

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 2026

Parish News

Inside this issue:

February Diary	2	Winter days can, at times, feel dreary and depressing. When it's cold and grey, and you've got to go out early, wouldn't you rather get back under that warm duvet?																					
Reflection from our Ukrainian Refugees	3	The 19th century English novelist and poet Thomas Hardy had a remarkable way of conveying a sense of melancholy in many of his poems. In the middle of winter 1900 he published a poem called "The Darkling Thrush" (see p.8) describing a desolate, bleak "spectre-gray" landscape at dusk. This melancholic atmosphere is suddenly transformed by the voice of "an aged thrush, frail, gaunt, and small, in blast-beruffled plume" launching into "a full-hearted evensong of joy illimitied."																					
The CSB Christmas concert	4	Mary. All over the world, it is marked as a time of great joy and celebration, with abundant flowers, bright costumes and much jollity. Some countries mark this by taking down their Christmas decorations, and many Christians bring their candles to the church to be blessed. That is why, traditionally, churches are filled with beautiful candles.																					
Children's Work Update	5	Candlemas is also associated with snowdrops. Each year I place snowdrops on the pulpit while I'm preaching to remind us of the hope represented by snowdrops which are the first flowers to be springing up at this time of year, having spent the previous eleven months in darkness underneath the soil. Their white, bell-like flowers often seem to push through the snow, symbolising light overcoming darkness and mirroring Candlemas themes of light and hope.																					
Christmas Eve Meal, Coffeepot dates. A visit to Father Christmas!	6	The Greatest Man	10	The Christian year offers us time to reflect, anticipate and enjoy times of hope. We have just come through a season of reflection in Advent culminating in the joyous hope of Christmas. We will soon travel through Lent and Holy Week, which leads us to the hope of the Resurrection. That is the hope which Christians possess and share.																			
Project 800 Update	7	APCM/Electoral Roll Update	11	APCM/Electoral Roll Update	11	Quiz answers	12	Quiz answers	12	Purley Food Hub Needs	13	SNC Events	13	2025 Pilgrimage Walk	14	Today we need hope more than ever before because everything looks so bleak. I am writing this on the eve of the Christian festival of Candlemas (February 2nd), a festival marking 40 days after Christmas and commemorating the presentation of Jesus in the temple by Joseph and	15	Wider Community– The Story Sanctuary	15	March Diary	16	Just after Easter at All Saints Sanderstead our hopes for a new rector in this parish will be fulfilled with the arrival of Revd Doug McHardie who will be joining us from Christ Church Purley. We will welcome him at a special service on May 11, and greatly look forward to his ministry at All Saints.	16

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We are also looking forward to a wide-ranging programme of activities in the Spring and Summer and hope you will join us as we seek to serve this local community. Keep checking on our website for more information. The Christian hope is for all of us! And the good news is that each and every one of us can know it and share in it together. If all you see around you feels full of hopelessness, turn your eyes upon Jesus Christ, the hope of the world. It will bring a completely fresh perspective to life!

Revd Jeremy Groombridge CB, MA



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

FEBRUARY 2026 - All Saints' Church...

Continuing the study on the book of James...

<u>Sunday 1st February</u> Presentation of Christ at the temple, (Candlemas)	9.30 am	PARISH EUCHARIST with choir & healing prayer. Revd Jeremy Groombridge James No.3 – Wisdom from Above
(1st February) <i>Bible roads</i>	3.30 pm	MESSY CHURCH Crafts, games, songs, refreshments for children/parents/carers. 
<u>Sunday 8th February</u> 2nd Sunday before Lent	9.30 am	FAMILY WORSHIP (with Communion) Bishop David Atkinson James No.4 – Taming the Tongue
<u>Sunday 15th February</u> Sunday next before Lent	9.30 am	PARISH EUCHARIST with choir & JIGSAW (Sunday School). & BAPTISM Revd Steve Cooper - Transfiguration
<u>Saturday 18th February</u>	7.30 pm	ASH WEDNESDAY with ashing. Revd Steve Cooper
<u>Thursday 19th February</u>	12.30 pm	Midweek Communion Led by Revd Jeremy Groombridge
<u>Sunday 22nd February</u>	8.00 am	SAID EUCHARIST - Bishop David Atkinson
<u>1st Sunday of Lent</u>	9.30 am	FAMILY WORSHIP Revd Jeremy Groombridge James No.5 - Humility and favouritism
<u>Saturday 28th February</u>	9.00 am	PARISH PRAYER Led by Revd Jeremy Groombridge
<u>Sunday 1st March</u> 2nd Sunday of Lent	9.30 am	PARISH EUCHARIST with choir & healing prayer. Bishop David Atkinson James No.6 - Prayer

St. Antony's Church...

