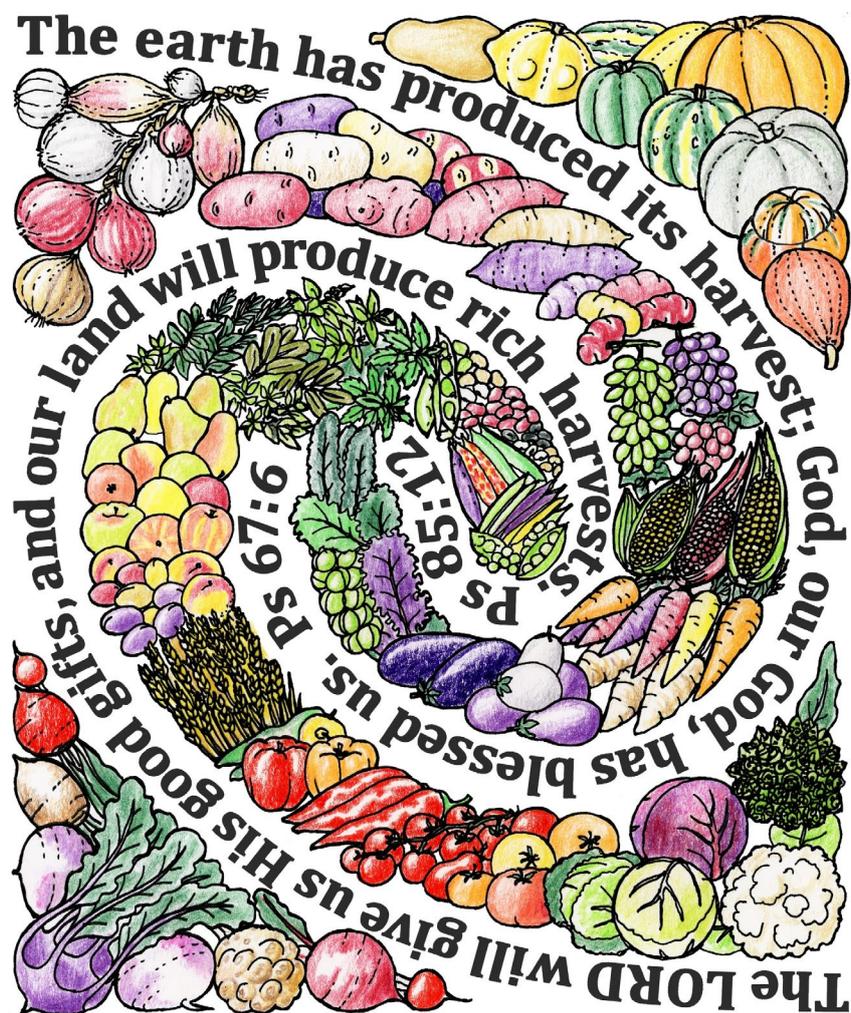


Saints Alive!

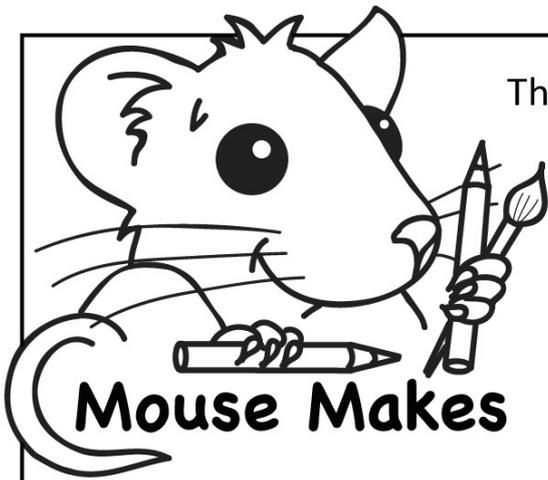
*The parish magazine of
All Saints Church, Kings Heath*



October
2022



£1
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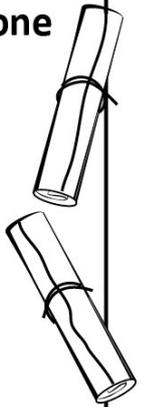
The New Testament has **four gospels, twenty one epistles** and the book of Revelation.

The **epistles** are a collection of **letters** that were written by the apostles to the early Christians, they contain teaching, instruction, advice and encouragement.

The Apostle **Paul** is thought to have written **thirteen** of the *epistles*...



Look in your Bible to see who wrote the other eight and who they were written to.



How many people does Paul send greetings to at the end of his letter to the Romans?

.....

The word **epistle** comes from the Greek word **epistolé** which means *letter or message*

Which is the shortest epistle?

.....
How many chapters does it have?

.....

Which are the longest epistles?

.....
How many chapters do they have?

.....

DID YOU KNOW...?
At the time of the New Testament letters were written on scrolls

G A L A T I A N S J A M E S E J S
 W A E D I S P E T E R A P T L O C
 R O T E T B A W R I T E H I R H R
 I P T M U O U S P H I L E M O N O
 T H E S S A L O N I A N S O M D L
 C O R I N T H I A N S N I T A J L
 S P H I L I P P I A N S A H N U S
 M C O L O S S I A N S A N Y S D P
 H E B R E W S H W E P I S T L E O

EPISTLE • LETTER • ROMANS • CORINTHIANS • GALATIANS • EPHESIANS
 PHILIPPIANS • COLOSSIANS • THESSALONIANS • TIMOTHY • TITUS • PHILEMON
 HEBREWS • JAMES • PETER • JOHN • JUDE • PAUL • SCROLL • WRITE

From the vicarage

Dear friends and neighbours,

As the gold, red and blue-draped coffin was borne into Westminster Abbey, and their choir sang the sonorous sentences of scripture 'I am the resurrection and the life...', I had an involuntary instant awareness of the huge, complex ecology of church music that made such a soaring moment possible.

Think of the footballing children on windblown weekend pitches. Without them there would be no Premier League. The top-flight players and teams emerge from the layered ecosystem of informal, voluntary, semi-professional then professional leagues.

