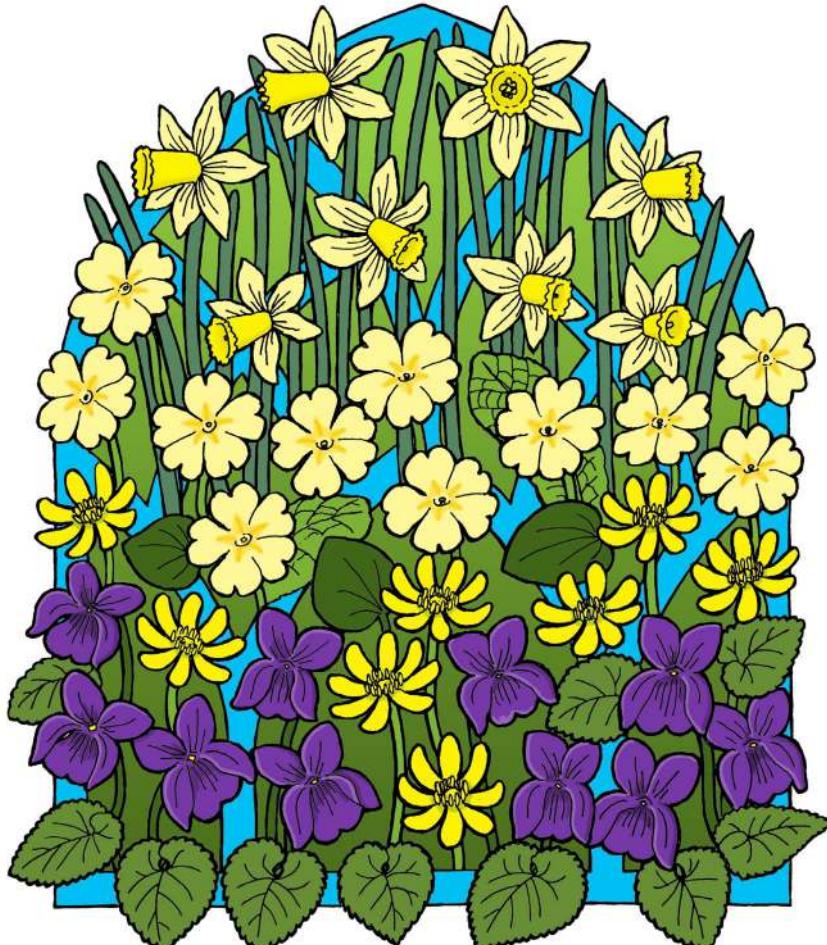


# **Saints Alive!**

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



The flowers are blooming, the time of birdsong has come!      Song of  
Songs 2:12

**March  
2022**



**£1  
(suggested donation)**

# **From the curate**

What a month February was!

Storm Dudley, Storm Eunice, Storm Franklin, Storm Gladys...

I have often heard people say: ‘Not all storms come to disrupt your life, some come to clear your path.’ While this might make sense in the grand scheme of things to some, it often does not make sense when you are in the moment, especially with a literal storm, when the wind is threatening to blow you away, when you watch the roof of your shed being blown off, the threat of water flooding not just the river down the road but your house and even your church. I remember when we were young, my little brother and I were very skinny. We would joke about putting heavy stones in our clothes when it was windy so that we would not be pushed around by the wind or end up making Breaking News: ‘The fire department was called in this afternoon to rescue two teenagers who had been blown and hooked on to a tree by the heavy winds!’ Can you picture it? I for one am glad that did not happen and having gained a little bit more weight now, pray that it will not happen. ‘Lord, can you hear me?’

The storms we have seen in the month of February have however left damages that are costly, especially to those directly affected: disruptions to their daily patterns of life, demands higher than they can afford in efforts to repair and get back what has been damaged and lost. I watched in horror on the news as planes struggled to land; another video of a truck being flipped by the wind on the M40, trees being uprooted, and many others. This definitely is not the kind of news you would want to see, especially when we are emerging from the pandemic with hope of more positive things happening in line with it being a new year. I however hope that the things that these storms exposed that need fixing and or the reminders will not be overlooked: how easily every one of us can be a victim of a natural disaster (some may argue that it’s not natural), the areas within our country that are vulnerable and need more attention and resources to be invested in, and the list goes on.

While these storms have passed through for us for now, there is however another ‘storm’ that has hit the people of Ukraine in the form of an attack by Russia. How sad, heartbreaking and unbelievable it has been to watch in the past few weeks. It has definitely invoked a lot of feelings and even angered many as we have all, young and old, watched helplessly as the Russian army invaded, as bombs went off, gunfire sounds echoed, flames and smoke rose up in the cities of Ukraine. Many have had to seek refuge in neighbouring countries to survive this ‘war’. This has been at a high cost for mothers who cannot leave with their sons 18 years of age and above, husbands and fathers who have had to kiss their wives and children goodbye as they get on buses and cars headed for safety, and many others who did not choose this ‘war’ but cannot afford to run away or are not able to for various reasons.

