

St Saviour's Church, Brockley Rise:

an inclusive church

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER 2025

BACK TO SCHOOL, BACK TO CHURCH

September is a time for new beginnings and restarts as children head back to school, students head off to university and many activities start up again after a summer break. That's true of lots of our church activities like Messy Church, Lunch Club and even Church Cleaning, though some, like Afternoon Tea, have carried on and only stop when they really have to!

In order to mark the restart and encourage us all to get back into church attendance and activities, we will once again be marking Back to Church Sunday with special invitations to our Parish Eucharist on 28th September, which will include the blessing of school and work bags and be followed by a Bring 'n' Share lunch. Do collect your invitation from church or take some to be delivered if you can, and do please come along and invite a friend to come with you.

MESSY CHURCH

After a couple of trial sessions, the plan is for Messy Church to be a regular monthly event from 3-4pm on the third Sunday of every month in the Church Hall. We're hoping the new pacey format will be a chance for all our church families to come together and enjoy some time playing games, doing crafts, hearing stories and sharing snacks together. It is also an ideal event to which to invite those unfamiliar or less familiar with church. If you have children or grandchildren of or near primary school age or younger bring them along! Or if you have friends that do, invite them to come. All children are welcome accompanied by an adult.

CHURCH VISION DAY

Each year the PCC (Church Council), have an "Away Day" to give us an opportunity to think and discuss those things that need a bit longer than our usual business meetings allow, including how we grow our mission, vision and inclusion, as well as sometimes including some training on PCCs and their responsibility. This time we want to use the time to focus entirely on exploring our desires and vision for the future of St Saviour's, and that's something that we want everyone's input into! So instead of the PCC going away to another church, we are hoping all the PCC members and as many other members of the congregation who can, will gather at St Saviour's on Saturday 18th October from 9:30am to 2:30pm to worship, pray, think, explore and decide together how we would like to

see the life of St Saviour's develop over the next few years. Do please put the date in your diary and come along if you possibly can, have your say and enjoy time spent with your church family.

WORKING FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE

We continue to hold regular meetings for people to contribute to our Mission Working Groups. At a recent meeting focussed on Justice and Peace, we decided a good first step would be to further support the work of Christian Aid by encouraging members of St Saviour's to engage with their Restore Campaign calling on the UK government to stand up to reckless polluters and greedy lenders. You can find a petition and more information by searching "Christian Aid Restore Campaign" in any browser. We'd be really pleased if as many people as possible signed. Do also let Shaun know that you've done so or speak to him or Fr David if you have any more thoughts about working for justice and peace.

Our Mission Working Groups are informal groups for idea sharing and an opportunity for all of us to get involved in developing the mission and wider life of the church in very simple ways.

The PCC have set dates for several more MWG meetings. The next meetings are set for

Thursday 11th September, Children and Young People

Thursday 9th October, Nurturing Faith

Thursday 6th November, Worship and Music

All meetings will take place at 7pm in the "choir vestry".

PASTORAL CONTACT

By the time the next newsletter is published, we want to have relaunched our Pastoral Contact Group. This will mean a group of volunteers each having a number of members of the congregation they keep an eye on. The aim is for this to be a much more 'light touch' version of what we did during the pandemic. Rather than regular phone calls it will mainly be about saying hello on a Sunday and contacting those you haven't seen for a while to check they are ok, as well as everyone having someone else they know they can contact if they are unwell or going to be away for a while, in addition to the ministry team. This means we need a group of people who attend regularly and are willing to be a point of contact for 6-8 members of the congregation. If you would be willing to be involved, please can you let Kathryn know, and if you've already volunteered, make sure that you are on her list in case Fr David has forgotten! Everyone on our contact list will be allocated to a volunteer unless they specifically opt out. If you'd rather not be included, please also let Kathryn know.

WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD

Throughout September and October we continue our sermon series on the Nicene Creed. Various resources about the creed have been published including a series of reflections, *We Believe: Exploring the Nicene Creed*, copies of which are available to buy in church for £4.

Themes coming up on Sundays include:

September: 7th Jesus' death, **14th** Jesus'

resurrection, **21st** Jesus' ascension, **28th** Judgement

October: 5th The Holy Spirit, **19th** The Church, **26th** Baptism.

The series will conclude on All Saint's Sunday, 2nd November when we will be considering "The life of the world to come".

DATES

Thursday 11th September

Children & Young People Mission Working Group, 7pm in the "choir vestry".

Saturday 13th September

Disco and sponsored Dance-A-Thon in aid of Linking Lives. Come along and have a bop from 8pm. Refreshments will be available. Dee and Kathryn will be keep moving for 12 hours from 9pm Saturday night until 9am Sunday morning. Do please join in the fun if you are free and/or please sponsor them if you can in aid of our befriending project, Linking Lives Crofton Park.

Sunday 14th September

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

Tuesday 16th September

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 18th September

West Lewisham Deanery Relaunch, 7pm at St Bartholomew's Church, Sydenham. Refreshments will be available from 6:30pm. Archdeacon Chigor Chike will be attending this open meeting to which ***all*** are invited.

Friday 19th September

Concert, 7:30pm in Church: Brass Ensemble. Please take a flyer from the back of church.

Saturday 20th September

Church Cleaning, 10am. All help gratefully received! Please do consider joining us for Morning Prayer at 9:30am

Sunday 21st September

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 23rd September

Induction of Reverend Canon Julian Sampson as the new vicar of St. Hilda's Church, 7:30pm. Please see the sign up sheet at the back of church.

Sunday 28th September

Back to Church Sunday, Parish Eucharist with blessing of bags and Bring 'n' share lunch, 10am

Tuesday 7th October

PCC meeting, 7pm in the Vicarage.

Thursday 9th October

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

Friday 10th October

Gala Fundraising Concert, 7:30pm in Church. A concert with a variety of music and musicians in aid of our Linking Lives befriending project.

Sunday 12th October

Harvest All Age Parish Eucharist and Parade Service Service, 10am. Donations of non-perishable food will be collected for LEWCAS .

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

Saturday 18th October

Church Cleaning, 10am.

Sunday 19th October

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

Tuesday 21st October

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

Monday 3rd November

Requiem Eucharist for All Souls, 7pm. A chance to remember and pray for loved ones departed in the context of the sacrament.

Sunday 9th November

Service of Thanksgiving for Loved Ones Departed, 5pm. A simple non-Eucharistic service with the chance to remember loved ones and light a candle.

Pub Club from 7:30pm in The Blyth Hill Tavern.

Saturday 15th November

Church Cleaning, 10am.

Sunday 16th November

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

Deanery Confirmation Service, 6pm at St Saviour's.
The Bishop of Woolwich will be presiding.

Tuesday 18th November

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

Sunday 23rd November

Patronal Festival, Christ the King. The Archdeacon will preside and preach at our 10am Eucharist.

GARDEN AND BUILDINGS MAINTENANCE

Ruth Robinson, who ran St Saviour's Edible Garden is moving away. We are very grateful to Ruth for all she's done with the garden and volunteers over the years. We will, however, now be more in need of volunteers to maintain the garden and we similarly need help with maintenance of the building so that we can do simple jobs regularly to prevent bigger issues occurring. If you would be willing to help with either garden or building maintenance please speak to Dee or Fr David.

NEXT EDITION

The next newsletter will be published at the beginning of November. Any items for inclusion should be sent to Kathryn by Sunday 19th October.