Just so, in little parish churches, choirs droning psalmody, the sometimes overstretching effort at anthems, Rutter, Vaughan Williams, Tallis, the hymn descants learnt at all those Thursday night practices all around the land: here the Church cherishes the repertoire, keeps alive the chant, passes on the love of music-rich prayer. Here talents are nurtured and, yes, some go on to join a cathedral or chapel choir. The church quietly breathes prayers and music around the land until such time as it is needed for some unifying moment of crisis or celebration. It's not too grand or proud to say, when the nation needs it, all our steady, unobtrusive breathing of prayer and music and ceremony surfaces for a while and we make that glorious huge breath of music possible.

The ecosystem works the other way, too. While our local choirs make the great choirs possible, so the cathedrals teach us, raise our parochial game, and inspire us and extend our repertoire.

In other ways, too, that spectacular ceremony is not unrelated to our less grand local ceremonies. I don't mean we embarrassingly imitate, but the slowness and care with a hearse pulls in and the bell is rung, the shine of the cross as Liz leads us in, the choices of flowers and poems: all this honouring on our own scale does make reference to the impressive standard of ceremony witnessed in London this month. The dignity of the local and the royal cross-fertilise.

So, very shortly into that most famous funeral, I found myself giving huge thanks for our musicians and singers and the extraordinary grace and generosity with which they inspire us. Their gifts are part of a magnificent complex network of relationships which help the whole nation express its deepest need.

With gratitude and admiration,

David

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

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

Reflection

How to describe that which seems indescribable?

It was a challenge, and almost a relief, too, when I was asked to write about my experience in attending the late Queen Elizabeth II's Lying-in-State, because for me it felt difficult to absorb all the many emotions and impressions generated at all stages of the journey over the 14 hours I queued. A relief, in that this was an opportunity to evaluate and further digest what was a unique and historic event, the like of which we will probably not see again in our lifetime.



Many of us somehow expected the Queen to be immortal, to keep on leading by her example, manifesting the qualities of commitment, loyalty, devotion, stability, constancy and wisdom which were reliable and honourable, whatever anyone thought of the monarchy. Her death came as a shock despite her great age, and many floundered, not knowing how to react or feel. Denial and Disbelief are the first stages in the grieving process, and many will remember the vivid sculptures of Jean Parker's *Bald Statements* exhibition in All Saints a few years ago.

In the sadness of bereavement, we turn to the rituals and rites which have comforted us over centuries. Lying-in-State in Britain for the sovereign reportedly stems for the reign of Queen Anne in 1714, providing an opportunity for the subjects to pay their respects and to honour the monarch.

The first question people ask is: 'Why did I go?' Many people told me that they would have liked to attend the Queen's Lying-in-State [LIS] at Westminster Hall, but for very good reasons could not go – childcare, injury, illness, work, cost, distance – so I began to realise that in fact I had none of these constraints, I **could** go, and therefore I probably should. I felt commissioned by so many family and friends to 'represent' them, and so the choice to travel to London on Friday 16 September by train became an adventure and evolved into a kind of pilgrimage. I had expected huge crowds when I arrived at Euston at 10:50am, but I travelled swiftly to Bermondsey station by tube, aiming for Southwark Park, which was the start to **the** Queue [Q], at around 11:30am.

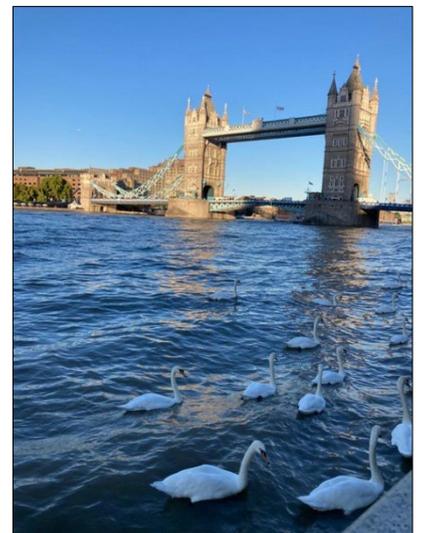


My emotions were very mixed, moving on to the Questioning stage of grief: we were corralled between metal barriers by friendly stewards and we snaked labyrinthine-fashion through the park under the dappled autumn sunlight of dozens of plane trees. I was excited with the anticipation of what might happen; concerned as to how I'd manage an unknown length of time standing with strangers; hopeful that the refreshments I had brought would hold out; and grateful that the weather

was dry and warm. It had become apparent already, as reported by the press, that strong friendships had been made during the period of close proximity with fellow Q members during the then three, and now five, miles of patient weaving along the south bank of the Thames. There was respectful silence and muted chatter throughout, and I was minded to walk in a meditative manner, reflecting on the teachings of the Vietnamese Buddhist monk Thích Nhất Hạnh. I resolved to use the opportunity to walk slowly and mindfully and to breathe gently and regularly. This brought me into the present moment, after the hectic journey.

I spent 3.5 hours walking in the Q through the park. During that time, I made contact with others around me, most of whom were persons who had come alone, as had I. We responded to each other slowly; some people didn't want to talk at all, others were very chatty, and by the time we had reached the end of the 'Q for the Q', as we discovered, two enterprising women had formed us into a WhatsApp group of 10 and we had 'bonded'! This was a very useful initiative as it turned out as, when late at night we left the Q for loo or drinks breaks, it helped us to find where the group had progressed to and thus to rejoin it.

We left the park around 3pm with a great sense of achievement, and progressed now toward the Embankment, rewarded by glorious sunny views of the London skyline and the River Thames. It transpired that many in our group had never been to London before, not least explored the South Bank, so we enjoyed seeing the old and the new together – old warehouses being transformed into boutique apartments – and imagining what life would have been like in earlier times. At this point, we began to wonder what now lay in store; the stewards were friendly but couldn't tell us what lay beyond 'their' patch – current prognosis for the length of Q was rumoured to be 20 hours, but from what point no-one could tell us, and that it would be closed to newcomers for six hours. And still no coveted wristbands in sight! I detected a tinge of the Anger and Depression stages of working through our grief: there was no-one reliable or dependable enough to tell us our fate and we felt a bit adrift.



Finally, at a plaza between Tower and London Bridges, alongside HMS Belfast on which my father saw active service in World War II, we received our neon orange wristbands at around 5:30pm. These



possibly denoted arriving at a state of Acceptance, in that we were finally recognised for our presence. The bands entitled us to leave the Q and to return, and prevented others joining, since the barriers were now removed and we were shepherded along by stewards. We marvelled at the beautiful sunset over the Thames at high water; the river was alive with boats and barges, and the bridges naturally illuminated. It began to get colder, and thankfully some food outlets along the waterfront were open so small delegations set off in search

of very welcome chips and hot chocolate.

One woman in our group, in poor health and herself a carer for her invalid husband, was celebrating her 63rd birthday. We didn't manage to find a cake but we did write a card for her en route. She walked the entire 14 hours in flip-flops. She was with her granddaughter; three Columbians were also with us: grandparents with their student granddaughter. The remaining five of us were solo: the conversations between a retired brigadier and a female army intelligence officer were fascinating as they swapped stories of campaigns and foreign training experiences. No-one was encouraged to delve deeply into their life stories but occasionally someone would trust to disclose personal issues, which were received with empathy and respect. The organic nature of the Q, moving variously by unpredictable periods of striding, shuffling, standing, meandering, did not facilitate lengthy conversations, generating more like 'soundbites'. There was unspoken cohesion as to why we – and so far uncounted thousands of others – were all there at all. It is many decades since I delved into Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, but I seem to remember that the stories were about the journey, not so much the destination. We didn't discuss our reasons for being in the LISQ – these were somehow tacitly understood, and formed the underlying foundation of our transient relationship together.

We reached the London Eye at around 10pm, and the Q was held at a standstill for a while under the Hungerford Bridge while rehearsals took place for the funeral on the coming Monday. The deafening, percussive rhythmic thundering of the trains crossing above us seemed to be sounding their own funeral march as we waited. From there, we progressed behind more South Bank buildings until at around 10:30 we skirted the end of Westminster Bridge. The floodlit Palace of Westminster revealed itself standing calmly, majestically and oozing its history across the water, conscious of its role in guarding a monarch within its Great Hall.



Waiting quietly in the dark, the atmosphere seemed to change as people realised they were now becoming tired, even meditative, knowing that we were within sight of our destination. We crossed Lambeth Bridge into Victoria Gardens, now for the first time on the north bank, at around 11:20pm,

expecting we would be into the Hall very soon. Even more interminable yet mesmeric labyrinth barriers greeted us; quietly we mused about getting withdrawal symptoms from the 3.5 hours we had spent earlier in Southwark Park! The Q moved fairly quickly but, even so, it was not until 1am that we approached the final hurdle – the stricter-than-airport style security tent. I saw some odd sights in the Q: a woman pushing a dog in a pushchair and another carrying hers; a cyclist pushing a penny-farthing bicycle being the most unusual; the nice police officer who searched my regulation-size rucksack and confiscated my hand gel and sunscreen told me that there were stranger things than bicycles or dogs people attempted to get through who would have been, sadly, turned away.

Our group decided we would gather and go through into the Hall together; with mounting trepidation and anticipation we walked the short path to St Stephen's Entrance and up the stone stairs – and then we were there.

I had never been inside Westminster Hall before, and was simply awestruck at its beauty, vastness and air of serenity. The gentle rustling of clothing and muffled footsteps were the only barely perceptible sounds. The splendid ancient, high-vaulted carved wooden roof seemed to be a guardian angel with wings outspread, gathering us from all corners to a common cause. The catafalque was below us in the centre of the wide stone floor, the Guard of Honour absolutely motionless in their varied traditional uniforms. The focus of vision became the coffin, draped in the Royal Standard, the Wanamaker cross at the head, and surmounted by the Imperial State Crown on a purple cushion, the orb and sceptre, and a wreath of white flowers. I descended slowly, wanting to savour the few moments allowed, and passed in almost a trance down the left side of the coffin.

'How did you feel?' is the other question I am asked – impossibly complex and turbulent to describe. Quite simply, I felt an overwhelming sense of gratitude for the Christian values our Queen aspired to, and which she persevered in setting us, during the whole of her life and throughout her long reign. There was a sense of peace, of a life well lived and now at rest, yet there was also an energy and vibrancy emanating from where, I could not identify. I recognised something similar on visiting the Taj Mahal in India, a temple dedicated to a much-loved Maharani, wife and mother. I tried to remember all those who had commissioned me to represent them – I didn't have time to name them

all – and ultimately I dropped a deep curtsy in expression of our mutual respect. I found myself then performing Namaskar, with my hands in prayer, as a personal tribute. I breathed deeply, and then it was over; I was outside the Hall and attempting to drink in some of the emotion of the day.



It was 1:20am; our group was subdued: some had cried, those with military connections had saluted, some like me were stunned and taking time to digest the significance of the occasion. It seemed unreal - we had spent 14 hours in each other's company and irrevocably were now to part. Thankfully, the WhatsApp group remained and we did communicate during the following days and after the funeral.

Two others of us couldn't get long-distance trains home until after 6am so we three resolved to walk (yet more miles!) to see the floral tributes at Buckingham Palace. We found our way down The Mall and talked to some to those already camping out. Sadly, the tributes had been removed (too many marmalade sandwiches left mouldering) and we eventually walked back to the Q, resolutely still in progress, by means of the pedestrian Golden Jubilee bridges. Thankfully, we found a van serving hot drinks and sat down for the first time in 17 hours to enjoy them! We parted company reluctantly to find our various tube trains and rail terminals, grateful that the proposed strikes had been postponed. I arrived home at 10am on Saturday, unable yet to express what had happened, except to sleep. A unique and wonderful pilgrimage to own, and to be a part of history, and a sense of healing, and peace of mind.



