

Saints Alive!

*The parish magazine of
All Saints Church, Kings Heath*



February
2022



£1
(suggested donation)

From the vicarage

Dear friends and neighbours,

Back and Forth

Work progresses steadily on the coach house at 4 Vicarage Road. Long derelict, it has been wonderful to uncover details of the architecture of this simple single-purpose building. I love the eyebrows of blue-grey brick over the windows, the curved corner bricks, the metal-framed arched *Play School* window to the side. There used to be a staircase outside, up to the hayloft. Inside, a small carriage would be kept, the horse being brought round from a stable near where Sainsbury's is now. I buried a woman who had remembered the carriages going out from here. The characterful brick points back to a time of pride in building, but also a very hierarchical society illustrated by the different kinds of house lining Kings Heath's streets, some with a door on to the street, then some with bays, then some with dormer windows for a servant's attic room and so on. The brick itself is also ambiguous in that its manufacture on a massive scale that century will have contributed to the carbon spike we now understand to be so damaging.

Preserving something of that story, that past, our ambiguous heritage, we are now creating a space for hospitality and study. The vicar of All Saints will be able to welcome people into a new study sitting room, with a disabled-access toilet, and space to make coffee or whatever. There is continuity in that ministry, the church having been built at the time all these houses sprouted up, to serve people marking the great transitions of birth, falling in love, and death. We still do so, but with other new kinds of service evolving in the Church as embodied in the community centre that meant the old vicarage was demolished and this house repurposed.

We have replaced the outside staircase to the hayloft, which will become an archive space for all the documents that have been generated in over 20 years of the Development Project. Archive looks back, but also preserves the story, the heritage, for the future. It becomes a source of learning and wisdom in years to come. Underground, an ethernet cable connects the study to the World Wide Web. Imagine explaining that to the lad or lass who hauled hay down for the horses. Trunking from the electricity supply now feeds a recharging point for electric vehicles. An air source heat pump is being fitted as part of the forward-looking effort of the Diocese of Birmingham to be carbon neutral by 2030. Looking forwards, still using – not wasting – the carbon-costing bricks that have stood for 150 years, I love the way that this little development points both back and forth, holding us in the present moment, hopefully to minister with refreshed gratitude and responsibility.

I am very grateful to Dan Mayes and Richard Hall, our diocesan surveyors, who have helped make this possible, securing 4 Vicarage Road as a good home and credible vicarage for decades to come, able to cope with different sizes and shapes of vicar's families who will come and go.

The robins will be pleased, too. When the old laurel hedge came down, one perched on the fence singing furiously at the gap where it had been. 'Where's my BI***@\$!?!?y hedge?' he cried. I can't wait for the goldfinches to come back in spring, to see how quickly they take refuge in the new three-metre hedge that has been reinstated this week. The plaque on the front of No 4 says 'Laurel House'. I am glad that the name still applies and that some modest habitat is restored.

I also look forward to opening up the new study for you all to see it, and perhaps have a garden party, definitely a work gathering, maybe with the churchwarden bringing a suitcase full of wine.

David



Catering for the community

07546 946455

allsaintscatering@outlook.com

MEALS DELIVERY SERVICE

Are you, or is anyone you know, struggling with meals due to isolation, or financial hardship during the Coronavirus crisis?

Could you, or they benefit from:

- Low-cost meals delivered to their home?
- Signposting, by one of our caring volunteers, to other support or advice services, that may be able to give help or assistance.

For more information:

- Call 07546 946455 between 9.00 – 12 noon. At other times, please leave a message, and one of our volunteers will get back to you.
- Email allsaintscatering@outlook.com



Hall Green
Neighbourhood
Network Scheme

‘Together we serve one another’

On Saturday 22 January Margaret Healey-Pollett was licensed as a Reader. Here we are pleased to share a couple of Margaret’s photos from the day and, from her sermon preached at All Saints the following morning, some extracts that focus on aspects of the licensing and of being a Reader.



Yesterday, in the cathedral, I was admitted into the Office of Reader in the Church of England, and then licensed to serve here at All Saints. It involved putting on these robes and being presented with this blue scarf, this Bible, and this licence, as well as promises made and prayers offered. This was all completed with the confirmation of the licence here this morning.

The Robes: First, we have the **cassock**. Those of us who did the Youth Project Christmas quiz have learnt that this comes from an Italian word. It has been worn by the clergy for centuries and dates back to a time when it was common for most people to wear something like it. It’s a bit like a coat, and can be worn out and about by anybody, really.

Secondly, we have the **surplice**. This comes from a Latin word, that basically means ‘over the coat’. It is worn over the cassock for worship purposes, as a sign of respect for the holiness of the worship.

Thirdly, there is the **blue scarf**, which indicates the office of Reader, and distinguishes us from vicars – even though we might look like one with the cassock and surplice! These scarves were adopted as recently as 1969, which is also the year when women were allowed to become Readers.

All these robes are known as choir dress, and we don’t normally see them at our Sunday morning Eucharist, where those at the front wear white albs, as you can see, and which usually I will do. These garments also have a long history in the Church, dating back to the time when they were standard dress for the ancient Romans. The word ‘surplice’ might sound the same as ‘surplus’, but don’t be misled as ‘surplus’ comes from a different root, meaning ‘in excess’. There are those who question the robes, thinking them ‘surplus to requirements’, but there is the view, which I share, that they are equalisers, that reduce the distinctiveness of those at the front, and give continuity down the years. They are about service to the Church.

The Bible: I did have one already! But we have been given this rather fine edition, because at the heart of what readers do is the public ministry of preaching and teaching the faith ‘uniquely revealed in the Holy Scriptures’, as well as in reason and tradition.

The Licence: This gives me permission from the bishop to perform the duties of a Reader at this particular time in this particular place. It also makes me accountable. I have a responsibility to you all to work within the teachings and authority of the Church, and to be answerable to you if I seem to fall short.

The Role of Reader: We are very used to having Readers assisting with public worship here at All Saints, but numbers were dwindling with Mike’s illness, Simon’s ordination, and Gill’s untimely death. Gill knew I was training to be a Reader and passed on some of her books to me, which provide a blessing of continuity, and memory. John was my sponsor in the cathedral yesterday, and now, he and I, together with Claire (who has duties round the diocese) make up the active Reader team.

