

The Parish Magazine of St. Oswald's Church Croxley Green



April - May
2024





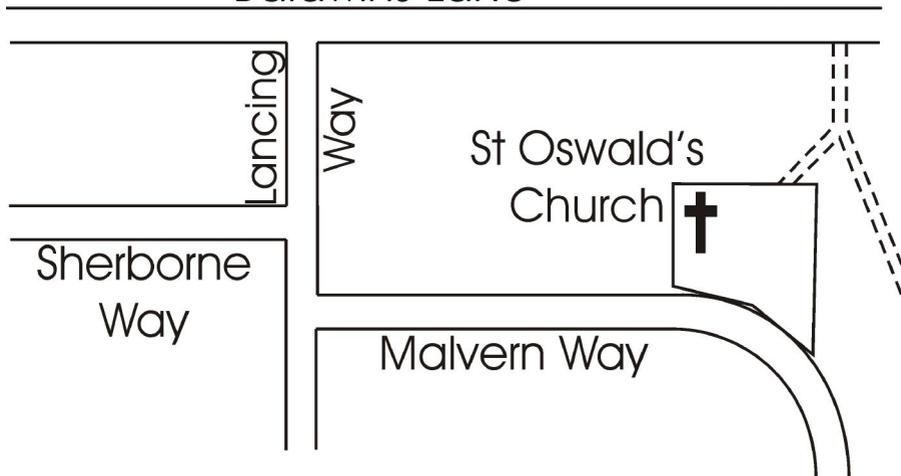
St Oswald's Church – who are we?

*We are part of the Church of
England in the St. Alban's
Diocese.*

website: stoswaldschurch.org.uk

Facebook: [StOswaldsCG](https://www.facebook.com/StOswaldsCG)

Baldwins Lane



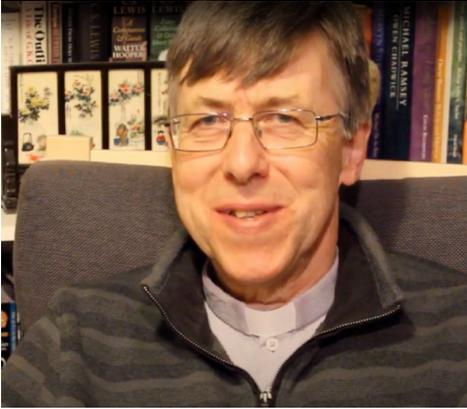
You will find us at Malvern Way, Croxley Green, WD3 3QL,
just off Baldwins Lane.

There is a direct footpath link from Baldwins Lane into the
rear of the church grounds, and car park access from
Malvern Way.

The office entrance is at the back of the church hall.



From The Vicarage



Earlier this year, a viral Tik-Tok trend promoted the idea that men frequently think about the Roman Empire, with the accompanying suggestion that the subject speaks peculiarly to the male psyche and to masculinity in general. I'm not sure what Mary Beard would make of that! Even as a former classicist, I can't say that the Roman Empire is constantly on my mind, but recently an exhibition in London did

provoke thoughts in that direction.

The British Museum is currently hosting an exhibition on life in the Roman army, under the title "Legion". Amongst the fascinating objects on display are a split-toed woolly sock, a suit of armour made from crocodile skin and a wooden tablet inscribed with a party invitation from a military wife! For the young (or young at heart in my case) there are also some Horrible Histories style devices providing a more experiential approach to learning. For anyone with even a passing interest in history it is well worth a visit.

In preparation for visiting the exhibition, I attended a lecture by the curator, Richard Abdy. I was struck by the way that on several occasions during the lecture, he referred to the New Testament. It was interesting to note that a professional historian regards the New Testament as a significant historical source. The Roman army was, of course, very much

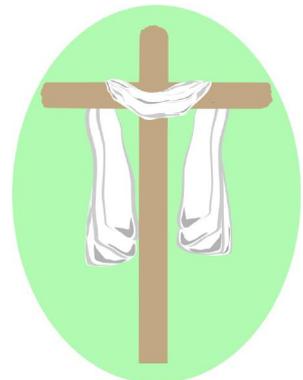
Trinity Project p.12, What's On pp 16-17, Living in Love and Faith p.19, Prayers p 22, Parish Nurses p. 25, Contacts p 32

part of the world inhabited by Jesus and the exhibition takes us into this world. Soldiers make several appearances in the Gospels, either locally recruited Roman auxiliaries in Judea or soldiery of Herod Antipas, organized on Roman lines, in Galilee.

The presence of these soldiers is, understandably, not welcome to the local Jewish population. This is reflected in the challenge to magnanimity Jesus offers his disciples in the Sermon on the Mount: “If anyone (i.e. one of the occupying army, who had this right) conscripts you to go one mile (carrying their baggage), go with them two miles” (Matthew 5.41). More sombrely, one might well imagine that the troubled soul living among the Gerasene tombs who declares himself possessed of a “legion” of demons had suffered some deep trauma perpetrated by Roman troops. Incidentally, the description given him after his transforming encounter with Jesus, “clothed and in his right mind”, I think is one of the most beautiful phrases in the New Testament (See Mark 5.1-20).

However, a contrasting positive view is taken of the centurion (an officer over originally 100, by the time of Jesus, 80 men), well spoken of by locals in Capernaum, who asks that Jesus heal his servant. He refers to himself as “a man under authority, with soldiers under me”, thereby able to recognise the authority possessed by Jesus, who heals the servant and declares, “I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel” (See Mark 7.1-10).