I cannot tell my granddaughter about this – because she and my daughter had already set off for London and I woke late Saturday morning to find a WhatsApp photo showing that they too had got their coveted wristbands! My daughter-in-law also went on Sunday afternoon and was one of the last mourners; attending the Lying-in-State becoming seemingly an extended family affair which I am sure would have met with the approval of late Queen Elizabeth II.

May she Rest in Perpetual Peace.

God Save King Charles III.

Vivien Tilsley

From the churchwarden

The warden apologises for no musings this month. If you want to hear my thoughts on life, the energy crisis and everything, please come along and help out with the cleaning and sorting out of the church which I am organising for Friday/Saturday 7/8 October and 14/15 October. Details to be advertised in the newsletter once arranged dependent on number of volunteers and use of church. Thanks to those who have already responded.

I have filled in the Articles of Inquiry which I've copied below (as they are filled in on your behalf...). Each year they cover different aspects and this year they are about developing mission and ministry, and Eco Church; they always cover safeguarding, for which we all owe Mary Miles a huge thank you for keeping us on track! I hope my responses on Eco Church are accurate – I think this is the current position, but if you know better please let me know and I'll correct it at the meeting we will have to discuss the Articles of Inquiry. You can contact me at pearcecd@gmx.com. Thanks!

Chris Pearce
Churchwarden

ARTICLES OF INQUIRY 2022 – ALL SAINTS, KINGS HEATH:

A.1. How have the Five Marks of Mission shaped your missional thinking this year?

All Saints have a wide-ranging programme of mission and worship aimed at meeting the Five Marks of Mission. We have gradually emerged from lockdown and now have most of the elements of normal Eucharistic service restored although the plate collection is still not passed around and parishioners don't move around for the peace. We have just started a series of 6:30pm services on Sunday each week focusing on a different aspect on the theme of 'Making space for...'

A.2. By what route have any new disciples joined you this year?

We have revamped our Welcome leaflet and communications and have a new website. Those who joined came initially to a Sunday service having moved from the city centre to Kings Heath. They had tried a number of churches before settling at All Saints.

A.3. What areas of your mission and ministry are growing or developing in new ways?

The restarting of 6:30pm services on a Sunday in a new format has been influenced by our new curate and some of those relatively new to the church. The services will follow a four or five-week pattern. The first week will focus on making room for Scripture. The second week will focus on shared experience and be based around conversations about work, life – making room for each other. The third week will be entitled making room for growth and will be an Iona-style service focused on needs of creation and human society. The fourth week will focus on worship and characteristics of God as revealed in Scripture. If there is a fifth week it will have a Book of Common Prayer-based service. The new evening prayer services have been publicised on our website and in our church magazine.

A.4. Is there anything that gets in the way of mission and ministry developing in your parish?

We still need to improve our physical welcome – the entrance to the church could be more welcoming. We would also like to offer some form of hospitality in the form of a café, but previous attempts have not been commercially viable.

A.5. Are there other developments or areas of concern which you'd like to share?

We have just revisited our Values and Mission Statement using a committee made up of representatives from the All Saints companies (PCC, The Robin Centre for older people, Youth Project, Development Company, AS Community Catering) and have completed a consultation on this with the congregation. We struggled to get engagement with this from the wider congregation. We plan to now hold a wider consultation with the local community.

B. Eco Church

1. Is your church building and/or church hall on a renewable energy tariff?

No.

1a. If your church buildings are not currently on a renewable energy tariff, do you intend to switch to a renewable energy tariff in future? If so, when would you intend to make this switch?

We have explored this. We are currently on a tariff via Parish Buying, which claims to be renewable but is provided by Total which is an oil company. We have written to Parish Buying asking that they seek a better supplier and are evaluating whether to leave the Parish Buying scheme and seek a contract with a 'real' green supplier like Good Energy or Ecotricity.

2. Roughly what percentage of the lighting in your church uses LED bulbs?

90% – some spotlights are still halogen but main floodlights have been LED for 10 years. The lighting in the All Saints Centre is being changed to LED as it comes up for renewal.

3. Has your church registered with Eco Church?

Yes.

3.a. If so, has the church gained either a Bronze or Silver Award?

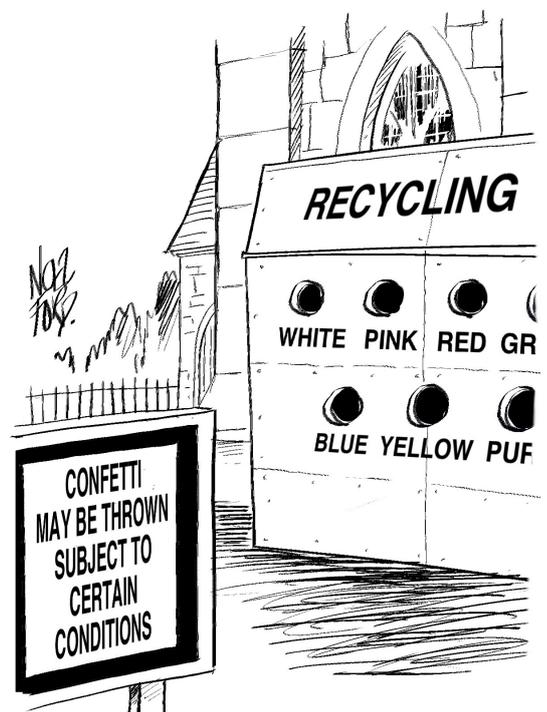
Bronze Award.

4. Would your church like support or advice on any of these matters?

We have a very active Justice, Peace and Green Group who are probably already in touch with the diocese and wider support mechanisms.

In the last issue, Chris set a little quiz – the Greek gods gave their names to the planets but using the Roman names, and he asked you to match up the Greek names and the planets. The correct pairings are as follows:

Mercury	Hermes
Venus	Aphrodite
Earth	Gaia
Mars	Ares
Jupiter	Zeus
Saturn	Kronos
Uranus	Ouranos
Neptune	Poseidon
Pluto	Hades



Remembering Mary Cole

In August the funeral of longstanding All Saints member, Mary Cole, took place in church. Music was chosen, by Liz Haskins and others, that was known to be loved by Mary (*Author of life divine*); evoked Mary's character in some way (*Blest are the pure in heart*), or a memory of her (Mary Priday recalled her pure soprano solo in Vaughan Williams' *O taste and see*); or which was simply a good sing that she would have enjoyed (*Let all the world in every corner sing* and *Tell out, my soul*). A choir also gathered to sing an anthem, *Pleasure it is* by Cecil Cope, and a setting by Heathcote Statham of the *Nunc dimittis* to close the service.

In addition to David's address and a family tribute written by Mary's niece Rosalind, Liz gathered memories from within the congregation to add to her own in a warm and moving thanksgiving, and we are grateful to Liz for allowing us to share this below.

Mary was a loyal member of All Saints all her life and joined in a variety of the activities, which means that there were many who had fond thoughts and memories – how long have we got?

She is remembered as being athletic in her younger days, playing tennis and as a demon hockey player: when she came down the field, other players parted like the Red Sea. She had also been a Sunday School teacher, who inspired and was respected by her pupils (who would never have dared to misbehave). One of her former pupils, who referred to her as a 'gentle mentor', says that she must have done something right, as she is still a churchgoer. Here her patience and quiet gentleness would have come to the fore, as it would in her as a member of the Pastoral Team, an area where she would have shown her concern for the welfare of others. And if you had come into here on a Saturday morning some years ago you would have found her arranging flowers for her windowsill, or serving coffee at the back of the church.

Her association with Lunch Club began with her as a helper, always willing to accept any changes that were made; but more recently she crossed over and the server became the served. They remember her as a longstanding and devoted member, enjoying her time with her friend Jean, a delightful person – who always had to have a very weak cup of tea. They will miss her. She was also a member of the Book Group where she enjoyed listening with interest to the discussion and from her wisdom added her own interesting contributions.

Her longest service to the church was singing with the choir – beautiful solos and duets with Jean – and more recently the singers. She knew what she liked: hymns good, songs generally not so. She went along regularly, even when she began to find it hard to get to her feet, but she wasn't going to sit down for the hymns, so had a chair with arms to help her. Sunday by Sunday, Mary's throne was brought into church. Her service in this area witnessed to her love of music, her wish to support fellow singers and those who led, and her faith – this was one way for her to express this.

Mary was always ready to take part: she worked on the theory that you either take advantage of opportunities, and do, or sit at home and moulder – and that was not her way. There was a no-nonsense side to Mary. It has been said that, being such a private and modest person, at first acquaintance she might have seemed remote – but that was quite wrong: when you got to know her she proved a lively conversationalist, with bright intelligence. That was another mistake: as she became more physically restricted there were those who thought that her mind would suffer too. How wrong they were. She was as sharp as all the tacks in York Supplies, and had a wonderful sense

of humour and quick wit, which could at times be quite wicked – the traditional ‘little old lady’ she might have appeared, but she was not.

In fact, bravery and determination are the words that probably have come up most in conversations about Mary. When the Book Group met in the evening in Woodthorpe Road she went, on two buses, and if there was nobody to offer her a lift home, she went home again on two buses. She went along to rehearsals for the carol service on evenings in November and December, usually taken home, but she never asked or expected that people should do things for her. She could be halfway out of the door before being captured and bundled into a car.



Mary with Don Stacey in 1946, as reprinted on the back of her funeral order of service

When not able to attend regularly, she remained interested in what we got up to here. I was richly blessed with the opportunity to visit her in hospital only three days before she died and she was still the Mary we all know and loved. I was able to tell her of the high jinks in the Revue, and I remembered some of the jokes, which she greatly enjoyed. Then there was Tariro’s first celebration – she did like the image of people dancing in the aisles. She didn’t want to be in hospital, felt worse than she had when she went in, and the food was awful, ‘but there’s no point in sitting around being miserable’ – pure vintage Mary!

So – take a deep bowl of determination, put in a good amount of gentleness and kindness, add a heaped spoon of intelligence and wisdom, lace with wit and humour, stir it all with a stout no-nonsense stick, and you have Mary. We are sad that she is no longer with us, but we can thank God that he gave her to us, and let us keep her for so long. We know

that she will live on in our memories and the examples she set us. We may not have said this enough over the years, but we can do so now: thank you, Mary, thank you.

There is no space for a *Music Matters* article this month, but the music at All Saints that Mary made such a valuable contribution to over so many years continues – and indeed we our busiest time of the year is fast approaching.

Rehearsals will begin next month for the Candlelight Carol Service, which will take place on Sunday 18 December, and there will be other opportunities for carol singing and making music during Advent and over the festive season.

More details will be publicised during October and in the next issue of the magazine, but if you are interested in finding out more about any of these, or music in church in general, then do please contact us as below.

Ben & Clare Noakes
Music Co-ordinators

music@allsaintschurchkh.org
07967 730156 / 07929 593097

Greenbelt 2022

All of you Greenbelt veterans will have your own fond memories. And if you've never ventured on site, here's a tiny taste of the radical sanctuary that GB offers.



The delights of the balmy summer continued, miraculously, over the bank holiday weekend. We arrived to find Angela guarding the All Saints pitch, up avenue 103, with its purple flags fluttering in the breeze, using bags and tent bundles. As fast as campers arrived around us, we unbagged tents and pegged out ground sheets, keeping enough space to fit our camp kitchen and marquee dining room at the centre.

With sufficient space in early-arriving cars, we had all of the tents for the group and were able to play with the octonaught – Nicola and Rosie's spanking new purchase (also known as the chapter house by the more cerebral group members) – and the palatial party palace, Sue's home, shared with Anna and Matt. Hats off to Tariro and Lynda as the most enthusiastic and efficient tent-putter-uppers. Whole team effort on the marquee; and if you're confused next year, Tariro has the hand-drawn diagram and instructions – such a good planner...

Formal festival activities don't start until late afternoon on Friday, so we were able to share the walks back and forth to the cars to bring creature comforts to the campground, which is spread across rolling hills flanked by mature chestnut tree avenues. The mown grass paths divide camp areas and

there are dedicated areas for early-curfew family groups, disabled campers, and super-serviced glampers.



As to the GB site itself, it offers wooded performance spaces and art installations, from beds to an ethereal hanging illuminated globe. The main festival stage has a great lighting rig and masses of space; the intimate Canopy offers friendly proximity to musicians and comedians. The close-cut lawn in front of Boughton Hall with water features and beautiful estate trees is juxtaposed with ranks

of delicious food stalls – good for a meal or a treat on departure day...

The rotating All Saints caterers are the revered queens and kings of camp – they advise of the time for the focus of each day, bringing us all back together for delicious Warbrick canapés, freshly-cooked food and sharing tales of old friends found, recommendations for talks or plays that might repeat, and inevitably, fabulous thought-provoking events missed. Conversations continued from talks of the day, books purchased and shared moments of new realisation or different perspective. The programme is jam-packed, and despite a Friday afternoon cup of tea with biro/app, managing our own expectations as to how little we can realistically fit in seems to be the best bet for a contented day!



The rhythm of the day might comprise something like a talk, a theatre performance, a couple of live music experiences and a spiritual time – anything from yoga to an Iona service, hymn singing to shared communion en masse. The blessing of warm sunshine also gave us plenty of time to sit with coffee/Tiny Tea Tent chai for catch ups, sun-drenched music, games of frisbee or pirate bhangra dancing (Fiona – just ask her how!).

Here are some morsels from other 2022 Greenbelters:

'The warm sunshine meant you could just sit and be with the ones you love. Highlights were also around time for conversations with people we hadn't seen for a few years.'



'I loved the big light coming through the Gaia globe suspended in the trees. It was touching to observe the stillness of people looking at it.'

'I brought a friend who didn't know anything about Greenbelt. She really enjoyed herself. For me, it was nice to have a place away from school and home, which gave us time to spend a whole day together in a different environment.'

'When I look back, the overall impression I have of Greenbelt was time out. I had one day and a feeling I had permission not to do anything else. A sense I could just be. It certainly paid off the effort to get up and go.'

'The beauty of the site is lovely. The trees. The arc of flags around the main stage.'

'When I got home, I looked again at the programme and there was loads of stuff I missed. On a previous Greenbelt, after dashing round frantically to see everything I'd circled in the programme, I felt I hadn't taken advantage of the lovely location and decided to deliberately take time to just to chill out. I love just sitting under the trees and listening to the music in the Canopy, watching the festival world go by.'

'The Greenbelt management explained that Covid had put a lot of festival suppliers out of business: they couldn't get the usual sanitaryware. The chemical loos weren't that well-designed this year. I won't forget approaching the loos and deciding whether or not to go in, based on the facial expression of the previous occupant.'

'The toilet experience made me think that there is money to be made by whittling "poo sticks" for sale. They would be useful for clearing blockages...'

'The poo-clearers (or rather sanitary service personnel) were heroes – rushing round site with their big poo-vacuum truck servicing the loos in a never-ending cycle. People got the hang of following the truck to the next block of loos to take advantage of freshly-serviced toilets.'

'I don't remember it being like that. There was much more dedicated stuff for children so it seemed like there were fewer children in the main festival locations. The Engine was accessible only with a Youth wristband (no adults allowed!) and there were dance workshops and a talent show, and also a tent with games and phone charging.'

'The band Beans on Toast was one of my highlights.'

'Everyone was really warm and friendly. David made me laugh.'

*'The All Saints group was great company. I really like Anna and Matt.
I loved all of the music but the Tiny Tea Tent was my favourite bit.'*

Whether you've done it before or not – here's to Greenbelt 2023... we're already plotting to celebrate 50 years of Greenbelt in style. All Saints style. We'd love to see you there: more information at www.greenbelt.org.uk.

Becky Frall



Retreat in Daily Life

Ever wanted to go on a retreat but don't have the time to go away?
Would you like to experience a retreat but can't afford one?

A home-based Retreat in Daily Life could be for you.

A Retreat in Daily Life is an opportunity for people of Christian faith, and people open to it, to deepen their spirituality and come closer to God through prayer. During the period of one month participants will learn techniques to deepen their inner life, alongside weekly meetings with a personal guide trained in prayer, arranged at a time to suit you. A retreat can help us develop a regular spiritual practice and become more present to God in the dynamic of the everyday. The retreat will be run in conjunction with Manresa Link. **Interested?**

Taster Sessions will be on the following dates:

Saturday 1st October 10.15-11.15am - St Anne's Church, Moseley, Park Hill

Tuesday 4th October 10.30-11.30am - St Mary's Church, West Room

Thursday 13th October 7.30-8.30pm - All Saints Parish Church, Kings Heath, Marjorie Allen Room

You are welcome to come to one or all of the taster sessions.

If you would like to book a place on the retreat or a taster session please speak to

Revd Magdalen Smith at St Anne's Church, Moseley.

Email: assocvicar@moseleychurch.org.uk or telephone Moseley Parish Office 0121 449 2243.

Or speak to Jenny Warbrick at All Saints Church, Kings Heath - Email: warbrickja@gmail.com

Or telephone All Saints Parish Office 0121 444 0760.

For those who are able to afford it, we ask for a contribution between £5 - £20



Wreath-making workshop



The All Saints Craft Group is pleased to announce a wreath-making workshop in church on Friday 25 November.

The cost is £20 including refreshments and you get to take home a lovely Christmas wreath!

Sessions are two hours with the choice of 2:30pm or 6:30pm – if interested please email desandshe@yahoo.co.uk.

Sheila Workman

From the PCC

The last PCC meeting was held on 20 September – it was a lively meeting and a number of issues were discussed. Some very tasty nibbles were provided which helped the meeting along.

David, the vicar, informed the meeting that Stuart Blissitt, the vice chair, has decided to step down after several years on the PCC and David gave a vote of thanks for all Stuart's input as vice chair and on a wider front for his help on a number of other matters including securing the property for Tariro, our curate, to live in.

Finance: As ever, our treasurer gave us a comprehensive update on the financial position of the church. In essence, there has not been a lot of change to the financial situation since the last meeting in July. Expenditure was circa £113K which is slightly more than budgeted, with some items slightly more and some slightly less. Income was marginally lower at circa £99K. Overall, the account was currently in deficit to the amount of circa £14K, which includes the tax relief on the tower repair work of circa £7K. If the cost of the tower repair work at circa £26K is excluded, as it is necessary to secure the building for future generations, overall the account would effectively be in credit to the amount of £12K.

Regular giving: Our treasurer reported that the average for the past 12 months was some £240/month up on the previous 12 months, which is about 3% more. However, in real terms this does not really represent an increase if inflation is taken into account. Future utility bills are likely to impact on this also.

Long-term debtors (Development Company): This is now virtually fully paid and expected to be cleared in the near future.

Overall net worth: Our treasurer reported that overall, at this time, the church balance net worth stood at circa £186K.

Mission Giving: Our treasurer considered that the account was now sufficiently robust that the annual Mission Giving should be achievable at the original rate, having been reduced during the Covid pandemic.

Christmas charities: The Justice, Peace and Green Group is to be approached to establish its preferred charities to receive donations over the Christmas period.

Vision Review: The review invites us all to re-examine the values that we hold in common, appraise the assets that we steward for the church and community, and refresh our vision for the next season of our life together. Questionnaires have been available for people to record their thoughts and ideas.

The group preparing the Vision Review has now received more completed questionnaires and a meeting was scheduled for 21 September to discuss the way forward. The outcome of the meeting is to be announced in due course.

Oversight: This is a new initiative from the Birmingham diocese whereby parishes would be grouped into 'clusters' so that available resources could be distributed within the group fairly and according to demand. The level of interaction has yet to be decided and is very much dependant on resource availability depending on the nature of the interaction required. The arrangement would be relatively formal but parishes within the group would retain their individual identities. The kind of interfacing would, for instance, be during interregnums or help with funerals.

The likely cluster for All Saints would be with Hazelwell and St Bede's, Brandwood; possibly Stirchley. A provisional meeting has been arranged for mid-October in which the proposal will be discussed in more detail, so please watch this space for developments.

Safeguarding: This has a regular slot on the PCC agenda, being a very important aspect of church activities. David was pleased to report that there had been no incidents since the last PCC meeting in July.

Churchwarden: The churchwarden said that a church clean was being arranged probably for either 7/8 or 14/15 October. He had issued an initial request to a group and would make further more general announcements shortly [*see also From the churchwarden earlier in the magazine – Ed*]. At the moment there are no regular cleaners looking after the church itself although it is understood that the parish administrator has arranged for the Centre cleaners also to undertake some work in the church from time to time. Although dusting and vacuuming and cleaning windows etc is not everyone's favourite job, even the church needs attention to keep it in a reasonable condition and also as a place of worship. It could do with someone to head a regular team, ideally enough people for a rota to be prepared, as was the case in the past. If any readers feel that this is something that they would be inspired to do then please contact the church.

Our current churchwarden, Chris Pearce, has completed approaching three years as warden almost single-handedly and done an excellent job. The three years will be completed next April. In the past, it has been the custom to have two churchwardens in post at any one time with a phased changeover to facilitate passing-on of duties.

Discussion took place regarding possible ways in which suitable candidates could be encouraged to take up the post, but it was concluded that there are no 'tried and tested' methods of successfully doing this other than approaching prospective candidates directly.

It was noted that a number of prospective candidates have already been churchwardens or are involved in running the Centre through the various committees or as board members. It would therefore be necessary to seek out others who would be suitable and then a plan to approach them as appropriate. Further consideration is being given to this important matter before time runs out next April.

Social media: The use of social media, most likely Facebook and Instagram and possible use of the Cloud for advertising of church and other events and data storage, is being developed to enhance the church and the Centre's communication with the wider community. It will also provide a ready depository of approved information which the clergy can use to develop material for church services. These platforms are particularly popular with younger people as well, so improved targeting of this age group for events etc is anticipated. A social media policy is currently being finalised to cover the safeguarding aspect of placing and having information in the public domain.

6:30pm Sunday services: These services have now commenced in a reformatted format with a bias towards younger people and are proving very successful. Attendance is currently averaging about 20 people.

New Wi-Fi in church:

Streaming services: With the availability of Wi-Fi in the church again, this gives a means by which services can be streamed either live or subsequently accessed in recorded format. It is likely that YouTube will be used as the preferred platform for this.

Donating by Internet: The provision of a card reader in the church for people to donate online is currently being investigated. The gifts would be collated in a JustGiving page for subsequent transfer to the church bank account. It is understood that the diocese can provide card readers with different features and consideration is being given to the best one to suit our purposes.

Church public address system: The current PA desk in the church is understood to be becoming problematic and a request has been made for a new one to be purchased. It was agreed that the replacement should be adaptable with an element of upgrade to current needs as an interim solution such as including a USB input socket.

Refreshments after the 10am Sunday service: It was agreed that refreshments after the 10am Sunday service should be reinstated, probably making use of the South Vestry and adjacent kitchenette. The matter to be given further consideration.

Handshaking at the Peace: It was agreed that this should now be an option if people felt happy to do it, but it would be an entirely personal choice.

Collection plate at 10am service: Discussion took place regarding reinstatement of the passing of the collection plate during the hymn after the Peace for those who wished to donate in this way. The collection cards could be reinstated for those not wishing to pass the plate on without putting something in it.

The alternative would be that a suitably-located plate with an announcement from the vicar may equally be as effective and less public in terms of those who give by other means than via the plate. The matter will be given further consideration.

Bishop David's retirement: David confirmed that a donation of £50 from the PCC had been made to Bishop David's retirement fund.

Next meetings: These are scheduled as follows:

SC Meetings: 25 October (revised from 18 October), 20 December 2022.

PCC Meetings: 15 November 2022.

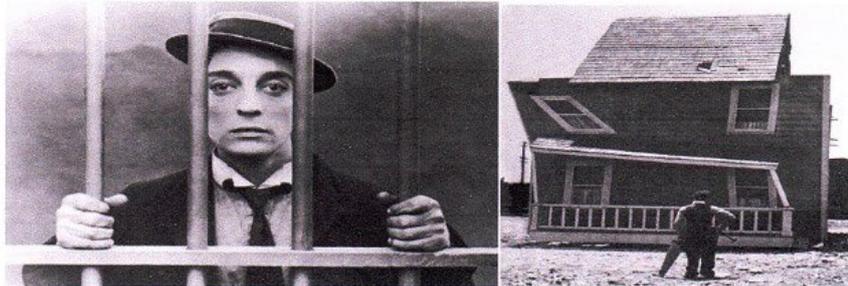
Tony Cocks
PCC Secretary

Campus focus

With plenty going on around the church campus each day of every week, it's always interesting to find out about a bit more about the different activities that make up part of life at All Saints. Thanks this month to Des Workman for sending through these two flyers regarding forthcoming social and fundraising events.

Silent Film Night at All Saints Church

High Street, Kings Heath



Saturday October 15th at 7.30 pm

THREE GREAT SILENT FILMS

"One Week" starring Buster Keaton 1920

"The Immigrant" starring Charlie Chaplin 1917

"The Finishing Touch" starring Laurel and Hardy 1928

With great Piano and Organ accompaniment from renowned film buff and organist Vincent Byrne

Tickets Just £8 (concessions £6)

Family Ticket only £20 (2+2) all include a bag of sweets!

Bar and Refreshments Available



**Tickets from Rourke's Pie and Deli or
on the door or phone 0121 443 5292**



ALL SAINTS
KINGS HEATH

Harvest Christian Aid Quiz in All Saints Church Hall

Saturday October 22nd 7pm start

**With a Supper of Rourke's award winning
Pie, Mash and Peas (meat or vegetarian)**

Teams of up to 6 - Don't worry if you are on your own we will find
you a team!

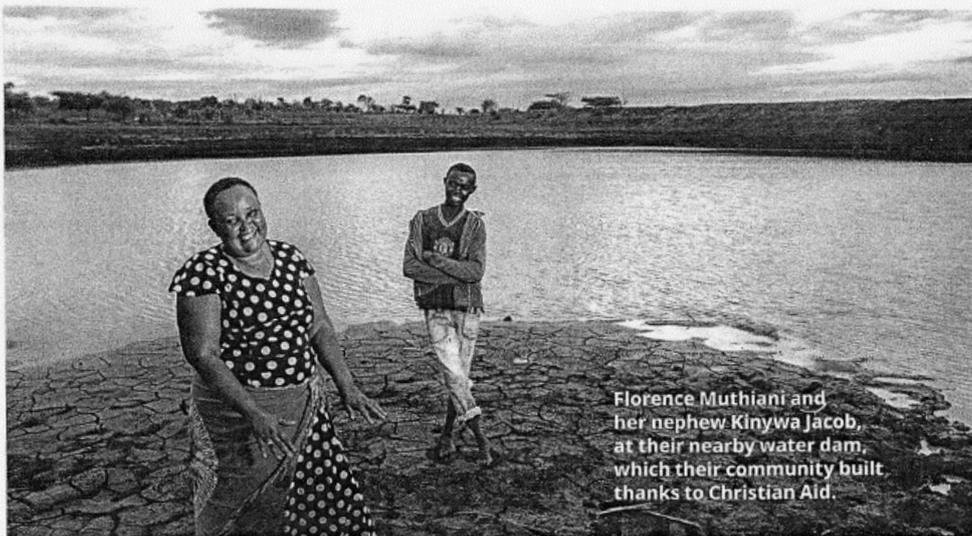
Proceeds will go to the Christian Aid East Africa Hunger Crisis Appeal

Come and have some fun, friendship and help those struggling in East Africa -
bring your own drinks

**Tickets from Des, Pam, Daniel, Sarah or
Rourkes Pie and Deli Just £10 Inc your supper.**

Prizes for the winning team and runners up

Every Gift, Every Action, Every Prayer. Every One of Us Can Change Lives



Florence Muthiani and
her nephew Kinywa Jacob,
at their nearby water dam,
which their community built
thanks to Christian Aid.

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.

Getting to know you

We 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?

Lynne Holmes.

What is (or was) your day job?

Primary school teacher.

How long have you been at All Saints?

I joined just before the first lockdown, so about two-and-a-half years.

What are you currently involved in at church?

I am one of the Sunday morning singers.



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

The carol service last year.

Do you have a favourite hymn/Bible passage?

My favourite hymn is *Thine be the glory* and my favourite Bible reading is Psalm 46.

What are you reading at the moment?

I am reading *The Homecoming* by Anna Enquist. A story about Elizabeth, the wife of James Cook.

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

I would like to have a conversation with Rosalind Franklin to talk about what it was like for her working in such a male-dominated area at that time.

Tell us a joke...

I sold my vacuum cleaner last week. It was just collecting dust!

Get involved...!

We are always pleased to receive contributions for the magazine – including reviews, *Getting to know you* interviews, and reports about activity across the church campus and beyond.

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:

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 Tony Cocks	Treasurer Steve Brittle, 01905 772171
Members	Jim Andrew Margaret Andrew Fiona Briggs Martha Ann Brookes Philip Brookes Tim Cuthbertson	Brian Miles John Parkin (Reader) Chris Pearce (Warden) Vivien Tilsley David Warbrick (Vicar) Chris Watts	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	Angela McDermott	0121 444 0760	angela@allsaints-cdc.co.uk

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
	vacant	
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 Sunday services (said at 8am, sung at 10am and an evening service at 6:30pm), 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.allsaintschurchkh.org 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.allsaintschurchkh.org



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND