

All Saints' and St Antony's in the Parish of Sanderstead

Growing in Christ, working together with the community and sharing God's love

Spring 2025



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There is something beautiful and fresh in this season of the year. No wonder the American poet Emily Dickinson (1830-1886) wrote:

***A Light exists in Spring
Not present on the Year
At any other period —
When March is scarcely here.***

We have now entered the period of Lent, during which we are urged to set aside the distractions that surround us in ordinary life, to focus on a new and living way. Very soon we will be celebrating the greatest act of forgiveness that ever was, in our Lord's death and resurrection. This is certainly a time of rejuvenation and rebirth.

Here is the prayer we ought to be praying each day during this critical period:

A PRAYER FOR THE PARISH DURING THE INTERREGNUM/VACANCY

God our Father, we thank you for your faithfulness and for your unchangeable love.

We thank you that, in Jesus Christ, you have called us to be his body in this place to shine like a beacon on the hill, growing in Christ, working together with the community and sharing God's love for one another.

During this time of uncertainty and change, we ask that we may be filled, guided and encouraged by your Holy Spirit. Grant us vision, energy, faithfulness a real sense of togetherness and a love for one another.

We ask you to guide with your heavenly wisdom those appointed to discern the way ahead and lead them to the right person to be our new incumbent. May we receive with joy and unity the priest you have prepared for your people here, ready to serve you and build us up in faith, and lead us by example in loving obedience to your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. AMEN

Rev'd Jeremy Groombridge



All Saints' & St Antony's in the PARISH of SANDERSTEAD

All 9.30am Sunday services at All Saints Church are livestreamed.

www.sanderstead-parish.org.uk

MARCH 2025 - All Saints' Church...

<u>Sunday 2 March</u> Sunday next before Lent	9.30 am	Parish Eucharist with choir, healing prayer & JIGSAW (Sunday School) <i>Revd Steve Cooper</i>
<u>Wednesday 5 March</u> ASH WEDNESDAY	7.00 pm	Ash Wednesday Eucharist with ashing <i>Revd Steve Cooper</i>
<u>Sunday 9 March</u> 1 st Sunday of Lent	9.30 am	Family Worship (with Communion) <i>Revd Kevin Garrett</i>
MESSY CHURCH <i>Mary, mother of Jesus</i> (9 March)	3.30 pm	Messy Church Crafts, games, songs, refreshments for children/parents/carers
<u>Sunday 16 March</u> 2 nd Sunday of Lent	9.30 am	Parish Eucharist with choir. <i>Bishop David Atkinson</i>
<u>Thursday 20 March</u>	12.30 pm	Midweek Communion - <i>Revd Steve Cooper</i>
<u>Sunday 23 March</u> 3 rd Sunday of Lent (23 March)	8.00 am	Said Eucharist <i>Bishop David Atkinson</i>
	9.30 am	Family Worship <i>Revd Kevin Garrett</i>
<u>Saturday 29 March</u>	9.00 am	PARISH PRAYER In St. Catherine's Aisle <i>Led by Corrie & Lynne's homegroup</i>
<u>Sunday 30 March</u> 4 th Sunday of Lent / MOTHERING SUNDAY	9.30 am	Family Worship led by Mothers' Union <i>Revd Steve Cooper</i>

St. Antony's Church...

CAFÉ CHURCH - Every Sunday at 3.00 pm

A relaxed worship service with Afternoon Tea, refreshments, singing, Bible readings, a short talk, prayers, and time to get to know Jesus better.

Holy Communion on 23 March, 3.00pm (4th Sunday of the month) led by Revd Steve Cooper.

T4U - 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month at 2.00pm

An informal social time of tea, cake & chat.

Growing in Christ, working together with the community and sharing God's love

UKRANIAN REFUGEES - UPDATE

All Saints' Church continue to support Zinaida (Zina) and Ivan Varga in 2A Church Flat, and they are very grateful for our care. Zina and Ivan continue to regularly worship with us, and they offer help to Church activities when appropriate e.g. Gardening Group, helping clear up after Messy Church, Coffee Pot and Toddlers. Gardening is a distraction from the sad news of their home country, and they regularly tend the flower beds outside the Hall and the church entrance, for which we thank them.

