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

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER and DECEMBER 2026

LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD

November begins with a season of remembering. All Saints' Day (1st Nov) gives an opportunity each year to remember those who the church has recognised as saints in glory and to remember that all who follow Christ are called saints, meaning those who are made holy. The saints of the church's calendar are a ragbag bunch of strange, imperfect and sometimes really quite awkward people who nevertheless managed to show by the manner of their life or death something of the holiness to which God calls us. They are a great reminder that we are holy (set apart/chosen) because God calls us so. It doesn't mean perfect and sinless, but knowing ourselves called holy by God invites us to strive to live up to that by seeking to live lives freer from sin and selfishness.

All Souls' Day (2nd Nov) and the Service of Thanksgiving we hold on the following Sunday give us the opportunity to remember and pray for our loved ones departed in the hope the Gospel gives us that they too are being perfected for eternal life in God's presence. It gives a time to rejoice in all that their lives gave us and to allow ourselves to feel the pain of our loss safe in the knowledge of God's all-encompassing love, knowing that the pain of grief is a reminder of the love experienced.

Remembrance Sunday (8th Nov) and the Act of Remembrance we will have in the churchyard gives a focus for our prayers and work for peace and reconciliation as we remember those killed, injured scarred by the horrors of war. As Christians it is a reminder of the call to seek God's kingdom of peace and justice in all things.

The church's year ends with the celebration of that kingdom at our Patronal Festival of Christ the King (22nd Nov) when we look forward to the full realisation of Christ's kingdom. We will be joined by The Rev'd Alyson Peberdy, previous Vicar of St Saviour's who will be our preacher that day.

We then enter into a new church year with the season of Advent – a time of looking forward both to the celebration of Jesus coming among us as an infant at Bethlehem, and also looking forward to his second coming to fully establish the reign we celebrate at Christ the King.

Advent is a precious time of waiting and patience that each year is more and more squashed by premature Christmas celebrations, so do try and find time in Advent to be still, wait on God and look forward. In church, Christmas and the greater Epiphany season last until 2nd February, so there will be plenty of time to celebrate Christmas when it comes with all the usual services in church. But for now let's remember well and wait awhile, for in the silence of both, God is to be found.

DATES

Sunday 1st November

All Saints' Day, 10am Parish Eucharist

Monday 2nd November

All Souls' Day, 7pm Requiem Mass

Tuesday 3rd November

Justice & Peace Mission Working Group, 7pm in the "choir vestry".

Thursday 5th November

Pilgrim Course: The Lord's Prayer, Session 4 of 6, 7pm in the "choir vestry".

Sunday 8th November

Remembrance Sunday, 10am All-Age Parish Eucharist and Parade Service with Act of Remembrance.

Service of Thanksgiving for Loved Ones Departed, 5pm

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

Tuesday 10th November

PCC meeting, 7pm at the Vicarage

Thursday 12th November

Pilgrim Course: The Lord's Prayer, Session 5 of 6, 7pm in the "choir vestry".

Sunday 15th November

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 17th November

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

Thursday 19th November

Pilgrim Course: The Lord's Prayer, Session 6 of 6, 7pm in the "choir vestry".

Saturday 21st November

Church cleaning, 10am

Sunday 22nd November

Patronal Festival, Christ the King, 10am Parish Eucharist followed by a Bring and Share lunch.

Thursday 3rd December

Sharing the Good News Mission Working Group, 7pm in the "choir vestry".

Sunday 6th December

All Age Parish Eucharist, Toy and Parade Service, 10am: We will be collecting new unwrapped toys and vouchers for the Salvation Army Christmas Toy Appeal to be distributed across the Borough of Lewisham.

Sunday 13th December

Christingle Service, 4pm

Pub Club from 7:30pm in the Blyth Hill Tavern

Tuesday 15th December

Christmas Lunch Club, 12:30pm in the Scout Hut: Please contact Andrew, Kathleen or Kathryn to reserve a place.

Saturday 19th December

Church cleaning, 10am

Sunday 20th December

Messy Church, 3-4pm in the Church Hall

Carol Service at 6pm: A service of Lessons and Carols followed by mulled wine, mince pies and the grand raffle draw.

Thursday 24th December

Crib service at 4pm: A wonderful way to see in Christmas with children and families. Do please invite those you know.

Midnight Eucharist at 11:30pm: The traditional start to Christmas Day as we gather around the altar.

Friday 25th December:

Parish Eucharist at 10am: Another opportunity for you to make your Christmas Communion.

Sunday 27th December:

Carols at the Vicarage, 3-5pm: Fr David & Jan invite members of the congregation to join them for light refreshments and Carol Singing in the Vicarage.

Sunday 3rd January:

Epiphany and Gift Day, 10am Parish Eucharist.

Sunday 10th January:

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

Sunday 17th January:

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

Tuesday 17th January:

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

Sunday 31st January:

Candlemas and blessing of gifts from Gift Day, 10am Parish Eucharist.

BEER & CAROLS

Shortly before Christmas Fr David will once again be hosting this now annual event in the General Napier. At the time of printing the date is still to be confirmed. Do please look out for further details and come along to support him, help with the singing and help share invitations to our Christmas Services as we build relationships and bring some Christmas joy to our local community.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

We are once again holding a joint Christmas raffle with the Scouts. Books of raffle tickets will be available shortly to take away and sell in advance of the draw on Sunday 20thDecember after the Carol Service. Please return the completed counterfoils and cash to Kathryn ahead of the draw.

HELP NEEDED

Fundraising

Finance is a huge challenge to St Saviour's at the moment, whether that be fundraising for Linking Lives, finding grants to boost the money we have to spend on the buildings and grounds through the legacy project, or boosting the income we get from the hall. If you have any time or skills to offer looking for suitable grants, writing grant applications or helping advertise our hall and other rooms for hire, please speak to Fr David or Kathryn.

Photo Board

Some time ago we began to update the photo boards in church but the project was never finished. There are now unsightly gaps and members of the congregation whose pictures are yet to be taken or displayed. If this is a project you would be willing to take on please speak to Fr David.

Children's Corner

Welcome of children is hugely important and we are delighted to have been given a grant to renovate the Children's Area in church. If you would be willing to help purchasing and setting up new furniture and equipment, or if you would be willing to look after the Children's Corner and other children's resources once this has been done, please speak to Fr David.

Flowers

If anyone would like to help with the flower arranging and/or provide flowers in church for a particular Sunday, perhaps in memory of someone, please see the sign up sheet at the back of church or speak to the Churchwardens. Later in the year, if you have some suitable flowers from your garden, you could consider bringing them into church to be included in a flower arrangement.

HALL AND ROOMS FOR HIRE

We have lost a few of our regular lets and the Nursery have reduced their use from 5 days to 4. We therefore need some new bookings to sustain our income.

The Church Hall is currently available for hire Monday, Thursday & Friday Evenings and Friday Daytime.

The Church and the room known as the "Choir Vestry" can also be hired at various times.

If you know of any groups looking for somewhere to meet, regularly or for a particular occasion. Please ask them to email savioursst@gmail.com or call 07561 287620.

We also hire the hall for Saturday Afternoon Children's Parties. These can be booked through Eric on 07598 040911

JOKE

Who was the smartest man in the Bible?

Abraham. He knew a Lot.

NEXT EDITION

The next newsletter will be for January and February. Any items for inclusion should be sent to Kathryn by Sunday 13th December. kathryn.stsaviours@gmail.com

www.stsavioursbrockleyrise.org