Roman soldiers feature prominently in the events of Good Friday and Easter and details of their involvement are worthy of comment, especially pertinent at this time of year. The Legion exhibition and its catalogue by Richard Abdy refers to abuse of civilians by soldiers and such abuse is exemplified in the gospel accounts by the beating of Jesus and the conscripting of Simon of Cyrene to carry the cross. The exhibition includes the skeleton of the only known victim of crucifixion in Britain and in the catalogue, Richard Abdy comments, “nobody



knew how to do crucifixion better than the Roman army". Famously, Jesus prays for the soldiers who crucify him, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23.36). I wonder if they were able to forgive themselves. We don't often think about the effects of crucifixion on the executioners but Richard Abdy suggests that they might have found their duty traumatising. That and a desire to get the process over and done with might prompt them to break victims' legs so they could no longer push themselves up to breathe. In the case of Jesus, according to John's Gospel, this was found not to be necessary as he had already died. Just to be sure, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and what appeared to be water (John 19.34).



It's not pleasant to contemplate these details, but they are significant. Sometimes it is suggested that Jesus did not truly die and so the Resurrection never actually happened. How, in his weakened and wounded state, he might have convinced his disciples that he was Lord of Life and Victor over Death remains to be explained. But Roman soldiers knew what they were doing. If they reckoned Jesus had died, then he surely had. As for the flow of blood and water, plausible medical explanations have been put forward, too detailed to pursue here. But we should note that John, with his love of symbolism, surely saw this flow as representing the cleansing and spiritual life that come to us from the death of Jesus.

No account of the role of soldiery at the crucifixion would be complete without mention of the centurion in charge of the process. In different ways, his words as recorded by Mark and Luke indicate that this officer was profoundly affected by the death he witnessed. In Mark's Gospel, he declares Jesus to be son of God (Mark 15.39). Quite what a pagan would have meant by this is uncertain, but Mark clearly sees in these words a meaning perhaps beyond that intended. After all, "Son of God"



is the designation given to Jesus from heaven itself at his baptism and transfiguration. In Luke, the centurion praises God and recognizes Jesus as a righteous man (Luke 23.47). He sees his death as the sacrifice of an innocent martyr. In both gospels, the words given have proved the source of much reflection and the drawing out of meaning and

continue to do so today.

All four gospels unite in their testimony that Jesus' death was not the end. Matthew's account of the Resurrection includes reference to soldiers provided by the governor, Pilate, to guard the tomb of Jesus. Terrified by the events they have witnessed at the tomb on the first Easter Day, they report to the chief priests who instruct them to spread a concocted story about the disciples stealing the body of Jesus while they slept. But there is a problem. The background is helpfully given in the catalogue to the Legion exhibition. For falling asleep on duty, the punishment was a brutal cudgeling to death known as the fustuarium. It is from this severe punishment that the chief priests undertake to relieve the guard by squaring things with Pilate if their albeit false report should come to his ears (See Matthew 28.11-15).

Roman soldiers continue to make their appearance in the rest of the New Testament. In the sequel to his gospel known as the Acts of the Apostles, Luke recounts how another centurion, along with his household, responds in faith to the message of Jesus preached by Saint Peter (Acts 10). This watershed moment in the life of the early church marks the beginning of the mission to gentiles which in due course brought the gospel to our own shores. And so the story continues...

In conclusion, I should like to wish all readers a very Happy Easter and, if your holiday break gives you the opportunity to visit the Legion exhibition at the British Museum, you might like to reflect on the Easter connections with the world of the Roman soldier opened up by exhibits displayed.

Robert

CHRISTIAN AID

ARTS CAFÉ



at St Oswald's Church and Hall
Saturday 20th April, 11am to 4pm,
café, children's activities,
arts and crafts displays and live music

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

February 2024

Janet Staerck writes

For this month's meeting our speaker was Sandra from the Police Owl Messaging Service (Online Watch Link) accompanied by Clive a volunteer. The Powerpoint Presentation showed various facts and figures about the Owl Messaging Service and Crime in this local area.

There were various suggestions on 'Target Hardening' (i.e. making it more difficult for crimes to occur).

Burglary – suggested to have a light that comes on at dusk and goes off when light in the morning, and/or a light on in another room to make it look as though someone is home. There are many different timers that you can buy. If one walks round Croxley after dark, there will be many houses that are in complete darkness thus indicating an empty house. Leaving a LED light on only costs pence and could save a burglary.

Ring Door Bells – The idea of these is to be at the front of the house but the back of the house can be targeted so cameras should be put at the back as well to act as a deterrent.

Dustbin Day – After the Dustmen have been, always move the bins back to their usual place or behind the side gate, otherwise it gives an indication of no one at home.

Protect your Car – Always store keys away from the front door and windows. Use a key pouch so that the keyless signal can not be tampered with or relayed. Use locks that fit over the steering wheel or something similar that will act as a deterrent. Always lock your car when you leave it and do not leave valuables on show.

Fraud/Scams – There are numerous scams, emails/telephone , just don't believe everything you are hearing/reading. If you have a home phone always leave it on answerphone – scammers will never leave a message. Never give out personal information no matter who asks, do not be rushed to give an answer. If you think it is a scammer then put the phone down.

