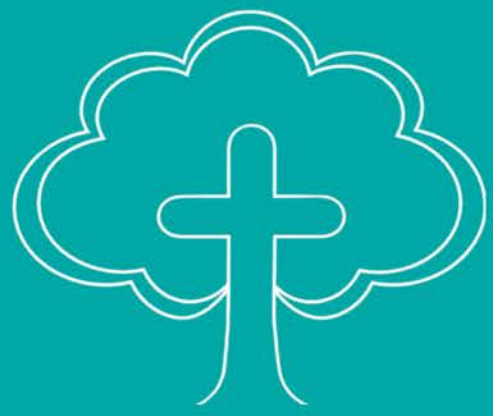




For Christ, Community
and Creation

St Oswald's Church, Croxley Green

Parish Profile



A warm welcome

We're so glad you're reading this profile and exploring whether God might be calling you to St Oswald's.



We are a warm, inclusive and outward-looking church in the heart of Croxley Green, and we're excited about the future.

We are a faithful, committed and friendly congregation. Together we are looking forward to welcoming a new vicar who will share our vision for a church that truly lives For Christ, Community and Creation.

We hope this profile gives you a flavour of who we are and our vision for the future.

Our people and community

St Oswald's is a welcoming and active Anglican church in the heart of Croxley Green.

Croxley Green was originally a hamlet in the parish of St Mary's Rickmansworth but has grown substantially over the 19th and 20th centuries. Today, Croxley Green is a sought-after place to live, reflected in high house prices and rents. The population is roughly 13,000 of whom about half live in St Oswald's Parish and half in neighbouring All Saints Parish. In recent years the population has become more diverse, reflecting trends in surrounding areas.

Croxley has good road and rail communications with employment opportunities in Watford, London and further afield. Local schools have a good reputation and serve as a focus for some community activity.

There are two secondary schools and four primary schools. Of those, Croxley Danes Secondary School, Little Green Junior School and Malvern Way Infants School are in St Oswald's Parish.



...our people and community

Croxley has a range of shops, pubs, cafés and a public library. There is a doctors' practice, with two surgeries, and a number of dentists. Larger supermarkets and shopping areas are located in nearby Watford and Rickmansworth. Croxley is part of Three Rivers District and there is a Parish Council.

In addition to St Oswald's role as a welcoming and active local church, we provide a location for a range of regular activities in our buildings. These include Girl Guide units, a child minders' group, a workshop orchestra, a community choir, U3A, fitness and dance classes and coaching in maths and English.



Our vision and values

Our strapline — For Christ, Community and Creation — captures the heart of our mission.

It reflects our desire to grow in faith, to support those around us, and to care for the world God has entrusted to us.

In 2024, having fulfilled most of the goals in our last Mission Action Plan (MAP), the PCC began thinking about new priorities. Our current focus is on:

- 1 Deepening our faith
- 2 Growing our congregation
- 3 Supporting the wider community

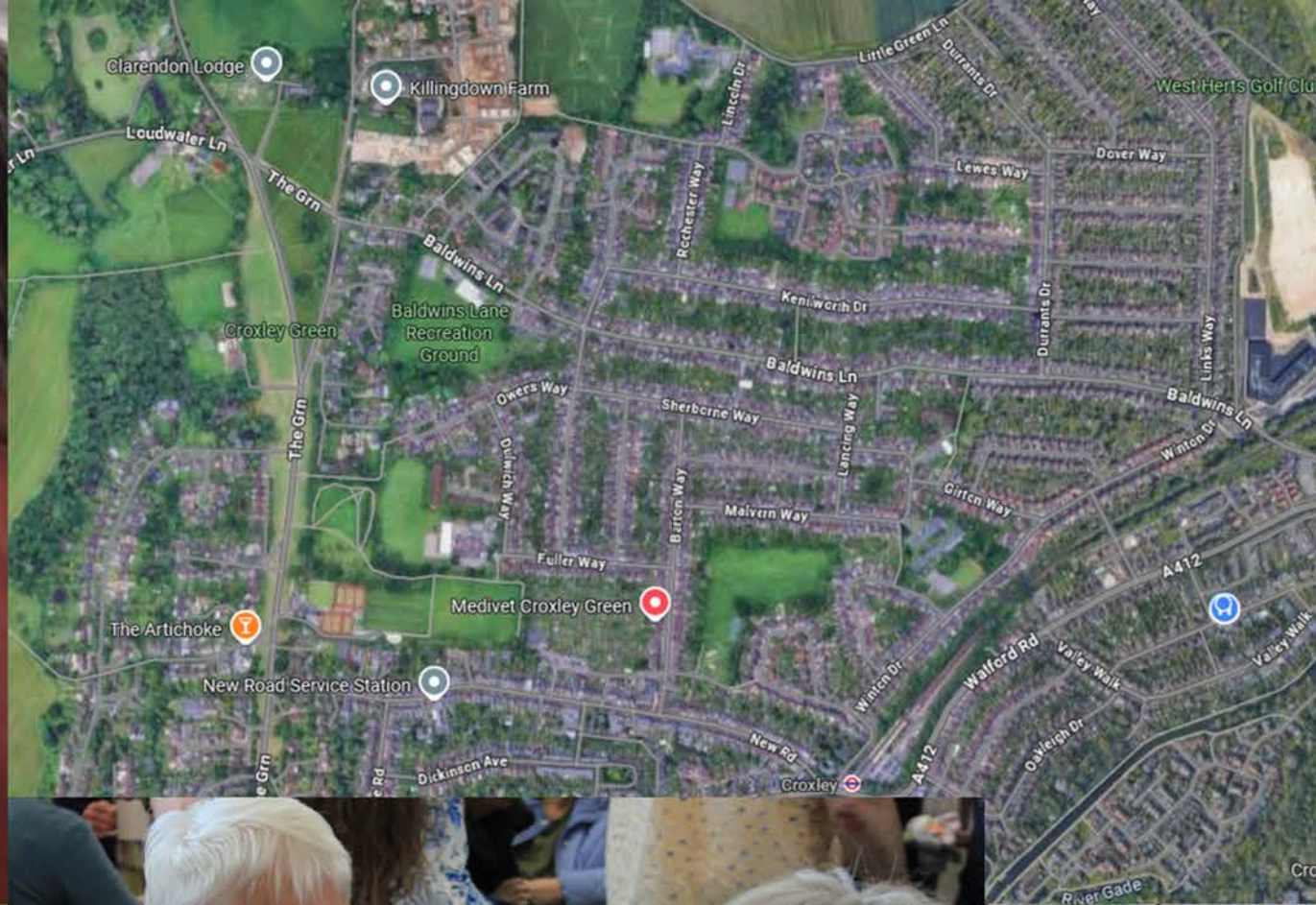


...our vision and values

We are encouraging regular activity leaders to consider how current activities fit in with these aims and whether anything additional could be done to help achieve them.

Our two PCC committees (Finance & General Purposes and Pastoral) will move on to consider specific practical ways of implementing our MAP when all the feedback is analysed. While this process is ongoing we continue to offer a warm welcome to all and do our best to create a sense of belonging.





St Oswald's Church, Croyley Green

GENERAL ELECTION HUSTINGS

2024

South West Hertfordshire Constituency

Monday **24th** JUNE

7pm for 7.30pm start

Run by St Oswald's Eco-Church.

Half of the event is dedicated to environmental matters and the other half to all other topics.

All 9 parliamentary candidates will be in attendance.

Question for the candidates?
hustings@stoswaldschurch.org.uk

Numbers are limited by capacity. Parking in church car park or surrounding area. Walking advised if you are able.

St Oswald's Church, Malvern Way, Croyley Green, WD3 3QL



Our challenges

We are hopeful about the future, but aware that it comes with challenges.

We are committed to growing and sustaining our ministry for the years ahead. We don't believe these challenges are insurmountable, but they require fresh energy, creativity and commitment from across our church family.

Engaging younger generations in faith: We are good at creating welcoming, fun and meaningful activities for children and young people. Yet we find it harder to nurture these connections into committed faith and regular worship. Competing demands on time, with many sports and other activities vying for attention, mean we need to explore new ways to share the message of Christ in ways that are both accessible and inspiring.



...our challenges

Falling electoral roll and church attendance: In 2025, for the first time, our electoral roll has fallen to just below 100. Attendance at regular church services has also fallen over recent years to an average of around 50 at the main Sunday service. We need help to reverse this trend.

