

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

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



Parish News

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A Milestone Birthday at St Antony's



In celebration of Barbara Webster-Dudley's 90th birthday, the Revd Steve Cooper led a service of worship that was attended by 25 people at St Antony's Church in Hamsey Green. Many in attendance had previously worshipped at St Antony's some years ago and returned for this special occasion to celebrate Barbara's dedication to St Antony's Church, as well

as her birthday. They joined her for a celebration tea after the service. Congratulations, Barbara!

Katheryn Hewitt



THE BEST PLACE TO LIVE IN CROYDON

Recently, the TikTok creator @adamlondontalks compiled a list highlighting the most desirable places to live within each of London's 32 boroughs. Among these, Sanderstead was selected as the top location in the borough of Croydon. This recognition came as no surprise to those who call Sanderstead home, especially considering that, in October 2025, readers of the Croydon Guardian also voted it the best place to live in Croydon.

The Croydon Guardian, in its edition dated 20th November, described Sanderstead as having a 'village-like' quality. The article featured comments from Councillor Yvette Hopley, who commended the area for its expanses of open green spaces, welcoming and family-friendly atmosphere, and the presence of strong residents' groups. She also highlighted the remarkable community spirit that sets Sanderstead apart, making it a particularly special place to live.

At the centre of this vibrant community stands All Saints Church, which has been a cornerstone of village life for nearly eight centuries. As it approaches its 800th anniversary in 2030, the church is embarking on plans to preserve and enhance its premises. These efforts aim not only to celebrate this significant milestone but also to ensure that future generations of Sanderstead residents can continue to enjoy and benefit from this important community institution. For more details on these plans, see pages 8 and 9.

Editor, with thanks to Michael Turner for passing on the original article

Christmas Services at All Saints Sanderstead

You and your family are warmly invited to join us at any of our services throughout the Christmas season to celebrate that God has come to be with us in Jesus Christ, the light of the world. As well as our **regular 9.30am Sunday services at All Saints**, these are our additional Christmas services...

Christingle Sunday 14th December, 3.00pm as part of Messy Christmas.



Always a favourite with children — sweets, oranges, candles and a good time to be had by all!

Collection: [The Children's Society Charity No. 221124](#)

Carols by Candlelight Sunday 21st December, 6.30pm



For many, a highlight of the Christmas season. The church will be beautifully dressed with flowers, decorations and candles; 6 lessons, carols, handbells and other music. Refreshments provided afterwards. Arrive early to get a seat!

Collection: [The Royal Marsden Charity No. 1095197](#)

Crib Service Christmas Eve, 3.00pm



Organised chaos for young children - dressing up, listening to the Bethlehem story, singing well-known carols.

Collection: [Growbaby Charity No. 1185228](#)

Midnight Communion Christmas Eve, 11.30pm

A lovely midnight Eucharist service to welcome in Christmas Day.

Collection: [All Saints' & St. Antony's mission in Sanderstead & Hamsey Green Charity No. 1130319](#)

Christmas Communion Christmas Day, 9.30am

A chance to share the Eucharist together and celebrate the birth of Christ before the

Are we nearly there, Daddy?

I cannot tell you how many times I have heard that plaintive little cry from the back of the car, sometimes after only 10 minutes of the journey!

Yet here we are again, in a season of waiting. Advent is a time of waiting, preparation, penance, anticipation. And what are we waiting for? We are waiting for the coming of Jesus Christ! The word Advent literally means “coming”.

I don't know about you, but I'm not very good at waiting. Yet we all have to do it, but none of us likes it. We wait in queues at airports. We join waiting lists for medical treatment. We wait for trains and buses, and we sometimes have to wait for one another.

Farmers have to wait for the harvest. Gardeners have to wait for flowers to come. I'm told that Chinese bamboo has to be watered and patiently cared for during a five year period of unseen growth. But then suddenly in the space of ninety days it shoots up to easily 100 feet.

God's people of old waited and wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. It is perhaps not surprising that they grumbled and were unhappy, The wait, for them, seemed interminable.

Waiting seems also to be a bit of a theme of the Christian life. During Lent we waited, in patience and preparation reminding us of the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness waiting to begin his public ministry. After Good Friday we waited, on Easter Saturday we waited, while Jesus lay in the tomb, waiting for the day of resurrection. Then we wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit. No wonder we ask, “are we there yet?”

Waiting on God is probably one of the most difficult aspects of the Christian Life. When Jesus promised that he would return, he instructed his followers to wait. Can you imagine what that must have been like—after seeing him literally lifted up into heaven and they're told to wait. To keep it all quiet!

Waiting is easier said than done. So what do we do in the meantime? What do we do while we wait?

Waiting is the confident, disciplined, expectant, active, and sometimes painful clinging to God in the knowledge that we will reap a reward. During

Advent, this period of waiting for the coming of Christ, we have an opportunity to prepare, to purify our hearts and lives, to pray in anticipation of the Baby Jesus, who came to save his people and to be Emmanuel - God with us. Let's use this time wisely - enjoy the build-up to the big day, when we will come to rejoice in the new-born King.



Elsewhere in this Newsletter we bring you news of a huge project on which we will be embarking, to celebrate 800 years of Christian worship and witness in our parish church in 2030, just four years away. We hope the entire community of Sanderstead will become involved in this exciting programme - remember, All Saints is YOUR parish church. Wouldn't it be great for us all to make our mark so that in another 800 years time people will be able to say “that's what the community did to celebrate the first 800 years”.

Remember, too, that we are devoting three evenings during Advent to pray together. At 7pm on the 4th, 11th and 18th of December Bishop David Atkinson and myself will be giving short talks about some prayers in the Bible and then we will spend time putting it into practice by praying together. Please do make every effort to come - it is for the entire parish and everyone will be welcome.

With best wishes for this Advent season and a Merry Christmas to you all, Jeremy.

A Collective All Saints Christmas Card 2025

Dear Church Family

It is December already and you may be deliberating on whether you should send Christmas cards to your friends at All Saints' this year, or even WHO you should send cards to at church.

The wardens have 'commissioned' a large card for the congregation to sign/ send greetings this Christmas and it will be on the wall in church from Sunday 7th December. - **If this is something that you would like to do, please sign the card... and perhaps make a donation to Project 800.** If it is not, we quite understand. - If you would like to sign and donate, but are unable to get to church, please email us and we will add your greeting to the card.

There have been a number of conversations about the rising cost of cards and postage and suggestions that people now only want to send cards to friends and relatives who they don't often see. A few people have asked whether we might have a collective card or board where the church family can write their greetings to everyone in church, rather than sending individual cards.

If you do decide to make a donation to All Saints' Church / Project 800 and are unsure of how to do this, please contact Michael Turner, our parish treasurer.

With warmest regards and best wishes for a very Happy Christmas to you all.

Katheryn and Sue - Churchwardens

Katheryn - churchwarden@sanderstead-parish.org.uk
Sue - churchwarden2@sanderstead-parish.org.uk

PASTORAL CARE

in Sanderstead Parish – A re-focus

In 2023, the Sanderstead PCC noted that pastoral care for our church family had not had an effective focus over the previous year or so and a Pastoral Care group was established to review the situation. As part of this review, it became obvious that we needed to support and develop the skills of those who felt that they might be called to offer pastoral care in our church. We were able, with the help of Revd Jeremy Groombridge, to access places on a Pastoral Care Training course at Christ Church, Purley.

We are very pleased to say that 12 people started the course on 4 June 2025 and the same 12 people completed the course on 19 November. The content and delivery of the course by Rev Doug McHardie was highly rated by all participants and they look forward to being able to attend further 'extension' sessions in the Spring of 2026. The course enabled participants from All Saints', Sanderstead and Christ Church, Purley to work and learn together. We were grateful for the very warm welcome that we received at Christ Church and we would value opportunities to work with the church family there again.

As the course participants now seek to discern their next steps in pastoral care, we are hoping that there will be an opportunity for them to be affirmed at a dedicated service at Christ Church in the near future.

Katheryn Hewitt

ALL SAINTS COFFEEPOT in the small hall Tea/Coffee, Cakes and Company, 10am—12am

Our year ends on Friday, **12th December** when we look forward to welcoming you to our Christmas Special, with Carols and a short Christmas Message.

As the halls are fully booked out for the pantomime, our New Year 2026 will begin on Friday, **23 January** and then on alternate Fridays

6 February	6 March
20 February	20 March

Pledge Appeal 2026

Dear Friends,

Thank you to the 25 people who responded to our appeal for your promises of increased giving, from which we will also benefit the additional gift aid contributions. Where no Pledge Form has been returned, we assume that there is no change to your current giving and for which we continue to be most grateful.

We appreciate those who give by envelope but would ask everyone who is not enrolled in our Stewardship scheme, to give serious consideration to the advantages this brings to the church's administration. Where donations are made in cash, it probably does not occur to anyone the additional work involved in processing the banking. There is also a cost premium that the bank charges for handling cash and cheques (0.95p per £100) in comparison to Automated and BACS Credits / Debits (0.35p per transaction).

You may rest assured that your giving is in total confidence, and please do check and advise our Stewardship Clerk, Paul Foster of any changes to email address and / or telephone contact details.

Paul Foster
Stewardship Clerk
ppf26.pf@gmail.com

Michael Turner
Hon Treasurer
allsaints.treasurer@sanderstead-parish.org.uk

ALL SAINTS CHURCH SUPPORT FOR UKRAINAIN REFUGEES

The International News we hear, almost daily, concerning the continued tragic invasion, disruption & devastation to Ukrainian people's lives and property, is tragic. We continue to pray for the situation and a long-term solution. We not only pray for all the Leaders of countries genuinely standing up to dictators, but also for those still in Ukraine, as well as those who have fled the constant bombardment.



It is a pleasure for us to see Zina and Ivan, who are living in our Church Flat, joining us, most Sundays, worshipping in our Services, and also taking part in Church activities - e.g. Gardening Group, Toddlers

and Coffee Pot to name but a few. They have contributed greatly to looking after parts of the Church gardens. The entrance to the Church has been looking amazingly colourful and appreciated by so many, as well as the Hall entrance and we thank, Zina and Ivan for their efforts and kindness.

I also keep an eye on other Ukrainian families in the local community, particularly when they have administrative or health problems. From time to time, I organise a social gathering to brighten their lives. It is always good to hear when the younger ones are doing well in their education, although in some cases adapting to British education has been difficult.

Zina and Ivan still help a local Ukrainian Supervisor, sorting and meticulously packing basic essentials, which are driven out in large lorries to Ukraine. This goes on quietly behind the scenes, and many British people are unaware of this vital support they are giving to their fellow countrymen.

We will continue to pray for Ukraine and other countries suffering around the world.

Margaret Quiney
Ukraine Support Coordinator for the PCC.

Men's Group Visit to The Poppy Factory, Richmond

On 23rd October the group enjoyed a very informative and interesting visit to the visitors' centre at The Poppy Factory. We heard about the history of the factory from a short video and a talk from our host. Following that we could look at the exhibition and try our hand at making a poppy.



Major George Howson

The History of the Remembrance Poppy

1915: World War One poem *In Flanders Field's* was published in Punch magazine. Poppies are referred to in the first line of this poem. John McCrae wrote the poem after seeing the death of his friend and fellow soldier the day before. Our host told us that he wrote it in "20 minutes"! The poppy became a symbol of remembrance after the First World War, inspired by the fields of Flanders where the bright red flowers bloomed amid the devastation.

1919: Major George Howson and Jack Cohen established The Disabled Society to help war veterans get back into employment. Jack Cohen, himself, had had both his legs amputated after he was severely wounded at Ypres in 1917.

1921: In time for Remembrance Day the British Legion bought 9 million silk poppies from the French socialite Anna Guérin. These poppies, made by French widows and orphans, were sold to raise funds to support the families of the fallen in France. This was the start of The Poppy appeal.

1922: Major George Howson founded the charity to give employment for veterans injured in the first world war. The British Legion gave him £2,000 to set up a poppy-making factory. On display in the exhibition was the letter he wrote to his parents telling them about it. This first factory was in the Old Kent Road.

"I have been given a cheque for £2,000 to make poppies with, it is a large responsibility and will be very difficult. If the experiment is successful, it will be the start of an industry to employ 150 disabled men. I do not think it can be a great success but it is worth trying."

1926: Within a few years this first factory became too small for the expanding business. George Howson's wife had inherited a large sum of money from her father which they used to buy a disused brewery in Richmond. The Poppy Factory moved to this site in 1926. This inheritance money also financed the building of rows of purpose-built flats for the veterans and their families to live in and a social club for them to enjoy.

1928: Major Howson established the first Field of Remembrance outside Westminster Abbey where anybody could place a poppy in memory of a loved one lost in war.

1931: The factory was making nearly 30 million poppies a year.

1932: Work on a new factory building began. It was designed in the Art Deco style and opened in 1933. This is the building we visited.

2021: The Poppy Factory patron, Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall, formally opened the new visitors' centre.



Today most poppies are made by machine in The British Legion Factory in Kent. The Richmond factory still makes wreaths by hand. There are 12 people working in the factory. They make around 75,000 wreaths a year. Two people also make 360 Royal wreaths a year. The design of a Royal wreath is unique to each royal. They take 2.5 months each to make. To create the stamens on the poppies broom bristles are cut to size and the ends dipped in sawdust.

Each year The Poppy Factory staff set up and maintain the 318 remembrance plots at Westminster Abbey. This is a non-denominational garden. Wooden remembrance emblems for all religions are available including a non-denominational one.

The factory workers also make the wreath around the tomb of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey. This is made by hand and consists of 1,500 poppies. We were told that they also make a spare in case of damage!

One lady, Nicola, at the factory makes six million hearts each year out of red flame-retardant crepe paper. These are released during the two minutes silence at The Festival of Remembrance at The Royal Albert Hall. The fallen hearts are picked up by the service personnel after the service.

As well as the factory at Richmond the charity offers support to ex Forces communities all over England and Wales. The charity helps veterans with health conditions on their journey back into employment helping them overcome barriers. They work closely with the NHS. Four out of five veterans they work with have a mental health condition.

There were interesting historical exhibits to view including some Royal wreaths, old machinery used in the factory and also testaments from veterans on how the charity has supported them.

We made poppies. For one we used a traditional block to hold the poppy, and only our non-dominant hand. This showed us how a veteran with a missing arm was able to make a poppy.

The group would like to thank David Chillman for arranging the visit.

Sara Palmer



PROJECT 800

The PCC established Project 800 in 2022 to consider plans to develop and refurbish All Saints' church and the halls as part of the celebration of the 800th anniversary of the church in 2030. An 800 Committee was set up to take forward this work.

The PCC set out the following principle to guide the 800 Committee

- To celebrate the 800 years of All Saints
- To protect and enhance the fabric of the building
- To secure the future of All Saints Church parish

Projects should contribute to furthering the key mission priorities of All Saints to attract more families, children and young people, and greater outreach and engagement with the local community.

An architect and mechanical and electrical consultants were appointed in 2024 to advise the 800 committee. The architect and consultants were asked to develop ambitious plans to re-order the church and the halls to improve accessibility, the range of facilities offered, the flexibility of buildings for a range of uses and a more green and modern heating system.

By the time we received the draft recommendations from the architect and consultants in early 2025 it was clear that our original ambitions were too expensive and could not be afforded. Firstly, during 2024 the need to spend a lot of money on a back- log of maintenance projects relating to heating, electrics and the flat roofs in the church and halls became apparent. The PCC decided that maintenance should not be part of Project 800 and should be funded from existing church reserves and income. However, this means that there will be no money from existing church resources for Project 800, so new projects for the 800th anniversary will require new funding.

Secondly, the cost of implementing proposals from the architect, although exciting and transformational, would cost around £8m. The PCC considered that the church would be unable to raise such a large sum of money and decided that 800th anniversary projects should be limited to £1m.

On Sunday 30th November the congregation was consulted about the recommended list of anniversary projects shown in the table opposite. Projects are shown in priority order with their expected cost. Collectively these projects will deliver the original aims set out for the 800th anniversary and contribute to mission priorities.

The Project 800 Committee welcomes feedback from the congregation but is hopeful that these recommendations will form the basis of the 800th celebrations. The next stages are to start preparatory work to commission individual projects and to develop a funding strategy through the newly appointed Funding Committee. A visual representation of these projects will be developed in the New Year.

Richard Wragg

On behalf of the Project 800 Committee

PROJECT 800—PRIORITIES

- Redecoration of church walls **£144k**
- Redecoration of church ceilings **£105k**
- Refurbish hall kitchen **£60k**
- Refurbish hall toilets **£52k**
- Upgrading the entrance lobby to the halls **£29k**
- Stained-glass window **£50k** and/ or Installing ancient medieval cross **£20k**
- Replacing church Floodlighting **£24k**
- Coffee serving area (North Aisle) **£7k** and font removal **£5k**
- Community/ Café area in the hall (including an extension) **£334k**
- Accessible toilet **£160k**

ANY and ALL of these items will require fundraising.

- Hall Total **£475k** (without community/ café area **£141k**)
- Church Total **£515k** (total excluding window, cross & toilet **£285k**)



Installing the discovered ancient medieval cross, to be placed inside or outside of the Church **£20k**

A new stained-glass window in the Lady Chapel **£50k**



Top Ten Beauty Tips



Byzantine-style mosaic of a saint

- For attractive lips, speak kind words.
 - For beautiful eyes, look for the good in others.
 - To lose weight, let go of stress, hatred, anger, discontent and the desire to control others.
 - To improve your ears, listen to the word of God.
 - To improve your nose, avoid looking down at others.
 - For poise, walk with the knowledge of God's love and acceptance.
 - To strengthen your arms, hug at least three people a day. Touch someone with your love.
 - To strengthen your heart, forgive yourself and others. Don't worry and hurry so much.
- To strengthen your back, carry someone else's burden for them.
 - For the ultimate in business, casual or evening attire put on the robe of Christ: it fits like a glove but allows room for growth; it never goes out of style but is appropriate for any occasion.

Do these things on a daily basis -and they will make you a more beautiful person.

Submitted by Pauline Foster

Whytebeams Nursery is moving to St Antony's this January



We're moving to
St Antony's Church
 Wentworth Way
 Hamsey Green
Flexible funded child care for
2, 3 & 4 year olds

Celebrating
50 Years

info@whytebeams.co.uk
www.whytebeams.co.uk

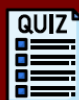
URGENT—If you are in need of company on Christmas Day, sign up for this Christmas Day lunch by the 7th December deadline

Emmanuel Community Christmas Lunch

Join Emmanuel Church on Christmas Day for...



Lunch



Quiz



Carols

25th December, 1pm - 4:30pm
Emmanuel Centre, Rockhampton Road
CR2 7AQ. Tel: 020 8688 6676

Transport may be provided if necessary.
 This is a free event but sign up is required by 7th Dec.

To find out more or to sign up
 scan the QR Code.



Normanton Road, South Croydon, CR2 7AF 020 8688 6676 office@emmanuelcroydon.org.uk emmanuelcroydon.org.uk

Contributions Needed for the Next Parish News

You may have observed that our Parish News has become noticeably shorter over recent editions. If it were not for the inclusion of advertisements for Christmas services and similar notices, this current edition would, in fact, be only 12 pages long. Jackie would like to extend her gratitude to everyone who has contributed, with special thanks to Jeremy for his excellent editorials, as well as to the men's group for their regular input. The Parish News truly depends on the articles and submissions from our church community—without your contributions, there simply would not be a Parish News.

How You Can Get Involved

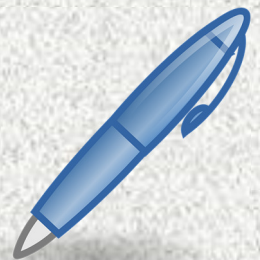
Call for a Second Editor

We are currently seeking an additional editor to join our Parish News team. The responsibilities for this role include motivating parishioners to contribute articles and performing an initial edit of submissions. This is a manageable commitment, as the Parish News is published approximately four or five times per year. If you are interested in taking on this role, please get in touch with Jackie for further details.

Invitation for Contributions

We warmly encourage all members to reflect on topics or experiences they could share for the upcoming edition of the Parish News, scheduled for publication in February 2026. To help inspire your writing, we have provided some suggestions below.

- Church Group Leaders: If you lead any of the church groups, please share updates about your activities and initiatives with us.
- Charity Representatives and Volunteers: Are you involved with one of the church-sponsored charities? An update from your charity would be greatly appreciated. If you volunteer for another charity, we would also love to hear about your experiences.
- Homegroup Studies and Reading: Have you taken part in a memorable study in Homegroup, or perhaps read an interesting book or article elsewhere? Please tell us about what you have learned or found inspiring.
- Local Groups and Outings: Do you belong to any other local groups, or have you recently enjoyed an interesting outing or trip? Share your experiences with the parish community.
- Life Events: If you have a special life event that you would like to share, we would be delighted to include it.



Submission Guidelines

We welcome all contributions that you believe might be of interest to our readers. Please be aware that the final decision regarding which articles are included rests with the editor. On occasion, due to limited space in the forthcoming edition, some submissions may need to be held over for future publication.

If you have an article or contribution to share, please email it to: parishnews@sanderstead-parish.org.uk.

If you do not use a computer, you are welcome to hand your article directly to Jackie at church.

Alternatively, you can ask either Paul or Rosanne in the parish offices to scan and email your submission on your behalf.



FOOD LIST CHRISTMAS / DECEMBER 2025



At Purley Food Hub we provide food and household essentials to local people going through tough times. Please consider donating any of our **Top Ten priority items this Christmas time:**

- 🌿 Tins of Plain Meat - Chicken, Ham
- 🌿 Packet & Tinned Potatoes
- 🌿 Tinned Peas & Carrots
- 🌿 Cartons of Long Life Whole Milk
- 🌿 Tinned Dessert Fruit
- 🌿 Puddings / Jellies / Packet Custard
- 🌿 Small Bottles of Squash
- 🌿 Small Packets of Christmas Biscuits
- 🌿 Children's Chocolate / Sweet Treats
- 🌿 Small Bottles of Washing Up Liquid

Thank you so much everyone for your generous support.
In the past 12 years you have kindly helped us to provide food
for over **400,000 meals** for more than **45,000 people**.



PURLEY FOOD HUB

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

Website: www.purleyfoodhub.net

Charity no: 1152807 | Company no: 08557885

Churches
together
"Purley & Kenley"

BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP

Inspiring people of all ages to grow in Christian faith

"Christ has no body now but yours.
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which Christ
looks compassion into the world. Yours
are the feet with which Christ walks to
do good. Yours are the hands with
which Christ blesses the world."

SAINT TERESA OF ÁVILA



All Saints' Church has been supporting this charity for many years by ordering books for members of our congregation. There is a wide range available. Details can be found on their website *BRF Ministries*, or on the poster displayed in our church porch.

BRF Ministries is the home of **Anna Chaplaincy** for older people, **BRF Resources** - books, notes, blogs events etc., **Messy Church** and **Parenting for Faith**.

If you are interested in receiving BRF books/booklets regularly (by small subscription) please contact

Ann or Michael Turner 020 8657 5224

25th ANNIVERSARY YEAR



GATTON COMMUNITY THEATRE

NATIVITY

By John Durnin

Directed by Libby Egwuba



4th-7th & 11th-13th December 2025 at 7.30pm

All Saints Church South Merstham RH1 3LH

Tickets : ticketsource.co.uk/get



Sun 7th



charity no 1080313



Nativity...Just Imagine

Gatton Community Theatre's production of **Nativity** will be staged 'in the round' inside All Saint's Church, Merstham between **Thurs 4th to Sat 7th and Thurs 11th to Sat 13th December 2025, all at 7.30pm**. The retelling of this familiar narrative takes a different, adult perspective to the usual Nativity plays performed by children for children and their parents, with no tinsel and definitely no tea towels in sight.

Especially written for adult audiences, through both storytelling and acting, the Gatton **Nativity** explores some of the experiences of the characters and includes very human versions of the accounts with which most of us are so familiar. It also creates parts of the story for which there is no source and asks the audience to image, for example, Mary and Joseph's first meeting or their wedding. This different presentation will hopefully help audiences to more fully understand the events surrounding the birth of Jesus and the effects that it had upon those present, and its relevance to us today. Because it was written for adult audiences, we suggest it would not be suitable for children aged under 8.

Tickets are on sale from www.ticketsource.co.uk/gct Adults: £15, 16s and under: £8. Contact us direct for group bookings.
info@gattontheatre.org.uk www.gattontheatre.org.uk

Gatton Community Theatre is a unique Christian community theatre company, based in the parishes of Merstham & Gatton on the North Downs above Reigate. It is also one of Surrey's most unusual and innovative theatre groups. Many of its members come from churches of all denominations in the Reigate area and beyond. The Bishop of Croydon, The Right Reverend Dr Rosemarie Mallett, is the charity's Patron.

This production is supported by a grant from Reigate & Banstead Borough Council Thriving Communities Fund.

The Gentle Man

By Edgar A Guest (1881 - 1959)

His life was gentle, and his mind
The little splendours seemed to find.
The baser side of life he saw,
But from the blemish and the flow
He turned, as if he understood
That none of us is wholly good.

He lived as one who seemed to know
That as the swift days come and go,
Clouds blanket skies that should be fair,
Rain is encountered everywhere,
And so o'er every human form
Must blow at times the little storm.

As one loves a garden, he
Walked round the world its charms to see.
Not only by the rose he stayed,
The tiniest violet in the shade
On his devotion could depend.
To great and low he played the friend.

And as the gardener seems to give
More care to plants which fight to live,
So he with tenderer regard
Befriended those whose looks were hard.
Thus dealing gently, he became
More than a high and haughty name.

This was his wealth, that good and bad
Of him some happy memory had.
This was his fame, that high and low
Their love for him were proud to show.
This his success, that at the end
Men mourned the passing of a friend.

Submitted by Sally Nicholas
*In memory of gentle men who have
gone on ahead.*

Pirates in Surrey?



Upon adjourning to a local pub, the Fox & Hounds in Tilburstow after one of our walks last year, we were greeted by a welcoming fire and less welcoming details of the Godstone Pirate who apparently haunts the pub. Out of the blue, Mark kindly treated us to an

atmospheric rendering of the story, drawing on all his acting experience. Fortunately the walkers are a brave bunch and it would take more than threats of ghostly pirates to deter them from their post walk refreshments. If you cannot make out the story from the photo above, read on

The Story of the Godstone Pirate

Stop for a minute! Soak up the atmosphere. Things aren't quite what they seem. We are haunted you see by a Pirate who died here, so far away from the sea. During your visit, look closely and you will see happenings beyond belief. He likes to play tricks, our John Trenchman who died in 1687. At the age of 12, John ran away to sea and joined the crew of the notorious pirate, Captain Henry Morgan of the Caribbean. Trenchman was one of the British Pirates who looted the Spanish Colony of Porto Bello of Panama in 1668 where all men, women and children were tortured & butchered.

At the age of 55, John retired from the sea to become a smuggler ferrying contraband to Croydon. Things were going well until a captured fellow gang member turned King's evidence to save his own neck from the noose. And so happened the battle of Tilbuster. An ambush was laid by the King's men. John staggered fatally wounded to the Fox & Hounds where he died some hours later from loss of blood. He was buried at St Nicholas' churchyard in an unmarked grave but had to later be given a proper Christian burial as strange things began to happen in the village such as pools of blood around the altar. His headstone is marked with a Skull & Crossbones. Who's that behind you? Arrhhh!!!

Dick Hibberd

Pre-Christmas Social at All Saints

Around seventy of us gathered for the social on the last Saturday of November, and what fun we had! We began the evening by tackling two quizzes; the questions were around the hall, encouraging us to mingle and chew over the answers together.

Once the food was ready, Revd Steve gave the short Grace, 'Alleluia, Amen!' and we went up to serve ourselves from an array of cottage pies, lasagne, rice dishes and vegetarian dishes, followed by a variety of

delicious fruit crumbles all accompanied by good conversation with friends.

Hot drinks were then served as we listened to the quiz answers and the evening ended with a few rounds of 'Call My Bluff' - my, were they tricky!

A massive thank-you to the organisers, quiz writers, the table setters, drinks servers, hall decorators and to all the cooks who brought along dishes and to the very hard-working 'washer-uppers' in the kitchen!

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SANDERSTEAD **ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SERVICES in DECEMBER**

Sanderstead Parish - All Saints

www.sanderstead-parish.org.uk

Sun. 14 th	3.00 pm	Messy Christmas & Christingle
Sun. 21 st	6.30 pm	Carols by Candlelight
Wed. 24 th	3.30 pm	Crib Service
	11.30 pm	Midnight Communion
Thurs. 25 th	9.30 am	CHRISTMAS DAY Eucharist

Sanderstead Methodist Church

www.sandersteadmethodist.org.uk

Sun. 7 th	4.00 pm	Nativity and Carols for all Ages
Sun. 21 st	10.30 am	Traditional Carols with Children's Church
Wed. 24 th	11.30 pm	Christmas Holy Communion
Thu. 25 th	10.30 am	CHRISTMAS MORNING for all ages

Holy Family Catholic Church

www.catholicchurchsanderstead.org.uk

Sun. 14 th	3.00 pm	Service of Light and Hope for Children and Adults
Wed. 17 th	6.00 pm	Service of Penance and Reconciliation
Wed. 24 th	5.30 pm	Christmas Carols
	6.00 pm	Vigil Holy Mass of Christmas Day
	11.30 pm	Christmas Carols
	12.00 midnight	Christmas Holy Mass of Christmas Day
Thurs. 25 th	10.30 am	Christmas Carols
	11.00 am	CHRISTMAS DAY Holy Mass of Christmas
Fri. 26 th	9.00 am	Morning Prayer
	9.30 am	Christmas Holy Mass

Sanderstead United Reformed Church

www.surc.org.uk

Sun. 14 th	10.30 am	Toy and Festival service
Wed. 17 th	3.00 pm	Quiet service – reflection & remembrance
Sun. 21 st	6.30 pm	Carols by Candlelight
Mon. 22 nd	10.00 am	Children's Nativity
Wed. 24 th	11.30 pm	Midnight service with Communion
Thurs. 25 th	10.30 am	CHRISTMAS DAY celebration



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

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

www.sanderstead-parish.org.uk



DECEMBER 2025 - All Saints' Church...

<u>Thursday 4 December</u>	7.00 pm	Reflections on Prayer during Advent Bishop David Atkinson
<u>Sunday 7 December</u> 2nd Sunday of Advent	9.30 am	Parish Eucharist with choir, healing prayer & JIGSAW (Theme: ADVENT) Rev'd Jeremy Groombridge <i>Lighting the 2nd Advent candle (PEACE)</i>
<u>Thursday 11 December</u>	7.00 pm	Reflections on Prayer during Advent Rev'd Jeremy Groombridge
<u>Sunday 14 December</u> 3rd Sunday of Advent	9.30 am	Family Worship (with Communion) Rev'd Stephen Cooper <i>Lighting the 3rd Advent candle (JOY)</i>
CHRISTINGLE (14th December)	 3.00 pm – 5.00 pm	Messy Christmas & Christingle Crafts, refreshments for children & their parents / carers, and a christingle for each child.
<u>Thursday 18 December</u> (18th December)	12.30 pm	Midweek Communion Rev'd Stephen Cooper
	7.00 pm	Reflections on Prayer during Advent Bishop David Atkinson
<u>Sunday 21 December</u> 4th Sunday of Advent	9.30 am	Parish Eucharist with choir Bishop David Atkinson <i>Lighting the 4th Advent candle (LOVE)</i>
(21st December)	6.30 pm	CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT 
Christmas Eve (Wednesday)	3.30 pm	CRIB SERVICE For children & and their parents/carers.
(Christmas Eve)	11.30 pm	MIDNIGHT COMMUNION Rev'd Jeremy Groombridge 
Christmas Day (Thursday)	9.30 am	Parish Eucharist Rev'd Kevin Garrett
<u>Sunday 28 December</u>	8.00 am	Said Eucharist Bishop David Atkinson
Christmas 1	9.30 am	Family Worship (no Communion) Rev'd Stephen Cooper
<u>Sunday 4 January 2026</u> Epiphany Sunday	9.30 am	Parish Eucharist with choir & healing prayer Bishop David Atkinson



St. Antony's Church...



Sunday 28th December **HOLY COMMUNION, 3.00pm** (4th Sunday of month)
Led by Rev'd Stephen Cooper.