HOLY COMMUNION - Holy Communion Service once a month on the 4th Sunday of the month - **Sunday 22nd February, 3.00pm** 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

REFLECTIONS FROM OUR UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

For us the Russia's War began in early 2014, when Russia seized and occupied Crimea and the Donetsk and Luhansk regions (part of Donbas). But this happened quite far from Kyiv, where we lived, where military operations were conducted between the troops.

However, on 24 February 2022 we were woken up by explosions and we watched through the windows of our house, as bombs fell on the Kyiv airfield (Boryspil). From the north, from Belarus, Russian troops reached the outskirts of Kyiv. No one could have thought that possible in the 21st Century, with modern media, in the centre of Europe, one of the nuclear countries could show such atrocities in the occupied territories. Civilians were tortured, raped and killed.

During the bombing our neighbours and we hid in the basement of our house. Millions of people began to flee en masse to Europe and other countries of the world. So, at the end of 2025, 6.5 million refugees from Ukraine were registered in the world, including 1.4 million in Germany, 1 million in Poland and over 3 million in the UK.

Two weeks after the beginning of the war, we moved to Western Ukraine, and then on the invitation of the All Saints Church and Margaret Quiney, we arrived in Sanderstead. We were deeply struck by the kindness and love with which the living conditions were for us, and most importantly, what many people from the Church did to prepare it for us. We were struck by our National Flag of Ukraine flying on the church Flag Pole, the prayers for Ukraine at church services, heartfelt condolences to us and the whole of the Ukrainian family. At All Saints Church we saw and felt a manifestation of truly Christian love for each other. Unfortunately our level of English, does not allow us to understand everything, but we feel kindness and warm attitude, from all members of the church. The ancient history of the church (1230) established traditions and careful attitude to the laws of God. It has given us lots of opportunities to participate in church events, together with our parishioners:- care of the church



territory, care of the flowers and gardens, and assistance for events in the large and small Church Halls.

My wife Zina and I help locally, in preparing, packing and sending aid out to Ukraine, and we would like to thank All Saints Church family for all the gifts you have given for Ukraine. Enormous lorries are still being driven across Europe to distribute aid, and all this helps us to feel part of the Church family. Special thanks to Margaret Quiney, who practically guides us by the hand, and helps us meet all the needs of life in Sanderstead.

Since mid- 2025, the situation in the War has continued to deteriorate- Russians begun bombing cities across Ukraine, public buildings, schools, hospitals, churches of all faiths, life support systems: gas, water, heat electricity. This winter at low temperatures of -20 degrees in big cities (especially Kyiv) thousands pf people were left without water, heat and light. Hundreds of rockets, drones arrive every night to bomb public buildings. The children suffer the most. They are the first to run to the bomb shelters, basements, garages and the underground stations.

We all believe that the entire civil world will not allow evil to spread, good will win and Peace will come without fail.

We have a dream to invite everyone from our church here to join us in peaceful Kyiv, and pray together in the name of God, for long-term peace in Ukraine and around the world.

Zina and Ivan (minimally edited)



Boxing Day 2025 Margaret and Grahame hosted traditional Christmas lunch with the Ukrainians.

Croydon Symphonic Band Annual Charity Christmas Concert All Saints' Church, Sanderstead—Saturday 13th December 2025

The award winning Croydon community band, Croydon Symphonic Band, founded in 1973, and their Musical Director and Conductor, David Cox, performed a slick and entertaining programme of well known, and not so well known, pieces to a full house at All Saints Church Halls as their gift towards our fund raising for Project 800.

The band, numbering some 47 musicians played to a packed house for just over an hour. Their programme included *The Shepherds Farewell* by Hector Berlioz; well known Christmas medleys: *A Christmas Festival* and *Sleigh Ride* by Leroy Anderson; Laurie Johnson's *Three Paintings by Lautrec*; and Thierry Deleruyelle's *Compostela (The Way of St James)*. Opening with *Chansons de Normandie* by Nigel Hess, one of the pieces they performed at The London Regional Festival held at Trinity School in November, it was clear to hear why they won a Platinum Award, also entitling them to perform at the National Festival in Manchester in April 2026. They will no doubt be hoping to win at least another Gold Award, to sit alongside the other seven Gold Awards in their trophy cabinet.

