

# St Saviour's Church, Brockley Rise: an inclusive church

## NEWSLETTER JULY and AUGUST 2026

### SUMMER TIME

This time of year sees a reduction in the number of activities as people travel and the school year ends. It hopefully provides us all with a chance to slow down a bit and reflect. Being a bit more still than usual can give us space to check-in with our spiritual life and our relationship with God. A conversation can be a great help in doing that. Fr David will have a little more time over the summer and if you would appreciate a one-to-one conversation with him this would be a particularly good time to arrange that. Do get in touch with him via email, fathervvyan@gmail.com, or by phone.

The extreme weather we have been experiencing has made slowing down essential but it also highlights the grave damage we have done to our environment. We will be marking the season of creationtide from 1 September to 4 October to help us think about what a Christian response to the climate crisis and the gift of creation might look like.

### SUMMER FETE

A huge thank you to all involved in planning, running, assisting in any way, and all who attended our joint Summer Fete with the Scout Group. A great day was had by all and we raised a total of £3,295, after expenses, which will be shared equally between the church and the Scout Group.

### LINKING LIVES

The biggest project we run as a church, and thus our biggest impact on the local community is Linking Lives Crofton Park, our befriending project that links local volunteers with isolated and lonely members of the community and trains them as volunteers.

Many of our link-friends or clients are elderly and so a number have died over the last year or two, as has one of our befrienders/volunteers. Of the befrienders whose friends have died though, a couple, following a break, have continued to remain as befrienders with other friends or by offering support in other ways.

We currently have 10 active friends with a couple of recent enquiries who are about to be visited and checked for their suitability. We have 12 befrienders, again with four people who have expressed an interest in becoming volunteers. They are currently going through the checking process

DBS and references, before attending Linking Lives Training and further Diocese of Southwark Safeguarding training. Once the training is completed, Kathryn, the project coordinator, will seek to match them with a friend.

Financing the project is the responsibility of St Saviour's congregation. Over the last couple of years members of the PCC were tasked with coming up with fundraising activities to support LLCP, which have included a Storytelling evening with refreshments, concerts, and a couple of sponsored events - a sponsored walk and a 12-hour Danceathon. Along with donations received, including from St. Hilda's Church, that has helped to reduce the cost to St. Saviour's main accounts, which at the end of 2025 was £1,510. During 2026, we are exploring the possibility of securing some external funding and will be hosting a Murder Mystery Dinner in St. Saviour's Church on Friday 4th September. More below!

We receive referrals from other organisations such as Community Connections, Age UK and other agencies, as well as relatives and neighbours. We also signpost on to other organisations if we find our friends need extra help with housework, gardening or advice about money and filling out application forms etc. such as Catbytes (IT support) Good Gym (gardening), Friends of the Elderly and Age UK.

If you would be interested in becoming a volunteer befriender or know of an isolated person than may be suitable for the scheme, please speak to Kathryn White.

### MURDER MYSTERY

On 4th September we will be turning St Saviour's into an immersive theatre experience as actors from "The Space" perform a murder mystery play for us in the context of a three course meal. The event will be an important fundraiser for our Linking Lives Crofton Park befriending project, serving lonely and isolated individuals in the area.

We will need volunteers to welcome people, serve the food, staff the bar and to help set up and clear up the space, and we will, of course, need lots of people to buy tickets, come along and have fun. Do please make sure the date is in your diary. The performance will begin at 7:30pm.

### PILGRIM COURSE

Pilgrim is the Church of England's own teaching and discipleship course. It aims to help every local church create a place where people can explore the Christian faith together and see how it can be lived out each day. It takes a different approach to other Christian programmes and approaches the great issues of faith not through persuasion, but participation in a pattern of contemplation and discussion.

It is made up of short six-session courses which each focus on a major theme of Christian life. We are hoping to run a six week course at St Saviour's on Thursday evenings in the Autumn. Please talk to Fr David if you would like to take part or to know more.

## DATES

### Thursday 2nd July

At 8pm, Fr David will preside at a Eucharist of Thanksgiving which will be followed by refreshments. Do please join him to celebrate this milestone.

### Saturday 4th July

Church cleaning, 10am

### Sunday 12th July

NO Pub Club, back in August.

### Sunday 19th July

Messy Church, 3-4pm in the Church Hall: Craft, stories, games and refreshment for children and their parents and carers. All Welcome, do invite others to come.

### Tuesday 21st July

Lunch Club, 12:30pm in the Scout Hut: Join us for a lovely home cooked lunch and great company! Please contact Kathleen or Kathryn to reserve a place.

### Wednesday 22nd July

Mary Magdalene. Said Eucharist at 7pm

### Saturday 25th July

James the Apostle. Said Eucharist at 11:30am.

### Thursday 30th July

Safeguarding Mission Working Group, 7pm in the "choir vestry".

### Saturday 1st August

Church Cleaning, 10am.

### Sunday 9th August

Pub Club from 7:30pm in The Blyth Hill Tavern: Come and have a pint with Fr David! All are most welcome.

### Tuesday 11th August

NO Lunch Club, back in September.

### Saturday 15th August

The Blessed Virgin Mary. Said Eucharist at 11:30am.

### Sunday 16th August

NO Messy Church, back in September.

### Saturday 29th August

Church Cleaning, 10am.

### Friday 4th September

Murder Mystery Dinner in church at 7:30pm.

### Sunday 6th September

Back to Church Sunday with Annual Bag Blessing

### Thursday 10th September

Serving Those in Need Mission Working Group, 7pm in the "choir vestry".

### Sunday 13th September

Pub Club from 7:30pm in The General Napier.

### Tuesday 15th September

Lunch Club, 12:30pm in the Scout Hut.

## Sunday 20th September

Messy Church, 3-4pm in the Church Hall.

## Saturday 26th September

Church Cleaning, 10am.

## LUNCH CLUB

Each month except August, on the third Tuesday of the month, Lunch Club is held in the Scout Hut. Lunch club is open to anyone and is one of the many ways we provide hospitality and welcome to the wider community. Lunch is served around 12:30 and, with notice, dietary requirements can be catered for. It is a wonderful opportunity to share pleasant company, good conversation and great food. In order to enable everyone to attend there is no charge for lunch but those who are able to are encouraged to make a small donation to help cover the costs. Do come along! Its really helpful for planning if you can let Andrew, Kathleen or Kathryn know if you are intending to come, but we generally have enough food for a few last minute additions!

## JOKE

Both a priest and a taxi driver died and were resurrected. St Peter was waiting for them at the Pearly Gates.

St Peter motioned to the taxi driver, 'Come with me.' The taxi driver followed St Peter to a mansion as instructed. It had everything imaginable, from a bowling alley to an Olympic-sized pool. 'Oh my word. Thank you.' the taxi driver said.

St Peter then led the priest to a run-down shack with a bunk bed and an old television set.

'Wait, I think you're a little confused,' the priest said. 'Shouldn't it be me who gets the mansion?' After all, I was a priest who went to church every day and preached the word of God.'

'That is correct.'

'But during your sermons, people slept,'

St Peter countered.

'Everyone prayed as the taxi driver drove!'

## NEXT EDITION

The next newsletter will be for September and October. Any items for inclusion should be sent to Kathryn by Sunday 16th August. [kathryn.stsaviours@gmail.com](mailto:kathryn.stsaviours@gmail.com)