The Fraud Squad Number is 0300 123 2040.
Police Number (not emergency) 101
Bank Emergency Number 159

There were various questions asked and situations related to warn others –

- If you have a cat flap do not leave the key in the door as it can be reached via the cat flap.
- Do not leave windows open when out not even the small ones. Always lock all doors and windows when going out.

Thank you to both Sandra and Clive for a very informative and enjoyable afternoon.

N.B. For those who wish to receive email alerts from the Police. The OWL service will end on 1st April and will be replaced by a new service - Herts Connected - for which you need to register online at www.hertsconnected.co.uk. Ed.



PLEASE SAVE YOUR STAMPS!

– several people have spoken about the collection of stamps so I have put a shoe box at the back of the Church for you to put them in. Please cut 1 cm round the edge of the stamp before putting into the box. I have several places that they can be given to, to help with good causes. Janet

A CROXLEY RAMBLER

Brian Thomson takes a spring walk in the Chess valley

21st March 2024



Great Water, Latimer

The morning was mild and overcast but with a promise of some brightness later. Spring is definitely earlier this year. The glorious magnolias were beginning to drop their petals, some tulips were out and white ornamental cherries were in full bloom. I alighted from the train at Chalfont and Latimer and made my way through well-heeled villas to West Wood on the southern slopes of the Chess valley. In the woods leaves were already well out on elder and hawthorn bushes and sycamore saplings. A chaffinch sang nearby with a blackbird in the background. I descended through the trees and across the muddy bridle track into the fields below. Some magnificent old horse chestnuts caught my attention. Their sticky buds had burst and crumpled young leaves were starting to unfurl.

I crossed the road near Latimer Park Farm and made my way to the bridges over the Chess. The old mill race was running fast and there was plenty of water coming over the cascade from Great Water fishing lake. Kingcups were in full bloom at the water's edge. A notice reminded us "Great are the works of the Lord". Latimer Farm is the home of Restore Hope, a Christian charity working with disadvantaged children and families.

A young man with a hi-viz vest stood on the bridge looking intently at a tablet. We got talking and he explained that he worked for Adler and Allan, who monitor environmental compliance for Thames Water. There had been a discharge of sewage from the Chesham works a few days earlier so he was checking the water for ammonia and dissolved oxygen (but, surprisingly to me, not for harmful bacteria). Clearly, water quality is a big concern for the fishing lake as well as for other river users. His readings for the flow from the fishing lake were reassuring. He reckoned that the sewage had bypassed the lakes along the old mill race and had flushed through quickly. You can find out about current discharges on the Thames Water website - [https://](https://www.thameswater.co.uk/edm-map)



Latimer Cascade

www.thameswater.co.uk/edm-map. When I looked on 22nd March, the Chesham works had started its latest discharge on 29th February and it was still going on! I suppose that is not so surprising after all the rain we have had. According to Thames Water they are investing £20 million to upgrade the Chesham works, although that probably won't solve the problem completely. One issue is infiltration of ground water into the sewerage system.

I made my way up the slope overlooking Lower Water. A pair of swans glided along the lake while noisy Canada geese grazed on the bank. Clumps of mistletoe decorated branches of the oaks in the park. Latimer House is an imposing red brick structure dating from 1838. It was the home of the Cavendish family, Lords Chesham, and during the Second World War, became a five star prison for high ranking German officers. The rooms and the grounds were bugged and the 'listeners' gleaned information which probably helped to shorten the war. It is now a hotel.



Latimer House

There is a good view of the fishing lake and the valley from the footpath in front of the House. I took advantage of a well-sited bench to watch the fishermen - obviously not deterred by Thames Water. A fish leapt and splashed as I watched. Some rooks searched for invertebrates in an adjacent field and a buzzard wheeled overhead.

Latimer village is a picturesque spot with attractive cottages grouped around the triangular green. I took the road beside the old school back onto the Chess Valley footpath. Here I encountered the first serious mud of the walk. The footpath gate was marooned in ankle deep water. Using a circuitous route around the marsh I managed to avoid the worst, but still gave a stern test to the waterproofing of my boots. Fortunately the next section, passing the ruins of old Flaunden, was drier. However, one channel of the Chess runs alongside the path as you approach Chenies Bottom. For about 200 yards I was slipping, sliding and squelching in ankle deep mud before gratefully emerging onto the road at Dodd's Mill.

Downstream of the mill there used to be water meadows which were irrigated through channels from the river to encourage early growth of grass for livestock. This doesn't happen any more but my path ran around the meadows' edge. Naturally, it became waterlogged again as I reached Frogmore Meadows nature reserve. Here in a small spinney were my first bluebells of the year, just opening. So early in the year, that must be some sort of record. There were masses of white blackthorn blossom too and yellow pussy willow flowers. And my first chiffchaff - returned from Africa - singing in a thicket.

I was grateful for a boarded section of the path taking me past horses grazing at Valley Farm. The stream at Holloway Lane ford was

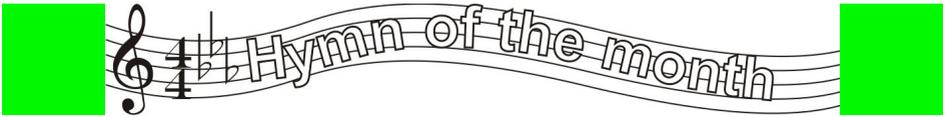
unusually deep and almost up to the boards of the footbridge. Nearby, the old cress beds have been repurposed into tanks for raising trout beside a small fishing lake, while the cress farm building is now a holiday cottage. In the distance, beyond a waterlogged field, a bird was calling that I didn't recognise - a sort of mewling sound. As so often the bird was invisible, but thanks to Cornell University the app on my phone told me it was a Little Owl. I followed the river along Sarratt Bottom and used the app again. This time it was a Cetti's warbler calling from some scrub. In past years this bird was normally found in southern Europe but according to the RSPB it is one of the UK's most recent new residents - global warming again.



Ford at Holloway Lane, Sarratt

At the end of the road the footpath continues along the field below Goldingtons to Sarratt Mill. But it was completely flooded so, deciding it was time for lunch. I climbed the slope to Holy Cross church and the pub at Church End.





After Easter we look forward to Ascension Day, and an appropriate hymn is the following:

*Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia!
To his throne above the skies; Alleluia!
Christ, the Lamb for sinners given, Alleluia!
Enters now the highest heaven! Alleluia!*

The original version of the hymn appeared in 1739 as the work of Charles Wesley (1707-1788) but substantial rewriting in 1820 and further editing since, has resulted in the version above, in our current Ancient & Modern.

The effect of the alterations is to render the language a little less ecstatic and emotional. Nevertheless it still gives a vivid description of the Ascension of Christ and what Christians believe its significance to be. Christ, having completed his work on earth, returns triumphantly to his “throne above the skies”. But he has not forgotten us – in verse five he intercedes for us.

The second verse reflects Psalm 24 verse 7: “Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be lift up ye everlasting doors; and the King of Glory shall come in”. Verse 6 echoes the collect for Ascension Day. Wesley’s original words are:

*Grant, though parted from our sight,
High above yon azure height,
Grant our hearts may thither rise,
Following thee beyond the skies.*

The collect reads, in the language of Wesley’s time:

Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that like as we do believe thy only begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens; so we may also in heart and mind thither ascend; and with him continually dwell.

The tune we normally use is Llanfair, composed in 1817 by a blind basket weaver called Robert Williams (1781-1821).

Quentin Phillips



St Oswald's 'Count on Nature' Weekend

Saturday 15th June

9.30am Litter-pick in Croxley starting from the church

2.30pm Species count of plants and butterflies in the church grounds as part of 'Churches count on nature'

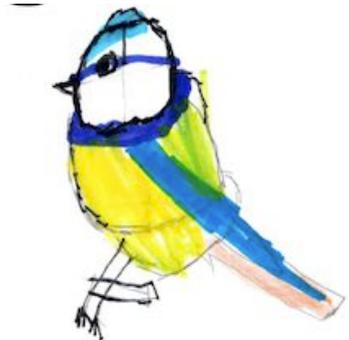
Sunday 16th June

Worship and activities for all ages

10.00am Spotlight service on the environment

'our place in God's creation'

followed by nature-based activities for children and adults and picnic lunch.





STOSWALD'S PROJECT 2024

project

from Richard Doughty

Donut Club? That was the mouth-watering title dreamt up to kick off St Oswald's part in the new deanery-wide **Trinity Project** to support the mental health and well-being of children and young adults across Croxley, Rickmansworth and other local parishes.

Back on that first Friday last September it was - and very much is - a prayer-led initiative and a true leap in faith. About eight slightly nervous adult volunteers had feverishly moved pews, tables and choir stalls around to accommodate table tennis, table football, 3D noughts and crosses, snooker and an array of games, plus a refreshment table loaded up with donuts, cakes, and specially made-to-order hot chocolate drinks. Everyone stopped for a breather, a prayer . . . and waited.

Then in they came. Ones, twos, even threes. Many direct from their new 'big schools' of Croxley Danes, Rickmansworth school, Clement Danes, Joan of Arc . . . drawn together by old friends they'd grown up with, who'd split off into different secondary schools but who really wanted - and very probably needed - to see their long-term Croxley school buddies they'd known since year 1 or earlier. They'd all had to make that huge jump which is often just the first of many transitions in their lives where they need support to cope with sudden, overwhelming change. What better than meeting up with old friends all facing the same experiences, sharing their thoughts and supporting each other, and being lent an interested and sympathetic ear by our volunteers?



Six generally very well attended Friday meetings after school up to

Christmas half-term, then regular monthly Friday meet-ups going on till this July has been a strong answer to prayer. An average of 23 children have attended each of 11 sessions so far, with 59 different children taking part in all. "The 90-minute sessions have gone very well and much better than expected," says a delighted St Oswald's vicar, Robert Riley-Braley. "And we've had a total of 14 adults (all DBS-tested) volunteer since September." Robert has really run with the idea since it was first mooted at a deanery meeting a couple of years ago by rural dean Simon Cutmore.

The Trinity Project will shortly become a charity, meaning it can start raising funds to sponsor wellbeing initiatives across the deanery. Simon's church, St Peter's in Mill End, runs a similar year 7 'club' linking back to its church primary school. Another leading Trinity advocate is Charlotte Barton, a full-time mental health worker with young people, who attends St Andrew's, Chorleywood. She's been leading initial mental wellbeing sessions for schoolchildren across local secondary schools, including the Reach free school, where they are linking up tennis coaching sessions to chats about reducing stress on the playing field in an initiative called Get Set.

St Oswald's donut sessions were extended across the year by popular demand, and there will certainly be a place for the new year 7s making their big leap up to secondary school next September. But what about the current year 7s who become year 8s? How about a hotdog club? Watch this space . . .

A PRAYER

*Lord of all hopefulness,
fill me with a spirit of hope.
Help me to treasure each day as a gift from you and
embrace every opportunity to share hope with others.
I entrust to you my family, my friends
and all our sisters and brothers around the world,
especially those whose mental health is troubled.
Bring new hope and new life to us all,
through Christ our Lord. Amen*



WHAT'S ON?

Services

Holy Communion on Sundays 8 am and 10 am, except first Sunday in the month when there is a Family Service at 10 am.
Holy Communion on Wednesdays at 11 am.

Evening Prayer on the first Sunday at 6pm

Morning Prayer on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9am.

Sunday School meets each Sunday, except first Sunday in the month, at 10 am

Café O

Monday mornings in the church from 8.45 am to 11.45 am.

Mothers' UNION  Mother's Union meets on the second Thursday of each month at 2.30 pm in the Christian care for families church.

April 11th - My life in music - John Malcolm

May 9th - to be confirmed

June 13th Our favourite hymns - Michael Hart

July 11th Government hospitality - overseas visitors and royals - Janet Tublin

Men's Breakfast meets in the hall monthly on Saturdays at 7.45 am.

April 20th - William Cowper, John Newton and 250 years of Amazing Grace - Brian Thomson

May 18th - Paul Palmer - to be confirmed

June 15th - Fortified by the Spirit - Phil Brading

July 13th - Andy Bird - to be confirmed

Donut Club for Year 7s

3.30 to 5pm first Friday each month in term time

DATES FOR DIARIES

APRIL

- Sunday 21st Annual Church Meetings after 10am service
- Saturday 20th Christian Aid: Croxley Arts Cafe at St Oswald's
- Wednesday 24th New Hope celebration service 7.30pm St Luke's Church
- Saturday 27th Church clear-up morning 9.30am



MAY

- Thursday 9th Ascension Day Deanery service 7.30pm at St Mary's Rickmansworth
- Saturday 11th Churches Together Quiz Night for Christian Aid 6.45pm for 7pm
- Sunday 19th Pentecost Service with Archdeacon Charles Hudson

JUNE

- Saturday/Sunday 15th-16th 'Churches Count on Nature' environment event at St Oswald's



JULY

- Wednesday 10th Open Deanery meeting at St Mary's Rickmansworth with Canon Paula Gooder, prominent writer and lecturer in Biblical Studies



Wednesday 24th to Friday 26th July

Children's Holiday Club at St Oswald's

THREE RIVERS MUSEUM

'Telling the story of what it was like to live and work round here'

Janet Staerck writes

Fabian Hiscock, the Chairman of Three Rivers Museum, spoke to the Mothers' Union on 14th March. The Museum is based in Rickmansworth and covers the whole of Three Rivers District from Abbots Langley to South Oxhey to West Hyde.



Fabian presented a virtual tour. For example, there is a Salter window from the Pub the Cart and Horses which was on the corner of Bury Lane in the 17th and 18th centuries. It was pulled down in 1964 and the window was rescued intact, although Salter's brewery went out of business in 1926. There is a booth which used to house the cash desk

at a butcher's shop in Chorleywood in 1945. Children can use this for role play, actually touching the items on display. All this helps to tell the story, to all ages, of what it was like to live and work in this area. And oh how different life is now with all the technology we have to hand!

A local farmer John White kept diaries from 1841 to 1896. They include many details of the day to day life of his farm in Rickmansworth. He died in 1904 and eventually his family donated the diaries to the Museum. Volunteers are digitising them. It is a fantastic story of life during those years.

Recently the Museum was given a model of Rickmansworth Station as it was in 1960. But unfortunately it is too big for the small Museum, so it will eventually be displayed in the Rickmansworth British Legion.

2024 is the Museum's 50th anniversary and, to celebrate, volunteers are creating bunting which illustrates the area's history in textile form. A book is being written to accompany the bunting – it is a different way to present local history.

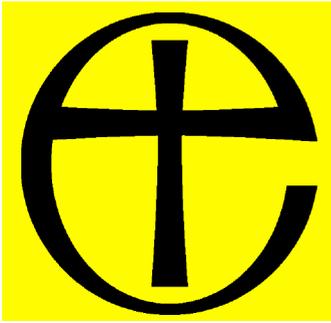


Fabian and his team are very keen to make the Museum welcoming to all with the introduction of digitised photographs online, chronology boards, and a table where anyone can sit and do a practical activity or read one of the books.

Fabian was a very knowledgeable speaker and kept us enthralled with his stories for the afternoon. Over our cuppa there were questions asked and members spoke about some of their memories in the area and may well be meeting with Fabian to impart their stories for the Museum to record. It would be well worth a visit to Basing House, Rickmansworth High Street to see all the displays and information.

Thank you, Fabian, for a fascinating afternoon.





LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH

from the Vicar

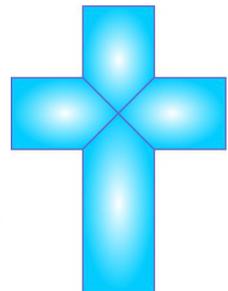
As you may be aware, over the past few years the Church of England has been exploring questions about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage in the light of the good news of Jesus Christ, under the title Living in Love and Faith (LLF). As a result of that process, in February 2023 the Church's General Synod welcomed proposals from the House of Bishops which would enable same-sex couples to come to church after a civil marriage or civil partnership to give thanks, dedicate their relationship to God and receive God's blessing. Subsequently in December the House of Bishops commended a suite of Prayers of Love and Faith for this purpose, intended for use as part of a regular public worship service. In addition, in November the Synod asked the Bishops to consider whether some "standalone" services for same-sex couples could be made available for use, possibly on a trial basis. Consideration of this request is ongoing.

Synod has acknowledged that 'the Church is not of one mind on the issues raised by Living in Love and Faith'. This is true for bishops, clergy and laity. Some feel strongly that the proposals go too far, others that they do not go far enough.

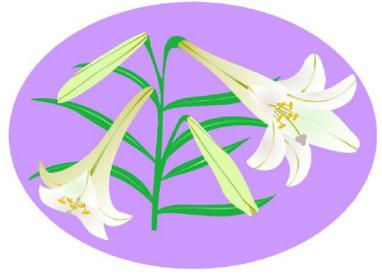
It should also be emphasized that there are no proposals for the Church of England to change its teaching on marriage, as set out in the canons, that marriage is between one man and one woman.

Nevertheless, the commended Prayers are intended to recognize all that is good, and holy, and faithful in same sex relationships and enable the people in such relationships to place themselves before God and ask for God's blessing for their journey of love and faith.

Having said that, no minister will be required to use the Prayers and any decision to introduce this practice in a



church should be made in consultation with the Parochial Church Council (PCC).



At St Oswald's we shall need to consider how to respond to the possibility of using the Prayers of Love and Faith as part of a regular service and, should "standalone" services be permitted in due course, whether these too should be offered. There will be an opportunity to express views on these questions at our Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 21st April. Any views expressed will be taken into account in subsequent discussion at the PCC. Some church members may prefer not to express their views publicly in which case they should write to or email the Vicar.

LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH

As noted above, in the Church at large there are strong and sincerely held views on this subject across a whole range of positions. Rather than set out the different arguments here, which would take up far too much space, I would encourage readers to make use of the many resources provided as part of the LLF process. These can be found on the Church of England website at: www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith. These are well worth exploring. A substantial introductory Living in Love and Faith book has been published by Church House Publishing and is accompanied by a helpful, and much shorter, Course Book. If there is demand, we can run this course at St Oswald's.

In any consideration of the issues raised by the LLF process and whatever our own views may be, it is important to remember that these issues affect real people deeply and personally. Our Bishop has written, "In the story of the Christian Church, what we are experiencing is not unique. In the past there have been other deep disagreements when the Church has had to inch its way, slowly and sometimes painfully, towards a settlement, such as over pacifism and the bearing of arms, the

theology and practice of the Eucharist, contraception, divorce and remarriage, and most recently, the ordination of women. It is why the General Synod motion acknowledges that ‘the Church is not of one mind on the issues raised by Living in Love and Faith’. It is also why, as fellow members of the Body of Christ, we need to redouble our commitment to pray, to engage with scripture, and to listen to God and to one another.”

In that spirit, I append the following prayer from the Living in Love and Faith Course:



O Holy Spirit,
Giver of light and life,
impart to us thoughts higher than our own
thoughts,
and prayers better than our own prayers,
and powers beyond our own powers,
that we may spend and be spent
in the ways of love and goodness,
after the perfect image
of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The Vicar





St Oswald's Parochial Church Council update

January and March 2024

The PCC has agreed to continue with upgrading the audio-visual equipment in the church. The sound desk has already been renewed and the next step, subject to agreement by the Diocese, is to install a new projector which will be fixed on a permanent basis, replacing the moveable one that we use at present.

Additional parking spaces at Shaftesbury Court have been under discussion with Sanctuary Housing for some time. The PCC has agreed that two spaces should be provided next to Shaftesbury Court rather than the four initially proposed. Sanctuary Housing has sought planning permission which has been granted by Three Rivers Council.

The PCC has adopted several safeguarding measures including agreeing to follow the guidance from the House of Bishops on safer recruitment of volunteers.

The PCC noted that a good number of people had come forward as volunteers following the Spotlight service on volunteering in January. Also the funds raised for the 2023 Parish Project reached £4,700 - a good result to be shared equally between the Mission to Seafarers and projects at St Oswald's, particularly improving the church kitchen.

The PCC noted with thanks to all concerned the successful Silent Auction which had raised over £500 for the 2024 Parish Project.

Copies of PCC minutes are available on request to those on the Electoral Roll from the secretary, Brian Thomson, secretary@stoswaldschurch.org.uk

Intercessions for each week

The following suggestions for prayer are intended as prompts to encourage our prayers for: the life of our church; the charities with which we are connected; the roads of our parish; the village and the wider community. Other suggestions may be found on the weekly pew sheet.

Sunday 31 March to Saturday 6 April

Baptism preparation and follow-up
Trinity Project and Christian Solidarity Worldwide
Girton Way, Malvern Way, Sherborne Way, Winchester Way
Churches Together in Croxley Green

Sunday 7 to Saturday 13 April

Café O
Trinity Project and New Hope Trust
Claremont Crescent, Lancing Way, Winton Cresc, Winton Dr
Our Parish Nurses

Sunday 14 to Saturday 20 April

Home Group and Prayer Fellowship
Trinity Project and Christian Aid
Dulwich Way, Lincoln Dr, Lincoln Way, Little Green Ln
The King and Royal Family



Sunday 21 to Saturday 27 April

Sunday School
Trinity Project and Watford Schools Trust
Baldwins Lane, Kenilworth Drive, Manor Way, Rochester Way
Archbishop Justin, the Church of England and the Anglican Communion

Sunday 28 April to Saturday 4 May

Our Mission Action Plan
Trinity Project and The Children's Society
Durrants Drive, Hastings Way, Lewes Way, Norwich Way
Parish, District and County Councillors

Sunday 5 to Saturday 11 May

Choir and church musicians
Trinity Project and USPG
Merchant Taylors Pl, Appleby Dr, Gloucester Ct, Hertford Cl, Pevensey
Way, St Mawes Cl, Scarborough Dr, Scotney Cl
Our Diocesan Bishops, Alan, Richard and Jane

Sunday 12 to Saturday 18 May

The Vicar and Readers

Trinity Project and Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership

Dover Way, Ludlow Way, Richmond Way, Warwick Way

Our local shops and businesses

Sunday 19 to Saturday 25 May

Mothers' Union and Men's Breakfast

Trinity Project and A Rocha

Canterbury Way, Gade Bank, Links

Way, Rousebarn Lane

Our local schools



Sunday 26 May to Saturday 1 June

Safeguarding Team and Pastoral Contact Group

Trinity Project and Alternatives

Dorrofield Close, Hazelwood Road, Mayfare, Sansom Close, Watford Road

All Saints' Church

Please remember in your prayers the sick, those who care for them, and those who mourn; our 10% mission giving recipients: USPG, CMS, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, ASCEND, Church Army Marylebone Project, Alternatives Trust East London, Watford Schools Trust and A Rocha.

Funerals at St Oswald's

Derek McLean 11th March

Robin Swaisland 19th March

May they rest in peace

Remember those who mourn



ST OSWALD'S REMEMBRANCE BOOK



APRIL

John HAMBLIN ~ 17th Jan 1938 to 1st April 1998

Bessie TUCK ~ 15th Aug 1906 to 3rd April 2002

Raymond John CHALKLEY - 13th November 1931 to 3rd April 2019

George Edward CULLEN ~ 9th May 1921 to 8th April 1978

Ann Elizabeth WALTON - 14th May 1933 to 11th April 2013

Muriel Christine Edith CHURCHILL ~ 27th Dec 1915 to 19th April 2006

Stanley John CHILD ~ 18th Nov 1905 to 12th April 1989

Sidney James MADGWICK ~ 11th Sep 1904 to 12th April 1989

Marion Rose PARR ~ 15th March 1946 to 14th April 1984

Mary BISHOP ~ 23rd Aug 1926 to 25th April 1998

Robert Stephen WILSON - 9th April 1940 to 29th April 2018

John EDWARDS - 2nd Feb 1951 to 12th April 2017

MAY

Doreen BARNES - 30th Apr 1922 to 2nd May 2015

Peter GIBBENS ~ 25th Sep 1927 to 6th May 2012

Richard SMITH ~ 14th March 1913 to 6th May 1994

Gladys Patricia BALDWIN ~ 17th March 1903 to 8th May 1990

Martin STRANZ ~ 5th Sep 1890 to 13th May 1976

Norman Roy SCOTT ~ 6th May 1931 to 15th May 1994

Courtenay George TILLEY ~ 18th Sep 1945 to 16th May 2006

Harry Leonard CURNOW - 18th March 1930 to 16th May 2014

Francis George William WOODHOUSE - 5th June 1920 to 18th May 2013

John Graham THOMSON - 12th Feb 1913 to 30th May 1998

Pamela (Pam) CORDERY - 15th May 1933 to 31st May 2021

Pamela Doris PRATT ~ 25th Nov 1936 to 31st May 2011

Ian BROADBENT - 3rd Feb 1952 to 4th May 2021

Gerald WATTS - 15th July 1933 to 12th May 2022

Molly JACKSON - 22nd Aug 1936 to 17th May 2021

John Colin GRIFFITHS - 24th May 1934 to 29th May 2021

CROXLEY PARISH NURSES

News

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP



Parish Nurse Cathy will be running a Cancer Support Group in conjunction with Macmillan Cancer Support on the **first Thursday of each month starting on April 4th 2.30-4pm at All Saints Church**. Anyone who has been affected by cancer is welcome to attend.

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.

Croxley Parish Nurses Contact Details
croxleyparishnursecahy@gmail.com
07562 515791



www.croxleyparishnurse.org

SAINT OSWALD'S HOLIDAY CLUB

**"HOLD THE
FRONT PAGE"**

**Wed- Fri
24 - 26 July
9.30 - 3.00**

**For
children
from
Reception
to
Year 6**

**at Saint
Oswald's
Church**



SAVE THE DATE!

PUZZLES FROM RICHARD LEE

AABBCC Puzzle

Each row, column and the two main diagonals of each 6 x 6 square has two A's, two B's and two C's in a random order. The adjacent clues should enable you to place all of these letters in their correct positions.

ACROSS CLUES

- 1 - neither end square contains an A
- 2 - the B's are all somewhere left of the C's
- 4 - the C's are somewhere between the A's
- 5 - neither B is immediately right of a C

DOWN CLUES

- 1 - the C's are adjacent
- 2 - neither end square contains a B
- 4 - the B's are not adjacent
- 6 - the B's are all somewhere above the C's

	1	2	3	4	5	6
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						

Sudoku X Puzzle

4			6		2
	5				
		2			
1					

In the Sudoku X square each row, column, individual 3x2 box and the two main diagonals all contain one each of the numbers 1 to 6. The puzzle, just like an ordinary Sudoku, is to work out, using the numbers given, where the rest fit in!

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Suguru Puzzle

5				2
3			1	

The grid is filled with smaller tiles of between 1 and 5 cells each and the cells of each of these tiles contain digits from 1 up to the number of cells in that tile with no digits being repeated. Thus a tile made up of 5 cells would contain one each of the digits 1 to 5. In addition, within the whole grid no two similar digits are adjacent horizontally, vertically or diagonally. Using the numbers already shown as clues the puzzle is to fill in all the cells of the box.



SPRING TIME QUIZ

- 1 In which country does cherry blossom signify the beginning of spring?
- 2 What is the April birthstone?
- 3 Which animal is most associated with the month of April?
- 4 What are the spring Zodiac signs?
- 5 Who is the Greek goddess of Spring and nature?
- 6 Which country did the Easter Bunny tradition originate from?
7. What is the main spring allergy trigger?
- 8 What are the 40 days and nights before Easter known as in Christianity?
- 9 Which Hindu holiday, known as the 'festival of colours, happens in Spring?
- 10 What is typically eaten on Shrove Tuesday?
- 11 Where in the world is the largest Easter Egg museum? Sweden, Poland or Switzerland?
- 12 What is the best-selling Easter confectionery?
- 13 Where was the real St.Patrick presumably born?
- 14 Which US city has dyed its river green since 1926 in honour of St. Patrick's Day? Chicago, New York or Boston?
- 15 In Sweden and Finland, what do children dress up as at Easter?

Odd One Out No.2 - A Little Mental Exercise by Richard Lee

The clues below (A to O) should each direct you to two of the words (1 to 31) in the column on the right. Some of the answers suggest two words which can be individually linked to the clue, some may give two separate words which together to give a two word answer and some join two words together to form a new one word answer.

Most are straight forward but a few may be cryptic and there may be some choices to be made for the correct pairing of words to make your answer - you can't be sure until every clue has been solved.

There is a space at the end of each clue to write in the numbers of the words you have used. When all clues have been solved one word will be left over and this is the ODD ONE OUT. Good luck!!

THE CLUES

- A Two mythological creatures _____
- B Two associated with bell _____
- C. Two Shellfish _____
- D. Two sounding the same _____
- E. Two make a garden flower _____
- F. Two Australian towns _____
- G. Two surrounded by love _____
- H. An 19th century author _____
- I. Two birds _____
- J. Two create headgear _____
- K. Two dogs _____
- L. Two associated with green _____
- M. Creating a musical instrument _____
- N. Two musical terms _____
- O. Two reversed _____
- The word remaining is _____

1. ACCORD
2. ADELAIDE
3. ANIMAL
4. ARPEGGIO
5. ASSORTMENT
6. BLUE
7. BOWLING
8. BRAM
9. COCKLE
10. COLLIE
11. DEERS
12. DRAGON
13. DUMB
14. GRETNA
15. HERON
16. HUSKY
17. ION
18. LAMINA
19. LEGATO
20. LOCOMOTIVE
21. LOVAGE
22. MERMAID
23. OYSTER
24. PAUSE
25. PERTH
26. PORES
27. SNAP
28. STOKER
29. SWIFT
30. TALKER
31. UNICORN

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51 Lower Rd.

Chorleywood

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01923 286102

PUZZLE ANSWERS

	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	B	C	A	A	C	B
2	B	B	C	C	A	A
3	A	C	A	B	C	B
4	A	B	C	C	B	A
5	C	A	B	B	A	C
6	C	A	B	A	B	C

4	3	1	6	5	2
2	5	6	1	3	4
3	1	2	4	6	5
6	4	5	3	2	1
5	6	4	2	1	3
1	2	3	5	4	6



Odd One Out - 5. Assortment

- (A) 22, 31 (B) 6, 13 (C) 9, 23
- (D) 24, 26 (E) 12, 27 (F) 2, 25
- (G) 20, 21 (H) 8, 28 (I) 15, 29
- (J) 11, 30 (K) 10, 16 (L) 7, 14
- (M) 1, 17 (N) 4, 19 (O) 3, 18



3	2	3	4	1
1	4	1	2	3
2	3	5	4	1
5	1	2	3	2
3	4	5	1	4
5	1	2	3	2



QUIZ

- 1 Japan. 2 Diamond. 3 Rabbit.
- 4 Aries, Taurus & Gemini. 5 Persephone. 6. Germany. 7
- Pollen. 8 Lent. 9 Holi. 10 Pancakes. 11 Poland. 12 Cadbury's
- Creme Eggs. 13 England. 14 Chicago. 15 Easter
- Witches.

**St Oswald's Church, 17 Malvern Way, Croxley Green,
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EDITOR'S NOTE

Updated information on services and activities at St Oswald's will be posted on the church website www.stoswaldschurch.org.uk, the church's Facebook page and the weekly email Vicar's letter.

The next edition of the magazine will be published at the end of May 2024. Please send items for the next edition by Sunday 12 May 2024 to magazine@stoswaldschurch.org.uk