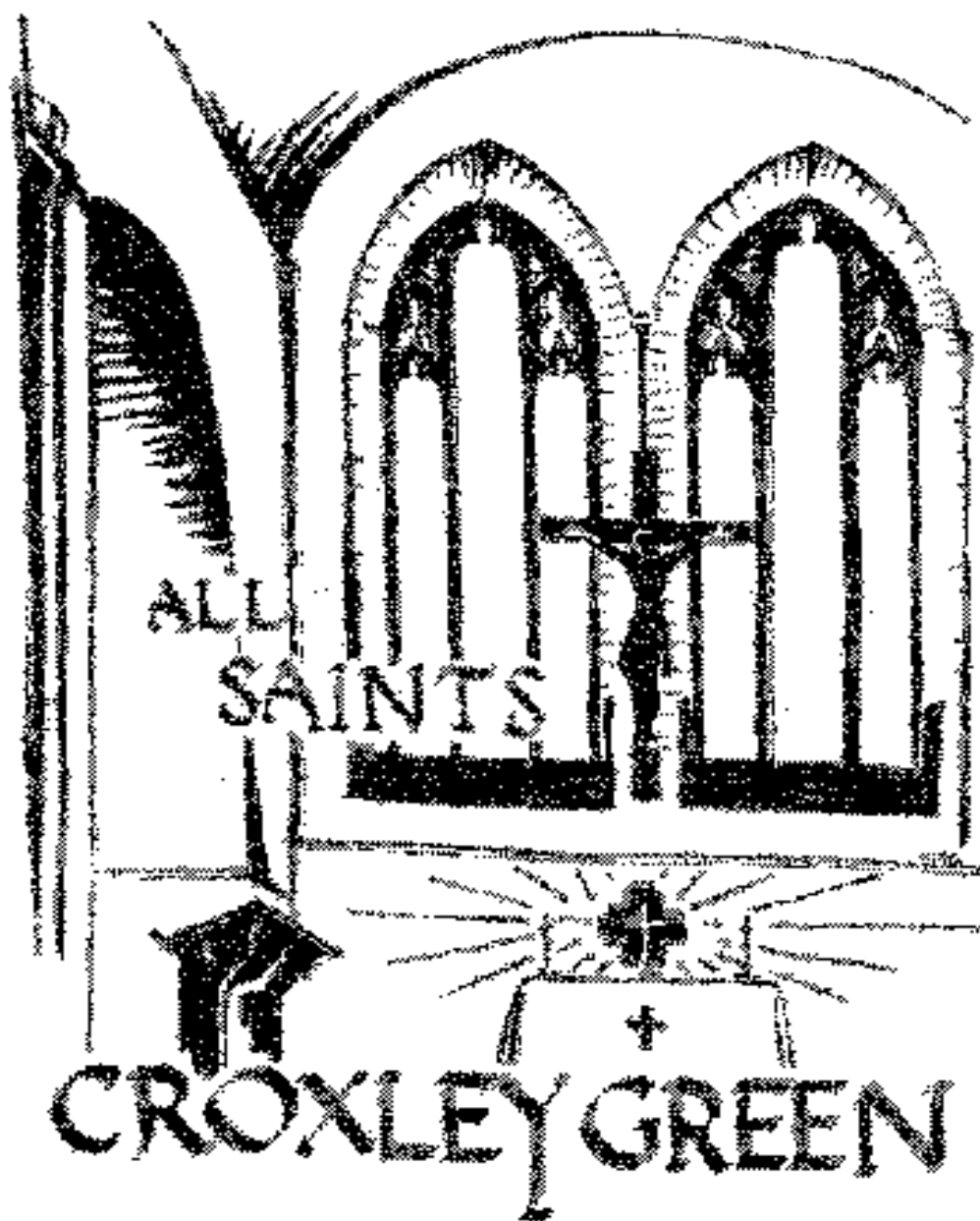


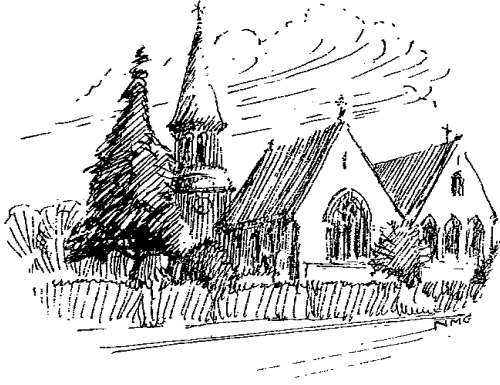
All Saints' Croxley Green

Parish Magazine

March 2011



Price 50p



All Saints' Croxley Green

Sunday Worship

- 8 am Holy Communion
9.45am Parish Communion
11.30am Family Service (third in month only)
6 pm Evening Service

Weekday Services

- Tuesday - Morning Prayer
Saturday
Thursday 9.30am Holy Communion
(10.30am first in month)
Friday 10.45am Holy Communion
at Croxley House
Friday 2.30pm Holy Communion
at Chalmers Court (third in month)

The Church is Open Daily for private prayer and meditation.