We are immensely grateful to CSB for their generous gift of their time and talents and we hope they enjoyed the evening as much as those in the audience. We are also immensely grateful to all those who paid to come and watch, and who coped valiantly with the online booking system via Church Suite and QR code links—a huge thank you and gold star for IT skills! The higher level maths is still being calculated, but thank you all for raising in the order of £1,800 towards Project 800.



If you enjoyed CSB's concert then you might be interested to know that they will be performing *An Evening with Gershwin & Others* at St Mark's Church, Purley on Saturday 7 February 2026 at 7:30 pm [see CSB.ORG.UK/EVENTS]

or you can see them at The Fairfield Halls on Wednesday 24 June 2026 at 8pm for their Summer Concert; or catch their Outdoor Concert at Wandle Park Bandstand on Sunday 12 July 2026 at 2pm.

If you are a musician, enjoy playing an instrument you blow into, and fancy playing with like minded 'blowers', then give Sue Reeves of CSB a call on 07702 590139—they say they take all ages and all standards, with no audition. Their rehearsal nights are most Wednesday evenings at a venue in West Croydon.

Tony Robinson

Children's Work at All Saints'

December was a busy month, with Christmas Unwrapped for schools, Messy Christmas with Christingle, the Toddler Christmas Parties and the Crib Service. Six classes from Gresham, Atwood and Ridgeway came to the church for **Christmas Unwrapped**.

This is a lovely opportunity for year 1 children to hear about the Christmas Story in a fun way, and they take home crafts that they have made and a large book that the class put together throughout the session, telling the Christmas Story. This resource is very well received by children, staff and parent helpers, and we were able to bring the Christmas Story to 180 children.



Messy Christmas was very busy again with over 140 children parents and carers. We welcomed the Beavers, Cubs, Brownies and Rainbows to this event. The craft session finished with the Christingle Service which is always a magical time when we make a circle around the church with lit Christingles.

Two **Toddler Christmas parties** took place on Tuesday and Friday at the end of term, with nearly 40 children at each party. At each session we took the parents and children into church for the Christmas story and songs, and an opportunity for the children to hang a star on the tree. All the children left after seeing Father Christmas! (See *someone else who enjoyed his visit - p 6! Ed*)

The **Crib Service** was well attended, with 246 present. The Christmas Story was entirely narrated by the children this year and once again they gathered by the large crib scene.

Gresham choir came to sing at the **Carol Service**, and it was lovely to welcome so many families to that service.

Jigsaw (our Sunday School) has continued to run with a few faithful members. Although we are a small group, we have fun and those who come along are gaining in confidence on their faith journey.

As always Sue and I are indebted to Sarah Palfrey our Children and Family Support Worker. Sarah plays a vital role in our work. She runs the toddler group, sources and prepares crafts for our various events, and ensures the family database is always current. She also takes responsibility for sending out event reminders through both email and social media, helping to keep everyone informed and engaged.

We are also grateful to all our wonderful volunteers without whom our children's work would not be possible.

Messy Church is now on the first Sunday of the month and Jigsaw the third Sunday of the month.



Coming up this term:

Jigsaw	15th February 9.30
Messy Church	1st March 3.30 – 5.00
Jigsaw	15th March 9.30
CSI the Missing Body	an Easter resource for schools
	16th March (three sessions)
	19th March (one session)
Messy Easter	Good Friday, 3rd April 9.30 – 11.00
Messy Church	3rd May 3.30 -5.00

If you are able to help with any of the above, please let us know.

Sue Thomas, Sarah Palfrey and Judith Robinson

Christmas Eve Meal 2025

I wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to Suzie Steele (head cook and organiser) and the many parishioners who donated towards the meal and to those who helped in the kitchen and to those who kindly hosted a table each, and the drinks table, at the splendid Christmas Eve Luncheon which was delicious and delightful in every way.

It was the happiest time and the loving care of the Christmas spirit carried us through Christmas Day and beyond.

Anonymous from a grateful parishioner

Thanks too to all those who decorated the hall and laid the tables so beautifully, and also to Sue Thomas and her Brownies for helping to prepare all the vegetables. Ed



Photographs from Katheryn Hewitt

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 sessions will be on

Friday 6th February 2026

Friday 20th February

Friday 6th March,

Friday 20th March

There is **no** Coffeepot on Good Friday, 3rd April

We start again on Friday 17th April for alternate Fridays until Friday, 24th July.

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



"I queued with the Toddlers, as I couldn't wait to speak to Father Christmas. I wanted to thank him for sparing the time to come and chat with our children, and even having time for me. He had a magnificent beard and was so kind to me.