Ageing volunteer base: Much of our church life is sustained by a dedicated and experienced group of older volunteers. As some begin to step back, we are seeking to nurture a new generation of people willing to share in the work and joy of volunteering. While we have contact with many young families through our family services, Sunday School, Holiday Club and other activities, we have found it difficult to turn occasional involvement into regular, active participation.



...our challenges

Financial sustainability: We have always paid our parish share, maintained our buildings, and supported charitable work near and far. However, this has become increasingly difficult and we have had to direct some of the income from fundraising events towards meeting our costs and funding capital projects such as refurbishing our church and hall kitchens.

While we remain committed to good stewardship and to aligning our finances with our values, in 2024 we were disappointed that we were in deficit at the end of the financial year.

We are looking to grow the number and diversity of people willing and able to offer their time, talents and resources. We want to be a church that is vibrant, attractive and sustainable – where all generations can find belonging and where newcomers are drawn to stay.



What we are looking for in our new vicar

We are seeking a vicar who is able to connect naturally with people of all ages and backgrounds.



This is important, both within the church and in the wider community - someone with the sensitivity to meet people where they are.

Our new vicar will be keen to encourage younger people with whom we already have connections to become more involved and develop a greater sense of belonging within our church community.

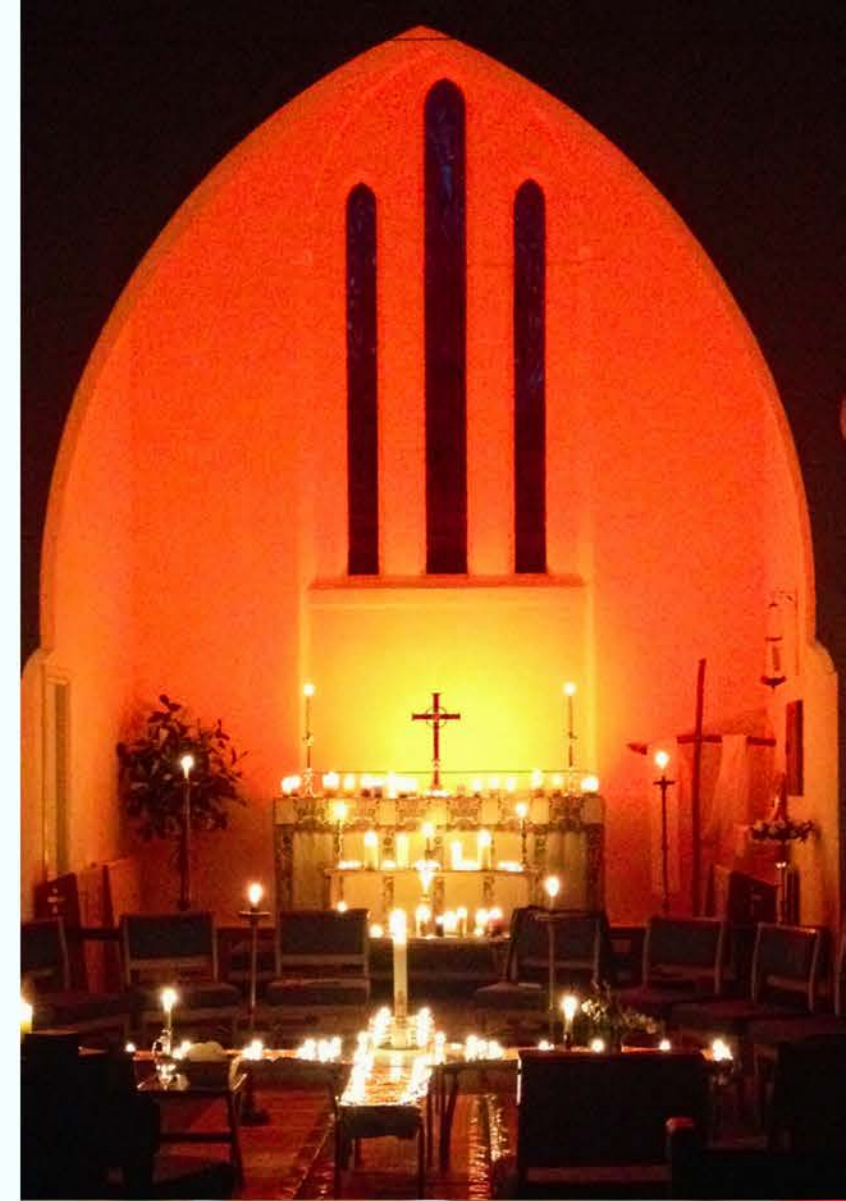
We are looking for a leader who can recognise where change is needed, inspire us and take everyone with them. Our team leader will need to increase our visibility in the community and grow our church.

...what we are looking for in our new vicar

Our worship is varied, and we value this breadth.

Our new vicar will be someone who embraces a wide range of styles of worship, both traditional and informal. They will be a good teacher with the ability to make faith relevant in today's world. Visibility in our community and schools is key.

We seek a vicar with energy, who will lead by example, encourage others, bring a joyful spirit and a good sense of humour. We are keen to see our church in good shape for the next generation.



Our worship

Worship at St Oswald's is in the mainstream Anglican liturgical tradition.

We follow the Lectionary and observe festivals and some saints' days, marking the liturgical year with vestments appropriate to the seasons of the church year.

Conscious that God speaks in a variety of ways to different people, St Oswald's aims to offer a variety of service formats and music to help people connect with God in ways that are meaningful for them. We are always open to considering other options that we could use to bring people closer to God.

Seasonal services include a well-attended Crib Service on Christmas Eve, Nine Lessons and Carols and Holy Week observances leading up to a major celebration on Easter Day.

Worship is supported by our two Lay Readers and a Lay Leader of Worship. Members of the congregation are involved by reading lessons and leading the intercessions at the main Sunday services.

...our worship

Our regular pattern of services includes:

Sunday 8.00am: Holy Communion (said, with sermon)

Sunday 10.00am:

1st Sunday: Family Service (with lots of participation by the children and no Communion)

2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays: Sung Communion

3rd Sunday: Spotlight Communion Service (with a less formal, contemporary feel and exploring topical issues of concern)

Sunday 4.00pm (1st Sunday): Book of Common Prayer Evening Prayer

Sunday 6.30pm: Taizé service (three times a year)

Wednesday 11.00am: Holy Communion (said)

Weekday morning prayer (currently suspended)



Our music

Music is a key feature of our worship.

A modern electronic organ is played by a highly competent organist. A robed adult choir of up to 12 singers leads the singing on 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays and some seasonal services.

On 1st and 3rd Sundays, the choir (unrobed) leads the singing as usual, accompanied by a music group featuring a keyboard supported by other musicians according to availability. We use Ancient & Modern (2013 compilation) as our main hymn book, supplemented by Songs of Fellowship and Junior Praise. We also enjoy a range of Communion settings and seasonal anthems.

We are keen to increase our choir and music group, and to re-establish a junior choir in the future.



Youth work

We are continually seeking ways to reach out to, and engage, the young people of Croxley.

Sunday School is offered during term time on 2, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays (1st Sunday is family service), with children joining the main service at the end. Numbers at Sunday School are currently very small and we would like to revitalise this work to keep it viable.

We also run two Friday youth clubs in the church:

- Donut Club: for year 7 students, reconnecting with primary school friends.
- Hot Dog Club: for years 8 and upwards.

These clubs offer games, crafts, conversation and food—supporting mental health and wellbeing in association with the Trinity Project, a Rickmansworth Deanery-wide initiative, which aims to support good mental health and wellbeing amongst young people. Both clubs happen at the same time as Rainbow and Brownie groups meet in the hall.



...youth work

Our free holiday club, now over 30 years old, serves around 65 primary-aged children each summer with activities that include teaching the Christian message, craft, music and games. Many children return year after year, some becoming young helpers when they reach secondary school age.

We also hold seasonal activities for children and young people, particularly around Christmas and Easter.





Other activities

Hospitality and community spirit are central to life at St Oswald's.

Café O runs every Monday morning in term time, offering homemade cakes, drinks and a warm welcome to our community. It regularly hosts a local group of childminders too. The Café even appears at the Croxley Revels (our local village fair) each year.



We run regular groups such as Mothers' Union and Men's Breakfasts with speakers and social activities. Seasonal highlights include the Harvest Breakfast and the Easter Monday Pilgrimage to St Albans. Socials such as a beetle drive, quizzes, craft evenings and jumble sales raise funds for our Parish Project and attract many beyond our regular congregation.

Much of this happens because people are inspired to volunteer and get involved—and we always welcome new ideas!

Working with other churches

St Oswald's enjoys strong links with other churches in Croxley Green through Churches Together.

Our volunteers work with All Saints church as well as Baptist, Methodist and Roman Catholic churches in Croxley particularly around Christian Aid Week with collections, plant stalls and events. St Oswald's also hosts an Arts Café—a vibrant community event in aid of Christian Aid, which attracts hundreds of visitors.

Croxley Churches Together also supports a Parish Nurse project, supporting residents regardless of faith or background.

Our Lent courses are often co-ordinated through Churches Together, along with a walk of witness on Good Friday and in Advent.



Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a top priority.

Our trained safeguarding team uses the Parish Dashboard as a guide to ensure policies and documentation are in place and up to date.

All volunteers working with children, young people or vulnerable adults are safely recruited, hold the appropriate DBS checks, and complete required Church of England safeguarding training. Risk assessments are in place for all relevant activities.

We are committed to meeting National Safeguarding Standards and being a church where everyone feels safe and valued.

Promoting
a safer church

The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the Church

**House of Bishops
Safeguarding Policy
for children, young people & adults**

IF YOU ARE CONCERNED
that someone you know is at risk of, or is being abused, or presents a risk to others, please seek advice from a Safeguarding Adviser or if necessary report the matter to the Local Authority Social Care Services or the Police without delay.

Local contacts available to speak to if you have any concerns:

Name:
Role:
Tel:
E-mail:

Name:
Role:
Tel:
E-mail:

Name:
Role: **Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser**
Tel:
E-mail:

Local Authority Social Services:
.....

**IF THERE IS IMMEDIATE RISK OR DANGER
PLEASE CONTACT THE POLICE ON 999.**

OUR COMMITMENTS

- Promoting a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse or other affected persons
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns/allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk.

HELPLINES

• NSPCC: 0808 800 5000	• Family Lives: 0808 800 2222
• Childline: 0800 1111	• National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247
• Stop It Now: 0808 1000 900	• Respect Phoneline: 0808 8010 327
• NAPAC: 0808 801 0331	• National Careline: 0800 0699 784
• Samaritans: 116 123	

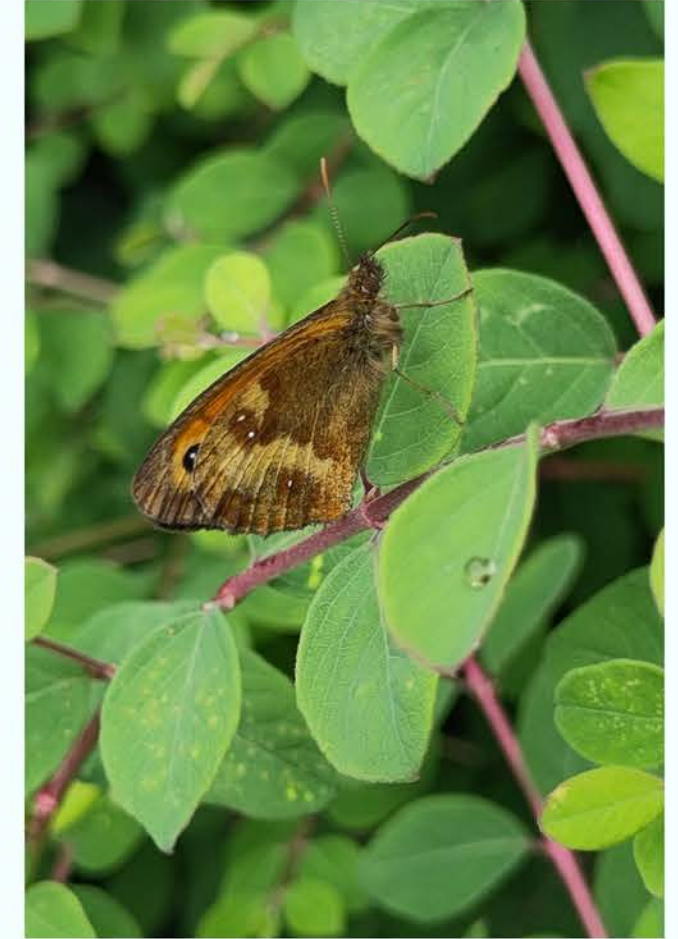
 **THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND**
www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding

Eco-Church

Caring for creation is a vital part of our identity.

In 2024, we were delighted to achieve Silver Eco Church status, recognising our commitment to sustainability across worship, lifestyle, and use of buildings and land.

Our Eco Church group organises litter picks, wildlife surveys and events that bring people together to learn and take action. We've hosted well attended events such as One Small Change, with our local MP and expert panelists, and an environmentally focused General Election hustings.



We want to build on this momentum and are actively exploring greener heating solutions for our buildings, expanding wildlife habitats, and encouraging simple changes that make a real difference. We hope to be known locally as a church that not only talks about caring for the planet but takes practical action.

Finances

We are grateful for the generosity of our congregation.

Many give through the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), enabling regular income and Gift Aid recovery, or via standing orders or envelope schemes.

The church hall, which is heavily used by local groups, is a key income source. Café O also generates significant income.

Fundraising events support both our ministry and needed improvements, such as the planned hall kitchen refurbishment. We continue to prioritise our parish share and giving 10% of donated income to a variety of Christian based charities, including the Croxley Parish Nurse.

Though surpluses have been limited in recent years, we remain committed to responsible stewardship and transparency. Audited accounts are available on request or via the Charity Commission.



Our buildings

Built in 1937 and consecrated in 1962, our church is an attractive, relatively low-maintenance space with exposed roof beams, a historic font, hardwood pews and a welcoming feel.

Updates include a beautiful stained-glass window, glazed entrance, and a new audio-visual system with the potential to add a camera for live streaming in the future. Some of the pews have been removed to improve flexibility.

Refurbished kitchen facilities support hospitality and outreach. The grounds feature lawns, trees and shrubs, a community herb garden, wildflowers and bug hotels. We have a car park for 28 vehicles. There is no burial ground.



...our buildings

The Church Hall has a large main space with stage, kitchen, accessible toilets and smaller meeting rooms. It has energy-efficient lighting and a heating system with smart controls. It hosts church and community events and generates significant income.

The vicarage, built in 1959, is a comfortable four-bedroom home just a short walk from the church. It includes a study, family spaces, garden, and parking.

Next to our site is Shaftesbury Court, a sheltered housing scheme managed independently by Sanctuary Housing Association, which holds a long-term lease from the Diocese. The residents are part of the community we seek to serve.



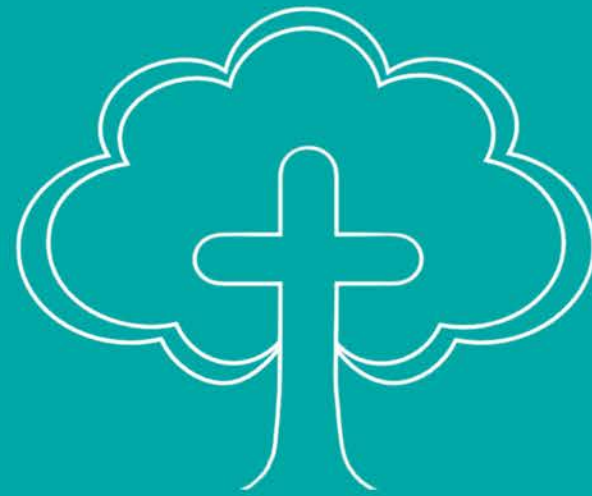
Looking ahead

We believe St Oswald's is full of promise—rooted in faith, rich in community, and ready to grow. With a strong foundation, a spirit of generosity, and a deep desire to serve Christ and encourage discipleship, we look forward to welcoming a vicar who will help us journey into the next chapter.

If you are someone who shares our vision and wants to lead with love, creativity and purpose, we would love to hear from you.



St Oswald's Church, Croxley Green



For Christ, Community
and Creation

stoswaldschurch.org.uk



[Our Facebook page](#)