The Parish Office is open for enquiries from 10am to 12 noon, Monday to Friday. Answerphone available outside these hours. Tel: 772109

Parish Administrator: Mrs Judith Man

Applications for Holy Baptism, Banns of Marriage, Communion of the Sick, etc, should be made via the Parish Administrator who will be in the office from Tuesday to Friday.

Website: www.croxleygreenallsaints.org

Email: office@croxleygreenallsaints.org

Vicar:

Revd Miriam Mughan (day off Mon.)
The Vicarage WD3 3HJ

Tel: 772109

Assistant Curate:

Revd Mary Kingsley
19 The Cloisters, Rickmansworth
WD3 1HL

Tel: 771172

Reader:

Mr David Williams (day off Wed)
2 Nunfield, Chipperfield WD4 9EW

Tel: 263007

Honorary Priest:

Revd Canon Charles Parry
45 Windmill Drive WD3 3FF

Tel: 771037

Churchwardens:

Mr Chris Oke
8 Sycamore Road WD3 3TD

Tel: 220782

Mrs Diane Galloway
54 Windmill Drive WD3 3FE

Tel: 770392

Verger: Sister Mary Bittles
19 Chalmers Court WD3 3AB

Tel: 771275

Sacristan: Mrs Jo Squire
Leafield, Little Green Lane WD3 3ST

Tel: 241537

Parochial Church Council:

Secretary: Mr Brian Clemow
3, Watford Road WD3 3DL

Tel: 07973 249407

Treasurer: Mr Freddie Alnutt
76 Winton Drive WD3 3QT

Tel: 240483

March 2011



Revd. Miriam writes:

Dear Friends

One of the greatest privileges of my job is accompanying people on their journey of faith and seeing God working in and through their lives. On 29th January 2011 three members of our congregation, Billy and Betty Wilton and David Dimmock were confirmed in the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban. It was a beautiful service and the next day we rejoiced with them as they joined in the procession at the start of our Sunday morning service and were assured of the support of the congregation for their ongoing journey of faith, and then later in the service they received Communion for the first time. It is at this time of year that we begin to get requests from parents wanting to have their child(ren) baptised. For these children, at their baptism their journey of faith is just beginning and we commit ourselves as a church community to support the parents and god-parents in enabling these children to know Jesus Christ as they grow up.

We are all on a journey of faith; seeking to understand what God wants for us and of us is something that goes on throughout our life. We can not sit back and think we've learnt all there is to know or that we have reached an age where we shouldn't expect to grow in faith any more because God always has more to show us, more to give us and more to teach us.

This month sees the start of Lent, an opportunity for us to try and focus a bit more on listening to God and being aware of what we need do to enable us to journey deeper into our relationship with him. Just as we need to deepen our personal relationship with God we also need to come together as a church to deepen our common understanding of God's will and purpose for All Saints' Church.

You will hopefully be very aware of the *Giving in Grace* teaching programme that we are going to be following over the coming months. The aim of this is to recognise all that God has given to us and respond accordingly through our giving of time, talents and money. To help us gain a greater understanding of the riches God has given to us, our Lent Course this year will be focussing on Jesus' teaching from the gospel of St Luke about God's generosity to us. There will be groups during the day as well as in the evenings and I do hope that all of you will be able to take part.

Giving in Grace is an important part of our personal journey of faith as well as the development of our church so please engage with it.

With my love and prayers

Miriam

Church Electoral Roll

The annual revision of the Church Electoral Roll will be made between Sunday 20th February and Sunday 6th March 2011 in preparation for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Sunday 27th March 2011.

If you are 16 years of age or older and resident in the parish or, if not resident you attend All Saints', you are eligible to be on the electoral roll. If you wish to be included, forms are placed at the back of the church for this purpose.

The revised electoral roll will be available for your perusal at the back of the church on Sundays 13th and 20th March 2011.

For further information, please contact me.

Norma Stone, Electoral Roll Officer 01923 779661

PCC Election

Might you like to stand for election to the PCC at the meeting on 27th March? If so, please speak to Revd. Miriam.

Parish Register and Records

FUNERALS

- 28th January 2011 Miriam Irene MARTIN (aged 65)
who died in Spain
- 1st February 2011 Brian Peter SAMUELS (aged 75) of
Grove Crescent
- 15th February 2011 Nora Daphne Maureen CLARE (aged 84)
of Seymour House



Kathleen Leah Williams 1919 – 2011

Kathleen, David's mother, died on 30th January 2011 and her funeral took place on 9th February at St. Paul's Church, Chipperfield. We send our sincere condolences to David. He is in our prayers.

David writes: I have so many people to thank for the help and support I received during my mother's illness and after her death. Thanks to Miriam for her support in Mum's illness and then in organising and conducting the funeral at St. Paul's Church, Chipperfield. This was the church where she was baptised and married. Thanks to the many people who sent cards, messages and letters after Mum died. Thanks to the ladies of All Saints' who came to the funeral and then stayed on to serve refreshments in the church room while the family went to the Crematorium and after we returned.

March Readings

6th March Sunday next before Lent

OT	Exodus 24 v12-end
NT	2 Peter 1 v16-end
Gospel	Matthew 17 v1-9

9th March Ash Wednesday

OT	Isaiah 56 v1-12
NT	2 Corinthians 5 v20b – Ch 6 v10
Gospel	Matthew 6 v1-6 & 16-21

13th March Lent 1

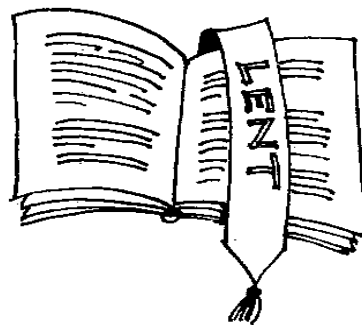
OT	Genesis 2 v15-17 & Ch 3 v1-7
NT	Romans 5 v12-19
Gospel	Matthew 4 v1-11

20th March Lent 2

OT	Genesis 12 v1-4a
NT	Romans 4 v1-5 & v13-17
Gospel	John 3 v1-17

27th March Lent 3

OT	Exodus 17 v1-7
NT	Romans 5 v1-11
Gospel	John 4 v5-42





Mothers' Union

Our Annual General Meeting was held on February 4th. It was attended by 10 people and chaired by Miriam. Sister Mary, our secretary, reported that lack of younger members (not unusual for groups these days) means hard work for a few people and our committee would benefit from some new blood. Any offers?

We shall miss Doris Cann, who has done a lot of work in the past as secretary of our branch. Doris's new address is Flat 31, Pinner House, Church Lane, Pinner, Middlesex, HA5 3AA.

We have had a successful year and have raised £260 towards supporting Mary Sumner House and work done there. We have also supported M.U. charity work in this country and abroad. Another £150 raised was sent directly via St. Albans Diocese to our workers in the diocese of Niassa in Mozambique who, apart from teaching money-generating projects, also need bicycles to get around the area.

Our branch holds a Corporate Communion on the first Thursday of each month and we also take part in Croxley services held by Churches together, such as the Women's World Day of Prayer in March. We join together on August 9th (Mary Sumner Day) for our Deanery Festival service in the evening. Recently we have held a Deanery coffee morning with St. Peter's, Mill End and St. Oswald's branches in our church garden and hope to enjoy another one this year on Saturday, June 11th. Our Branch programme (which can be found at the back of the church) is quite varied and we would welcome anyone who would like to come along on the first Friday of each month.

I know this seems a very busy year at All Saints', but it is also a special one for our M.U. Branch, which has now existed for 120 years. We are planning a celebratory Eucharist on Sunday, September

4th at 9.45 a.m., when we hope that our Diocesan President and friends and members who have now moved away will be able to join us. This special service will be followed by lunch in the hall. Please put this date in your diary so that, although it seems a long way off now, you will manage to be with us on that occasion.

Next meetings:

Thursday, March 3rd, 10.30am – Corporate Communion.

Friday, March 4th, 2pm – Women’s World Day of Prayer at
St. Oswald’s church.

Friday, April 1st, 2.15pm – Followers of Mary Sumner –
Speaker: Mrs. Nesta Williams.

Thursday, April 7th, 9.30am – Corporate Communion. NB earlier
time

Margaret Lumsden



Pray for Giving in Grace

We thank you, Father, for this season of Lent, and for the invitation we are given to know more of the grace you freely give to us. Help us all as we consider our response, and particularly bless the groups that will be meeting during the weeks of Lent. We also pray for those who are administering and leading the Giving in Grace programme.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Needs in the community for us to pray for in March:

those in employment

those unemployed

those fearing unemployment

all who are feeling the effects of the recession

Charles Parry

Money Matters



In a time when money is tight and bills are rising, the church's finances are no different. The size and beauty of our church is reflected in the cost of maintaining it. Every part of the church needs financing; just think of a normal Sunday morning service.

You walk into the church, the lights are on, the heating is going at full speed, the church has been cleaned, the choir are practising their anthem, the candles are being lit, the bread and wine are placed at the back of the church ready for communion, the ministry team are getting prepared for the service and the latest magazine is on sale.

All these things cost money and are just some of our smaller expenses, we also have to consider the insurance of the building, our administrator working hard behind the scenes in the parish office during the week and the constant repairs and maintenance to keep the church in a good state.

Finally there is the Parish Share which is paid to St Albans on a monthly basis and is vital to provide the diocese with the finances to pay not only for itself, but also to contribute to the church throughout the diocese. This money provides a salary to all the clergy, maintenance for buildings, funding for the training of new clergy, administration costs for the diocese and ministry costs.

Although the Parish Share is by far our largest expense, it also provides us with one of our biggest assets – Miriam.

All these costs mean that the PCC on average have to find nearly £1350 every week. However, the average weekly income for 2010 was only just over £1050, meaning a deficit every single week of nearly £300.

It doesn't take an accountant to see that the church cannot survive making this kind of loss, and although improvements have been

made over the last few years, more needs to be done to secure the financial state of the church.

With this in mind we will shortly be embarking on a programme called *Giving in Grace*. Although many of you will have heard something about it already, it is an opportunity for the whole congregation to think about their current giving.

As newly appointed Planned Giving Officer, I will be strongly involved in this programme and would encourage everyone to think carefully about their giving during the coming months.

I am pleased to report that the whole PCC have shown their support by deciding to review their own giving and are leading from the front.

As always I am available at any time to discuss this programme, the general church finances or your own personal contributions.

Together and with the leadership of Miriam, I believe that we can bridge the financial gap and become a stronger parish. This is why I felt the need to join the PCC and why I am so involved with this important programme.

Ben Alnutt



Giving in Grace Lent Groups

The closing date for joining a *Giving in Grace* Lent Group is 8th March, as indicated in the February Magazine. Please contact me if you wish to join or need further information. We hope to have at least three extra groups, one daytime and two evening, as well as the regular Cell groups.

Sally Parry 01923 771037

Choir Outing - The Phantom of the Opera

Sitting snugly on our way to Her Majesty's Theatre, whilst munching on our picnic tea (or was that just me?) Benjamin gave us a few facts about the 'Phantom of the Opera':

- On Broadway it is the longest running show, having clocked up over 9,000 performances over 23 years.
- In our own West End, The Phantom had its 10,000th performance last October and is second longest running only to 'Les Miserables'.
- The score was written by Andrew Lloyd Webber, the lyrics originally by Richard Stilgoe but then re-written by Charles Hart.
- The show is set in Paris at the Grand Opera House in the 1880s.
- The sequel 'Love Never Dies' is currently also running in the West End.



Benjamin said there was a reason why we had seats in the stalls and not the dress circle (his usual preferred option) but for those of us who had not seen the show before he would not reveal why, he did not want to spoil the surprise!! Those of you who have seen the show know why and I also will not spoil it for those of you who have not.

The Phantom has won many awards over the years; best musical, best lyrics, best costume design, best lighting, best scenic design to name but a few.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the trip. The music is very powerful and it's certainly a show that you would enjoy seeing a second time, so if you haven't seen it yet I recommend most strongly that you do.

Thank you very much Benjamin for organising another successful trip.

Pat Evett

Women Bishops

There was a Deanery Synod meeting held in our church on the evening of February 10th, which was open to all, so there were 53 people present. It could have been a contentious evening, but the organisers ensured that it was structured in an enlightening way.

A friendly atmosphere was cultivated by All Saints' hospitality, with refreshments available to greet all comers from 7.30pm. The business of the evening commenced at 8pm, with an introduction by Revd. Deborah Snowball, Vicar of St. Mary's, Rickmansworth. She suggested that the subject of women as bishops could be approached from three main standpoints, Scripture, Tradition and Reason.

Scripture was divided into three aspects, with quotations to illustrate each: (1) Status and behaviour in church (1 Corinthians 14; 34-35; 1 Timothy 2; 11-15) (2) Under male authority and headship (Ephesians 5; 22-33) and (3) Equality in society and in Christ (Genesis 1; 27 and 3; 27-28).

As for Tradition, Jesus chose 12 men to be his first disciples, but the first person to see Him after his resurrection was Mary Magdalene and He broke taboos in some of his encounters with women.

From the standpoint of Reason, the acceptance of women in authority is a matter of sexual equality, but in relation to the church it raises the question of unity. With Roman Catholics particularly, there is the question of Sacramental Assurance (whether the ministry of women invalidates sacraments).

Deborah surveyed "Where we have been", starting with the Lambeth Conference of 1920, when the ordination of women was first broached, until 1987, when the first women deacons were ordained and 1994, when we had the first women priests.

She continued with "Where we are now". The Church of England has 3,000 women priests and 47% of ordinands are women. The

Anglican Communion has 25 provinces (out of 38) with women priests, and 15 have approved having women bishops. No province has set up legal provision for objectors. The Roman Catholics have set up an ordinariate to accommodate Anglican objectors.

The next step to be considered was “Where we are going”. The Manchester Report (2008) asked how we might appoint women bishops in a way that maintains the traditional understanding and role of bishops, leaves space for those who cannot accept women as priests or bishops and avoids discrimination or half-heartedness by the Church towards women priests or bishops. The General Synod has asked Diocesan bishops to draw up a scheme with a national statutory Code of Practice and seeking exemptions from the Equality Act 2010. The scheme is being examined by dioceses; the final scheme, if passed by General Synod, would go to Parliament for implementation in 2014.

We were asked then to divide into small groups of about 6 to consider the following:(1) How important is scripture in this debate? (2) What are its interpretations? (3) What should happen to parishes that refuse ministry by women? (4) What should happen to those who do, yet their bishop does not? (5) How important is sacramental assurance? (6) Is all this just “Womens' Lib” gone mad?

Finally the motion was put “That this Synod approves the proposals embodied in the draft Bishops and Priests (Consecration and Ordination of Women) Measure and in draft Amending Canon No.30”. On a show of hands 46 (87%) were in favour of the motion, one was against and six abstained.

The Rural Dean, Revd. Canon Gavin Collins, closed the Synod with prayer from “Living God's Love”, followed by the Grace.

Jean Walford.