Thank you Father Christmas."

(And thank you Jeremy Ed)

Margaret Quiney

PROJECT 800 UPDATE

Following the presentation to the congregation on November 30th 2025 setting out the proposals for work to both the Halls and the Church, the congregation were invited to provide feedback before moving forward with some of the projects.

The PCC are grateful that 15 people sent in written comments, (this did not include members of the PCC and Project 800 group). There was a range of differing views but the most popular item was upgrading the Hall kitchen, closely followed by improving the Hall Toilets, removal of the font, floodlighting, Celtic Cross, and also prominent a stained glass window.

Projects were ordered according to popularity and it was agreed that:

- improving the Hall kitchen and Hall toilets were both urgent as they would be used as part of Celebration events. This work should be limited to addressing the most important issues (rather than full refurbishment) and should be funded from the maintenance budget
- the first P800 project would be to replace the floodlighting, requiring planning and a faculty.
- the second P800 project would be either the Stained Glass window or the Celtic Cross. Both would require faculties and approval to dig up the Cross may not be forthcoming.
- Other projects would be added as resources allow, including investigating a faculty for the removal of the font.

The following actions were agreed:

- A group who regularly use the kitchen (Sunday lunch, coffee pot users) will be asked to identify the main issues that need to be addressed with the kitchen.
- Tenders will be sought for both the work in the kitchen and the toilets.

It is hoped that the work will be carried out in August 2026 when the halls will be closed to all groups.

- The P800 group would progress and look into the feasibility of the Stained Glass Window and Celtic Cross.
- Investigations/faculty for removal of the font.
- A fundraising group has been set up chaired by Vaughan Pomeroy, to investigate possible grants and ways to raise money both from the congregation and the wider community and other possible sponsors.
- 800 Anniversary Events Group were authorised to start work on a rolling programme of events covering the period 2026 – 2030 and the Mayday Bank Holiday weekend in 2030 (likely to be Sat 4th – Mon 6th May) was pencilled in for “Big Celebrations”.

To date, over £14,000 had been raised from a variety of sources including a legacy of £10,000 for Project 800.

If you would like to get involved, organise, offer help or have expertise with any of the above projects please speak to the Churchwardens Sue Thomas and Katheryn Hewitt, to Dick Hibberd PCC secretary or to Judith Robinson PCC Chair.

Dick Hibberd and Judith Robinson



A Quiz – What do you know about All Saints' Church?

1. By what name was All Saints' Church known as before 1485?
2. When is it thought the tower was added to the original church?
3. How many bells are in the belfry?
4. Has All Saints' Church ever had an upper gallery?
5. What was the name of the Victorian Rector responsible in 1824 and again in 1832 for having made the most change to the original mediaeval character of All Saints' Church?
6. Who gave the clock for the church tower in 1844?
7. What is the Latin inscription on the clock face?
8. Which of the two dog whippers' settles by the tower is the original?
9. We know the dog whippers' seats were for the servants in charge of their master's dogs but Sanderstead was known for its special pack of dogs; can you name the type of dogs?
10. How many animals are to be seen within All Saints Church?
11. Whose Royal Coat of Arms is painted on the Chancel Arch?
12. Which two Saints reappeared in All Saints Church in 1938 and maintain watchful eyes over us even today?
13. Where was the mediaeval font located within the church?
14. When was the Lady Chapel and existing Vestry extension added?
15. When was St Catherine's Aisle extension added?
I shall stop at this point for fear of contradiction by those of you who will know better than I, through having been a member since that time!
Just one more then!
16. In the Church of England who is described as 'the Ordinary' but really isn't very ordinary?

The answers may be found on p12.

The Darkling Thrush

By Thomas Hardy

I leant upon a coppice gate
When Frost was spectre-grey,
And Winter's dregs made desolate
The weakening eye of day.
The tangled bine-stems scored the sky
Like strings of broken lyres,
And all mankind that haunted nigh
Had sought their household fires.

The land's sharp features seemed to be
The Century's corpse outleaned,
His crypt the cloudy canopy,
The wind his death-lament.
The ancient pulse of germ and birth
Was shrunken hard and dry,
And every spirit upon earth
Seemed fervourless as I.

At once a voice arose among
The bleak twigs overhead
In a full-hearted evensong
Of joy illimitable;
An aged thrush, frail, gaunt, and small,
In blast-beruffled plume,
Had chosen thus to fling his soul
Upon the growing gloom.

So little cause for carolings
Of such ecstatic sound
Was written on terrestrial things
Afar or nigh around,
That I could think there trembled
through
His happy good-night air
Some blessed Hope, whereof he knew
And I was unaware.

Men's Group Update

The social season has got off to a strong start this year with 19 people enjoying the Christmas Curry (albeit in January) and 28 people listening to an illustrated talk from Andy Warde on “The Curiosities of London”. Curiosities included various weathervanes, one of which featured a 9 foot long dragon upon which someone had danced 221 feet up; a clock featuring Mr Fortnum and Mr Mason who appear at 18.00 every evening and Stompie Garden, featuring a Russian Tank pointing at the planning department who had upset the landowner! Everyone enjoyed the evening and over £60 was raised for Project 800.



The walking season is well under way with the Wednesday walkers tackling sections of the Thames path when the weather permits and tackling lunch at the White Lion in Warlingham when the rain gets too much.

The Tuesday walkers are a hardy bunch though with a dozen people braving the snow for the first walk after Christmas. Perhaps David's cake was the attraction!

Next events are Six Nations rugby matches on 14th February and 14th March, Curry Night on 26th February, hopefully followed by trips to the National Army Museum and the Apothecaries' Hall and maybe a breakfast talk.

As ever, ladies are welcome at all Men's Group events and well over 100 people have attended one or more events. If you haven't tried one yet, why not give it a go!

Dick Hibberd

THE GREATEST MAN WHO EVER LIVED

If you were asked his name, instantly you would say, quietly and reverently, Jesus Christ.

A great preacher once said of him:

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman.

He worked in a carpenter's shop until he was thirty and then for three years he was an itinerant teacher.

He never wrote a book.

He never held an office.

He never owned a house.

He never went to college.

He never travelled two hundred miles from where he was born.

While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him.

His friends ran away, one of them denied him.

He was handed over to his enemies and he went through the mockery of a trial.

He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves.

His executioners gambled for the only piece of property he had on earth while he was dying - his coat.

When he was dead he was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave.

Twenty one centuries have come and gone - today he is the centrepiece of the human race.

We are well within the mark when we say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that were ever built and all the kings, queens and rulers that ever reigned put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as that one solitary life.

Rarely has so much been so well said about him in so small a space.

The preacher who painted this picture in words, helps us to grip and be gripped by the fact that Jesus was the greatest man whoever lived, who rose again from the dead, was seen by a number of people, before ascending into heaven to be with God his father.

Source unknown

Not only was He the greatest man whoever lived, he was also God incarnate.



Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)/ Updating the Electoral Roll

It's that time of year again when we are required to hold the APCM and to update the Electoral Roll. Whilst not the most exciting meeting, it does us good to reflect on some of the things we have achieved in the past year, and to update our records.

The APCM will be held in All Saints after the morning service on Sunday 26th April and we shall start as soon as we have all had a cup of coffee, (not before 10.45 am if you are coming just for the meeting). We hope that our new Rector Doug McHardie might be able to join us, but he may prefer to wait until after his licensing.

There are various dates which we are required to adhere to, the key ones being as follows:

Any revisions to the Electoral Roll should reach our Electoral Roll Officer, David Chillman by 29th March latest. If you are not already on the Electoral Roll, application forms are available from the Parish Office or from the rack at the back of the Church.

At the same time, there will be an opportunity to add your name to the Parish Directory if you have not already on it. If your contact details (name, address, telephone & email address) are included in the Parish Directory. By request to the Parish Office, you can obtain a paper copy of the Directory for contacting other members. Roughly 80% of the congregation choose to participate and again, the relevant form is available from the Parish Office or from the rack at the back of the Church.

Please return all completed Electoral Roll and Parish Directory application forms to the Parish Office.

Those preparing reports for the APCM pack should get them to me by Friday 27th March please.

Finally, some existing members of the PCC and of the Deanery Synod will reach the end of their terms of office, so if you would be interested in serving in this way, forms will be available from Sunday 15th March. Technically, they do not have to be returned until the meeting itself, but it would be helpful to receive them beforehand. If you might be interested but are not sure about it, by all means speak to the Wardens, Judith Robinson or me for an informal chat.

Dick Hibberd (Secretary to the PCC)

ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ ON PAGE 8

1. Church of Alhalon.
2. The year 1310.
3. Two chiming bells, both made by Pack & Chapman, London and dated 1771. One is 5cwt Tenor approximately C, the other is 4cwt approximately D.
4. Yes. It is thought that there was an upper 'minstrels style gallery' above the original wooden South Porch.
5. That was Revd John Courtney who moved Mariah's tomb to its present location, changed all of the original windows, rebuilt the Chancel, pulled down the original porch and gallery and much more.
6. That was George Smith, then of Selsdon House (more recently known as Selsdon Park Hotel or Birch Hotel).
7. Pereunt et imputantur. As you Latin Scholars will know, that means 'the hours perish and are laid to our account'.
8. The one on the right as you face the tower is 17th century, the other is a later copy.
9. The dogs were called 'Blue Mottle' harriers.
10. Well it's at least 10! The east window has a cow and a sheep. There are three pigs heads in the memorial on the floor by the main entrance door. Doves on the wall in St Catherine's Aisle. Deer's head in the nearby window glass. Look for the Mellish coat of arms for swans, the Ownstead crest for a camel and Atwood coat of arms for lions. More difficult to spot are Phoenix, Griffin and Cockatrice – not forgetting the little mouse carving under the book rest on the window sill by the altar.
11. Charles 1 coat of arms was painted in circa 1625, and later painted over in circ. 1649 and thereafter plastered over, probably in the time of Revd John Courtney! Rediscovered again in 1942.
12. That's our wall paintings behind the altar in the chancel, discovered in 1938 behind Victorian wood panelling, dating from 14th century and depicting St Edmund, King & Martyr and St Edmund, Archbishop of Canterbury.
13. No records of this have been located. Church Minutes from 1936 suggest the current font was located beneath the tower and was to be relocated within an extension planned for the south aisle; which was never built due to outbreak of war. It is likely it was eventually relocated to its current position in 1961 when the organ loft was created. The font is thought to date from 1850 which ties in with another Victorian Rectors 'victorianisation' of All Saints in 1846; Revd J H Randolph.
14. 1937/38 under the rectorship of Revd Howard Rose. Originally to have been a much bigger extension encompassing the south aisle as well but curtailed due to outbreak of WW2.
15. 1980/81 when the heating system was also updated.
16. The Ordinary is the name given to the person who holds direct authority and jurisdiction within a specific diocese location – generally the Diocesan Bishop.



FOOD LIST

FEBRUARY 2026



At Purley Food Hub we provide emergency food, toiletries and household essentials to local people living in great hardship. Please consider donating items from this month's priority list:

- Boxes of 40 & 80 Tea Bags
- Tinned Plain Meat - Chicken, Ham
- Jars of Peanut Butter
- Jars of Meat Paste & Fish Paste
- Packet Dried Potatoes
- Tinned Tomatoes
- Medium (500g) Boxes of Breakfast Cereal
- Tinned Dessert Fruit
- Tinned Rice Pudding
- Bars of Soap
- Unisex Deodorant
- Children's & Adults' Toothbrushes

We thank everyone for your continued kind generosity. Since we opened 13 years ago you have helped us to provide food for **417,500 meals for more than 46,000 people.**



PURLEY FOOD HUB

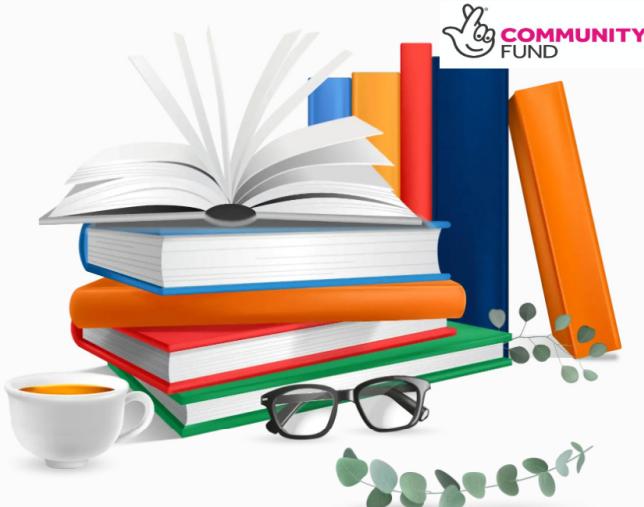
Tel: 07546 635295 | Email: purleyfoodhub@gmail.com

Website: www.purleyfoodhub.net

Charity no: 1152807 | Company no: 08557885



Sanderstead Neighbourhood Care



**Saturday 21 February 2026
10- noon**

BOOK & JIGSAW SALE

All Saints Church Hall, Onslow Gardens, CR2 9AB
FREE ENTRY

REFRESHMENTS ON SALE

Sponsored by the Church & Charities Accounting, Garfield Weston and the National Lottery
Made with PosterMyWall.com

Sanderstead Neighbourhood Care - Help Needed

Dear All,

We recently approached Waitrose in Sanderstead hoping to be part of their Green Token Scheme.

We were turned down for this but they have kindly offered us a week where we can collect outside the store with buckets so I am looking for people to help us with this.

The week is **30th March - 3rd April**.
(Friday 3rd is Good Friday so we won't do that day).

I am looking to cover in 1 hour slots so that each person doesn't need to stand there for too long. I am looking to cover the following times—see aside.

If you can help, please let me know asap with which day and time. I know that it seems a long way off but I am aware that people's diaries get booked up very quickly so that's why I'm asking now.

If you are willing to help but don't know when you could do so yet, I can keep a note and ask nearer the time as well.

Thank you for your help

Debbie

Sanderstead Neighbourhood Care

Hi All,

AN ADVANCE DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Our next

QUIZ NIGHT

will be on

Saturday 11th April 2026

**I am not taking bookings yet but
will let you know when I am**

Debbie

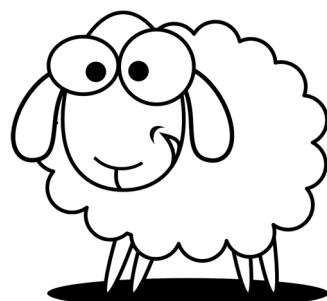
THE LOST BIBLE



A shepherd was out working in the field when he lost his precious, favourite Bible. He searched everywhere for it but to no avail.

He prayed every evening that he would find it.

A few weeks later, he saw a sheep walking towards him. He rubbed his eyes in disbelief when he realised that the sheep was holding his Bible in its mouth.



'This must truly be a miracle!' he exclaimed.

The sheep dropped the Bible at his feet and said, 'Not really. Your name was written on the inside cover!'

Pilgrimage 2025



No more practice walks for me as the day of the Pilgrimage has arrived! Walkers all registered and prepared themselves for the long slog through Southwark, reaching All Saints Community Centre, New Cross, for a well-earned lunch, Chinese style. One of my faithful friends met up with me at the lunch stop and waved us on our way. Once we were replenished it was back into our groups and on our merry way again. The London grime gradually gave way to pastures green and after 22 miles we finally arrived at our first overnight stop - Swanley - to a church hall that looked more like a field hospital. One of the Pilgrims asked "How was it, Rena?". I replied, "Brutal". Once rested, the walkers began to glow, talking and sharing stories, and memories of painful feet soon subsided. To be looked after completely for twenty minutes was so overwhelming that I actually cried with pleasure.

The next day breakfast was at 7.00 then back into groups and walking by 8.00 for more heat and pain! (Very different from my Wednesday walking group.) Finally, we arrived at Aylesford Priory and we strode, limped and staggered down the drive to the Priory - just like Chaucer's Pilgrims. I met a rich galaxy of personalities - well-heeled, homeless, students, helpers - all are bound by walking miles, and sharing blisters in common. Frequent stops with tea and a wash helps the weary feel human again and everyone wonders what this place is.

In 1949, long after the dissolution of the monasteries, the friars were able to return back. On the second night I had my own bedroom which was complete luxury compared to where I slept on the previous night and, yes, I even had a shower. However, a surprise—or rather shock—lay in store for me. Kitted out with fresh towel and toiletries I opened the bathroom door only to find one of the Pilgrims in the shower with no walking gear on! He had forgotten to lock the door. After a few choice words I exclaimed 'well thank goodness it was not one of the older guys!'. The following day we did laugh about it as the story entered the rich tapestry of life – and the shower was a complete luxury.

On Sunday morning after a hearty breakfast it is rucksack and walking boots back on and Pilgrims hitting the road again. We reached the "Pilgrims Way" at Boxley and from then on we were able to trace this ancient trackway which has existed as a

trading route for thousands of years, predating even the Christian era throughout its length. On our way to Charing, I saw that on the hill the turf had been cut away to show the underlying chalk in a huge cross about some hundred by fifty feet I would guess, but it could be longer. After World War 2 was over, the people around the area cut the cross so that the boys flying back from Europe could see it as the first sight when then they returned to British soil.

Once we arrived at Charing it was "entertainment night". As well as being watered, fed and rested, fellow pilgrims read poetry, played musical instruments, and shared stories of the last three days – whilst the weary pilgrims enjoyed the night over a glass of wine or two!



Sadly, the last day had arrived; the best and the worst was over. Hour after hour the significant, shining Canterbury Cathedral beckoned us all onward – a visible goal that seemed to take forever to come closer. However, it did finally arrive and the Pilgrimage and the fear of failure was over, leaving to my surprise a sense of

loss in addition to the joy of success. Each year the Pilgrims are welcomed by the Canon in residence. There is a small but intimate service in the Crypt, accompanied by St Martin's in the Field's choir. Then there is a respectful visit to Dick Shepherd's tomb where there is a laying of flowers. Then it is a rush to the coach which will drive us back to Trafalgar Square. Once there, all the Pilgrims departed home.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who sponsored me: I raised £1110 and overall, the charity raised £45,000. I walked sixty-three miles out of seventy-four.

Rena Gray

In The Wider Community of Sanderstead

The Former Sanderstead Library: A New Chapter

Many of us have likely walked or driven past the old Sanderstead library and found ourselves curious about its current purpose. It's a building with a familiar presence in the community, yet its role has changed over time. If you have ever wondered what now takes place behind its doors, you are not alone.

Fortunately, Julie Marsh has provided us with an enlightening article, shared with the permission of The Story Sanctuary, to shed light on the new life of the former library. Her informative piece offers insight into how the building is being used today, answering the questions many of us have had.



The Story Sanctuary, a Creative Health and Wellbeing Hub at the former Sanderstead library building.

In 2024, Croydon Council took the decision to close four libraries. The buildings were offered to the community (charities, non-profits, residents' groups), to run as community hubs.

The Story Sanctuary proposal (submitted by Jill, a Sanderstead resident) scored highest and was the most popular with the local community; it was the only bid that aimed to wholly retain the building for community use.

About The Story Sanctuary

The Story Sanctuary is our new community space — built by and for us — a creative place where people can come together to connect, swap skills, make things, move, play and more. We believe stories, in all their forms, help us understand each other, and it's proven that being creative helps us stay well.

With a range of activities and events for everyone from young to old: art and crafts, gardening and yoga, food and craft markets, social gatherings, and moments of calm. Whether you love words, pictures, music, or simply good company, there's space for you here.

As the old proverb says: it takes a village...

Volunteers are an integral part of the team at The Story Sanctuary. We are busy forming the team from management through to creative and health practitioners. There are opportunities of all kinds. If you'd like to get involved or just see what events we are planning, please check out our website: <https://thestorysanctuary.org.uk/>

If you have any questions or comments, please email hello@thestorysanctuary.org.uk

Coming this Spring:

Sew and Chat – fortnightly sessions for those who love sewing and textile crafts

Gardening – fortnightly sessions for the green-fingered and those who aspire to be

Monthly Carers' Meet – gentle creative sessions to allow carers to unwind and relax

Compassionate Community Conversations – monthly grief support group

Young Artists / Young Storytellers – creative youth groups designed with the participants

Children's Council – youth steering team, helping run the organisation and build our future



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 2026 - All Saints' Church...

<u>Sunday 1st March</u> 2nd Sunday of Lent	9.30 am	PARISH EUCHARIST with choir & healing prayer. <i>Bishop David Atkinson</i> James No.6 – Prayer
(1st March) Bible mountains	 3.30 pm	MESSY CHURCH Crafts, games, songs, refreshments for children/parents/carers.
<u>Sunday 8th March</u> 3rd Sunday of Lent	9.30 am	FAMILY WORSHIP with Communion <i>Bishop David Atkinson</i>
<u>Sunday 15th March</u> 4th Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday	9.30 am	PARISH EUCHARIST with choir & JIGSAW (Sunday School). Speaker: <i>Elaine Leck</i>
<u>Thursday 19th March</u>	12.30 pm	Midweek Communion <i>Led by Revd Steve Cooper</i>
<u>Sunday 22nd March</u>	8.00 am	SAID EUCHARIST - <i>Bishop David Atkinson</i>
5th Sunday of Lent	9.30 am	FAMILY WORSHIP <i>Revd Steve Cooper</i>
<u>Saturday 28th March</u>	9.00 am	PARISH PRAYER <i>Led by Revd Jeremy Groombridge</i>
<u>Sunday 29th March</u> PALM SUNDAY	9.30 am	FAMILY WORSHIP with Communion <i>Revd Jeremy Groombridge</i>

St. Antony's Church...

HOLY COMMUNION - Holy Communion Service once a month on the 4th Sunday of the month - **Sunday 22nd March, 3.00pm** 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