March marks the beginning of the Lent season this year, which started with Ash Wednesday on the 2nd, where we got the mark of the cross on the forehead, and were reminded that we are dust and to dust we shall return. This is that time of solemnity, self-reflection and penitence, a time of almsgiving, a time where we fast, making a choice to give up certain foods as it was done traditionally, maybe give up an activity or pick up one thing that we would not usually do. Most importantly, it is a time of prayer. In churches, some choose to strip away decorations and flowers such that the church is plain. I can’t help but think of the people of Ukraine in their storm for whom fasting will not be a choice, being stripped forced on them as they leave their homes for safety with prayer as their hope.

I find myself pondering on these questions as I, like many, watch what is unfolding in Ukraine: what do you do when someone refuses to listen? What do you do when there is a great injustice? What do you do when you watch many innocent souls losing their lives just because of refusal to choose peace, to talk and to respect other's choices? Who can we turn to when effort does not seem to produce a result that is peaceful and just? In this season of Lent, how and what can we do to help, despite the distance?

Indeed, this time of Lent is the time to ponder such questions but most importantly about ourselves and our relationships with God and with others, ponder on how our brokenness or selfishness or maybe small-mindedness has affected our relationships and or even caused storms for others if not ourselves.

I am reminded of the passage we read in church a couple of weeks ago, in Luke 8:22-25. A storm hit while Jesus and his disciples were in the boat such that they were in great danger. The disciples went to Jesus to bring it to his attention. The storm had already hit but Jesus was able to do something about it. He rebuked the wind and the raging waters, and the storm subsided. So, while we might not be able literally to do something in all these storms surely there is one who can, one who wants us to be reconciled with him, one who wants to see us living in peace and with love: Jesus.

What if we all in the 40 days of Lent stand as one and call him? What if we together stand up with faith? What if this Lent, as an act of service, we make it our mission also to pray and fast for the people in Ukraine and the people in Russia, many of whom do not want to see lives being lost? What if we choose to do something tangible to make a difference? It doesn't only need to be in church or to be kneeling down. Maybe it will be taking moments of silence each day, a walk with mindfulness as we lift our hearts and minds to God, or however creative you want it to be.

I believe there is no time like the present and prayer changes things. Jesus is still able to do what He did then now. To calm the 'storms' that come our way especially now for Ukraine, to reconcile us, to set us free.

Won't He do it?!

**Tariro**

A reminder that you can sign up for the 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.



**Catering for the community**

**07546 946455**

**[allsaintscatering@outlook.com](mailto: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](mailto:allsaintscatering@outlook.com)



**Hall Green**  
Neighbourhood  
Network Scheme

# Notes on organs

Just before Christmas, we had Phoenix back in to look at the digital organ and work out why it wasn't working properly. You may not have noticed, as the organ still played OK and Ben managed to work round the bits that didn't function. I thought I'd try and explain how it works but decided it needed a bit of understanding of how a 'proper' pipe organ works! So here we go...

Pipe organs – like the one that used to occupy the whole room alongside the chancel at All Saints – are essentially wind instruments. Like a trombone, only bigger, less shiny and without the cool slidey bit. In fact, nothing like a trombone. But they are wind instruments. The principle is to blow air through a series of pipes to produce different sounds of differing pitches. The pipes are either flue pipes or reed pipes. Flue pipes have a fipple (which is my new word of the day!) – that is the little wedge shape cut out of the pipe, like on a recorder or penny whistle. As air (or wind) is blown through the pipe and over the fipple, it creates a vibration in the air column moving through the pipe, which is what sound is. The length and diameter of the pipe dictate what note is produced. Reed pipes are fitted with a reed as in an oboe, bassoon or clarinet which vibrates when wind is blown over it. Each pipe only produces sound of a particular pitch, volume and timbre (quality), so a 'rank' of similar pipes of different lengths is needed to play all the different notes. Each rank of pipes is designed to produce different timbres and volumes of sound to imitate different instruments. The All Saints organ had circular metal pipes of many different shapes and square section wooden ones, the biggest of which was nearly 30 centimetres square in section and more than four metres long.