Monday 11 November 2024, Mothers Union had invited everyone to an evening that was planned for a presentation from Revd Jeremy Groombridge on his trip to India. Sadly, owing to him unexpectedly being taken into hospital, I was asked to present a Ukrainian evening at very short notice. I gave a brief introduction on the History and Geography of Ukraine, followed by a Film of beautiful Ukraine in peace time and a bit about the Russian invasion and War. This was followed by eight local Ukrainian Refugees, who sang their National Anthem and some Folk Songs. Oleksyii gave a short piano recital without any music.

We had a wonderful evening, after which, one of the audience asked if they could sing at an All Saints' Carol Concert. Five of them sang a couple of Ukrainian Carols at the Candlelight Service, dressed in their national costume, to which there was spontaneous applause. The Organist and Choir Master suggested they gave a Concert, so watch this space!



Ukrainian singers Oleksyii, Tanya, Lyubov

Margaret Quiney Sponsor

COFFEEPOT

Drop-in for Coffee, Tea and Cakes at All Saints'

This is a friendly welcoming activity, which is on offer alternate Friday mornings between 10.00 – 12 noon in the small hall.

The next session will be on Friday 21 March 2025, and thereafter every other week.

What do we offer? A warm welcome, friendship, lots of chat and laughter, and yummy cakes!!



LIVING HOPE

This Lent we are encouraged to put down deep roots of hope by connecting with God who is with us at all times. Living Hope offers us the opportunity to deepen our hope in God and be part of what God is doing to bring hope in the world.

Our award-winning Church of England campaign app for both iOS and Android – including daily audio – is now available to download. You can also sign up to have daily reflections emailed to you. A printed booklet is available to purchase.

To sign up, to download the app, to purchase a booklet or to simply find out more, please visit

<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/living-hope-resources-lent-2025>

Parish Christmas Party - 30 November 2024

We started the Christmas season with a parish wide celebration at All Saints' halls. Seventy-eight people enjoyed some fun, good food and fellowship together with quizzes to keep us all amused. The 30th was also Heidi's special birthday and she was surprised with a cake, then everyone joined together to sing *Happy Birthday*. Thanks must go to the many people who contributed to making the event such a resounding success.

Katheryn Hewitt



If you have any ideas for another social event for the church family or for an outreach event or you would like to help organise an event, why not make a suggestion to the PCC.

Christmas Eve Meal 2024

For many years, we have held a Christmas Day lunch for people who would otherwise be on their own at Christmas. Although we were unable to find a team of people who were available to host a meal on Christmas Day, we were not short of volunteers who were prepared to help to host a meal on Christmas Eve. Forty-two people sat down to eat lunch, and takeaways were sent home to those who were not well enough to attend. Many thanks to everybody who donated items and to those who gave so freely of their time.

Katheryn Hewitt



ASC Men's Group – Annual Christmas Curry

ASC Men's Group met once again for their traditional Christmas Curry at The Taste of Bengal (ToB) on the evening of Thursday 16th January. We had an excellent turnout of 25 people, a good mix of ladies and gentlemen and even a couple of Reverends!

The team at ToB coped admirably with the chaotic process of taking so many orders and were even able to provide alcohol free beers for those of us doing 'dry January' – as well as the usual cold Cobra's!



Whilst we took up almost the entire restaurant, ToB did manage to set up a couple of tables for non-Men's Group customers who joined in with a rousing rendition of 'Happy Birthday' for George – no birthday bumps followed for Health & Safety reasons!

Huge thanks go to Trevor and David for arranging the evening, and to Taste of Bengal for accommodating us once again. A good night was enjoyed by all.

Tony Robinson



EMBRACE the Middle East

Prayer unites us, and strengthens the courage and resilience that our partners draw on every day as they work to alleviate poverty, injustice, sickness and trauma. Rosemary Kempself

The latest edition of the Prayer diary for the period up to the end of July can now be downloaded from the website <http://embraceme.org>. The diary page for the remainder of March is included below to help to get you started.

MARCH 2025

9 March

With International Women's Day (8 March) fresh in our minds, we pray for Embrace partners who work to tackle gender inequality and provide places of safety for women facing abuse. Think and Do in Egypt, for example, runs a shelter that provides accommodation and counselling for women and teenage girls who have fled traumatic situations.

16 March

Within the unpredictable context of the Gaza Strip, please pray for our partner, the DSPR-NECC, as they continue to provide maternal and infant healthcare for mothers and their babies. Their clinics in Gaza provide primary healthcare, development checks, nutrition advice and antenatal care.

23 March

The effects of climate change are a serious problem in Iraq, causing the expansion of desert areas and the loss of farmland. Please pray for the Ankawa Humanitarian Committee in Erbil, Iraq, as they work with young people to give them the knowledge and skills they need to address these challenges in their schools and communities.

30 March

We pray for the East Jerusalem YMCA as they support children who have witnessed political violence in the West Bank. The staff provide psychological first aid when an incident occurs and also provide longer-term counselling and support for traumatised children and their caregivers.



PRAYER DIARY

**February 2025 -
July 2025**

Prayer is a vital part of your support for Embrace the Middle East, and we are so grateful to you for your solidarity with our Christian partners as they strive to help the most vulnerable members of their communities.

Political uncertainty, conflict, economic hardships, travel restrictions and many other challenges affect our partners' work, but they always find a way to continue. Their faith and deep commitment to alleviating poverty, sickness and trauma are what keep them going in these difficult circumstances. It means a lot to them that you are praying for them and the communities they serve.

This diary highlights a different partner organisation or project for each week of the next six months. Conditions in the Middle East can change suddenly and new prayer needs arise, so we also encourage you to visit embraceme.org for the latest updates.

Picture: A displaced family in Gaza, preparing food with meagre rations to cook over a wood fire – August 2024. (Credit: Hosny Salah, via Pixabay).



Sanderstead 2 o'clock Bells, one of the two church handbell teams, has been in existence since 1997 and still has a couple of founder members playing regularly. Nowadays there are about 12 of us. I am a relative newcomer, having joined just before Covid forced the team to take a break, and I was immediately impressed by the hard work, enthusiasm and friendliness of everyone – especially Angela our leader. We've welcomed a couple of new members in the past twelve months: both are new to handbell ringing and are hopefully learning to get used to us.

There is a certain amount of overlap between 2 o'clock Bells and the SAS ringers who meet on Monday evenings under the direction of Martin Winter. It is always good to be able to borrow a ringer if you need one! 2 o'clock Bells and SAS gave a joint concert last Summer in the Church Hall, which was very well supported.

The group rings at many events all year round, both in the church and in the wider community, as well as practising on most Monday afternoons. It is a joy to be able to introduce handbells to so many people – often they have not heard handbells before, and I am pleased to say that we do usually get invited back again.

Last year we played in at least four care homes in the Croydon area, and also at *The Place to Be*, a club which meets at St Mark's, Purley, where the audience were particularly welcoming.

In March 2024 we played in All Saints' for Myrtle Bourn's Memorial Service – Myrtle of course was a member of the team until she moved away to Basingstoke. She used to send us detailed weekly emails telling us what she was up to, and reading these became a regular part of our afternoon sessions. A couple of years ago we even managed to go to Basingstoke to entertain Myrtle and the other residents of the McCarthy Stone flats where she lived.

Some of us played in church on Remembrance Sunday and then again, as usual, for the All Saints' Carol Service just before Christmas, at which three of the ringers were also in the choir.

The Christmas programme in 2024 was even busier than usual – we rang at two Christmas Tree festivals, at St Mary Magdalene Addiscombe, and St Mary's Sanderstead. St Mary Magdalene is a vast and most impressive building, a wonderful space to play in and their Christmas Fair was on a grand scale. By contrast, St Mary's Sanderstead is

much more intimate. We have played there often and it is always a delight to be part of their run up to Christmas. We also entertained members of Croydon U3A for their Christmas meeting at St Matthew's East Croydon.

Some of the ringers that belong to the SAS Ringers joined with other local handbell groups for a Christmas ring together hosted by The Wandle Ringers. They enjoyed an evening of massed ringing of Christmas music and solo performances by the teams attending. The SAS played a Chinese carol *Stars of Ice* which was very well received.

Finally, we joined with Cantilena singers for their Christmas concert in All Saints'. We have a close connection with this choir as there are a couple of handbell ringers amongst the singers. Alternating between voices and bells made for a varied and enjoyable programme – and the choir provided outstanding refreshments!

We already have quite a few dates in the diary for 2025, having started in February, when we played at a Ladies' Probus lunch at Croham Hurst Golf club. In April some of us will be attending the National Rally of the Handbell Ringers of Great Britain being held at Milton Keynes.



It's great to be part of this busy team. If you have not heard us perform, I hope you will be able to do so soon.

Rosemary Lilley

An example of the type of bell that we ring. (Using the mallets to strike the bell is one technique used to create a different sound.)

Children's Work at All Saints'



In October we held a **Light Party**, an opportunity to celebrate **Jesus as Light of the World** at Halloween. There were about 50 children of all ages; many of the parents stayed to enjoy the fun. We had games, stories, a video and songs and finished with pizza and chips!



Christmas was a busy time. We welcomed 200 children from Gresham, Atwood and Ridgeway to **Christmas Unwrapped**: it is a fun activity to tell the Christmas story to Key Stage 1 children with presents, clues, riddles and craft activities. Each class went back to school with a large book and Jigsaw puzzle telling the Christmas Story. *Right—some of our leaders and wonderful helpers*



Messy Christmas with Christingle saw the church bursting with life, with over 80 children and as many adults busy with crafts and quizzes. We finished with a Christingle celebration in which the children told us about the Children's Society as well as leading the prayers. The church was a blaze of light when the Christingles were lit. It was a great celebration to which many of the uniformed organisations came with their leaders, as well as our regular Messy Church families and friends.



We held two **Toddler Christmas Parties**.

Sarah Palfrey organised Christmas crafts and Christmas snacks in the halls.

We then went over to the church to hear the Christmas Story and sing some songs. Revd Kevin Garrett joined us for this part.

Then Father Christmas visited (thanks to Richard Wragg) and each child received a Christmas Story book.

The Crib Service on Christmas Eve welcomed over 200 people. The children gathered at the large crib scene in St Catherine's Aisle as The Christmas Story unfolded, with Evie and Toby (pictured right) as Mary and Joseph.



We have a full plan of events for 2025. We are hoping that with God's help we can think of ways to connect with older children, this is a work in progress.

- Toddlers **every Tuesday and Friday** in term time.
- **1st Sunday** of every month Jigsaw—it was very encouraging to have nine children on 2nd March.
- **2nd Sunday** of every month Messy Church and Family Worship (we are doing a series on women in the Bible, Sarah, Mary mother of Jesus, Hannah, Ruth, Martha and Mary) as well as Messy Easter, Messy Seaside, Messy Christmas and Messy Communion.
- **31st March, 1st & 2nd April** *CSI The Missing Body* for key stage 2 (2 schools booked so far).
- **Good Friday** Messy Easter with family Worship
- **13th July** Whole Church BBQ - Messy Sports?
- **26/27/28 August** Holiday Club topic TBC
- **30th October** Light Party
- **1/2/3 December** Christmas Unwrapped for schools Key Stage 1
- **14th December** Messy Christmas and Christingle
- **16th and 19th December** Toddlers Christmas party and worship
- **24th December** Crib Service



As always we are ever grateful for all our willing and committed volunteers. If you want to help us or to learn more please contact :

Judith Robinson, Sue Thomas, Sarah Palfrey.
Children@sanderstead-parish.org.uk



Carol Singing at East Surrey Hospital

As many people are aware, Revd Jeremy spent many weeks in hospital during November and December. A group of people from All Saints' worked with the ward manager of Jeremy's ward to arrange a 'Carol Singing' visit on 23rd December. We were reasonably tuneful, and it appears that our visit was enjoyed by patients and staff.... Or so they told us!

Katheryn Hewitt

ALL SAINTS' MEN'S GROUP – Programme for 2025 'taking shape'

By the time you get to read this we will have started on our 2025 Programme, with our Christmas Curry held on 16th January, and a breakfast talk given by Sir Matt Baggott, both of which were really well attended and enjoyed by all those who came along. More about these events is on page 15.

Keep an eye on the Parish website which will have our programme for 2025, and on church notices and email circulation.

Here then are a few dates to put in your diary, more will follow:

15 Mar 2025,	Saturday	Six Nations Rugby – England v Wales
28 Mar 2025,	Friday	Visit to Croydon Astrological Society Observatory Kenley
May	date TBC	Visit to Thames Barrier &/or Charlton House
28 Jun 2025,	Saturday	Visit to Shuttleworth Air Show
18 July 2025,	Friday	Borde Hill Outdoor Opera & Picnic – La Bohème

In addition to these events there are of course our weekly Wednesday Walks, and also our monthly Thirsty Thursday get togethers at The Sir Julian Huxley.

All Men's Group activities are of course open to men and women alike.

Tony Robinson, Dick Hibberd, David Chillman, Trevor Hewitt

PILGRIMAGE 2025, 35th Anniversary - Walking to change lives



The Connections at St Martin's in the Fields works with people as they recover from life on the streets, to help them move on to meaningful, fulfilling futures and a place called home.

I am returning after many years to take up the challenge to walk from St. Martin's in London to Canterbury Cathedral and I aim to raise money for the charity.

The walk is 73 miles and will take place over the late May Bank Holiday weekend—Friday 23rd to Monday 26th May 2025.

If people feel able to make a donation, please click on this link:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/gray-rena-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

I would be so grateful for your support. Reena Gray

SUPPORT REENA'S CHARITY WALK

SUPPORT REENA'S CHARITY WALK



UPCOMING DATES

Wednesday 12th March	11am Trinity House, Southwark MU Diocesan Council
Monday 14th April	7.30pm Open meeting in St Catherine's Aisle <i>A reflection for Holy Week</i> Peter Greystone

Looking After Ourselves and Preparing for our Future

As much as we can't change the facts of ageing we can prepare and organise ourselves in simple ways. Thinking about the future can be difficult – many of us tend to not think about it until we have to. But it's a good idea to give yourself time to think and talk through all of your options. Planning ahead can help you feel more in control and give you and your loved ones peace of mind.

Medication

Do you keep a list of your regular medication with you? It might be useful if you became unwell whilst away from your home.

Spare door keys



Do you have spare keys in a key box outside your home, in case you get locked out? Or does someone else have spare keys? Do your friends or neighbours have the code of the key box for use in an emergency?

Who would you want to be notified if you needed assistance?

Let your neighbours or friends know your emergency contacts numbers and vice versa and keep their details with you whilst away from home.

Emergency notification list

It is advisable to have a list of emergency numbers in a prominent place in your home. The emergency services could use this if you needed to be taken into hospital so that someone could be notified. The list may include contact details of your next of kin, a friend, solicitor, your GP and your medication.

Making a will

March 2025 is a Free Wills Month - the next one is October. This service is very popular and appointments are often limited so book early with your solicitor, who can also advise you about setting up a power of attorney, a way of giving someone you trust the legal authority to make decisions on your behalf if you are no longer able to do so. If you don't have a solicitor, many charities offer the same free will writing service.

Making a Letter of Wishes

This is your opportunity to give guidance to those managing your estate on how you'd like your assets to be dealt with. Unlike a will, a letter of wishes is not legally binding and while it is no substitute for a will, it can provide practical and emotional support to your executors, family members and trustees created in the will. It may include details about who should be informed of your death and guidance on whether you'd like to be buried or cremated, plus any relevant details about the funeral service.

Home care

You may need care services at home on a temporary basis after a stay in hospital or you may need care services at home on a longer-term basis, to help you to live as independently as possible for as long as possible in your own home. Care services at home aren't usually free but you may be entitled to receive help with the cost of home care from the local council. The council's adult social services department should also be able to provide you with details of approved private care agencies. It is worth asking friends or relatives for recommendations of care providers they've used.

Helpful information guides and factsheets are available to order from Age UK.

Age UK can offer support to you through a free advice line: 0800 678 1602.

Lines are open 8am-7pm, 365 days a year. website: ageuk.org.uk

Email address for Age UK Croydon: aukc@ageukcroydon.org.uk

A collaborative article from the Pastoral Care Working Group and Julie Marsh, Safeguarding Officer

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

This year's APCM will be held on **Sunday 27th April at 11.15am**, after the morning service. Amongst other things, the meeting will elect two Churchwardens and members for Deanery Synod and the PCC (Parochial Church Council).

Application forms will be available at the back of Church or from the Parish Office (hard or soft copies) from mid-March. If anyone would be interested in learning a little more about these roles, please talk to the Wardens or to Dick Hibberd. Some "new blood" will be very welcome!

Dick Hibberd, Secretary to the PCC (07775 824 743) / dick.hibberd@gmail.com

Donating to Project 800

In this world where online purchasing has become commonplace there is a way to capture donations for your nominated charity. By signing up with www.easyfundraising.org.uk you can nominate "Sanderstead All Saints' Church" to receive a donation with every purchase from supporting companies. Donations received here will go to our Project 800 Appeal. The amount varies but some can be quite large, notably with holidays, flights and hotels. These small donations cost you, the purchaser, nothing, not even any effort to collect!



We encourage you to sign up on this website www.easyfundraising.org.uk or via the QR code above. As a community we could raise significant sums, together.

NEW ELECTORAL ROLL 2025

As required by the Church Representation Rules, a new Electoral Roll is required to be prepared afresh for 2025; an official Notice to that effect was placed on the noticeboards of the Churches and Church Halls from 24 February 2025.

If you wish to be included on the new Electoral Roll, please re-apply by filling in a new Electoral Roll form. At the same time, it would be helpful if you could complete a new Parish Communication Form (optional) that will allow us to keep our ChurchSuite records up to date and also to know of your communication preferences.

Forms must be returned to the Parish Office no later than 30 March 2025 and are available in Church, or from the Parish Office, or from the Electoral Roll Officer. You may also request digital copies of the form from the Electoral Roll Officer to enable you to print at home. Your timely co-operation in submitting the forms would be greatly appreciated.

The new Electoral Roll will be published and take effect on 10 April 2025. Please note, that if you are not on the Electoral Roll then you cannot stand for office or vote at the Annual Parochial Council Meeting to be held on 27 April 2025.

More reminders will be issued in due course in the weekly Church Notices and by announcements at Church Services.

Please contact the Electoral Roll Officer if you have any queries.
Electoral Roll Officer David Chillman M: 0787 097 8844 E: david.chillman@btinternet.com



Sanderstead Horticultural Society

www.sandersteadhs.org

Sanderstead Horticultural Society is particularly keen to attract beginners and young people to one of the most enjoyable and health promoting activities imaginable.

All of this for just £10 per household per year. What a bargain! You will also receive 10% discount at Knights Garden Centre in Warlingham when you show your membership card.

Why not join SHS now by going to our [Membership page](#)?

DATES FOR THE DIARY...

Thursday 13 March, 8pm
at All Saints' Hall, Sanderstead
TALK BY JIM BUTTRESS,
70 years in Horticulture

We look forward to welcoming back Jim Buttress, who last visited us in 2018, to talk about 70 years in horticulture. Jim trained at RHS Wisley and worked for the GLC before becoming Superintendent of the Central Royal Parks. He has frequently exhibited at the Chelsea Flower Show, winning gold medals numerous times. Please do come along and hear about Jim's horticultural life.

Saturday 22 March from 2pm
at All Saints' Hall, Sanderstead
SPRING SHOW

Do come along to this show. You will be amazed at the different varieties of narcissi/daffodil. The scent they emit is gorgeous.



Thursday 10 April, 7.45pm for 8pm
at All Saints' Hall, Sanderstead
TALK BY ROY VICKERY,
Unlucky Plants and Plant Folklore

Saturday 21 June, 2pm
At Wettern Tree Gardens,
Purley Oaks Road
SUMMER SHOW

I Said: "Let Me Walk"

I said: "Let me walk in the fields."
He said: "No, walk in the town."
I said: "There are no flowers there."
He said: "No flowers, but a crown."

I said: "But the skies are black;
There is nothing but noise and din."
And He wept as He sent me back—
"There is more," He said: "There is sin."

I said: "But the air is thick,
And fogs are veiling the sun."
He answered: "Yet souls are sick,
And souls in the dark undone!"

I said: "I shall miss the light,
And friends will miss me, they say."
He answered: "Choose tonight
If I am to miss you or they."

I pleaded for time to be given.
He said: "Is it hard to decide?
It will not seem so hard in heaven
To have followed the steps of your Guide."

I cast one look at the fields,
Then set my face to the town;
He said: "My child, do you yield:
Will you leave the flowers for the crown?"

Then into His hand went mine;
And into my heart came He;
And I walk in a light divine,
The path I had feared to see.

George MacDonald 1824—1905



Wildflower Border PNGs by Vecteezy

Inspired by words from the *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service on Wednesday 22 January...* "Lord of life, we receive all creation from your hand...", I was prompted to submit this poem once again.

Sally Nicholas



FOOD LIST - MARCH 2025



At Purley Food Hub we provide emergency food, toiletries and household essentials to local people going through times of crisis. Please consider donating from this month's Top 10 priority items:

- **Tinned Meat - corned beef, chicken, ham**
- **Tinned Meat Meals - *but not hotdogs thank you!***
- **Jars of Coffee**
- **Drinking Chocolate requiring only hot water**
- **Savoury Spreads - fish & meat paste, peanut butter**
- **Desserts - sponge puddings, jellies, Angel Delight**
- **Tins of Rice Pudding**
- **Vegetarian Meals**
- **Jars of Pasta Sauce**
- **Small Bottles or Bars of Unisex Shampoo**

We are extremely grateful for everyone's generous support. Since we opened in 2013 you have kindly helped us to provide food for over **380,000 meals** for **42,500 people**.



PURLEY FOOD HUB

Tel: 07546 635295 | Email: purleyfoodhub@gmail.com

Website: www.purleyfoodhub.net

Charity no: 1152807 | Company no: 08557885

Churches
together
in Purley & Kenley

MEN'S GROUP – Breakfast Talk by Sir Matt Baggott - Saturday 25th January 2025

We were privileged to have Sir Matt Baggott travel all the way down from the West Midlands to speak to us about his distinguished career in the police service and how his strong Christian faith had directed and helped him throughout that time.



We had an amazing turnout on the day, with over 50 people packed into St Catherine's Aisle to listen to Sir Matt's talk.

Sir Matt joined the police service in 1978 as an officer in Brixton, where he worked alongside and knew a number of our church family. It was very much a period when Sir Matt felt he had learnt proper practical policing from some of the 'old hands' who had worked at Brixton for many years.

Sir Matt progressed in his career to being Chief of Staff in the Metropolitan Police, then Deputy Chief Constable with West Midlands Police and then Chief Constable of Leicestershire Police.

Sir Matt spoke to us about how God had then directed his next career move and he applied for the job of Chief Constable of Northern Ireland, much to the surprise of everyone. Sir Matt held the post from 2009 until he retired in 2014, policing the difficult years of the on-going Peace Process and Dissident Republican Activity. In all this, Sir Matt emphasised how his faith had underpinned all that he had achieved.

Along the journey, Sir Matt was awarded the Police Medal in 2004, the Order of the British Empire in 2008 and was knighted in 2015 for services to policing.

Originally from Coulsdon, Sir Matt was a member of Purley Baptist Church and continues today as a practising Baptist in his local church. Sir Matt was past President of the Christian Police Association and regaled us with how he was even once appointed Church Warden for an Anglican church!

Feedback following the talk said he '*had us in the palm of his hand*' and he '*was a truly natural speaker, sharing with us his amazing and brave*

experiences, but showing how the Lord had guided him'.

Others described it as '*a great talk by Sir Matt, stimulating and eye opening*'.

We enjoyed tea, coffee and pastries before and after Sir Matt's talk – a good opportunity to chat amongst ourselves, and to Sir Matt.

Our thanks go to Sir Matt, obviously, but also to Jeremy for arranging for Sir Matt to speak to us, and to all those who helped with arrangements and refreshments on the day.



In response to a message of thanks to him after the event, Sir Matt sent this most warm-hearted reply:

'Many thanks for your kind words. It was both a real pleasure and privilege to be invited and to share the morning with you all.

I very much appreciated the warm welcome and hospitality, and the opportunity to share and take questions.

I went away feeling that I had been personally ministered to and encouraged!

Thank you also for the lovely gift of Dalwhinnie! It is in my freezer as suggested by the distillers, and it will be enjoyed in accordance with Jeremy's expert advice!

Every Blessing on all you are doing with the Group.

In Him. Matt

Tony Robinson & David Chillman

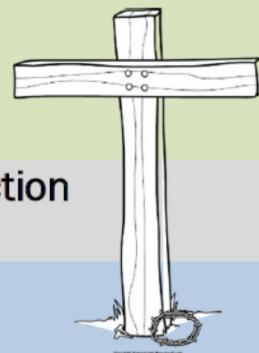


All Saints' & St Antony's in the PARISH of SANDERSTEAD

All 9.30am Sunday services at All Saints Church are livestreamed.
www.sanderstead-parish.org.uk

APRIL 2025 - All Saints' Church...

Sunday 6 April 4 th Sunday of Lent	9.30 am	Parish Eucharist with choir, healing prayer & JIGSAW (Sunday School). <i>Revd Steve Cooper</i>
	6.00 pm TBC	EVENSONG <i>Revd Jeremy Groombridge</i>
Sunday 13 April PALM SUNDAY	9.30 am	Family Worship (with Communion) <i>Bishop David Atkinson</i>
Thursday 17 April MAUNDY THURSDAY	12.30 pm	Midweek Communion <i>Revd Steve Cooper</i>
	7.00 pm	MAUNDY THURSDAY EUCHARIST <i>Revd Kevin Garrett</i>
Friday 18 April GOOD FRIDAY	9.30 am	MESSY EASTER Crafts, games, songs, refreshments for children/parents/carers. <i>Making garden tombs</i>
	2.00 pm	Service of Prayer & Reflection <i>Led by Bishop David Atkinson</i>
Sunday 20 April EASTER SUNDAY	9.30 am	Parish Eucharist with choir <i>Revd Jeremy Groombridge</i>
Saturday 26 April	9.00 am	PARISH PRAYER In St. Catherine's Aisle <i>Led by Elaine Leck</i>
Sunday 27 April 2 nd Sunday of Easter	8.00 am	Said Eucharist <i>Revd Kevin Garrett</i>
	9.30 am	Family Worship <i>Elaine Leck</i>



St. Antony's Church...

CAFÉ CHURCH - Every Sunday at 3.00 pm

A relaxed worship service with Afternoon Tea, refreshments, singing, Bible readings, a short talk, prayers, and time to get to know Jesus better.

Holy Communion on 27 April, 3.00pm (4th Sunday of the month) led by Revd Steve Cooper.

T4U - 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month at 2.00pm

An informal social time of tea, cake & chat.

Growing in Christ, working together with the community and sharing God's love