Note: Although I scribbled my own notes at the time, I have also used some of the official Minutes of the meeting for this article.

Confirmation

On 29th January three members of our congregation, David Dimmock, Billy and Betty Wilton, were confirmed by the Bishop of Bedford in St. Albans Abbey. They were supported there by a group from All Saints' and the next day they were welcomed by our congregation when they came to take their first Communion.

During the previous few months they had been preparing for their confirmation, David being helped by Revd. Miriam and Betty and Billy by David Williams.

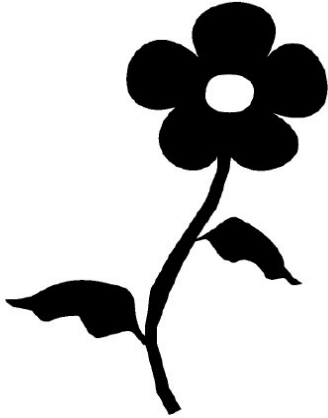


Billy, Betty and David with Miriam after their first Communion.

David Dimmock writes:

On the arrival at St. Albans Abbey with Miriam, Billy and Betty I felt nervous because it is a big step in my life to be confirmed. But when the service started I began to feel relaxed. I wish to say thank you to Miriam and the rest of All Saints' for their support and also mainly to Norma, Cyril and Catherine.

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March Diary



1 Tues St. David, Patron Saint of Wales

2 Wed 11am Cell Church at 19, Chalmers Court
2pm Cell Church in the Committee Room
8pm Cell Church at 4, Old Barn Lane

3 Thur 10.30am Corporate Communion

4 Fri 2pm Women's World Day of Prayer
Service at St. Oswald's



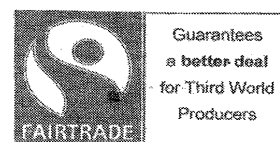
6 Sun Sunday next before Lent
8am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.45am Parish Communion
6pm Evensong (CW)

7 Mon 8pm Cell Church at 107, New Road

9 Wed Ash Wednesday - Lent begins
11am Cell Church at 19, Chalmers Court
2pm Cell Church in the Committee Room
8pm Sung Communion Service and
Imposition of Ashes

10 Thur 9.30am Holy Communion

13 Sun Lent 1 (Fairtrade Fortnight begins)
8am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.45am Parish Communion
**12 noon Midday Communion followed by
lunch in the hall**
6pm Informal Service



14 Mon Lent Courses begin this week

16 Wed 11am Cell Church at 19, Chalmers Court
 2pm Cell Church in the Committee Room
 6pm Departure from Croxley for Evening
 Visit to St. Albans Abbey
 8pm Cell Church at 4, Old Barn Lane



17 Thur St. Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland
 9.30am Holy Communion

19 Sat St. Joseph of Nazareth

20 Sun Lent 2

8am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.45am Parish Communion
11.30am Family Service
6pm Evensong and Litany (BCP)

21 Mon 8pm Cell Church at 107, New Road

23 Wed 11am Cell Church at 19, Chalmers Court
 2pm Cell Church in the Committee Room

24 Thur 9.30am Holy Communion

26 Sat NB. Clocks go forward by 1 hour tonight



27 Sun Lent 3

8am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.45am Parish Communion
**11.15am Vestry Meeting & Annual Parochial
 Church Meeting**
6pm Evensong (CW)

29 Tues 12 noon 'Who's For Lunch?' at the Red House

Dates for your diary in April:



3 Sun Lent 4 – Mothering Sunday

7 Thur 9.30am MU Corporate Communion

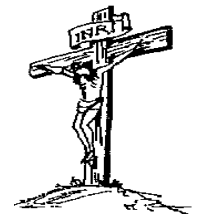
10 Sun Passion Sunday
12 noon Holy Communion

17 Sun Palm Sunday – Holy Week begins
11.30am Family Service
6pm “Lift High the Cross”



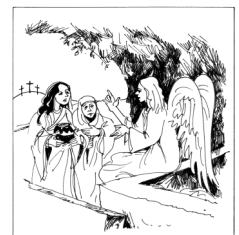
21 Thur Maundy Thursday
NO 9.30am Holy Communion
8pm Holy Communion followed by the
Watch of the Passion of Christ
until 10.30pm

22 Fri Good Friday
9.30am Churches Together Walk of
Witness
12 noon Meditations until 1.45pm
1.45pm Liturgy of the Day



23 Sat Easter Eve
12 noon Decoration of the church for Easter
8pm Easter Vigil (No Communion Service)

24 Easter Day
8am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.45am Parish Communion
6pm Taizé Service



25 Mon 8am Holy Communion followed
by Pilgrimage to St. Albans Abbey

29 Fri Bank Holiday for the Royal Wedding

Announcements

APOLOGY: We apologise to Mrs. Connie Morris for omitting her name from the list of people who very kindly deliver All Saints' Magazine. We thank her for her help. *Eds*

JUMBLE SALE: Many thanks to all who helped in any way for the Jumble Sale on Saturday 5th February. We raised the splendid sum of £630.47, which is a record.

ST. ALBANS ABBEY EVENING VISIT on Wednesday 16th March (see last month's magazine for details.) Please sign the list at the back of Church if you are interested in going; the cost will be around £5 a head and we hope that between us there will be transport available for those without cars. The evening starts at 7pm and we will need to leave Croxley at 6pm. For further information please speak to *Chris Oke (01923 220782)*.

LARGE PRINT MAGAZINES are available for people who need them. Please ask the person who delivers your magazine.

DON'T STOP READING! Advertisements are now throughout the magazine so don't stop reading when you reach the first ad.

CHURCH SPRING CLEANING on Saturday 16th April from 9.30am. Please bring your own cleaning equipment.

GARDENING DAY on Saturday 30th April from 9.30am. Please bring your own tools.



WATERSMEET The film in March is The Social Network. Matinee at 2pm and evening at 7.45pm, on Thursday 17th March.

On 30th March at 7.30pm, the Peace Hospice presents 'Night of a Thousand Stars' an evening of music, drama and comedy. Tickets £15, concessions £10 (under 12/over 65). Contact 01923 335340.

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Noon Communion Service and Lunch

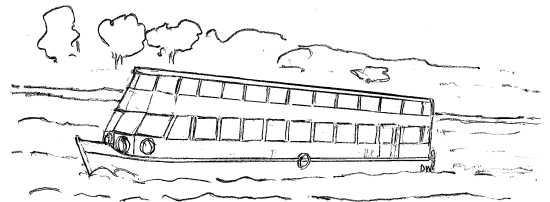
On 13th February we had our first Communion Service at noon, particularly for people who find the 9.45am service too early, but also for those who appreciate eating Sunday lunch with other people.

After the service, fifteen people sat down to cottage pie with swedes, sprouts and carrots, and a glass of wine or fruit juice followed by apple tart and apple crumble with cream, and then coffee or tea. Many people made this possible using their skills, in cooking, laying tables, washing up and organising. Grateful thanks to everyone who contributed. Someone said, "How nice it was to sit and chat with someone over a meal!"

Next month's Communion and lunch will be 13th March. See you there!

Mary Kingsley

A Trip to Henley



On **Tuesday 26th July** there will be an outing by coach to Henley-on-Thames, for older members of our congregation and residents of Croxley Green. This follows the successful trip to Windsor last year.

Lunch will be at the Toby Carvery, Stafferton Lodge, Maidenhead. Afterwards we shall travel via picturesque Marlowe to Henley where we shall have the afternoon free to explore the town and have tea.

The cost will be £16.50 per person which covers the coach, lunch and tips.

Please feel free to publicise this amongst your friends and neighbours.

Further details and booking will be available nearer to the time.

Sally Parry

Message from the Taxman - and it's Good News!

What can we know about the Matthew (Levi) who wrote Matthew's Gospel? Not much. But we are reading his Gospel in church during 2011 so what can we ferret out? We have the story of his call to be one of the twelve apostles in Matthew 9:10 which meant he was with Jesus for three years witnessing all Jesus did and taught. There's one clear reference to Jesus having a meal in Matthew's house plus other references to 'the house' which might suggest Jesus was a fairly frequent visitor. But as Matthew was a taxman, we know he would have been hated by his fellow Jews and seen as a traitor for being in the employ of their Roman masters. Also taxmen usually added a substantial percentage for themselves to the money they collected. Zaccheus was another taxman we meet in the Gospels who made restitution when he came into a relationship with Jesus.

However, as a taxman he had a gift which most of Jesus' fisherman disciples did not have: skill in putting words together on paper. He would also have been bilingual, knowing both Aramaic and Greek – the current languages of Israel at the time. It would seem that in writing his gospel in Greek, he translated a previous writing in Aramaic which was possibly an earlier account of his own, written in Judea before the destruction of Jerusalem in AD70. He also used information from Mark's gospel which was based on Peter's reminiscences. Therefore the date of Matthew's gospel, as we have it, must be after Mark was written. Scholars reckon the date to be about 80-90AD. If we surmise Matthew was about twenty in AD30 – the beginning of Jesus' ministry – we can see one reason why some scholars are hesitant to ascribe the gospel to the apostle Matthew: his age. However early church writings point to Matthew. If Matthew the apostle is not the author, we do not know who put it together, but by the 4th century it was recognised as inspired by God and having his authority and character.

The taxman: There are striking references to money in the gospel – a subject likely to interest an erstwhile taxman. The fact that the different 'Synoptic' (to be seen together) gospels (Matthew, Mark and

Luke) differ slightly, supports authenticity because how many eyewitnesses of an event ever tell exactly the same story!

The early Christians' Favourite Gospel: Matthew's gospel was early described as the first gospel, not because it contained some of the earliest writings about Jesus, but because it was much quoted. The systematic arrangement of its subject matter rather than strict chronology was very useful. It was an indispensable tool for defending Christian beliefs against the attacks of the Jewish opponents; it gives clear teaching from Jesus for converts on the ethical implications of Christianity and the disciplined life of church fellowship. However we cannot consider Jesus' teaching separate from considering his claims and person.

The Royal Gospel: is the title sometimes given to this Gospel as a dominant theme is that of Christ's Kingship. Many of Matthew's distinctive details in his portrait highlight this. Early verses indicate the significance of Jesus as not only the Messiah (Greek: Christ) but as 'the son of David': of the Jewish royal line. The Wise Men came looking for a King.

Jesus fulfils Old Testament prophecy: there are many references to this as Matthew portrays Jesus as the promised King/Messiah looked for by the Jews for centuries. But he also points out that Jesus' kingship is not like this world's: we see his humility, gentleness, loving-kindness, tenderness and compassion.

All power and authority belong to Jesus: Matthew was strongly interested in the second coming of Jesus. He was born to be King and has all power in heaven and earth: over in and death, created persons and angelic powers: visible and invisible. Jesus Christ is Lord of all and therefore worthy of our desire to know Him and honour Him with our total trust, obedience and devotion for all time and eternity.

Jo Gardner

What a Wonderful World

It's wonderful to be back amongst the family of All Saints. I wake up early each frosty February morning and look at the snowdrops, and the gentle silhouettes of the silver birch trees and feel glad just to be alive.

It's amazing to think that, only a week before writing this, the sun shone brightly as we breakfasted on the palm fringed shores of our family's seafront penthouse in north Sydney. Early morning was the coolest part of a typical day that could reach 35° Celsius: while here in Croxley the temperature is very considerably lower. One of the resolutions I made when we set off in November on our twenty four hour flight was to go to church each Sunday in whatever town or country I found myself in. For some time I have been very interested in the different ways that many churches are attempting to persuade people to worship, so now was my chance to find out. Here are two examples of the eight churches I visited.

On the first Sabbath I went along to the Chapel By The Sea near Bondi Beach, run by the Uniting Church of Australia – the congregation was young. Many people had brought their surf boards with them to go straight on to the beach – these were neatly stacked at the back. The pastor was Canadian, a charismatic bearded muscular man with a rainbow coloured chasuble who accompanied all the hymns on his guitar. It was Epiphany and he talked to us about the modern concept of Christmas – the rush to sing carols from October onwards with a sudden stop on Boxing Day, when in fact carols should be sung until well after. He contrasted the vapid commercialisation of these 'tunes' with the spiritual drought in so many people's lives today. It was a great sermon. After church we all had coffee and cold drinks and praised the Lord.

My granddaughter Kenya aged twelve had won a scholarship to a prestigious Sydney school called Kincopal, where the Duchess of Gloucester once went. I felt I should go to a Catholic service in the beautiful church in Rosebay nearby – again near the beach which was

attached to the school. This was in late January, the liturgy was vibrant and traditional and the church was packed. The sermon was about the way the illegal immigrants who are flooding to Northern Australia are risking everything in small boats on a long journey over the Coral Sea. It was a plea for compassion that those who made it, mostly Afghans, Iranians and other Muslims should have their cases considered sympathetically, particularly women and children.

We are very fortunate to be also residents of Australia and one day we may go to live there; but while we are healthy and curious about the meaning of life we hope to continue to enjoy our good fortune and never cease to thank God for the wonderful world he enables us to enjoy.

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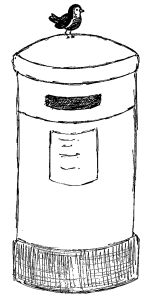
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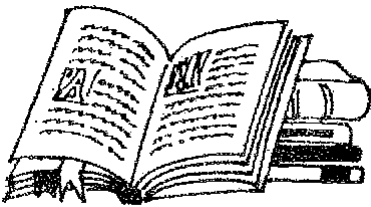
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Christmas Post Box

Thank you to everyone who used our Christmas Post Box and to everyone who helped with deliveries. The post box raised £50 for *Crisis at Christmas*.



Crisis is the national charity for single homeless people, which started over 40 years ago. It works throughout the year but most people have heard of it as *Crisis at Christmas*. Last Christmas, 3,000 people visited its nine centres where they were provided with warmth, good food, companionship, health and dental services, opticians, sports and crafts. *Crisis* also helps people to develop their skills and increases their chances of finding employment. Videos of people who have been helped by *Crisis* can be found on their website www.crisis.org.



E100 Bible Readings

Robin Neill appreciates what he has gained through the first half of the E100 Bible readings:

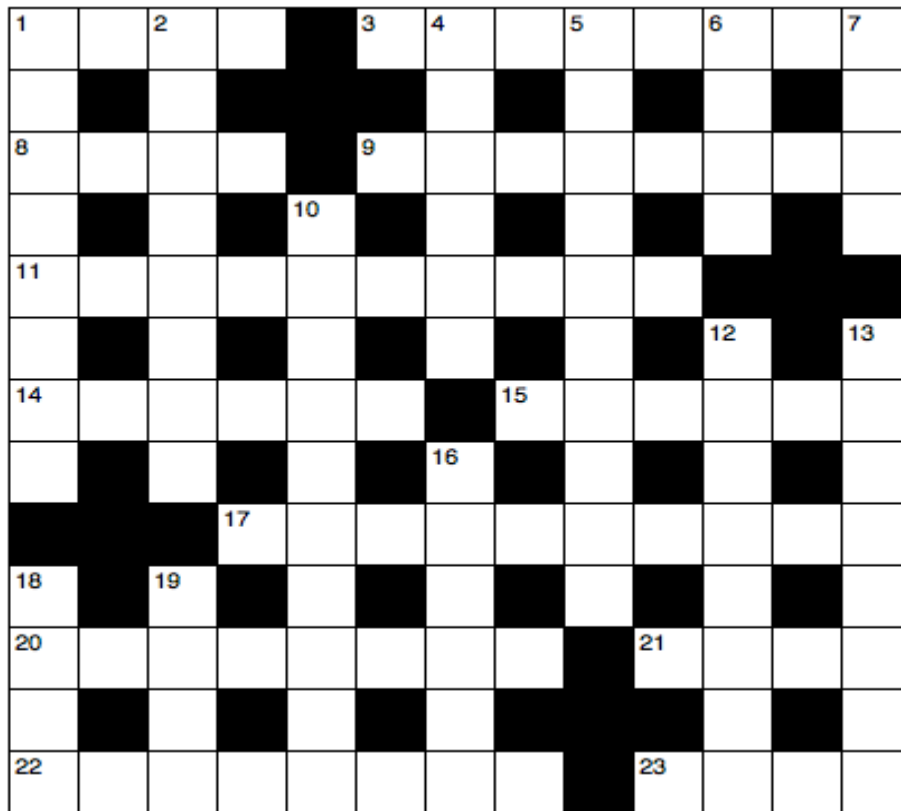
"I have completed the Old Testament and although I had done most of it at school the text in the Essential 100 guidebook made the going more understandable.

My lasting thought was how little humanity has changed since those days except that Christians today have Christ's sacrifice on the cross to save them from their sins, if only they believe and have faith.

Thank you to Jo Gardner for introducing E100 to us."

Robin Neill

Crossword



Clues Across:

1. Symbol of Christ's blood (4)
3. Be on this when danger lurks (3,5)
8. Seep (4)
9. Major Jewish Festival (8)
11. Burial place among flowers (6,4)
14. Opposite of 'able to' (6)
15. Elijah's successor (2 Kings 2) (6)
17. Place of Jesus' arrest (10)
20. Home which is yours (3,5)
21. Girl's name in sail (4)
22. Jesus' punishment before Crucifixion (8)
23. Eye sore (4)

Clues Down:

1. Can't grow (anag), a sin? (5,3)
2. Title of Jesus related to his home town (8)
4. Well-being (6)
5. School gatherings (10)
6. One of the 7 deadly sins (4)
7. Change direction (4)
10. Soon (6,4)
12. Second name of Jesus' betrayer (8)
13. Be aware of danger (4,4)
16. One of the Trinity (3,3)
18. Idly wait for bread (4)
19. Blessing and honour and glory and power, beHim (4)

Smile Lines



What now?

Today, I was in the bathroom at a popular coffee chain. Someone had written “What Would Jesus Do?” on the wall. Another person had added, directly underneath: “Wash His Hands.”

Then a third person wrote, “And your feet.”

What the teacher says and what the teacher means...

Your son James has a remarkable ability in gathering information from his classmates. (He was caught cheating in an exam.)

Fantastic imagination! (He is one of the biggest liars I have ever met.)

Margie exhibits a casual, relaxed attitude to school, indicating that high expectations don't intimidate her. (The lazy thing hasn't done an assignment all term.)

Sue is a real athlete, with superior hand eye co-ordination. (The little creep stung me with a rubber band from fifteen feet away.)

Nick thrives on interaction with his peers. (Your son needs to shut up and start working.)

Dear God...

A little boy's prayer: “Dear God, please take care of my Daddy and my Mummy and my sister and my brother and my doggy and me. Oh, and please take care of yourself, God. If anything happens to you, we're gonna be in a big mess.”

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'200' Club Prizewinners – January Draw

1st prize £25 - Brenda Mayes

2nd prize £15 - Nora Stock

3rd prize £10 - Jean Walford

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Contributions should reach one of the above by the 'copy date' as below. Copy in the form of emails or on a disc are very helpful but do not always work, so please provide a paper copy as well.

copy date:	13 March	for	April
	10 April		May
	15 May		June

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTOR: Mrs Joan Bovington (address above)

This month's cover is a Max Greenwell design

Acknowledgement

Unless otherwise stated, pictures are taken from Parish Pump or else they are produced by members of the magazine team.

We encourage articles from a wide range of contributors and the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editors.

Answers to crossword on page 25:

Across: 1. Wine, 3. The alert, 8. Ooze, 9. Passover, 11. Garden tomb, 14. Cannot, 15. Elisha, 17. Gethsemane, 20. Own house, 21. Lisa, 22. Flogging, 23. Stye. **Down:** 1. Wrong act, 2. Nazarene, 4. Health, 5. Assemblies, 6. Envy, 7. Turn, 10. Before long, 12. Iscariot, 13. Take care, 16. The Son, 18. Loaf, 19. Unto.

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