*Great Organ  
pipes and  
(left) pipe  
ranks in the  
Swell Organ*

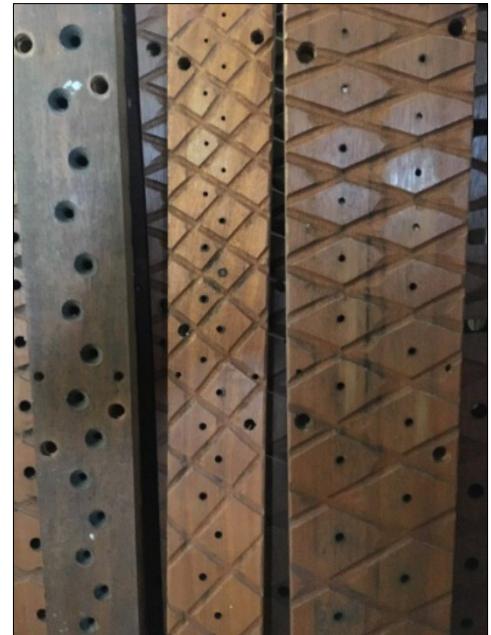
To play an individual note, one of the keys is pressed down and this allows wind into the particular pipe for that note on all the ranks of pipes which are selected by the stops. Most organs, the All Saints one included, could be considered as several organs grouped together. Each keyboard is known as a 'manual' and is associated with certain ranks of pipes. The All Saints instrument had a Great Organ, Choir Organ, Swell Organ and Pedal Organ. No prizes for guessing that a Pedal Organ is operated with the feet... The Swell Organ and Choir Organ pipe ranks were contained within large wooden boxes (like small rooms) which had double wooden panel walls with sawdust between the panels to deaden the sound. One wall had a series of louvre doors which were opened or closed with the swell pedals to increase or reduce the volume produced without adjusting which pipes were sounding. The Great Organ pipe ranks were in the open air; a small number of them were visible forming one wall of the chancel.



*The pipe organ before  
removal work started*



The way the movement of stops and keys is translated to control of the air flow is called the ‘action’. Some instruments have mechanical actions – so pulling a stop physically moves levers and pulleys to mechanically move the valve which allows air into a rank of pipes. On the All Saints instrument, the action



*Air channels carved in wood – part of the old swell boxes*



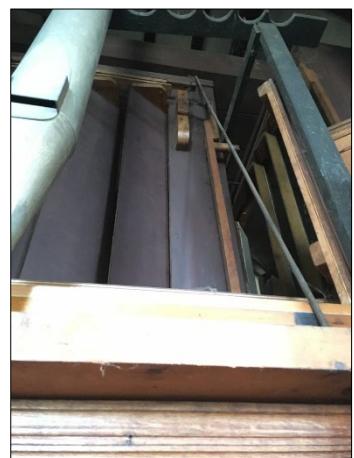
*Pneumatic piping from the back of the old organ console*

was pneumatic. Pressing a key or pulling a stop opened or closed a tiny air valve connected to a small lead air pipe (smaller in diameter than your little finger) which allowed air to flow to the big air valve which then enabled wind to enter the relevant pipe or rank. So every key and every stop had a separate small pipe. Some organs are retrofitted so pressing a key or moving a stop switches an electrical switch which opens or closes an electric solenoid valve allowing the wind to flow where it is needed.

Playing a very loud piece of music with lots of ranks of pipes needed a lot of wind, so the organ also had air reservoirs (with leather bellows to allow expansion) which filled with air from the blowers so when the organist needed to play a loud section and the blowers couldn’t supply enough air, the reservoirs would top it up. This meant that the organist needed to be aware of how long they could play loudly, or risk running out of air!

The valves which allowed wind into each rank/pipe were constructed using fine leather. This needed to be kept at exactly the right humidity and temperature to avoid it deteriorating rapidly. One can appreciate what a fantastic piece of engineering a pipe organ is. I think the digital version is like comparing a modern electric train with a steam engine. The latter is a living, breathing thing that requires huge amounts of care and attention to keep working. You can start to see why the All Saints instrument would have cost £250,000 to repair. I have no doubt that it would have been this much or more, having seen how complex it was as it was dismantled.

It would have been interesting to be able to listen to the pipe organ alongside the digital to compare the sound but unfortunately this wasn’t possible as the pipe organ was virtually unplayable when the digital organ was ordered.



*The Swell Organ doors*

The digital organ was purchased from Phoenix organs. It is essentially built so that it is played in the same way – it has Great, Choir, Swell and Pedal Organ manuals and a set of stops for each manual. This is all in the console. Within this big wooden box are also a lot of electronic circuits. Each key or stop activates an electrical switch which accesses a set of sampled or recorded sounds stored in the memory bank of the organ. These sounds were sampled from a real pipe organ. I don’t know where

the All Saints instrument was sampled from, but in theory you could sample any organ to get whatever sound you wanted, within reason!

The digital organ has two amplifiers, each of which has 10 channels but only six are used on each amplifier to avoid overloading them. Each channel drives a different speaker. There are 12 speakers in total (one bass speaker, one high-powered reed speaker and 10 standard). Each channel amplifies certain sets of ‘voices’ which are the sampled sounds from a particular rank of organ pipes. Phoenix can adjust how loud each voice is by plugging in a computer which is called ‘revoicing’.

When we bought the organ, the speakers and amplifiers were on a scaffold tower at the front of church. Phoenix set up the ‘voicing’ based on this location and orientation. We have since moved the speakers into the organ space, after the organ was fully removed. The speakers are not yet in their final home: we hope to build platforms so that they are higher up and sound out from behind the fake organ pipe facade at the end of the north aisle and out of the big open space at the side of the chancel.