In their book *Reader Ministry Explored*, Cathy Rowling and Paula Gooder¹ discuss the role of 'Readers, or Lectors' in the very early Church, making the point that most people were illiterate and so needed to hear the Scriptures read out. This might be seen as the origin of the role, which was learnt from the practice in the synagogues. The skill of reading for oneself is a relatively new one in our history. There is nothing distinctive about being a Reader. Everything a Reader does can be done by others baptised or ordained into the Church, however Rowling and Gooder list five characteristics that come together in a Reader who is:

1. Admitted into public ministry by the Church of England.
2. 'Licensed to a local context.'
3. A lay minister in the midst of other lay Church members.
4. Trained in Theology.
5. Licensed to preach, teach, be involved in pastoral support, to lead some elements of public worship.

These five elements, they say, form the service performed by the Reader. They go on to say that 'Reader Ministry must remain open to God's leading and directing; educated, informed, contextually based, culturally aware and able to respond to contemporary need'.

By the grace of God, I will do my best in all this.

As in Paul's brilliant metaphor, each one of the baptised plays our part in the body of Christ. I wonder what part you feel you play. We all need each other's different gifts. For yesterday's service, I had to produce a short statement about my journey of faith, and I included in this my reflection: 'I feel I am more head than heart in my faith, a balance to redress in prayer. I love the head work, though, it feels like a conversation with the Spirit. This is the way I can serve in the body of Christ while I depend on other members of the Body for their heart wisdom. Together we serve one another.'

By 'heart wisdom' I mean those whose gifts kindle gentle, loving, healing relationship, through, for example, active listening; poetic word-craft; companionable, meditative silence; artistic creativity; musical harmonies; imaginative prayer – habits, and talents that bring us into right relationships with God and each other. These gifts are all wonderfully present at All Saints.

What I call the 'head element' is the analysis of the Biblical and other literature, asking questions about the genre of the writings, how we can understand the history found in them, what we can say about Jesus's self-understanding, and what we can say about the implications for our faith and action. We have been, and still are, wonderfully blessed at All Saints through our connections with great scholars whose contributions have built up the body of the worldwide Church, while they also join in with us here in our little body. It is in engaging with the writings of these and other scholars, where I feel called to be of service to All Saints

If head questions are not really your thing, there is always next week, when different gifts may be brought to the lectern, and we always have each other, as we are all 'a limb or organ of the body of Christ', and all give service to each other in our different ways.



¹ Rowling and Gooder, *Reader Ministry Explored*, SPCK, 2009.

Whatever happened to the Coat of Hopes?



Some of you will hopefully remember my efforts in encouraging church members, and other community groups around Birmingham, to make patches for a project called The Coat of Hopes back in September. I aimed to generate publicity for the Coat of Hopes pilgrimage as it gradually approached Birmingham from its starting point on the south coast near Brighton.

For those of you who don't know, the Coat of Hopes aimed to involve as many groups of people as possible in making homemade patches for an increasingly magnificent patchwork coat, that as it made its way on to the COP26 climate conference Glasgow would come to represent the hopes, fears, dreams, grief and fears about climate change for the communities it passed through along the way. The conference came at a critical time for

the world, when commitments were needed to half CO₂ emissions by 2030. It was hoped that the Coat of Hopes would be a way of encouraging and inspiring world leaders and delegates to do the right thing at the conference.

When the Coat of Hopes came to All Saints

I had worked hard to maximise publicity for the event, and yet – with a little help from Kevin Groves – it was with some trepidation that I stood waiting to see if the *Midlands Today* van would arrive, and then about an hour later, what I would actually say when interviewed by the reporter, live on regional TV!



But what happened after?

But then, after, after all the excitement of the stitching stop and my 15 minutes of regional TV fame had died away, and the Coat of Hopes pilgrims had left town, I still felt that my part the project was not yet over.

You see, I had felt for some time a strong desire (calling?) to do something in response to COP26, and that that would involve me going to Glasgow and being present to protest at the climate talks directly. But when I had thought about this, it was the cause of some consternation.

How could I go to Glasgow – somewhere I'd never been, and didn't know anyone – and get involved in climate activism?! I didn't know anyone who was going and had no accommodation booked (many of the delegates to COP26 themselves struggled to find accommodation in Glasgow; there was apparently none to be had.) And as someone suffering with fibromyalgia and chronic fatigue I also worried how I'd manage my condition while throwing my body in to the breach, so to speak. Before the Coat of Hopes came to town and came into my life, I had no realistic idea how I might go about doing this on my own.

But then a chance event began to provide a clue as to how I might go about getting to Glasgow in a 'sensible' way.

Coat of Hopes shock: Bag of patches left at All Saints Church!

It turned out the Coat of Hopes folks had accidentally left a lovingly-made bag full of patches in the church, having forgotten to take them with them when they left Birmingham. This was a little vexing for them, especially at first, as they were worried that the patches might have been lost, which would have been a major breach of their 'no patch left behind' policy.

Once it was established with the help of Chris Pearce, however, that the patches were simply misplaced, the question arose as to how to return them to the pilgrims. Various options were discussed, until it occurred to me it was a good opportunity for me to join the pilgrimage for the day, as being on foot and all, the pilgrims really hadn't travelled terribly far outside Birmingham.

Catching up with the pilgrims was in itself something of an adventure, involving getting the train up to Hednesford near Cannock Chase, walking up a massive hill, and then striding out manfully across the moor, to try to find them, as an intrepid solo explorer, with my precious parcel of patches safely stowed in my rucksack! Soon, however, I realised I had taken a wrong path, and foolishly, instead of retracing my steps, I tried to take a short cut back to the main route across country.

This turned out to be an inopportune cause of action, as it took far longer to find a way across the unforgiving territory of the undulating moor, which was full of thorny gorse bushes, than it would have done to simply turn round, and left me with more than a few scratches on my legs. These were added to by barbed wire, as getting to the road was a lot trickier than I thought. Nonetheless, resolutely braving these self-inflicted injuries, and facing down traffic as I walked up a busy road, I caught up to the walkers at a café, just as their lunch break was finishing. I had to start walking again, after a mere ten minutes' rest – barely enough time to finish my chicken drumsticks!

Taking the next step(s): Joining the Camino to COP

The recalcitrant patches had been returned to the pilgrims. By then, however, I found I had developed a penchant for being a pilgrim. And on discovering that the Coat of Hopes pilgrimage was part of a larger contingent of walkers self-described as 'Caministas', who had big plans in Glasgow, the thought occurred to me – what if I could join in with the Camino during the last week before they reached Glasgow? Then I would hopefully get to know enough people to make being up in Glasgow not to make it a potentially very daunting and lonely experience.



Part of an endeavour called the Camino to COP, these Caministas, who were inspired by the Spanish for pilgrimage – 'camino' literally means 'way' – were converging from various parts of the UK to become part of a larger group of walkers on a 56-day tour from London to Glasgow. Every day they would cover 10-15 miles, starting fairly early, and reaching their destination about 4:30pm. This would allow time for outreach events to the towns and villages they stayed in that evening. Usually the Caministas slept on church floors, so the privations of being a Caminista were very real. For example – my particular horror – no showers!

Because the Camino to COP WhatsApp group was open to all, it wasn't long before I was keeping a very close eye on all the very many trials, travails and triumphs of the Caministas, as they made their way further and further north. Naturally, this led me to want to join in as soon as I could, but for various reasons, this wasn't possible until they were already some way into Scotland.

Catching up with the Camino

The main group of Caministas had already been selected through an application process before they commenced. This meant, that although it was fine for me to join in,



each day, as a day walker, I had to find my own overnight accommodation. Fortunately, I had a solution readily to hand, in the shape of our camper van! Setting out from Birmingham, the van was loaded to the gunnels. Rather too full in fact – I had set out prepared for every eventuality. Because the Coat needed a mannequin to be worn upon while it was on display in St George's Tron Church, near George Square in Glasgow, I had even brought Geraldine the dummy, made famous by her TV appearance wearing the coat, secreted in the toilet compartment. (This did make it difficult to use for its intended purpose, as I found out to my later detriment, but space was at a premium – and sacrifices needed to be made!)

I had persuaded Rachel to join me for part of the Camino as it was during half-term. We set off in a very heavy van, that wouldn't travel faster than 60 miles an hour. Although the weather was sunny and clear, soon we hit traffic, which delayed us by about three hours, such that we were still in



England when the evening and rain set in, and our destination to the south of Strathaven still seemed a long way to go. Fortunately, salvation arrived in the shape of the Tebay services and, although it was pricey, a night in the Tebay overnight hotel proved irresistible! Unfortunately at that point we discovered that the van's water tank had somehow overflowed.

Later that evening was the first sign that someone might have been watching over me in my expedition – one of the walkers had some free spaces for five nights in a shared room in a Glasgow youth hostel... Although I might be taking to the streets, I wouldn't be sleeping on them, for my first week in Glasgow, at least!

Here ends Part 1 of my adventures in Glasgow. For Part 2 pick up the next issue of the magazine in March!

Damian Hursey

Music Matters

A chance to catch up on a few musical moments from around the church and beyond over the last couple of months.

Advent and Christmas are always a busy time for church musicians and we were delighted to be able to be able to hold a live Candlelight Carol Service in December, and to lead congregations in full musical worship at services throughout the season. We also took every opportunity to gather for carol singing, firstly at the end of the morning of musical accompaniment at the December craft fair.



Glad tidings we bring

Tandy Court, home to Jean Caswell and others, deserves congratulations in that it has so far avoided any infection. This meant, however, that residents could not attend our carol service as several have in the past. So the alternative was to take the carols to them, and a fortnight before Christmas a group of us (see picture at the top of this page) invaded the area outside the Tandy Court dining room, and sang to the residents who were inside.

We covered all parts and descants, so made a merry sound, and offered traditional carols that all would recognise. So successful was this that some residents even gave us a helping hand by joining in. It was clear that the singing was much enjoyed by our congregation/audience, and also appreciated by those of the carers who were able to take time out to come and listen. It was a lovely opportunity to take something different to those who have been more than usually isolated, and to support the staff who have had to work extra hard during the restrictions.

Jean sends best wishes to all, and thanks that she is still remembered.

Liz Haskins

A couple of records were then set on the Village Square on Christmas Eve, when more singers than ever before serenaded the good people of Kings Heath and collected our highest total to date – thanks for this are also due to everyone who came to shake buckets and show their support. (Thanks too to the generous people at Rourke's who offered free pies to all who took part!)

As a result we were able to send over £250 to the B30 Foodbank, and received the following reply:

Dear Clare and Fellow Carol Singers,

Thank you so much for your amazing donation of £252.78 to the B30 Foodbank. As you probably know we are a completely voluntary organisation, supported by the Trussell Trust. We rely solely on donations from organisations and generous supporters such as yourselves to provide for people, including families, within our local community who, for whatever reason, find themselves in immediate crisis, and are therefore going without. Your gift will be used to help give our families in crisis enough food to make three meals a day per person for three days.

Just to give you an idea of the scale of the work we do at the B30 Foodbank, during 2021 we gave out 95,257kg of food to feed 6,770 people (of whom 2,307 were children) across 3,340

households. Unfortunately we noticed a significant rise in the number of families requiring help in 2021 and with the anticipated increases in the cost of living we expect this trend to continue as 2022 progresses. Should you wish to learn more and keep up to date with the work of the B30 Foodbank please visit us on our website [<https://b30.foodbank.org.uk/>], Facebook or Twitter.

We would like to reiterate how important your donation will be in helping us to make a real difference to individuals and families who would otherwise go hungry and on their behalf we thank you wholeheartedly once again for your generous support.

Kind regards

Christine Kearns (on behalf of the B30 Foodbank Volunteer Team)



When Gill Cole died last year we were still unable to have large choirs or any congregational singing, so music at her funeral was provided by a small group of us; we were therefore very pleased to celebrate her life, and that of John Davies, in the service of thanks in November when a church as full as social distancing would allow welcomed singers from All Saints and the CBSO Chorus in raising the roof in their memory. With restrictions having eased yet further, we were then able to gather together around 15 musicians to lead the singing at John's funeral last month.

It really was a lovely service as John's church family, and those who had helped to look after him in recent years, heard warm and amusing stories about John from Mary Priday and a poignant, thoughtful reflection from David, both of which revealed insights and sides to John that had perhaps been unknown to many of us. There was music from Handel's *Messiah*, the choir sang settings of Psalm 150, *Ave verum corpus* and the *Nunc dimittis*, and all joined in some of John's favourite hymns: *Ye choirs of new Jerusalem*, *All hail the power of Jesus' name* and *O for a thousand tongues to sing*. Of the tunes to these last two John wrote in these pages a few years ago: "It used to be said that the test of a good hymn tune was that everyone knew it after the first verse. Certainly **Diadem** and **Lyngham** are two outstanding tunes. The bass part to **Diadem** must be the best bass part to a hymn of only four lines of text. **Lyngham** brings back memories of Billy Graham at Villa Park, when 31,000 voices could be heard singing. Moving indeed." As was John's funeral – moving indeed.

The Church with psalms must shout!

A group of All Saints singers took up the invitation from the Royal School of Church Music to join in a grand evensong on Sunday 30 January. It was a standard Prayer Book service, but we had to master different settings for the psalm, Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis, as well as an introit and anthem (a setting of All things bright and beautiful by John Rutter), so there was plenty to learn. We had had a short practice on the previous Sunday, and then a rehearsal with everyone during the afternoon, so by the time the congregation began to arrive we felt that we were ready to go. There were perhaps not as many choristers as there have been on similar occasions in the past, but we made a good show in the chancel, sang with enthusiasm, and made a joyful noise. The orchestra of the Camp Hill schools proved themselves to be excellent accompanists, playing also before and after the service, and the body of the cathedral was well filled with the congregation. We sang well, to good effect, and when everyone was singing together in the three hymns it was indeed a grand and glorious sound.



During the bleak first months of lockdown, when there was no singing, we missed it terribly, and were reminded of what a treat it is. Warbling along with the radio is not the same, so to lift our voices with so many other similar people was thrilling indeed. It was an exhilarating afternoon.

Thanks to Ben, who circulated the invitation, helped us with the music, and escorted us there.

Liz Haskins

As ever, we are extremely appreciative of all who have joined in or supported musical activity during Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, and as things continue to open up we look forward to another year of music-making at All Saints – all are welcome to come and sing or play, whether regularly or occasionally, and to talk to us with comments and ideas about church music, so do get in touch as below (please note the new email address for music at All Saints). We look forward to hearing from you!

Ben & Clare Noakes
Music Co-ordinators

music@allsaintschurchkh.org
07967 730156 / 07929 593097

Warden's musings

January is always a melancholy month. After the twinkling lights, candles and glorious singing of carols at Christmas, everything seems rather plain. And the days are short and dark. I know I should probably be out in the garden doing something like germinating seeds – my repeated failure to plan ahead means I'll never be Monty Don (much to Becky's disappointment). Just as well that Martha Ann and Phil are prolific at producing seedlings and selling them so I can just plant them out and take the credit. I can at least take some comfort that I'm helping nature, which, according to the RSPB magazine, likes the garden to be scruffy and unkempt. So I have an excuse. I did clean and restock the bird feeders too ready for the Big Garden Birdwatch at the end of January.

Early in January, I was up the tower scaffold with the architect to look at the stonework. There are several areas in which it would be worth replacing stones in addition to those already identified, as the cost of the scaffolding is very significant. It was interesting listening to the architect and the project manager from Midland Conservation (who are doing the work) talking about different types of stone. The church is, as mentioned before, brick built with stone facings. The main external wall facings are a red sandstone. Some areas are a grey sandstone. Window reveals and cornices are a yellow/ honey colour but are also a sandstone. When replacing stone, the stonemasons and architects have to source a quarry which can supply the same kind of stone in a similar colour, grain size/coarseness and quality. I guess it's obvious if you think about it, but as a quarry is worked the stone changes. Some stone has interleaving layers of other rock that creates lines; the colour changes and the quality/coarseness also changes. So the art is to find a quarry which can produce similar rock to match that quarried out over 150 years ago when the church was built. Some quarries have flooded, others are going through a 'bad patch'. The six large replacement stones ordered for the tower already are coming from a quarry south of Bath. The additional work, if agreed, may need rock from a different quarry.

This morning, I thought I'd sneak out before breakfast for a quick walk round Swanshurst Pool as it was one of those glorious sunny frosty mornings. I love being in the countryside, seeing more distant horizons and being able to see how the landscape fits together. As such there is a tendency to take the park opposite us and our lovely garden and Moseley Bog behind for granted. Yes – there is always the roar of traffic, but I must be more thankful having this on our doorstep. I walked across the frost-covered grass between the long shadows cast from the beech trees, the ground littered with beech nuts and leaves, white with frost down to the pool, nearly blinded by the shimmering water.

I paused at the edge of the pool to watch the black-headed gulls skating comically on the ice as they came into land. In among the black-headed gulls, some big bruiser herring gulls, Canada geese and the usual coots and moorhens there were a few more exciting finds: a number of tufted ducks, a cormorant and a male and female pair of goosanders. These are bigger than mallards and have distinctive brown (f) and green (m) heads. As I walked round, accompanying the general squabbling of the gulls, there was a constant chirping of blue tits and great tits – invisible in the trees above unless you stop to watch. The rather raucous screech of a pair of parakeets caused me to stop until I spotted them – despite their ostentatious lime-green colouring they are difficult to see if silhouetted. And the master songstress herself (I assume it was female but apparently there is no difference between male and female): a robin was singing away at the end of the pool. No wonder they are Britain's favourite bird.

There were a few other people out whom I kept distance from (I felt I had a cold coming on), walking around the pool purposefully or out for a morning run. One person was pausing like me to take a photo of the leaves and frost. Maybe they had been struck by how the frost outlines and emphasises the leaf shape and veins. I pondered that this was probably because the veins and edges stand out and probably ice crystals start forming there first so build up to a heavier and therefore whiter layer. Whatever the reason, it really is beautiful when you stop to look.

When I got back I decided I'd better do a COVID test and sadly it was positive so I'm stuck at home at time of writing. After a couple of hours of emails, texts and filling in online forms I think I have deciphered what the isolation rules now require. I believe I am to isolate for 10 days unless I test negative using a lateral flow test on the sixth and seventh days. One link took me to information which suggested a 12-day isolation. Radio 4 suggested I might be allowed out on Day 5 if I test negative on Days 5 and 6 (presumably I pop in a time machine to go to day 6 and check I will be negative so I can un-isolate on Day 5). I think I will be allowed to go to any Downing Street parties but only after Day 4 and provided I bring my own alcohol. I am just waiting for my invitation. I wonder if Boris will be out of a job before I'm out of isolation?

Fortunately, this afternoon I received the trees I'd ordered so I have a nice job in the garden to do while I'm stuck at home. I am planting some blackthorn and hazel to extend the hedge down the garden to the end. Blackthorn produces lovely white blossoms in spring and sloes in autumn! The hazels are for the birds or possibly the squirrels. I've also got two apple trees to replace two that died a year or two back. Not sure what I did wrong but hopefully they'll survive this time... I also have a big Lego set to build from my birthday last year. So plenty to keep me busy while I'm not allowed out. And plenty to be thankful for.

Chris Pearce
Churchwarden

Tea & coffee drop-in

All Saints Church invites older people who would like some company and a chat to a 'tea & coffee drop-in' on the first Thursday of each month in the South Vestry. It will be socially distanced and masks will be required except when eating or drinking. Come in from the Village Square just past the main church entrance and the present scaffolding.

Refreshments will be free, but contributions are welcome. For more information please call Des Workman on 0121 443 5292.

From the registers



Funerals – we remember the families and friends of:

June Wright, whose funeral took place at All Saints in December 2021, and
Pamela Crowther, John Davies, James McFadden, Gwendoline Wilson

& Jean Belling, whose funerals took place at All Saints in January 2022

The Ordering of Moses

Have you heard of Robert Nathaniel Dett? No, neither had I until I started rehearsing for the latest CBSO Chorus concert. Indeed, I'd assumed he was a contemporary composer and (although I generally quite enjoy new choral music) was expecting this work to be full of odd chords and unsingable melodies. How wrong I was!

R Nathaniel Dett, as he is usually known, is a composer I'm ashamed not to have heard of. Born in 1882, he was a Canadian-American Black composer, organist, pianist, choral director and music professor. Born and raised in Canada, at the age of 11 he moved to the United States with his family and had most of his professional education and career there. He was the first Black American to complete the Bachelor of Music degree at Oberlin and, eight years later, Dett married Helen Elise Smith, the first Black graduate of the Institute of Musical Art in New York City, which became known as the Juilliard School of performing arts. He had a successful musical career, but his work fell out of fashion after his death and has then been seldom heard until recently.

The Ordering of Moses is an oratorio which depicts the longing for freedom from bondage and, like much of his music, draws heavily on the African-American tradition of spirituals. It's a remarkable work, with my favourite part appearing towards the start: a four-part fugue on the traditional spiritual 'Go Down, Moses'. It's just astonishing.

The work was given its world premiere in the 1937 May Festival in Cincinnati, when racial segregation strangled the US, and was not without controversy. The performance was broadcast live nationwide via NBC radio directly from the festival, but only about three-quarters of the performance was heard over the network. Near the end of the original acetate disc, the announcer is heard to say: 'We are sorry indeed, ladies and gentlemen, but due to previous commitments, we are unable to remain for the closing moments of this excellent performance.' In fact, a good deal more than the 'closing moments' of the score went unheard. It has been suggested that these 'previous commitments' were in fact a concession to objections voiced by callers to the network at having a network broadcast of a major work by an African-American composer. Indeed, WJZ in New York City had scheduled an hour for the broadcast, but only 40 minutes of the oratorio was heard; the rest of the allotted time was given over to organ music.

The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and CBSO Chorus are putting this right and we will be performing the work – in full and definitely with no previous commitments – on Wednesday 23 February. It's a fascinating, accessible and historically important work, and I would encourage anyone whose interest has been piqued to book a ticket! Go to <https://cbsoc.uk/event/the-ordering-of-moses> for more details.

Clare Noakes

In consultation with David, the decision has been taken to postpone the All Saints Theatrical Revue, scheduled for later this month.

We have rescheduled this and hope to be able to go ahead on Saturday 18 June – more details to follow, but if you would like to join us to perform then please get in touch with Clare Noakes or Fiona Briggs and we would be delighted to welcome you on board!

allsaintspantomime@gmail.com

All Saints Traidcraft – boycotting Black Friday

Each year as Black Friday approaches, those involved with Traidcraft wonder what different activity will be forthcoming.

Traidcraft plc do not copy the companies that try to sell as much as possible, persuading you to buy things you don't really need. 'Black' Friday for Traidcraft and other like-minded companies has become 'Just' Friday.

In 2019 they 'downed tools' and split into teams, one team running a refreshment stall, open to all, at Newcastle Cathedral and handing out bags of toiletries, donated by supporters, to homeless people. The other teams concentrated on improving their working environment.

In 2020, as well as spending Black Friday working to improve the environment around their headquarters, they showed businesses that it was possible to be transparent about where the money paid for a product goes to. They made public the cost breakdown and profits of every Traidcraft-branded product. The amount paid to the producers, cost of shipping and packaging, VAT and the profit made were all included (and cost of ingredients for composite products). Everyone buying one of Traidcraft's own products on Black Friday was sent a link to access the information. This was Traidcraft's contribution to 'justice in trade'.

Last November was different again. Climate change has been much in the news over the last year and Traidcraft Exchange has many examples of the way in which producers have been affected. Traidcraft's plan for Black/Just Friday in 2021 was 'tree planting'. For every order placed on that day, a tree was planted in a scheme run by Ecologi. Needless to say, All Saints Traidcraft put in an order! In addition, we could add 25, 50 or 100 trees to our orders to be planted in Madagascar, Mozambique or Nicaragua. Using money donated when people say 'keep the change' or give a donation, I purchased a hundred trees on behalf of All Saints Traidcraft. We have now had our certificate which you can see on the noticeboard!

The original target was to try to plant 5,000 trees, but Matt, Traidcraft plc's Chief Executive Officer wrote recently: *"With your help, we boycotted Black Friday 2021. Together, we contributed to climate projects and planted over 23,000 trees in Madagascar, Mozambique and Nicaragua, directly reducing carbon in areas of the earth which suffer greatly due to climate change, yet are often those with the smallest carbon outputs. Since then, collectively we're almost at 50,000 trees planted in total!"*

I wonder what will happen on Black Friday in 2022!

Gill Parkin



Remembering Terry Howard

Thanks to Gillian Lever, Janice Rider and Vivien Thickett for this article in memory of local artist Terence John Howard (12 August 1947-23 November 2021).

Terry Howard, who has died aged 74, was an artist known to many in Kings Heath. Born in Birmingham in 1947, Terry studied Technical Illustration and Graphic Design at the College of Art in Margaret Street. He worked for many years as a commercial artist, successfully developing his own design consultancy.

In 2003 Terry had a stroke which affected the left side of his body and forced him to take early retirement. At this point in his life Terry spent more time developing his own style of painting. He was particularly fascinated by the sea and sky, his favourite subject being sailing ships and seascapes, a subject that enabled him to explore colour and movement.



Terry exhibited his work widely and in 2004 he was a finalist in the 'Not the Turner Prize' competition and showed a painting at the Mall Galleries in London. More recently, between February 2014 and October 2016 Terry had three solo exhibitions in the Welcome Space at the All Saints Centre.

Terry will be greatly missed by family and friends.

A reminder that you can sign up for the new All Saints newsletter here:

<https://landing.mailerlite.com/webforms/landing/o7a2q4>

Also, please note that new email addresses for various All Saints people and organisations (ending **@allsaintschurchkh.org**) have been set up and will be introduced over the coming weeks.

Getting to know you

We (under normal circumstances) see so many people at church each week, but often we know very little about them. In this regular article a person from the congregation is interviewed and we get to know each other a bit better.

What is your name?

Christopher Pietroni.

What is (or was) your day job?

Professor of Leadership Practice and Director of the Birmingham Leadership Institute at the University of Birmingham.

How long have you been at All Saints?

11 years.

What are you currently involved in at church?

I am part of the welcoming team and am on the rota for intercessions.

What has been your most memorable service/event/activity since you've been here?

Well, to be honest, it's impossible to see past 4 January 2020 and the Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving for Nigel's and my wedding! To have so many of the All Saints congregation with us, supporting us and cheering us on, was just wonderful.

Do you have a favourite hymn/Bible passage?

So many! *All are welcome* is a favourite hymn because the radical inclusion it expresses is for me at the heart of my understanding of Jesus's teaching (and it reminds me of Nigel's and my wedding day!). Like so many others I've always found the opening words of John's Gospel spine-tingling – no matter how many times I hear or read them they never lose their ability to inspire awe and wonder and deep gratitude.

What are you reading at the moment?

Power, for All by Julie Battilana and Tiziana Casciaro.

Who from history/literature/film would you like strike up a correspondence with and why?

Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR), President of the United States 1933-1945. Two reasons. Firstly, understanding and developing leadership is my day job and FDR was, I think, one of the most creative, subtle and effective leaders that the US has had. I'd love to hear how he thought about his leadership. Secondly, like me FDR had polio and I suspect that his experience of disability profoundly affected his leadership – I'd love to hear him reflect on that.

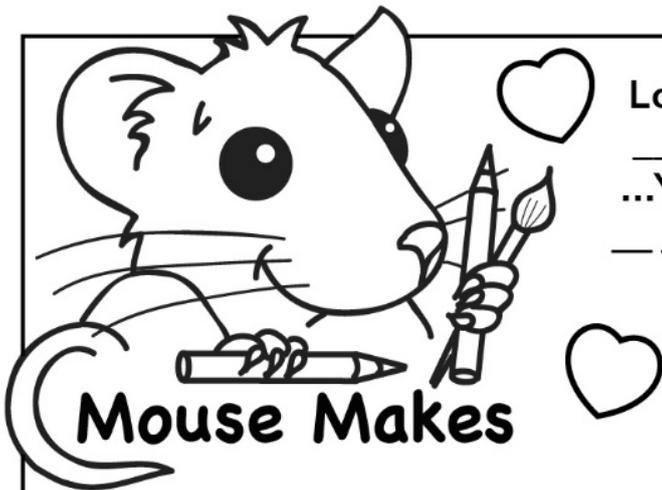
Tell us a joke...

What is the opposite of a croissant?

A happy uncle!



If you would like to feature on our Getting to know you page, or to suggest people whom we could interview for this, please do get in touch!



Lord, you are a God who shows _____ and is _____
...You have great _____ and _____

Psalm 86:1

Love the Lord your God with all your _____

with all your _____

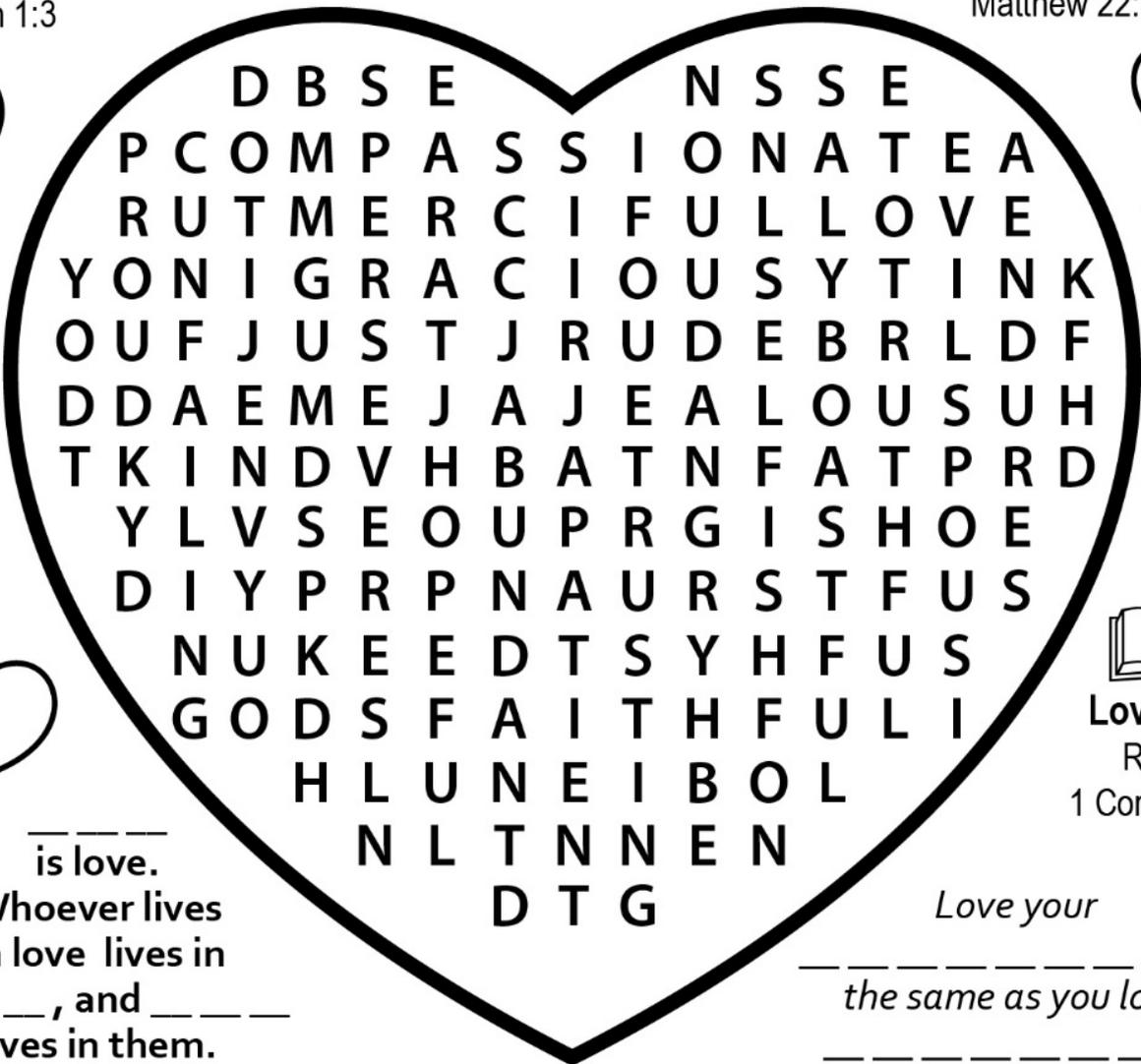
and with all your _____

Matthew 22:37

See what great love the Father has for us that He would call us His _____

1 John 1:3

How did God show He **loved** us?
Read 1 John 4:9



Love is ..
Read 1 Cor 13:4-7

_____ is love.
Whoever lives in love lives in _____, and _____ lives in them.

1 John 4:16

Love your _____
the same as you love _____

Matthew 22:39

Love is:
PATIENT • KIND • GRACIOUS • JUST • TRUTHFUL • TRUSTING • HOPEFUL
PERSEVERE • ENDURES • GOD

Love is not:
JEALOUS • ENVY • BOASTFUL • PROUD • SELFISH • ANGRY • RUDE • EVIL

God's love is:
LOVE • MERCIFUL • FAITHFUL • UNFAILING • ABUNDANT • COMPASSIONATE

Know your saints

14 February – Cyril and Methodius

Cyril and Methodius are saints for anyone with good secular qualifications who now suspects that God may be calling them to use those skills in his service. They were brothers, born into a wealthy family in 826 and 815 respectively, and their upbringing destined them for lives of respect and influence. Methodius, the elder brother, became a monk on Mount Olympus in Asia Minor; meanwhile Cyril went into academia in Constantinople.

But then, in 863, the ruler of Moravia, Rostislav, asked the emperor to send him some Christian teachers who could conduct services and teach his people in the Slavonic tongue. Emperor Michael III chose Cyril and Methodius. It was a daunting task, for the Slavonic language had not yet been written down. But nonetheless the brothers methodically set about their great work. Cyril used his academic ability to create an alphabet for the Moravians, which eventually became the Cyrillic alphabet. The brothers then used this written language to teach Christianity in Slavonic, and to provide a way for the Moravians to worship in their own language. The brothers translated much of the liturgy and the Gospels to this form.

During their time in Moravia, the brothers faced opposition from missionaries of the German Church, who believed that the official languages of the church should only be Hebrew, Greek or Latin. But the Pope pronounced that both brothers were orthodox, and made them both bishops. Cyril and Methodius have been held in high honour, as men who pioneered the use of the vernacular language in church services. The Slavonic language spread quickly, with Cyril becoming known as the Father of Slavonic Literature, but Slavonic went on to become the language of the liturgy in the 9th-century Russian Church.

24 February – Matthias the Apostle

Have you ever been in the position where someone is desperately needed, and you fit the bill perfectly, and you sense that you have been chosen by God for the task...? If so, then Matthias is definitely the patron saint for you! He came into the picture shortly after the suicide of Judas. The early Church was missing an apostle, and so the remaining 11 apostles prayed for guidance on who to choose as a replacement for this key role. The qualifications for the job were specialised: the person had to have been a follower of Christ from his baptism to his Ascension, and a witness of the resurrection. There were two possibilities: Joseph Barsabbas and Matthias. How to choose?

Again, Matthias' experience may mirror yours: the decision was out of his hands, and up to others. In this case, the apostles drew straws – and the 'lot' fell to Matthias. The tragedy of Judas's betrayal had led to an opportunity for service by Matthias – and he was well prepared for the task. Like the other apostles, Matthias had been in Jerusalem and had received the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and he went on to do a good job. It is said he preached the good news first in Judea, and then maybe in Cappadocia and by the Caspian Sea. It is thought he was martyred by the axe or halberd, and his relics eventually ended up being taken to Rome by the empress Helen.

Matthias is an encouragement to us to be faithful in small things – because you never know what the future might hold!

(adapted from www.parishpump.co.uk)

Accessing and paying for the magazine

The *Saints Alive!* magazine is available in digital form on the All Saints website at www.allsaintskingsheath.org.uk/the-magazine/, with hard copies available to pick up from the back of church each month (when it is open). The suggested donation for each issue is £1, but cost should not be a barrier to anyone in the church reading the magazine in either online or printed form. Cash donations can continue to be made via the slot at the back of church; alternatively a standing order can be set up to pay in advance for a year's-worth (10 issues) of the magazine – please see the form below – or a cheque made payable to All Saints Kings Heath PCC can be sent to the Parish Office (address is on the back page). The form gives the individual the ability for their payment to go towards one of three areas – please select the General Purpose Fund (GPF) and delete the other two. Finally, if you or someone you know would like a copy of the magazine posting out each month then please contact us as below to arrange this.

Ben & Clare Noakes
Editors

magazine@allsaintschurchkh.org
07967 730156 / 07929 593097

STANDING ORDER MANDATE AND BANK PAYMENT INFORMATION	
<i>(Please detach and send to your bank) or use for Internet Banking Payments</i>	
To:	The Manager
Address:	_____

Postcode:	_____
Please pay to	HSBC PLC, Kings Heath Birmingham Branch
	Sort Code: 40-11-15
For the credit of:	
The PCC of Kings Heath Parish All Saints Church	Account Number: 71801163
the sum of £ _____	First payment on _____ / _____ /20
and monthly / weekly thereafter on the same date until cancelled by me, or on.....	
Reference:	G.P.F. V.D.F. M Garden Magazine <i>please delete the ones that do not apply</i>
<i>Please cancel any previous mandates to this beneficiary on this account number.</i>	
Name:	_____
My Sort Code:	_____
My Account Number:	_____
Signature:	_____
Date:	_____

If you bank online, you will be able to use the details below to set up a standing order:

Name: The Parochial Church Council of All Saints Church **Account no:** 71801163
Reference: GPF (magazine) **Sort code:** 40-11-15

If you have any problems or questions about setting this up, or the church's finances in general, please contact Steve Brittle, Treasurer on 01905 772171 or zena_steveb@btinternet.com.

All Saints: a church in 10 11 12+ pictures

Following on from our series of photographs marking 12 – as it turned out, quite unusual – months in the life of our church, we have continued to celebrate All Saints through (now somewhat more than 10) pictures taken from various places across the campus, helping us to see our building from a few different angles in the process.

This column promises you the chance to see our building from a few different angles, but Chris Pearce has been up to the very top of the church to enable you this month to see Kings Heath itself from a couple of viewpoints that you might not have had before...



Get involved...!

We are always pleased to receive contributions for the magazine – including reviews, your reflections as we continue to open up after periods of lockdown, and suggestions for future *Getting to know you* interviews.

If you have any comments, suggestions, ideas for articles or would like to submit something for inclusion in a future issue, please contact Ben & Clare Noakes, Editors (noting the new magazine email address):

E: magazine@allsaintschurchkh.org

T: 07967 730156 / 07929 593097

Who's Who

Worship (for clergy see back page)

Children's Worship Co-ordinators	Becky Cuthbert	0121 244 7683
	Grace Storey	07813 322697
Youth Group (year 7 upwards)	Jenny Warbrick	0121 444 0260
Music Co-ordinators	Ben & Clare Noakes	07967 730156 07929 593097

Church upkeep

Vergers	Liz Haskins	c/o 0121 444 0760
	Paul Smart	c/o 0121 444 0760
Sacristan	Bernice Mattis	c/o 0121 444 0760
Altar Linen	Wendy Ross	0121 444 1423
Head Server	Tony Price	01564 824420
Electoral Roll Officer	Tony Cocks	0121 441 2945
Parish Magazine	Ben & Clare Noakes	07967 730156 07929 593097

Finance team

Treasurer	Steve Brittle	01905 772171
Expenditure Officer	Vacant	
Income Officer	John Watling	c/o 0121 444 0760
Insurance & Investments	Tony Cocks	0121 441 5655
Gift Aid	Philip & Martha Ann Brookes	0121 444 5655
Envelope Giving Scheme	Tony Price	01564 824420

Groups, clubs and organisations

All Saints Ramblers	Pam Coley	0121 572 3553
	Gill Parkin	0121 604 6127
Badminton Club	Des Workman	0121 443 5292
	Steve Brittle	01905 772171
Bible Reading Fellowship	Des Workman	0121 443 5292
Lunch Club	Elizabeth Turner	0121 604 6086
Meditation Group	Daniel Wilson	0121 449 9869
Safeguarding & Child Protection	Mary Miles	0121 449 0851
Traidcraft	Gill Parkin	0121 604 6127

Planned giving: All are invited to join the planned giving scheme, contributing by weekly envelope or banker's order/standing order. Taxpayers – please sign a Gift Aid declaration for reclaiming of tax and use of payroll giving if possible. Contact the Finance Team for further information.

Parish Office: For enquiries about baptisms, baby naming services, banns and marriages, please contact the Parish Office to arrange an appointment at a vestry hour – 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month, 10:00-10:30.

Ministry to the sick: Visiting the sick at home or in hospital – please inform the Ministry Team of anyone who is sick. The Blessed Sacrament is reserved and oil is kept for ministry to the sick.

Ministry of healing: Laying-on of hands and anointing – last Saturday in the month at 09:15 as part of Morning Prayer, occasional Sunday evenings (as announced), and at home or in hospital as requested.

Communion of the sick: At home or in hospital, as requested, communion is taken, monthly, to the long-term sick or housebound.

Other ministries: For blessing of homes, celebrations of anniversaries, thanksgiving after childbirth, confession and counsel, please contact the Ministry Team.

Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Officers	Lay Vice Chair Stuart Blissitt	Secretary vacant	Treasurer Steve Brittle, 01905 772171
Members	Jim Andrew Margaret Andrew Fiona Briggs Martha Ann Brookes Philip Brookes Andy Cuthbert Tim Cuthbertson	Liz Fletcher Marilyn Hull Brian Miles John Parkin (Reader) Chris Pearce (Warden) Vivien Tilsley David Warbrick (Vicar)	Chris Watts (Warden) Claire Wesley (Reader) Daniel Wilson Sarah Wilson Des Workman

All Saints Community Development Company (ASCDC)

Chair	Andy Savage	c/o 0121 444 0760	andy@allsaints-cdc.co.uk
Facilities Manager	Dave Priday	07732 137772	david@allsaints-cdc.co.uk
Administrator	Angela McDermott	0121 444 0760	angela@allsaints-cdc.co.uk
Hall & Room Bookings	Jayne Fitzpatrick	0121 443 4579	jayne@allsaints-cdc.co.uk

(9:30am-1:30pm, Tuesdays & Thursdays)

All Saints Community Projects (ASCP)

Chair	Mary Miles	0121 449 0851
All Saints Youth Project	Vicki Willinger	0121 443 1842

The Robin Centre for Older People

Centre Manager	Paula McGrath	0121 483 4400
----------------	---------------	---------------

Ministry Team

Vicar	David Warbrick	4 Vicarage Road, 0121 444 0260
Assistant Curate	Tariro Matsveru	c/o 0121 444 0760
Churchwardens	Chris Pearce	07891 924149
	Chris Watts	07980 639856
Licensed Readers	Margaret Healey-Pollett	c/o 0121 444 0760
	John Parkin	0121 604 6127
	Claire Wesley	0121 444 2778
Reader Emeritus	Mike Cheesbrough	0121 444 5620
Pastoral Team	Juliet Bick, Stuart Blissitt, Becky Frall, Wendy Ross, David Warbrick, Jenny Warbrick	0121 444 0260
Prayer Circle	(for confidential prayer requests)	parishoffice@allsaintschurchkh.org 0121 444 0260

Worship

***We have reopened for our 10am Sunday service
and 11:30am Wednesday service.***

***We will continue to provide an online order of service via the website and newsletter
for those at home.***

***Up-to-date information can be found at www.allsaintskingsheath.org.uk
and we look forward to seeing you again soon.***

All Saints Church, Kings Heath

2 Vicarage Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham B14 7RA

Administrator: Angela McDermott

Parish Office: 0121 444 0760

parishoffice@allsaintschurchkh.org

www.allsaintskingsheath.org.uk



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND