

Coulsdon Cross

News & Views from St. Andrew's Church



Many thanks to Ken George for the fantastic plants outside church!

October 2026

St Andrew's Vision Statement

*A joyful, daring, diverse and generous Christian community,
setting the world alight with the love of God.*

Come and join us! All are welcome

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

OCTOBER

Tuesday 6th 8 pm Deanery Synod meeting, St Swithun's Church, Grovelands Road

Wednesday 7th 7.30 pm Churches Together Meeting at St Mary and St Shenouda's Church, Rickman Hill

Sunday 11th 4 pm Choir Concert 'Love Makes the World go Round'

Thursday 15th 6.30 – 8.30 pm Faiths Together in Croydon: Hate Crime Awareness Event – see article below.

Saturday 24th 4 pm Black History Month Thanksgiving Service at Croydon Minster

NOVEMBER

Sunday 1st 4 pm Service of Thanksgiving for the lives of the faithful departed

Sunday 8th Remembrance Sunday. 10.50 am Service of Remembrance with friends from the Coulsdon Club.

Thursday 5th from 5 pm Community Fireworks at Orford House

Saturday 28th Parish Trip to the National Gallery

REGULAR EVENTS

Every Sunday 9.45 **Parish Communion** – (Junior Church on the 1st Sunday of the month 'Renew' all Age on the 3rd Sunday)

Every Monday 10 -12 noon Time 2B: Coffee, chat and craft in the church Hall (Committee Room).

Every Tuesday Tots and Toys playgroup in the church hall. 11-12.30

Every second Tuesday Pop in Tea at 2 pm in church hall preceded by Service of Holy Communion in church at 1.30 pm.

Every third Tuesday 3.30 – 5.30 pm Messy Church – craft activities, Bible story and hot meal for children and their parents / carers.

Every fourth Tuesday 7.30 pm – Mothers' Union, Committee Room.

Every first and third Wednesday 10 am Holy Communion (Lady Chapel), BCP 1st Wednesday, Holy Communion with anointing for healing 3rd Sunday. **Please note there will not be a service on Wed 21st October**
7.30 pm Prayer Group/ Lection Divina meet on Zoom

Dear Friends,

Did you know that October 21st is National Apple Day? Apple Day was first launched in 1990 as a way of promoting the importance of apples and orchards here in the UK. According to the Orchard Project, there are over 2,500 varieties of apples available to us – which means you could eat a



different UK variety every day for over six years!
<https://www.theorchardproject.org.uk/>

The apple season is still going strong as I write – at least according to Google! Apparently Cox's Orange Pippin and Egremont Russet reach their peak picking ripeness at the beginning of October with cooking staples like Bramley's Seedling lasting a little longer on the trees.

I wonder which variety tempted Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden? In actual fact, the book of Genesis never actually tells us what kind of fruit they ate. Apparently the Latin word for apple is 'malum' which is the same word that is used for evil, and that is why apples came to be associated with the first fall from grace.

Apples do have more positive connotations in our faith, you'll be glad to know! The woman in the Song of Solomon speaks of her beloved as 'an apple tree among the trees of the wood' (Song of Solomon 2:3). This may be the inspiration behind the carol, 'Jesus Christ the Apple Tree', which begins:

*"The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green;
The trees of nature fruitless be,
Compared with Christ the Apple Tree.*

It reminds me of the wonderful verse from Psalm 1 which describes people who 'delight in the law of the Lord' as 'like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.' (Psalm 1:3)

Do we recognise ourselves in that description? Perhaps we feel more like those withered up old leaves? If so, it's time to go back to the 'law of the Lord' which is as easy as apple pie to remember: love God and love your neighbour (Mark 12:28-31).

At the moment we are hearing a lot of bad news caused by people who show anything but love for their fellow human beings. It is up to us to change this story – by being people whose lives demonstrate and share the good news. That is the work God calls each one of us to do.

Did you hear about the woman who went to a local farmers market? As she looked around the various stalls, she spied a notice that read: "God's Fruit Stand." She went right up to the counter and said; "I would like a perfect apple, a perfect pear, a perfect strawberry, and a perfect peach please." God, who was behind the counter, shrugged and said, "I'm sorry lady. I only sell seeds."



Life has been described as 'a garden of choices', and if we don't reap what we sow, someone else will. This month may we choose to plant seeds of kindness, faith, tolerance, understanding, compassion, hope and love so that the harvest of our lives will be a blessing.

Your friends,
Esther and Jessie x

CONGRATULATIONS TO LAUREN!



Many congratulations go to Lauren Powell who has successfully completed the Bishop's Certificate. Lauren was presented with her certificate by Bishop Rosemarie in an uplifting service at Southwark Cathedral. We are so proud of you Lauren!

The Bishop's Certificate is a one-year course for anybody who wants to be more confident about what they believe, read the Bible with more understanding, and reflect on their journey as a Christian. It has six modules:

Following – about the New Testament

Remembering – about the Old Testament

Exploring – about the history of the Church and what it means to be Anglican

Believing – about the things Christians believe

Deepening – about living and praying as a follower of Jesus

Expecting – about putting your future into God's hands.

At the end of each module there is the opportunity to submit an assignment. If you are interested in taking part in the course, why not have a chat with Lauren? To get an application form and list of dates for the course, email bishopscertificate@southwark.anglican.org

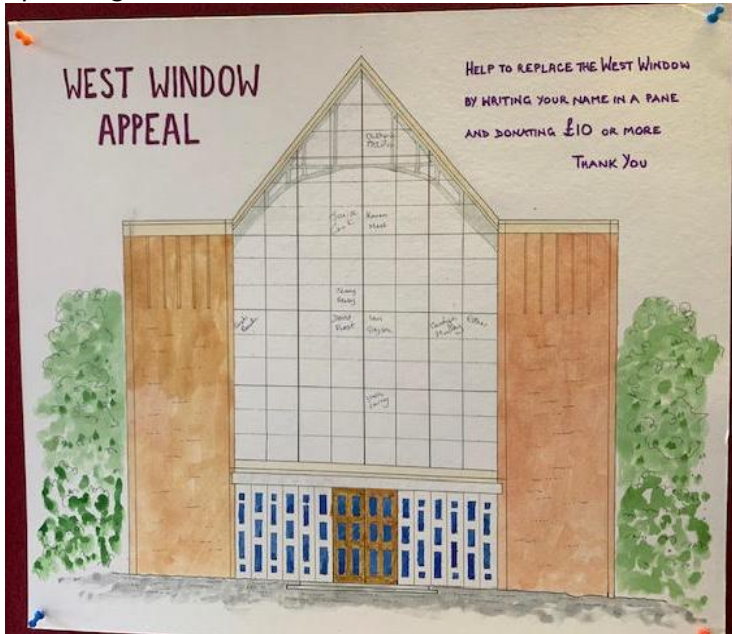
"Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee. Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding."

(Proverbs 4:5-7, King James Version)

WEST WINDOW FUNDRAISING: CAN YOU DONATE?

We are very much hoping that our West Window will be replaced next spring – we are just waiting on confirmation from the diocese that a new faculty is not required before we can go ahead and secure tenders for the work.

We do not know exactly how much the window replacement will be until these are received – but it is sure to be a significant amount. Can you help us by making a donation?



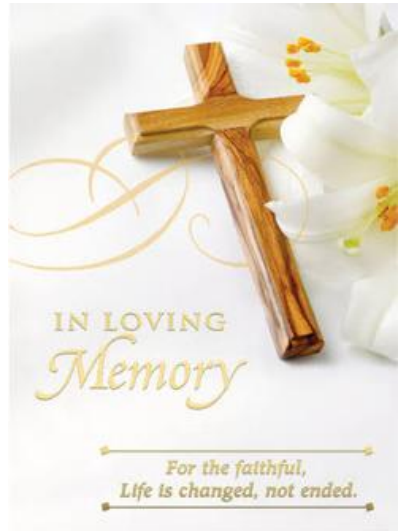
Our friend David Frost has drawn this wonderful depiction of the window and divided it into squares. We are requesting a donation of at least £10 per square! We are very grateful for your kindness.

Our amazing choir are also putting on a concert in church at 4 pm on Sunday, October 11th – ‘Love Makes the World go Round’ with music by Bernstein, Bizet, Elton John, Schwartz and Sullivan. Tickets are a snap at just £10 for adults, £5 for under 16’s and all are very welcome. It promises to be a fantastic event, so why not come along and bring a friend? Refreshments will be served in the interval.

REST IN PEACE DEAR JILL

Our dear friend and longtime editor of the Coulsdon Cross magazine, Jill Cliff, passed away peacefully at the age of 95 on the 6th of September.

Jill was a true pillar of St Andrew's church. She was secretary to the PCC, one of the first women appointed as a sidesman in 1978 and became the first woman to serve as churchwarden in 1982. She held this position for 16 years, the longest tenure of the position throughout the history of the parish.



Jill was a lady of very many talents, including embroidery and knitting. She was involved in the St Andrew's kneeler project which was launched in 1986, stitching many of the hassocks. She was also involved in the making of the silk hanging depicting the flames of the Holy Spirit, as well as knitting blankets for Croydon University Hospital's neo-natal unit. More recently, Jill was involved in knitting angels for the Michaelmas festival which was held in 2018. She even re-wrote the knitting pattern so that it was easier for people to use!

Jill was a longstanding member of the Mothers' Union and a keen attender of the Contact Group's Pop in Teas. She was involved in every aspect of church life, and there was nothing she didn't know about the history of the parish. If you wanted something done, Jill was the person to ask!

In latter years Jill enjoyed visits from pals at St Andrew's. She was always interested in what was going on at church and how everyone was doing. She was a lady of deep faith whose life of faithful service contributed significantly to the building of God's Kingdom here in Coulsdon. We will miss her.

'Well done, good and faithful servant.'" (Matthew 25:23)

“SAVING MY SON REMAINS THE GREATEST PRIVILEGE OF MY LIFE.”

Our friend Lizzie Mills works in the Communications team at King’s College Hospital.

Harry Jackson, now six years old, was born with malrotation, a congenital condition in which the bowel does not form in the correct position inside the abdomen. He also went on to develop intestinal failure-associated liver disease (IFALD), a progressive liver condition caused by years of receiving an intravenous form of feeding. In December 2023, Harry’s parents, Annie and Gary, met with the transplant team at King’s College Hospital to discuss the possibility of a liver and bowel transplant.

“When Harry was diagnosed with malrotation, we always knew that a bowel transplant would likely be part of his journey one day,” Annie said. “We just hoped that day would be many years away. When his liver began to fail, everything changed. Suddenly we were faced with the reality that he needed both a liver and bowel transplant much sooner than we had ever imagined.

“There are hundreds of children like Harry waiting for the phone call that could save their lives. As parents, you feel completely helpless watching your child wait for something so uncertain. The thought that one of us might be able to donate and give Harry that chance was something we wanted to explore immediately. If there was any possibility we could help him ourselves, we had to try.”

Following weeks of extensive assessments, Gary was confirmed to be a 98% Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) match with Harry, meaning their immune systems were exceptionally similar. On 29 January 2025, Gary underwent surgery at King’s College Hospital to donate part of his liver and small bowel to his son in a groundbreaking living donor transplant that gave Harry a second chance at life.

Gary added: “When you’re a parent, you’d give your child anything in a heartbeat. So when I was told I could donate part of my liver and bowel to Harry, there was never a decision to make. I was just incredibly grateful that I had the opportunity to do something that could help save his life and

give our little boy a second chance. The journey to surgery wasn't easy. I had to lose six stone, follow a strict diet, completely give up alcohol and stay focused for months to make sure I was healthy enough to donate. It was physically and mentally demanding, but every challenge felt worthwhile because it meant I was one step closer to helping Harry.

"The operation itself lasted 17 hours and my recovery took around six weeks. It was tough, but nothing compares to seeing Harry looking healthier and stronger afterwards. Watching him recover and knowing that I had been able to play such a significant part in giving him that chance is something I'll never be able to put fully into words. It remains the greatest privilege of my life, and I would do it all again without a second thought."

Ms Miriam Cortes-Cerisuelo, Liver Transplant Consultant Surgeon and clinical lead for transplant surgery at King's, said: "Living donor transplants involving the small bowel and liver, such as the one that saved Harry's life, are extremely rare. There are around just 10 cases worldwide that we know of, all involving children.

"Living donation is not always an option for our patients waiting for a small bowel transplant. Our work would not be possible without the generosity of people who sign up to the NHS to become an organ donor and give the gift of life, and their families who supported their decision."



WATER OF LIFE

Our Eco-church co-ordinator

Ann Witham writes:

“Water is the driving force
of all nature” –

Leonardo da Vinci



The Season of Creation, now being celebrated, is a time when Christians throughout the world unite in prayer and action to share in the common call to care for God’s creation and for all the living things that share the earth with us. This year’s theme is Living Water, inspired by Ezekiel 47 verses 9 and 12 where Ezekiel has a vision of living water filling the river with swarms of living creatures and providing fertile soils for fruit trees of all kinds – their fruit serving for food and their leaves for healing. God’s divine healing renews land, water and biodiversity – “where the river flows everything will live”.

His vision stands in sharp contrast to the water crisis we face globally.

According to the United Nations 3.4 billion people lack access to a safe toilet and 2.1 billion people still lack access to safe drinking water – that is approximately 1 in 4 people. Climate change coupled with water mismanagement and over consumption is causing droughts and water shortages across many parts of the globe. Aside from the obvious threat to public health, the subsequent effects of water shortage can vary from food insecurity to increased human conflicts, highlighting the importance of protecting water resources and using them sustainably.

Rural communities are disproportionately affected. Over 70% of people without adequate water supply live in rural areas and often lack the technical support needed to maintain sustainable water systems. Many depend on surface water sources that are easily contaminated making them vulnerable to waterborne diseases. Water shortage is a particular problem for women in certain countries. They are responsible for finding a resource their families need to survive – for drinking, cooking, sanitation and hygiene. They may

stand in line and wait for water, they may walk long distances to collect water or they may pay exorbitant amounts of money to secure water. They often face an impossible choice -certain death without water or possible death due to illness from dirty water. Time spent collecting water takes time away from work and school so that without water women cannot live up to their full potential.

Countries where artificial intelligence is being encouraged may face a different problem. Data centres being established to meet the demand are consuming freshwater at unprecedented rates. The sheer volume of resources needed is causing friction within local communities and in water stressed regions these facilities are being accused of draining precious resources. In September 2024 the UK government designated data centres as Critical National Infrastructure placing them on an equal footing with essential services. Previously water companies could restrict water supplies during periods of scarcity but now data centres will likely face fewer restrictions of water access even in water stressed areas. (for further reading see the report “Water Use in AI and Data Centres”).

Water is both a gift and a responsibility. The way we use, protect or misuse water affects our neighbours, our communities and the wider creation. Caring for water is therefore not only an environmental concern, it is also an act of justice, stewardship and love for others.

HATE CRIME AWARENESS WEEK: 10-17th OCTOBER

Every year, thousands of people here in the UK are affected by hate crime, and unfortunately, numbers are rising. Latest figures show a 6% increase in race hate crimes and a 3% increase in religious hate crimes recorded by the police. As Christians we must stand against hatred in all its forms. God’s will is for us to love one another. As St Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans; “Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.” (Romans 13:10). And as Jesus reminds us in his parable of the Good Samaritan, everyone is our neighbour. (Luke 10:25-37).

OCTOBER 15TH 2026



**FAITHS
TOGETHER
IN CROYDON**

FAITHS COMMUNITIES IN CROYDON AGAINST HATE CRIME



INCLUDING SPEAKERS FROM THE FAITH COMMUNITIES OF CROYDON
WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OR WITNESS TO A HATE CRIME.
FIND OUT MORE FROM LOCAL GROUPS WHO CAN HELP YOU

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND .BRAITHWAITE HALL, CROYDON
TOWN HALL, KATHRYN STREET. REFRESHMENTS FROM 6.30, EVENT
FROM 7-8PM

FTICROYDON@GMAIL.COM

All are invited to attend a Faiths Together event on the 15th of October at the Braithwaite Hall, Croydon Town Hall Katharine Street Croydon CR0 1NX from 6.30-8pm.

Speakers from the faith communities will share how hate crime has impacted them and what to do if you are a witness or victim of hate crime. Support and advice will be provided.

NEWS FROM THE CONTACT GROUP

*Contact Group co-ordinator
Monica Jefford writes...*

In its 35 years the Contact Group has moved with the times as volunteers and guests have embraced various ways to stay in touch with the real world. So why on Tuesday were we focused on a person who lived 800 years ago ? He is still influential today yet many don't know his name. By the end of the afternoon we did and appreciated his human and animal significance.

Having given you a clue, if I said who is the patron saint of animals, I'm sure many of you would come up with St Francis. To be precise his full name was Giovanni di Pietro di Bernardone. Born in Assisi Italy, into a wealthy and indulgent family, he lived from 1181- 4th October 1226.

When born his father was away in France and on return called him Francesco, a 'free man.'

During a period of military involvement St Francis apparently had a vision and lost interest in worldly matters becoming a pilgrim, mystic and poet. He was

usually seen wearing a brown cloak and girdle, the three knots indicating poverty, chastity and obedience, and carrying a staff. Following this spiritual awakening he dedicated his life to Christ, as a catholic friar, promoting peace, mercy and reconciliation. As his following grew, in 1209 he founded the Franciscan Order. Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed 2026 a Jubilee year for St Francis as a time of personal renewal for all by emulating his ways. Living a life emphasising humility, care, charity and a respect for all creation, Francis viewed all creatures, human and not, as part of God's divine family: a holistic view expressed in his Canticle of Creation.

We did him justice with consideration of how some of the animals, we share our planet with, use autumn to prepare for winter. It was good to do this in the company of various stuffed toy animals and Jessie 'the Vicarage dog.' Animal games completed our activities.

Afterwards we turned our attention to a birthday tea party to celebrate with two human nonagenarians. The usual sumptuous spread was appreciated by all including Jessie who helped finish the left over egg sandwiches. A shared candle-lit cake, gifts of cards and flowers completed the occasion.



The afternoon also acknowledged harvest time that, due to the summer heat had been earlier this year, with contributions for the Food Hub. Fortunately by now the necessary rain had ceased and we left in the autumnal sunshine.

If you've eaten too much cake next month's session will be armchair exercises with S-J (Sara-Jane Davidson).

We look forward to seeing you there.

Monica and the Contact Group volunteers x

FEED MY SHEEP

This is not an article on farming methods but reminds us of our Lord's command to meet human physical need (Matthew 25: 31-46). Can you help to provide sandwiches for Croydon Nightwatch to distribute?

Nightwatch is a charity, founded in 1976, with a base in Queen's Gardens, Croydon. On a nightly basis they support rough sleepers, the homeless and those with sub-optimum socio-economic circumstances.

Following Croydon Council's social strategy revision, which rendered Croydon Churches Floating Shelter scheme non-viable, demand has escalated.

To support the initiative volunteers from various churches and associated contacts supply sandwiches and other consumables on a regular rota basis.

Coulsdon has covered and is likely to continue to do so every Thursday in November and December. Most volunteers do 1/2 sessions during this time. There are agreed guidelines to ensure food hygiene regulations, user preference and storage requirements are met.

On their allotted day each volunteer, with an agreed filling, makes 15 rounds and wrapped in the approved manner delivers them to the coordinator in Rickman Hill by a set time.

There is potential for contributions to be collected following discussion with the church rep/coordinator. Please speak to Monica Jefford if you'd like further details.

JESSIE'S JOKES!

Why did the apple go to the doctor? It wasn't 'peeling' well! 😊

My mum's mum used to say that green apples were good for us, but that's just granny's myth! 😊

Why didn't the two worms enter Noah's Ark in an apple? Because everyone had to go in 'pears'! 😊

Did you hear about the vicar who got into the pulpit and apologized for the plaster on his face. "I was thinking about my sermon while shaving and cut my face" he explained. Afterward the treasurer found a note in the collection plate, "Next time, think about your face and cut the sermon." 😊

It has been said that there are three ways to get something done: 1. Do it yourself 2. Hire someone else to do it 3. Forbid your kids to do it. 😊

If you can be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,
If you can resist complaining,
If you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it,
If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time,
If you can overlook it when those you love take it out on you when, through no fault of yours, something goes wrong,
If you can take criticism and blame without resentment,
If you can resist treating a rich friend better than a poor friend,
If you can face the world without lies and deceit,
If you can conquer tension without medical help,
If you can sleep without the aid of pills
You are probably a dog! 😊

A prospective father-in-law said to his daughter's boyfriend, "How much money do you have in the bank?"
"I don't know; I haven't shaken it lately."
😊

Who can ever forget Winston Churchill's immortal words: "We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, and we shall fight in the hills." It sounds exactly like our family holiday 😊

You know you're getting older when in the morning you hear snap, crackle and pop – and it isn't your breakfast cereal! 😊

CONTACTS AT ST ANDREWS

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Vicar:	Rev'd Canon Esther Foss – 020 3620 1885 (Day off – Friday) estherfoss79@gmail.com
Reader:	Gerry Daley – 07717 233858 gerrydaley@btinternet.com
Churchwardens:	Audra Proctor 07710 377966 Toni Best 07767 308375
CPLM & Messy Church Co-ordinator	Jenny Atkinson
Treasurer:	finance@standrewscouldsdon.co.uk
Baptisms/Weddings:	standrewsoffice@yahoo.com
Contact Group Co-ordinator:	Monica Jefford sutherland-18@hotmail.com
Hall Lettings:	hiringthehallatstandrews@gmail.com
Safeguarding:	Karen Bowey k.bowey@allaw.co.uk Sara Jane Davidson sara-jane.17@hotmail.co.uk
Junior Church:	Beth Ten Cate
Parish Canine Rep:	Canine Jessie Foss (Days off Monday – Sunday. Don't contact unless you have treats.)
PARISH MAGAZINE:	
Editor:	Rev'd Canon Esther Foss (details as above)

Parish Administrator: Danielle Stobart, Parish Office 020 86762966
(open Monday and Wednesday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.)
standrewsoffice@yahoo.com

USUAL SERVICES Sunday 9.45 am Parish Eucharist (1st Sunday Junior Church, 3rd Sunday Renew All Age Eucharist) Wednesday (1st and 3rd) 1st 10.00 am Book of Common Prayer, 3rd Holy Communion with prayers for healing.