embody a Christian vision of living holy lives in love and faith in our culture.

The half-day is open to all. Clergy and Readers and one or two others from their parishes, such as PCC members, are encouraged to attend in order to enable the wide-ranging participation that the project aims for. Booking is required: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/living-in-love-and-faith-taster-event-tickets-126038190621> First come first served!

WATFORD SCHOOLS TRUST

WST is one of the beneficiaries of our 10% Giving. The AGM will be taking place via Zoom on Tuesday 24th November at 7.30pm with Guest Speaker Ro Willoughby. If you would like to join in the Zoom AGM, please email

info@watfordschoolstrust.org.

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

In last week's online service I used some prayers from Rev Nick Fawcett's free e-book of prayers for the pandemic, "For Such a Time as This", made available earlier this year. This is a helpful collection and I recommend it, especially in the light of increasing incidence of Covid-19 and a likely return to tighter restrictions. The free e-book can be downloaded from www.kevinmayhew.com/products/for-such-a-time-as-this and read on readily available e-reader apps. Nick Fawcett has also written some new prayers which can be accessed on his website <https://nickfawcett.uk>.

CROXLEY PARISH NURSE NEW APPOINTMENT

Rev Miriam Mугan from All Saints' Church has passed on the following announcement from Churches in Croxley Green CIO: "The Trustees are delighted to announce that we have been successful in obtaining additional funding which had enabled us to appoint a second Parish Nurse to work 1 day a week. Her name is Ruth Owunsu-Ansah and she is a qualified and experienced Mental Health Nurse. She will begin working with us early in November after she had completed the Parish Nurse Training Course. With the impact of Covid-19 on people's mental health and wellbeing we are confident that Ruth will have a huge impact on supporting local people through these difficult and trying times. We are working on an induction programme which needs to be done within the constraints of the current Government restrictions. We will also have a commissioning service for Ruth at a later date, we will let you know when this has been finalised." This is very welcome news and we pray for Ruth and her ministry alongside existing Parish Nurse Cathy.

SEASONAL RELECTIONS – ENCOURAGING FAITH

During the autumn and New Year the Bishop's Staff will be sharing short weekly reflections to encourage us in the faith. This will be available as a film on the Diocesan website and through social media each Monday. I will endeavour to share on my Facebook page too.

OBERAMMERGAU

Following the move of the Oberammergau Passion Plays from 2020 to 2022, there are now additional spaces on a Pilgrimage led by Rev. Deborah Snowball, Vicar of St Mary's Rickmansworth on 14-21 September 2022. I have details for anyone interested.

WHERE NEXT WITH GOD?

A diocesan vocations event will take place online on Saturday morning, 7th November. It is aimed at anyone who is reflecting on God's call in their life, whether that may be to a role within the church community or to a wider ministry. Following a keynote address from Bishop Richard there will be a range of short introductory talks from ordained and lay ministers, a chaplain and a lay person, with opportunities to ask questions of each of them. The event is free but attendees need to register via Eventbrite at <https://willyoutakehiscall2020.eventbrite.co.uk>.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY CHRISTMAS CARDS

David Warman writes: "Christmas will soon be upon us before we know it and it promises to be different this year. I am sure people will still want to send Christmas Cards so there is the usual display at the back of the Church.

The Children's Society, along with many charities, will be desperate for funds this year so buying their cards would be a great help. Cards can be ordered in the usual way by filling in an order form or they can be ordered by phone or email – see the contact details on the back of the order form."

Until next week, God's blessing on you, your families and our needy world.

Robert