*Amplifier for the digital organ*

When someone stole one of the amplifiers a year or two ago we got a replacement, but we had to guess the input gain setting (how loud) for each of the six channels based on a photo we had taken when we moved the speakers. We obviously got them all set too low – we were being cautious, I guess, and didn’t want to blow up the brand-new amp! As a result of this and some of the memory cards and cables being dislodged when the organ console was moved without permission (and more importantly without the proper tool to raise the legs!), some of the stops didn’t produce much or any sound. Assisted by Lewis Coley, we reconnected the cards and cables but still some of the voices didn’t work properly. As mentioned, then, just before Christmas someone from Phoenix visited and reset the amplifier input gains. It wasn’t very scientific – he just wanted to make sure they were all sounding and that there wasn’t a bigger problem somewhere else.



*Moving the digital organ speakers*



*More pipes of various sizes from the old organ*

This is a temporary solution until we get the speakers in their final location and arrangement. We may have some screening material in front of them or panelling behind them – all of which will affect the acoustics. Once this is all fixed, we will invite Phoenix back to revoice the organ, which is quite a long task.

Apparently, if the church is full of people it significantly changes the building acoustics. This means, ideally, that the revoicing will be done with a church full of guinea pigs... I hasten to add that I don't mean REAL guinea pigs, before Clare Noakes gets any ideas – the acoustic absorption characteristics of guinea pig fur are significantly different from those of people.

So at some point we may ask for a big group of volunteers to bring a book and come and sit in the church to listen to an endless droning sound. Cue for a joke about sermons...?

Chris Pearce



**Lewis Coley writes:**

*The original plans from the architect indicated that a mezzanine platform would be built to house the speakers from the vestry wall. The intention of this would have been to enable some speakers to face the chancel to provide a quiet tone to accompany services if this became the lady chapel. I don't know if this is still the case as this design now may be obsolete. Dave Bostock, manager of Phoenix Organs, would then be available to come back to advise on this this was agreed at that time as the reordering was to be started soon after the organ was designed and installed. Of course, after 10 years this might not now be an option.*

*We have never heard the organ as it was designed to sound as the speakers were placed on the scaffold tower that we purchased. This was the best we could do rather than have the speakers placed in the chancel on the floor and pews, which was not a good solution.*

## Get involved...!

We are always pleased to receive contributions for the magazine – if you have any comments, suggestions, ideas for articles or would like to submit something for inclusion in a future edition, please contact Ben & Clare Noakes, Editors (noting the new magazine email address):

E: [magazine@allsaintschurckh.org](mailto:magazine@allsaintschurckh.org) T: 07967 730156 / 07929 593097

# **Music Matters**

**'Musicians are ambassadors for peace.'** (Tugan Sokhiev, former music director of the Bolshoi Theatre)

On 4 March, when events in Ukraine were intensifying, I attended a concert at Symphony Hall. The programme, which had of course been planned some time ago, comprised music by Tchaikovsky and Stravinsky, and was preceded by a statement from Stephen Maddock, Chief Executive of the CBSO, reminding us that ordinary Russians didn't have anything to do with the present situation, and certainly Tchaikovsky and Stravinsky didn't! This programme of Russian music was to be dedicated to the people of Ukraine.

The Stravinsky was played by a violinist with roots in Moldova, and the first Tchaikovsky piece was based on *Romeo and Juliet* – Russian music inspired by a play by an English writer, telling a story set in Italy. While the CBSO is Birmingham's orchestra, its members embrace a range of backgrounds and were weaving their various talents together to make the music, presided over by a conductor from Lithuania.

No boundary fences, no politics, no aggressive ambition, just people united in a common purpose, resulting in an exhilarating – and reassuring – experience.

**Liz Haskins**

*If you have attended a concert, read a book, listened to a recording, watched a film or programme, been to an exhibition, seen a play, or done anything else that you think would be of interest to others please do send us a review for inclusion in a future issue of the magazine!*

***Dust off your feather boa and dig out that glitter....***

*The All Saints Theatrical Revue will take place on Saturday 18 June!*

*If you can act, sing, dance, recite, juggle, make people laugh or have any other talent, you would be welcome to put forward an act for the Revue!*

*Alongside individual acts, there will be a few 'company' performances and all are welcome!*

*Speak to Fiona Briggs or Clare Noakes if you're interested in taking part.*

*Audience tickets will go on sale after Easter*

*[players@allsaintschurkhh.org](mailto:players@allsaintschurkhh.org)*

## **Tea & coffee drop-in**

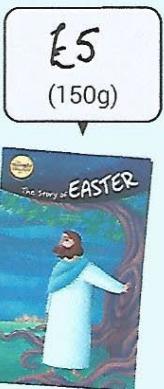
All Saints Church invites older people who would like some company and a chat to a 'tea & coffee drop-in' on the first Thursday of each month in the South Vestry. It will be socially distanced and masks will be required except when eating or drinking. Come in from the Village Square just past the main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

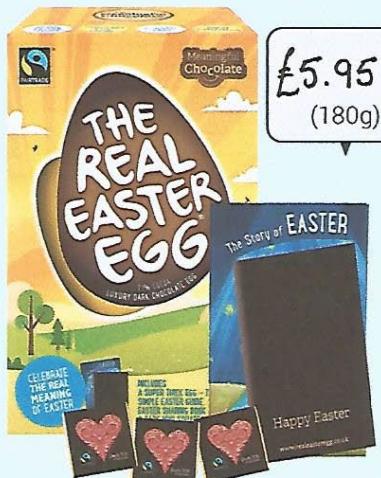
# Fairtrade Easter Eggs



The Real Easter Egg Milk Chocolate



**£5**  
(150g)



The Real Easter Egg Dark Chocolate

**£5.95**  
(180g)



The Real Easter Egg White Chocolate

**£5.50**  
(125g)



The Real Easter Egg Fun Pack

**£5**  
(180g)

**£4.04**  
(152g)

Divine Milk Chocolate Foiled Easter Mini Eggs

**£4.04**  
(152g)

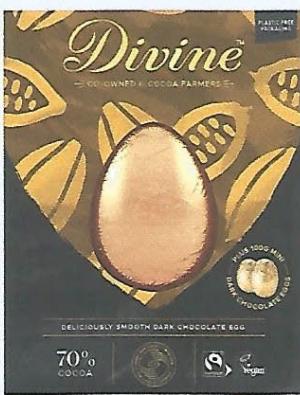


Divine Dark 70% Chocolate Foiled Mini Eggs

**£4.04**  
(152g)

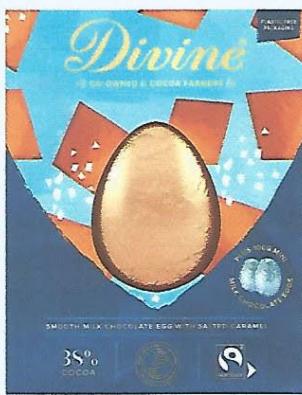


Divine Milk Chocolate Speckled Easter Eggs



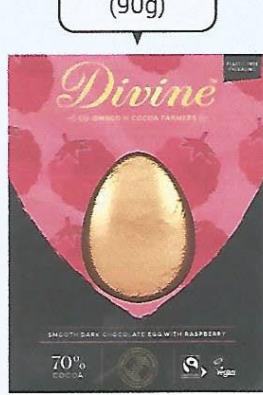
Divine 70% Dark Chocolate Luxury Easter Egg with Mini Eggs

**£10**  
(260g)



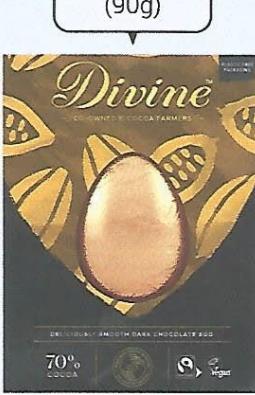
Divine Salted Caramel Milk Chocolate Egg with Milk Chocolate Mini Eggs

**£10**  
(260g)



Divine Dark Chocolate Raspberry Egg

**£5**  
(90g)



Divine 70% Dark Chocolate Easter Egg

**£5**  
(90g)

# **Many wardens' musings**

Ah – the APCM approaches. Which means it is time to do the inventory and find out how well the red kneelers have been breeding this year. And the hymnbooks – their numbers seem to go up and down, so maybe there is some kind of predator-prey thing going on. If you've seen *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, the idea of a book eating something won't be entirely new to you...

Anyway, I digress. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is a meeting held annually, funnily enough, and is your chance to hear and read reports on what has been happening in church. We also elect members on to the PCC, which should represent everyone in the congregation and which makes decisions on finance, upkeep of the church, how things are run, and everything else really. We also elect or re-elect the churchwarden(s) and representatives on Deanery Synod. In anticipation of this, I decided it would be good to ask ex-wardens a few questions about their time as warden to give everyone an idea of what is involved. The questions I asked were:

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>1. What is your name?</b>          | <b>3. What did you enjoy/not enjoy?</b>   |
| <b>2. When were you churchwarden?</b> | <b>4. What is your warden superpower?</b> |

By the time the magazine went to print, I'd had three responses: from Paul Smart, Tony Cocks and Des Workman. If I get more I will include them in a future edition!

When Becky and I joined All Saints I remember Cyril Dyer was warden, with Gill Parkin I think. Cyril came to our house to welcome us and I still remember his wonderful smile and him being delighted at being offered a cup of tea and some biscuits. I don't know whether this was in Cyril's role as warden or maybe he was on the Pastoral Team. Anyway, the warden is no longer responsible for welcoming new people formally, which shows that the role does continue to evolve to fit the people doing it. After Gill and Cyril, I think it was Tony Cocks and Paul Smart and then Kathy Farbrother, Stuart Blissitt, Marilyn Hull, Sarah Wilson and then me. I'm sure others can advise who were wardens prior to Gill and Cyril.

Des was warden in the 1990s before we arrived at All Saints. Paul was warden from 2007 to 2012, with Tony Cocks for most of the time. You can tell Tony is an engineer as he informed me that he was warden from Sunday 2 April 2006 until Sunday 20 November 2011... I admire the precision! Tony and Paul were wardens during the interregnum after John Wilkinson retired, which I think brought extra duties and lengthened the period of service. Tony explained that the normal period is three years, but it can be extended to six if agreeable to the diocese. Any longer than that and you have to be entered on to the inventory as a permanent fixture... I became warden at the APCM in 2018 and intend to stand for another year, but it would be great to have someone to pass on knowledge to this year. For part of the time, Chris Watts has been assistant warden, but his work has meant it is difficult to continue plus we haven't found anyone to take over as PCC Secretary from Chris.

So what is it like being churchwarden? To the question **What did you enjoy/not enjoy?**, Paul said: "*I really enjoyed my role as warden and gained self-esteem and confidence as I developed within the role. I enjoyed working with Tony Cocks and we developed an excellent working partnership. (This job really needs two people.) I loved working alongside the Eritrean congregation and getting involved in their services and traditions. I enjoyed the responsibility of working with John Wilkinson and Mike Cheesbrough to plan, prepare and organise the services.*

*I didn't enjoy all the meetings and ultimate responsibility as I was warden during the interregnum. Also the constant amount of litter and rubbish in the churchyard and the maintenance of old buildings and supporting the new building work that was ongoing."*

Tony enjoyed:

- *Many things, but really the most important was the sense that you were giving to the community: not just the church community, but to anyone from the parish or outside the parish who wished to come into the church for whatever reason, sometimes happy, sometimes sad, and knowing that you were making this possible and in a welcoming way.*
- *The buzz of being involved in churchy matters and how it all works, sometimes a fly-on-the-wall view – to an enquiring person like me, very interesting.*
- *Working with other churchwardens such as Gill Parkin and subsequently Paul Smart to make it all work as well as we could. This was even more of a challenge during the development of the rooms at the back of the church and the main Development Project in adapting to the new temporary and permanent conditions.*
- *Arriving early when not many people are in the church when it is fresh and quiet, and pleased that you had set the heating to come on, and then the build-up as the congregation arrived, with the sound of voices increasing proportionately and often filled the church making it all very worthwhile getting there early and seeing it all working smoothly ready for the service to start. Particularly satisfying to see lots of children with their parents, hopefully to become the next generation of churchgoers.*
- *Dealing with the multitude of questions and requests from the members of the congregation before and after the service knowing that you and your fellow warden were probably one of the main contact points, particularly as you had a badge on say that you were the churchwarden. This was particularly evident and important during the interregnum when you were effectively a stand-in vicar. This particularly gave people a way to sort out their problems and requests with an official-type person, if you like, but not being superior because of your position – you had to be on the level with everyone whoever they were and they respected that a lot, it was easy to tell, and ideally your patience and availability had to be endless. And of course, you got to know a lot more people in the church than you would ordinarily.*
- *A bit of a buzz leading the bishop to the front of the church with my fellow warden and peeling off to left and right aisle after giving a small bow and smile of acknowledgment to the bishop in special services carrying the well-polished (thanks to Liz Haskins) warden's staff.*
- *Sitting perched on two of the blue kneelers on the warden's monks chair at the back of the church which raised you slightly above the congregation in front of you so that you could see what was going on right at the front of the church – very comfortable. Scanning the congregation from this vantage point searching out for prospective sidespeople for welcoming and giving out books etc. It was from here that I discovered that my long-distance eyesight was become blurred as I could not read the numbers on the hymn boards at the front of the nave, prompting me to seek out glasses.*
- *Wandering around the church after everyone had gone and doing a bit of tidying and adjusting things in the peace and quiet and ambience of the beautiful church building ready for the next service particularly if the sun was streaming into the church from the south.*
- *Attending lively ministry team meetings and all the banter, sometimes in my own house; afterwards my wife would say that was a very loud meeting but all very healthy discussion, agreement and disagreement alike, and always for a good cause and the best outcome.*
- *Attending the Standing Committee meetings which always had a feeling of being the kind of pinnacle of the organisations, one below the diocesan meetings, giving them a kind of reverence.*

- *Meeting the archdeacon once a year with fellow warden to discuss churchy matters and meet some wardens from other churches at a special service – kind of felt a bit special as you were the only people entitled to do this rather unusual thing.*

Tony also listed a couple of things he didn't enjoy...

- *Detecting the smell of a dead rat when I first walked into the nave for a morning service particularly if the heating had been on and the convected hot air had spread the smell around the church.*
- *Even worse than this, trying to detect where the dead rat was hidden, usually under the under-floor heating pipes and usually where the smell was worst, by crawling around the church sniffing the gratings in the floor!*

(I agree with this, incidentally, and can add removing dead pigeons from the gutter – even if it did give me the opportunity to ask if David wanted to re-enact Monty Python's 'Dead Parrot' sketch...)

Des said: "*I liked getting to know everyone; a good warden is people-centered. You know who comes late, who needs assistance, who comes early, which service people come to. Up until the last 20 years there was a natural progression – assistant warden to church warden for three years serving one with the previous warden and one with the new elected warden and one as a team. Sadly that system has failed and in recent years and some people such as Chris have been left with carrying the duties on alone. I enjoyed making things happen, being aware of the congregation's needs. Some wardens are more practical, some more organised, some liturgical, but everyone brings different skills. I am glad the counting of the collections after the services has ceased – up until the end of the 1990s it could take an hour after services. Ron Dainter and I were the first not to attend all three services on a Sunday; we decided that it was just not needed. We arrived around 9am and left around 12:30pm. The mundane things, such as cleaning the gutters, never bothered me, but it was good to know what was going on and what the needs of different people were.*"

Personally, I have enjoyed discovering more about the church building and feeling part of a long tradition of its use and service to the community. I've enjoyed working with everyone who helps keep all the activities going. Being alone in church doing some job or other gives me time to reflect and I do enjoy using the PA and church as my personal music system when no-one is around! I'm not good at asking for help so that has been a challenge, but being warden has helped me in this respect.

What about a warden's superpower? I think the ability to fly would be very useful – high-level cleaning would be easy and putting the lights on the Christmas tree, clearing gutters, changing light bulbs, scaring away pigeons, etc... But actually we all have REAL superpowers and we are all different and bring different things to the role of churchwarden.

Paul's warden superpower: "*My ability to befriend new people as well as regular congregation members. Also to ensure that the church was clean and ready for services.*"

Tony would not confess to having any superpowers although he said: "*I felt responsible for everything practical in making the services flow as smoothly as possible and according to plan. For the regular services, this was fairly straightforward once you had learned the form, and you developed techniques for avoiding problems like fetching the collection plates that you had forgotten during the hymns so as to cause least disturbance. I learned very quickly from my first companion warden, Gill Parkin, the merits of good advanced and detailed planning especially for special services – Christmas, Easter etc – and if the bishop was coming, and afterwards a sigh of relief when the last person had left and it had all gone well: very rewarding.*"

I can vouch that Tony left me very detailed notes in the warden's folder, which included Gill's excellent notes on organising Christmas; so Tony and Gill's superb organisational skills are still helping the Christmas services run smoothly now. Definite superpower material...

Des's warden superpower was being aware of the congregation's needs before things happen. Des still notices when I've missed something and is always helping out doing the count, ringing the bell and doing what he does best – welcoming people. I think Des's superpower is also being so friendly, welcoming and having boundless energy – as well as being a great auctioneer!

As for me, I'm an engineer – so I enjoy tinkering with and fixing things and I'm a compulsive tidy-upper, which has proved useful...

Hopefully you can see that the role of churchwarden adapts to fit the individual and we all have something to give. We all have superpowers... So if you'd like to use yours and fancy being one of the next churchwardens, have a chat with me or any of the ex-wardens... While I won't guarantee you'll enjoy every minute, you will enjoy some aspects and I'd be willing to bet you'll find it rewarding.

**Chris Pearce**  
**Churchwarden**

## Make your voice heard – or just hear what others have to say!

All Saints Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
Sunday 24 April 2022  
in church, after the 10:00 service

Bring yourself,  
Bring your ideas,  
Bring your All Saints friends!

Reports to be published in the April edition of *Saints Alive!*

## ***From the registers***

	<b>Baptisms:</b> Congratulations to Quinn Alexandra Cable and Ellis Alexander Cable, baptised at All Saints on 13 February
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# **Know your saints**

## **9 March – Savio**

A number of years ago the hit film *Slumdog Millionaire* touched millions of people with its story of a youngster triumphing against all the odds. Dominic Savio did the same thing – in fact, he is a good patron ‘child saint’ for children today who struggle to get anywhere in life.

Savio (1842-57) was born into a poor family in Riva; when he was 12 he was sent to the famous strict Roman Catholic school of John Bosco at Turin. Savio loved it: he responded with enthusiasm to the wise and moderate spiritual guidance of Bosco, and began to grow. He was soon widely loved for his cheerfulness and friendliness to all; he was respected by fellow students for his mature, sound advice. Behind it all lay the key: Savio had discovered God for himself, and had responded with all his heart; one story of him tells how he was rapt in prayer for six hours continuously. Sadly, Dominic Savio contracted tuberculosis. He accepted his disease with dignity and composure and he did not fear death – his deep and radiant faith assured him that something far better lay beyond. He died aged only 15: he had never been a millionaire; his riches lay in his faith in Jesus Christ. The memory of this lovable lad lived on, so deeply had he touched the hearts of the people who knew him. Over a hundred years later he was still remembered – and made a saint by the Roman Catholic Church.

## **13 April – Carpus, Papylus and Agathonice**

In the month of Christ’s ultimate sacrifice of himself for us, the martyrdoms of Carpus, Papylus and Agathonice are well worth remembering. What they said as they died could be said by the many thousands of Christians who are facing persecution all over the world today.

Carpus, Papylus and Agathonice lived in Pergamum (Asia Minor) in the late 2nd century. Carpus was a bishop, Papylus was a deacon, and Agathonice was his sister. Trouble began when the proconsul Optimus ordered them to sacrifice in the name of the emperor.

Carpus refused, saying: ‘I am a Christian and because of my faith and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I cannot become one of you.’ He was hung up and tortured by iron claws.

Papylus was a wealthy citizen, but he had also led many people to faith in Christ. As he suffered the same fate as Carpus, he said: ‘I feel no pain because I have someone to comfort me; one whom you do not see suffers within me.’ Both men were then burnt alive.

Finally, it was his sister’s turn. She too refused to sacrifice to demons. ‘If I am worthy,’ she said, ‘I desire to follow the footsteps of my teachers.’ On being urged to have pity on her children, she replied: ‘My children have God, who watches over them; but I will not obey your commands.’ As she was consigned to the flames, she cried out three times: ‘Lord Jesus Christ, help me because I am enduring this for you.’ She died soon after.

Terrible deaths, but also, triumphant ones. These three Christians loved Jesus so much that the only thing they could not bear was to deny him. Sadly, the persecution goes on today, in countries where Jesus Christ is still bitterly hated. Pray for the Christians who live in these countries, that they too may have courage and endurance – to the end.

(adapted from [www.parishpump.co.uk](http://www.parishpump.co.uk))

# 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.*

As this seems to have turned into quite a music-focused issue of the magazine (an organ-heavy organ, if you will), and any sense of counting how many pictures have actually been included in this column over the last year and a half has long since gone out of the window, after last month's panoramas from the roof I thought it might be of interest to see the view that the organist has.



This photo wasn't actually taken during a service, but gives a good idea of what is in front of me (or anyone playing the organ) – it's a slightly strange place from which to be part of the service because, although as the organist you are pretty close to the altar, over the top of the keyboards and your music, you actually can't see very much of the altar party, the choir or indeed (thanks to one of the substantial pillars) much of the congregation or the rest of church. You are also across the church from where the organ speakers are, so you get a different impression of the sound coming out of the speakers from that of the congregation – occasionally when playing as part of a loud ensemble, such as during a congregational carol at the candlelight service, or as when I joined the final piece in the concert given by the Shirley Band a few years ago, I could barely hear the organ from this position, but was assured that it could be heard in from within the main body of the church!

Of course this is even more extreme in some larger churches and cathedrals, where the organ console might be at the back of the building, behind choir stalls or up in a loft, with communication with others made possible by a monitor or mirrors. At least at All Saints you can (generally) hear from the organ stool what's being said or sung, and you can clearly see the south door so have a pretty good idea of when the bride is about to enter church for a wedding, for instance!

**Ben Noakes**

# **Accessing and paying for the magazine**

The *Saints Alive!* magazine is available in digital form on the All Saints website at [www.all saints kingsheath.org.uk/the-magazine/](http://www.all saints kingsheath.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](mailto:magazine@allsaintschurchkh.org)  
07967 730156 / 07929 593097

<b>STANDING ORDER MANDATE AND BANK PAYMENT INFORMATION</b>				
<i>(Please detach and send to your bank) or use for Internet Banking Payments</i>				
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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>				
<b><i>Please cancel any previous mandates to this beneficiary on this account number.</i></b>				
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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](mailto:zena_steveb@btinternet.com).

# Who's Who

## Worship (for clergy see back page)

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

## Church upkeep

Vergers	Liz Haskins	c/o 0121 444 0760
Sacristan	Paul Smart	c/o 0121 444 0760
Altar Linen	Bernice Mattis	c/o 0121 444 0760
Head Server	Wendy Ross	0121 444 1423
Electoral Roll Officer	Tony Price	01564 824420
Parish Magazine	Tony Cocks	0121 441 2945
	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)*

<b>Officers</b>	Lay Vice Chair Stuart Blissitt	Secretary vacant	Treasurer Steve Brittle, 01905 772171
<b>Members</b>	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	<a href="mailto:andy@allsaints-cdc.co.uk">andy@allsaints-cdc.co.uk</a>
Facilities Manager	Dave Priday	07732 137772	<a href="mailto:david@allsaints-cdc.co.uk">david@allsaints-cdc.co.uk</a>
Administrator	Angela McDermott	0121 444 0760	<a href="mailto:angela@allsaints-cdc.co.uk">angela@allsaints-cdc.co.uk</a>
Hall & Room Bookings	Jayne Fitzpatrick	0121 443 4579	<a href="mailto:jayne@allsaints-cdc.co.uk">jayne@allsaints-cdc.co.uk</a> (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
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# **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)	<a href="mailto:parishoffice@allsaintschurkh.org">parishoffice@allsaintschurkh.org</a> 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.all saints kingsheath.org.uk](http://www.all saints kingsheath.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@allsaintschurkh.org](mailto:parishoffice@allsaintschurkh.org)**

**[www.all saints kingsheath.org.uk](http://www.all saints kingsheath.org.uk)**



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