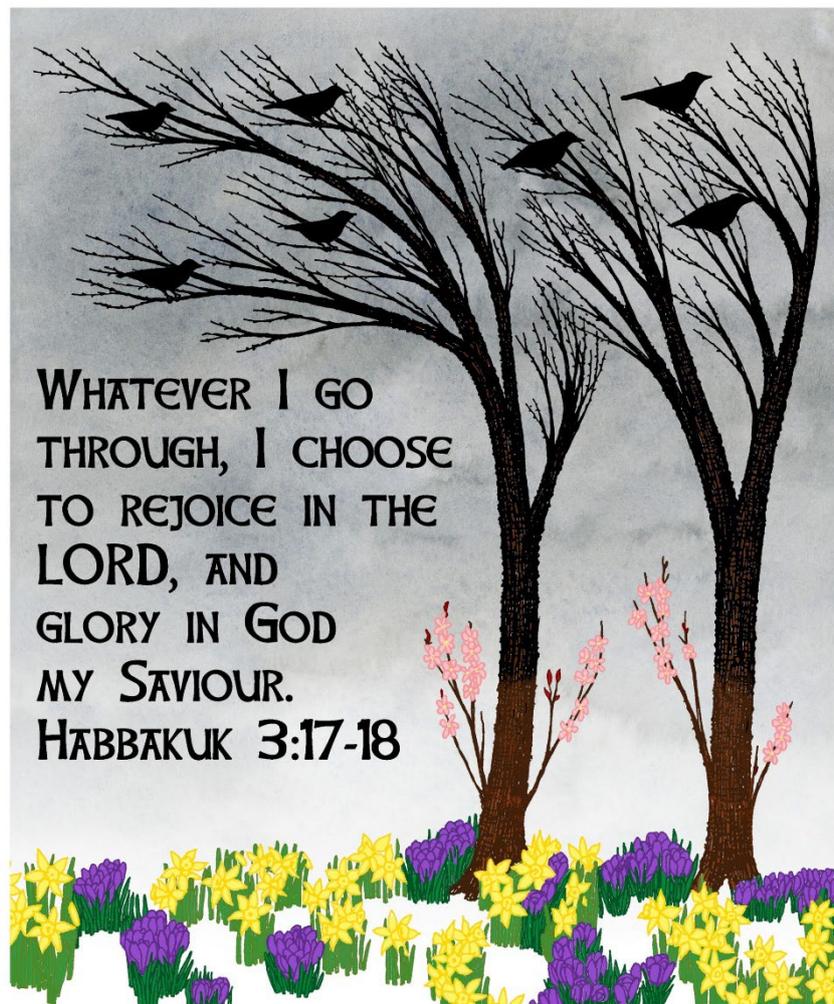


Saints Alive!

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



February
2023



£1
(suggested donation)

ALL SAINTS PLAYERS PRESENT

Dick

Whittington



Saturday 11 February 2023

14:00 & 19:00

All Saints Church, Kings Heath

Tickets: £7 (adult), £4 (children and concessions)

£20 family ticket (2 adults + up to 3 children)

Tickets available in advance from Clare Noakes.

To book tickets for collection at the performance,

please email players@allsaintschurchkh.org

or call 07929 593097 and leave a message.

From the vicarage

Dear friends and neighbours,

Why All Saints puts on a pantomime

Archbishop Robert Runcie said no-one without a sense of humour should be put in charge of anything, especially not a country. I can't for the life of me think who was in power at the time. I believe, Sunday by Sunday, as we bring our deepest thanksgivings and anxieties, our dilemmas and our hopes to God in prayer and song, and turn over the issues facing us in the light of the Scriptures, we are engaged in the most serious activity human beings ever get up to. If there's a risk in that, it's that we unwittingly shuffle from importance to self-importance, from humility to self-righteousness. The feeling of seriousness can become a shield from God rather than an opening up to God.

Pantomime is just one curious way of subverting very serious things, acknowledging the inevitability of hierarchies but shuffling and playing with them for a while. The powerful – royalty, mayors, captains and the like – always come in for particular mockery. Someone falls in love with someone of another class. Dramatic irony is worked up to a ridiculous degree ('Eeeeez behiiiiinnnnnd yooooou!') to remind us all how we're always the last to realise our zip is undone. Evil is always personified and exaggerated with cartoon relish. There's always a reassuring happy ending (spoiler alert: maybe not for King Rat). Best of all, categories of gender are overturned and played with, freeing everyone to laugh at the more comical aspects of our sexuality. Whether January's modest offer of CofE prayers of blessing for same-sex couples is an advance or further insult to gay friends, it feels all the more poignant this panto season that we playfully tease and, even if norms return the next day, boundaries have been blurred, categories helpfully shaken up a bit, and bubbles of self-importance burst.

The morning after the pantomime here in church, the altar will be back in place, prayers offered, a gentle question lingering for some: which were the more ridiculous costumes: last night's or today's?

I'm very grateful to Clare, Ben and Fiona for their initiative and tireless encouragement. It's a delight being part of such a good-humoured, self-deprecating, talented group of people. The binding of community, the healing laughter, the extravagant energy and time put in to doing something so daft all have a healing aspect. Isn't it wonderful to think of Don Stacey in his first All Saints production in the 1940s still treading the boards today? And there today are some children taking part at the age he was back then. What levelling and connection between the generations.

Yes, there are plenty of reasons to put on a pantomime in church, then Holy Communion the morning after. It would be interesting to know whether God notices much difference.

King Juan

Nativity figures for All Saints

At the Children's Carol Service on Christmas Eve, David blessed our beautiful new sculpted figures of Mary, Joseph and the Christ Child Jesus, which were revealed for the first time as our crib and which remained in place before the nave altar until Candlemas.



Funding for these, and for the completed set, has been most generously donated by the All Saints Crafters in memory of Gill Cole, whom many of you will remember fondly.

Hopefully, many of you and many others will have seen and admired these carefully and skilfully-crafted figures; we are immensely grateful to our local sculptor Graham Jones who was commissioned to produce them. The remainder of the set, which includes the Magi, shepherds and animals, will be completed for next Christmastide.

Many of you will have kindly completed questionnaires which were distributed as long ago as November 2021, which gave the opportunity to glean ideas from the congregation and the public as to what style, material, setting etc we should seek to create in order to replace the very old and now unreparable set of traditional ceramic figures I remember seeing every year for the 40+ years I have been at All Saints, and which probably have been used for many more years prior to that!

AS Crafters approached All Saints Community Arts with their initial idea to create a memory of our friend Gill, and crafters Pam Coley and Sheila Workman were fully involved in the process from the beginning.

The process of commissioning any artwork ideally involves initial input from all relevant sources, hence the questionnaire. The consensus was for a full 'set' of figures, to be created on contemporary, simple, flowing lines, preferably in locally-sourced or Palestinian olive wood, and to be substantial but light enough to be able to be handled by small persons.

The next step was to produce a list of criteria, known as a 'brief', to which we the 'customer' aspired.



This was compiled by Vivien Tilsley and Janice Rider, agreed by the steering group which include all the above plus David and Tariro, and then Janice and Vivien sought a suitable artist to agree to undertake commission detailed in the brief.

We wanted to find someone local, who had experience of creating figures of such a scale, and who was empathetic to the Christian story and its wider dissemination in the world. Graham impressed us with his clarity and the simplicity of his work style, his craft skill and knowledge of his material, his convivial personality, and his willingness to research suitable wood types and the Christian heritage.

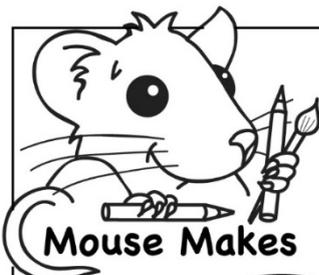
We were delighted when, after meeting him and discussing the project in length, he accepted the contract.

The whole process which culminated in engaging Graham took the best part of 2022, and so he agreed to produce the three key figures for us for Christmas just past, and to complete the remainder by December this year.

So the result has been created by everyone who responded to the invitation to offer ideas, which has resulted in these lovely figures – thank you for your contributions and we hope that you are pleased with the results. We who remember Gill Cole are confident she would have appreciated the flowing clarity of line and the beauty of the locally-sourced wood grain (olive wood is currently prohibitively expensive, sadly) which fellow-craftsperson Graham has so ably exposed. I eagerly anticipate working with him over the coming year and am excited to discover what further meditative qualities he will reveal within the woods he chooses for the remaining figures. Make a date next Christmas Eve to see the beautiful results!



Vivien Tilsley



Mouse Makes

What was the special meal Jesus was preparing to eat?

Matthew 26:18



What did Jesus give thanks for and share?

Matthew 26:27

What did Jesus say this represented?

His -----

Matthew 26:27-28



Jesus instructed his disciples to continue to break bread and share the cup "in -----

of me."

1 Corinthians 11:24-25

What did Jesus take, bless and break?

Matthew 26:26

What did Jesus say this represented?

His -----

Matthew 26:26

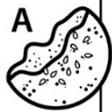


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SUPPER
LAMB • LORD
DISCIPLES
TOGETHER
EVENING
ROOM • JAR
WATER • TWELVE
JESUS • CHRIST
NIGHT • TOOK
THANKS
BLESSING
BROKE • GIVEN
COVENANT
DRINK • EAT
FORGIVENESS
SINS • HOLY
COMMUNION
EUCCHARIST

Find the words from the questions too!



Tell me a RIDL...

In November 2022, 11 members of All Saints along with 10 members of Moseley Parish signed up for a month-long **Retreat In Daily Life (RIDL)** in partnership with Manresa Link. A RIDL is a retreat at home based on Ignatian spirituality and involves a daily commitment of 15-30 minutes' Bible reading and prayer designed to deepen your awareness of God and help you discern how she/he might be working in your life. A weekly confidential meeting with a trained prayer guide gives you a chance to share what has happened during the week, explore Scripture passages and how God might be speaking to you through them, and try different ways of praying, such as Lectio Divina (an ancient monastic practice of sacred reading) and Imaginative Prayer or Contemplation (inviting you to step into a Gospel story using all your senses). Embarking on a RIDL is an adventure – you never know what will happen or where it will lead you. Be prepared for it to draw you into a deeper way of praying that will nourish, affirm, challenge and sustain you in the long term.

Comments from some of those who completed the Retreat:

I appreciated 'how well it was organised. It was wonderful to start and finish with the [whole group] meeting and to have the opportunity to share our hopes and reflections. This was the first time I had attempted a RIDL and I was blessed with a very skilful prayer guide who chose pieces of Scripture to reflect on which really resonated. I initially found the process for Imaginative Prayer harder to dip into but with her support, guidance and encouragement found the process to be deeply enriching. I would encourage others to experience it.'

'I deepened my prayer life through the RIDL with the helpful Ignatian daily practice of reading prayerfully, and the illuminating weekly dialogue with my prayer guide. The daily practice has given me a way to talk to God in a more "real" way.'

'It was a wonderful experience to be able to read the Bible in such an accessible way, through practising Lectio Divina and Imaginative Prayer. I really felt the ministry of Christ becoming real and making itself fully relevant to my daily life in the present. It helped me understand more of what the love of God is and does for me, and that I simply have to be open to receiving – no skill or qualification required other than to drop my defences and prejudices and breathe it in by the lungful, by God's good grace. My prayer guide was an essential part of the process, being there weekly to touch base and gently and skilfully moving me forward; I am so grateful for her sharing.'

'Although the month of my RIDL was a very full and busy one, I found it such a rich and helpful time, especially as I contemplate change and transition in my life. My prayer guide was a very good and empathic listener and helped me discern the work of the Spirit in my life in new ways. I found the retreat refreshed my prayer life and my engagement with Scripture, helping me to look for a word from my daily Bible reading with expectation. This has continued beyond the end of the retreat itself.'

'I rather reluctantly signed up to participate in the Retreat In Daily Life on the basis that there was "never a good time" to do so. It has been transformative: through it I have discovered how to pray in a more heart-led than head-led way. The whole experience is both appropriately gentle and challenging at the same time. I would recommend it to those who are even just a little bit curious.'

Thank you very much to The Revd Magdalen Smith, associate vicar of Moseley parish, and John and Maria Price of Manresa Link for organising the retreat, to all the retreatants who took part, and to the prayer guides who supported them. There is likely to be another local RIDL in 2024, but if anyone would like to do one in the meantime there are opportunities for individually-guided retreats online or face-to-face. Please contact me at warbrickja@gmail.com for more details.

Jenny Warbrick

All Saints outing

Come and see one of the oldest companies in Birmingham –
ACME Whistles made by Hudson and Co of the Jewellery Quarter.

Thursday 16 March at 10:30am at the factory.

They have been making whistles for 150 years, used by the police, most railway companies, football referees and lots more. Find out the history of whistle-making, and how they were used in both world wars. See how they are made out of metal, plastic and lots more. Followed by tea or coffee and cake (included in the price).

We can arrange lifts (the factory is at the far end of the Jewellery Quarter near Holloway flyover); if you decide to use the bus, take one into town and one out towards Handsworth. Jewellery Quarter station is a five-minute walk away; you can get a through train from Yardley Wood station.

There is an option to go for a light lunch at a wonderful old pub, the Jewellers Arms, after the tour (which will last about 90 minutes).

Tickets cost £15.30 per person:
speak to Des Workman or Pam Coley or call 0121 443 5292.



Get involved...!

We are always pleased to receive contributions for the magazine – including reports and reflections, *Getting to know you* interviews, and hearing 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

An audience with Martyn Joseph

I guess that every journey starts with one small step, which may seem insignificant at the time, but in some cases that first step can be the start of a new journey which can be life-changing! For me, I took my first step on my personal 'journey' with Martyn Joseph – the Cardiff-born singer-songwriter – when I went to a gig of his here in Kings Heath back in 2014. If you haven't previously come across Martyn Joseph then you might wish to have a look here: <https://www.martynjoseph.net/about>. My latest encounter with Martyn was at the MAC a few days ago (along with Ben and Clare Noakes who also happened to be there), where we were treated to an evening of musical treasures!

Martyn has been telling stories and changing lives for the better via his music and concerts, with more than 30 years on the road. This tour takes the audience on a journey with him through his songs and stories, via an entertaining combination of powerful yet soulful singing, storytelling, and explanation of the inspiration for his songs. We were given insights into the creativity and craft that is the journey of a song from the seed of an idea, through careful nurturing and germination, until the final version is ready to burst out from the shade before the bright lights of the stage and the live audience. There it will grow and develop; it may be pruned or shaped over time until it becomes a familiar feature in the landscape of MJ's songs, old and new.

Martyn is one of those truly inspirational yet humble human beings! He is willing and able to share his story, with its personal mix of achievements and insights, passions and fears, alongside his own vulnerabilities and the emotional rollercoasters of the type that we all experience as a part of our shared human story. His poignant telling of his experiences and grief at his own father's journey with Alzheimer's via his songs is an example of how Martyn is prepared to share that journey with us, the audience. (Martyn's father had died only a few short weeks beforehand after an eight-year battle with this cruel disease: a battle which, in Martyn's own words, his father never 'lost' – he kicked its ass!)

My own journey with Martyn and his music quickly led me to another part of his life and mission – Let Yourself Trust (LYT): this is the charity that MJ and his wife Justine set up eight years ago to support small grassroots organisations around the world which empower and promote the work of changemakers on the ground, often working with minimal resources and in desperate situations, yet which still manage to achieve so much to bring light and hope and dignity to people who are mistreated, marginalised or ignored by those around them. The first project that LYT supported is Alrowwad, a children's theatre and arts project set in the Aida refugee camp located in Bethlehem (see <https://www.alrowwad.org/en/who-we-are-2> for details).

This project thrives against the odds: it is located within sight of the separation wall which divides Jews from Palestinians and is part of the infrastructure built by the Israeli authorities as part of their 'management' of the occupied territories of the West Bank. Martyn's visit there and his conversations with Abed (the project director at Alrowwad) led to MJ writing the song *The Luxury of Despair*, and the inspiration for the creation of LYT. See here for more information about the work of LYT and how you might support MJ and the team: <https://www.letyourself.net/our-mission>.

I was so inspired and moved by this song, and the story that led to its creation, that I have been a supporter of LYT ever since; I was fortunate enough to travel with MJ and 30 other LYT supporters on a visit to Alrowwad and a tour of the West Bank back in 2017, a journey which was in itself both humbling and inspiring, and which will stay with me forever!

Back to the MAC and the musical journey that we shared together that evening: so many great songs, and no doubt each of us there having our own favourites! From the very first song we were encouraged to sing along – which I have to say we did with gusto!

My personal highlights were *Thunder and Rainbows*, a song that resonates so much on a personal level for me; *Nye*, which tells the story of Aneurin (Nye) Bevan and his vision for and pivotal role in the creation of the NHS; and finally *Here Come the Young*, which perhaps expresses MJ's reflections on the energy and hope of young people and their role as the leaders and changemakers of the future, alongside their passion for justice, inclusion and equality of opportunity regardless of people's background or circumstances.

The take-home message for me was around optimism in the power of the human spirit and what can be achieved when we work together in communion with others; the belief that we should seek to find the good in people in order to overcome the darkness and evil; that hope can overcome despair; and that 'this glass is half full; this glass is heartbreakingly beautiful'.

Chris Watts

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 submit a review for inclusion in a future issue of the magazine!

The ASYP Big Christmas Word Quiz 2022

Lindsey and Ted Hammond send the following message, with their thanks and best wishes.

We would like to thank the All Saints community for their wonderful support with the fourth of what is slowly becoming annual fundraising venture.

We are delighted to report that the Word Quiz raised close to £1,000 for the All Saints Youth Project.

From conversations over the Christmas period we know that many of you engaged with the quiz.

It was designed as fun quiz, but the main purpose was to provide the community with an additional opportunity to support the wonderful work of, and raise funds for, the Project. We are confident that both aims were realised and we plan to run a fifth quiz for Christmas 2023!

There were an encouraging number of submitted entries this year and we are delighted to report that Carol Chapple won the first prize of £30 and Ken Fisher the second prize of £20. There were three lucky entries that each won a £10 M&S voucher: congratulations to Paul Brown, Alistair Scott and Lis Smart.

If you enjoyed the quiz but have not yet seen the answers, these are available at www.allsaintsyouthproject.org.uk, or email tedhammond74@gmail.com.

Donations can of course still be made via the website or bank transfer.



Catering for the
community

A WARM WELCOME TO A WARM LUNCH

Every Tuesday and Friday 12pm-2.30pm
from Friday 3rd February 2023

COMMUNITY LUNCH*

Enjoy...

A nutritious bowl of home cooked soup and freshly baked bread
Tea or coffee and a slice of cake

We offer a warm place to relax, meet others for a chat, play board games
or simply enjoy some live music. Come along to **All Saints Church, 2
Vicarage Rd, King's Heath, Birmingham B14 7RA**. Head to the far corner of
the square.

* Free or pay what you can

For more information:

Call: 07763 044986 between 9.00 – 12 noon

At other times, please leave a message, and one of our volunteers will get back to you.

Email: allsaintscommunitycatering@gmail.com

Funded by Birmingham City Council



and



What's in a name?



Many of you are used to All Saints Traidcraft reporting that a donation has been made to Traidcraft Exchange, the charity associated with Traidcraft plc. This used to be the case at the end of each year when we gave money from our increase in assets to support their Christmas fundraiser and during Fairtrade Fortnight. You won't be hearing about Traidcraft Exchange again, though we will still be making donations, as Traidcraft Exchange has been renamed to more closely reflect its focus.

It is now known as Transform Trade, with the added line of 'so everybody benefits'. Transform Trade has one big goal: to see transformation in the world of trade.

Transform Trade is a global community of farmers, workers, collectives, campaigners, donors and supporters working together for trade that values people over profit.

At this time, corporate greed and destruction still dominate the world of trade. But there is another way to do business: it's called people-centred trade. It has the power to transform lives and protect the planet we all rely on – more about this in a future magazine.

The new strategy focuses on three key areas – fashion, tea and farming.

This is Transform Trade's statement about their work in the tea industry, supporting workers and growers:

In 2020, the UK drank more than 100 million cups of tea a day, practically all of it imported, often from Kenya and India.

Transform Trade works alongside communities exploited by tea estates helping them to demand change and to develop other sources of income, outside the tea sector.

Transform Trade also support smallholder tea growers to adapt to climate change, sell their produce for a fair price, and improve their working conditions.

Look out for more about their work in the areas of fashion and farming next time.

When the news reached us that Traidcraft plc was going into administration, Traidcraft directors were quick to point out that Transform Trade would not be affected as it was now completely separate from the plc. We will continue to support them as before.

There is more about Transform Trade on their website: www.transform-trade.org.

Gill Parkin
Traidcraft Co-ordinator

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

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

Warden's musings

Happy new year everyone! It has been an exciting start to the year. When Daniel, Tony and I opened the cellar doorway to investigate where the heating is leaking, we discovered that it was full to within a few feet of the ground with water. We could start full immersion baptisms or open Kings Heath Spa, but I'm not sure we would get many customers. Thanks to Daniel and Tony who have thrown themselves into pumping the cellar out so that we can investigate what's going on. Tony used his spreadsheet skills to create a drawdown curve so that they knew how long they'd have to wait for the pump to empty the cellar – I think it was six hours or something. Once an engineer, always an engineer...

The heating system engineer couldn't find any obvious signs of leakage when he visited last week, but clearly the water is going somewhere as we are now having to bleed air out of the radiators every week to get the heating working properly. So water from two big radiators plus the four-inch-diameter heating pipe loop on the north side of the church is disappearing somewhere.

Meanwhile, having pumped down the cellar water level there appears to be water leaking into the cellar from the steps, which could be coming from a leaking underground main or from the heating system pipes where they are buried. The boiler for the church used to be in the church hall which used to be next door (where the Bon Marche shop is now). So heating pipework used to run northwards out across the Memorial Garden but now turns right running through the cellar to the boiler room. We have today put some dye in the heating header tank so we can try and track where the water ends up. I'll keep you all updated on this exciting saga in future episodes.

Today we celebrated David's birthday which saw a welcome return of coffee (and cake) in church. It was also the last Sunday of Epiphany so we lit the candles for the last time and this week I'll be taking down the candle-holders and scraping candle wax off everything – finally packing up Christmas until later this year. I usually then spend a few evenings watching films while trimming, sorting and cleaning up the remains of the candles. I have several boxes full of candle wax in the garage awaiting melting down to reuse for the sanctuary lights. I've been saving the plastic containers so we can reuse them, cutting down on plastic waste while also saving a bit of money, I hope.

We also switch from white to green altar frontals and enter what the church calls Ordinary Time – just in time for the panto...

Speaking of pantomimes, today also marked the latest member of our government being sacked for corruption – this time for inadvertently not paying enough tax and receiving a penalty from HMRC. Radio 4's *The News Quiz* on Friday suggested that the Prime Minister hadn't sacked him because he probably decided that underpaying your tax by several million pounds was probably just a 'rounding error' – which it might be for our PM and his family. Receiving a tax penalty of over £1m should make us all realise just how far from most people's normal lives some Conservative politicians are.

It is easy to not appreciate big numbers when you hear them on the news. I listened to a really good Radio 4 programme called *How to raise a trillion* (which is our current borrowing requirement). It traced the history of tax and the rates of taxation that have been paid. Britain's rulers started levying taxes on their subjects to pay mainly for wars and the navy. Income tax was introduced around 1800

and was raised from a few percent in stages until in 1918 it was around 30%, to help pay for World War I. The current system with National Insurance and tax bands came in around the time of WWII. The highest rate paid was 95% in the 1970s, but the current rates are still relatively high. The Government raised two thirds of all revenues from the three big taxes (National Insurance, income tax and VAT). National Insurance and income tax raise £161bn and £228bn respectively.

The Hinkley Point C nuclear power station being built in Somerset will cost around £25bn. This is a lot of money. The cost of the Covid pandemic to the UK economy was £300bn, furlough cost £70bn, the help provided to the public with energy costs will cost £60bn and there are numbers ranging from £2bn to £10bn for the money wasted by the government on unusable or corrupt PPE contracts during the pandemic. I find it sickening that so many in our society are struggling to make ends meet while our leaders are wasting money through ineptitude or not paying their fair share of tax. And then lying about it.

We saw another example of leadership this week when Jacinda Ardern stepped down after sympathetically leading New Zealand through the pandemic. Interestingly she was almost apologetic for putting herself first after many years of public service. What a difference compared to the egocentric speech given by our last but one PM when he was finally forced from office.

Apologies for being so political this month. Next month I'll get back to meaningless ramblings and pigeons...

Chris Pearce
Churchwarden

2022 Craft Fair a big success!

Many thanks to all who came to the Craft Fair in December, to buy items or to volunteer. A special thank-you to Ben, Clare and singers who made it very festive and welcoming. We had a very good footfall and the atmosphere was excellent; David and Tariro spoke to lots of people many who had never been into All Saints Church before. It is the big fundraiser for the All Saints Crafters but is also fun, friendly, and a great way to meet people.

We held a Christmas wreath-making workshop the previous week which was also very well attended.

The final total was over £1,000 which has gone towards the purchase of the new nativity set for church.

We welcome surplus donations of fruit and veg from your allotments and gardens, which we freeze to make jams and chutneys. If you have any pickled onion jars we would love to reuse them – just bring them into church.

Most Sundays we have a small stall at the rear of church after the 10am service.

Sheila Workman, Pam Coley and the Crafters



Music matters

Looking forward, looking back and looking around us – starting the new year with rounding up some recent activity and a few other musical thoughts.

As regular readers will know (and many, I'm sure, will agree), I think that there is so much wonderful music for the short seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany it can feel like a shame that we only get to sing it at that time of year – and it can be hard to fit everything in to the regular services.

So we never pass up an opportunity for a bit of carol singing, and as has been our custom for more than a decade now we took to the Village Square on the morning of Christmas Eve to work our way through some favourites. The weather was more favourable and clement than it has been in some recent years, and a good-sized group of All Saints musicians, friends from within the congregation and beyond, and a few passersby, ranging in age from under 10 to over 90 and accompanied by Clare's flute and some enthusiastic bucket-shaking, sang lots of well-loved carols and took a few more secular requests from members of the public. In just under 90 minutes we were delighted to raise over £150 for the New Life Baptist Church foodbank. Based at their church further up the High Street opposite ASDA, the foodbank helps to feed the needy in our community and welcomes donations of items – please see <http://www.newlifebaptistchurch.org.uk/food-bank.html> for more information.

The last *Music matters* article focused on descants and their particular prevalence at Christmas (while being careful to note that they are a feature of our singing throughout the church year). Sometimes what may sound like a descant is actually more than just an alternative soprano line above everyone else singing the melody; it is actually part of a different arrangement of a particular verse, with either a choir singing four-part harmony while the congregation sings the tune (as in some verses or refrains of David Willcocks' *Carols for Choirs* arrangements of *O come, O come, Emmanuel*, for instance), or with the tune sung by another voice part, usually the tenor – this was heard in the third verse of *The first nowell* in our carol service this year, and such a setting is sometimes called a fauxbourdon (although Stephen Johnson, the writer and critic who helped us to define the word 'descant' last time, points out that this is another potentially 'puzzling' term, quoting that as it has been at 'different times used with different significances'.)

I have noted previously how examples of the changing and updating of hymn words can seem particularly noticeable during music of the festive season (for instance, how in our book 'born to raise the sons of earth' has become 'born to raise us from the earth', or the noise of the 'men of strife' is now that of 'mortal strife'), perhaps because they have been embedded so deeply in our minds from nativity plays, carol services and community singing since childhood; I have also given examples of where (in my opinion) such updating has been done successfully and where less so, and where it has been done for valid, understandable reasons and where it can be hard to fathom the reason for any alteration. Perhaps every generation feels this, but it seems to me that at the moment language, especially in striving for greater inclusivity and understanding of difference, is developing at a rapid rate and it is right that we should always be considering carefully the words that we are singing; and that many even – perhaps especially – relatively recent song texts will find themselves subject to revision, development or obsolescence.

This is no doubt a subject that we will return to before too long, but along with the festive connection mentioned above this issue popped into my mind again when I happened to be skimming through the preface to the new edition of *Ancient & Modern* (truly, I know how to keep myself entertained...) and noticed that its editors took a slightly softer tack on the updating of words than that taken by those of our *Complete Anglican Hymns Old & New*. The *A&M* editors write: 'Some hymns have been altered slightly, where widely acceptable alternatives exist elsewhere... or where the flow and rhythm of the text make a small alteration unnoticeable ... Archaic language has only been amended where there is already precedent and where no damage is inflicted on the meaning or purpose of the original text.' This is not to pass judgement on this or any approach to managing words – I have heard of other hymnbooks, for instance, where no texts older than a hundred years have been altered at all for publication – as each change, or lack of change, to language where perceived necessary will upset one person and delight the next. By the way, I described this as the 'new' *Ancient & Modern*, but in fact the edition is already 10 years old: as seen when, while the editors correctly note that 'the language we speak and sing has political, theological and personal significance', they add that 'we hope to have sailed a course between the rocks of poetical butchery on one side and gender obsession on the other' – it's hard not to feel, and to hope, that any reprint now will find a more sensitive and less polarising turn of phrase if this aim is still to be expressed.

Early in a new year we might wish to look forward rather than back, and especially back to the height of Covid, but Clare and I were very pleased to receive an email a couple of weeks ago from David Lee. He is the author and composer of *God is gone up with a sound of rejoicing*, a lively and percussive piece based on Psalm 47 that we sing each year as an introit at Ascension. He had stumbled across the lockdown recording that we made in 2020 and wrote: 'What a total joy! I've heard various recordings of it, and this definitely captures what I had in mind when I wrote it. Thank you.'

I report this not to blow our own trumpet (although it does give us another opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to or supported in any way the 18 months'-worth of online services that were produced by the All Saints worship leaders, musicians and congregation), but rather in turn to express our own total joy at the reach of the recordings that were made, and at the pleasure and nourishment that they have given and continued to give – the All Saints pages on SoundCloud for each service are still active, and links to any music that we feature in a service can still be clicked on by those accessing our weekly service online. David Lee has also linked our recording to his website, and it can be found at <http://www.servicemusic.org.uk/psalms/#ps47>.

Of course none of the recordings that we made during that period would have been possible without Sarah Baker's technical expertise and tireless work, and it was lovely when we marked Candlemas last Sunday to be able to revisit *Light in the darkness*, which she wrote for the 2018 Carols by Candlelight service. In the spirit of looking forward, there will be a further opportunity soon to enjoy Sarah's music in church when the choir will sing *Come together everybody*, her composition for last year's Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, in the service on Sunday 12 March (the day before Commonwealth Day) – and we can all celebrate and get behind the message of her words: 'Come together everybody as friends and family / we are connected, not divided, there's strength in our diversity.'

Ben Noakes
Music Co-ordinator

From the PCC

A happy new year to all readers, even though it probably seems quite a long time since the beginning of the new year.

The PCC had a well-attended meeting on 17 January to start the new year off. Chris Watts, who had been on the PCC for some years and also spent some time helping our churchwarden, Chris Pearce, with warden duties, decided to stand down due to work commitments. He was sent a vote of thanks for all his hard work and dedication over the period.

The meeting was very constructive and there were a number of important issues discussed. The following incorporates the key items that were covered at the meeting.

Finance: As ever, our treasurer gave us a comprehensive update on the financial position of the church. Expenditure to the end of December 2022 for the year was circa £167K. Income was marginally lower at circa £148K. Overall, the account was currently in deficit to the amount of circa £19K; however this included the cost of the tower repair work at circa £26K.

Regular giving: The treasurer reported that the average for the past 12 months was some £616/month up on the previous 12 months, and significantly higher than the average last month. He said this was very pleasing if it represented a trend.

Overall net worth: The treasurer reported that overall, at this time, the church balance net worth stood at circa £182K.

Christmas charities: The treasurer reported that giving over the Christmas period to be given equally to the three chosen charities (Practical Action, National Energy Action, and B30 and New Life Baptist Church foodbanks) had been very generous, amounting to some £1,020 in total.

Card reader machine: The treasurer reported that the use of the temporary card reader machine obtained from the diocese for use over the Christmas period had been very successful. He said that the QR code printed on paper and placed in the church in strategic locations over the period linked to the same account had also been very popular for people to use for giving digitally in addition to the temporary card reader. He had placed an order for a permanent card reader and this was expected in the next couple of weeks. He would shortly be liaising with the diocese regarding setting it up in the church.

Church finances leaflet: David, the vicar, presented the meeting with a draft copy of a church finances leaflet giving details of anticipated expenditure in 2023 balanced against current giving. The estimated amount which ideally would be additionally required from regular giving would amount to circa £1,900 per week to meet this increased expenditure. Based on the current electoral roll membership, this amounts to about £10 per person per week. Once this has been finalised it would be presented to the congregation for their consideration. He added that the last similar request for persons to reconsider their regular giving was in 2019 so the current proposal was timely.

Statistics for Mission Return: David presented to the meeting a copy of the Statistics for Mission 2022 document that he had prepared and forwarded to the diocese. He drew particular attention to

the statistics in relation to church attendance and compared 2021 figures with those for 2022, which showed a marked and very promising increase:

- Christmas services: 2021 = 208 2022 = 627
- Schools' attendance: 2021 = 148 2022 = 847

Attendance on an 'ordinary' Sunday, usually taken as October attendance, averaged 87 adults and 9 children and young people (under 16 years old) for 2022.

Vision Review: It is understood that a review of the responses to the questionnaire has been completed and taken account of in finalising the latest version of the Vision Review brief which is to be issued shortly.

Youth Project grants: David reported that the securing of the very significant grant from the Government referred to as the 'Youth Investment Fund', which would enable the completion of the Youth Centre and also incorporate new facilities for Circus Mash, was on hold until some adjustments had been made with respect to the governance of the Youth Centre. This was being addressed at the moment. However, it is understood that a very competent young architect is being employed at the moment who is very positive in developing the inclusion of Circus Mash in the proposals for completing the overall site development and this may be attractive to the funders awarding the grant as its scope covers a lot of social classes and local demands.

It is understood that a very generous and welcome grant of £150K has been awarded by the Henry Smith Charity which will support the work that the Youth Project delivers for the next three years, starting in January 2023.

Oversight: This is a new initiative from the diocese where parishes would be grouped into 'clusters' so that available resources can be distributed within the group fairly and according to demand. David reported that this was progressing slowly and a meeting has been arranged for Saturday 11 March of the churches likely to be included in the cluster in the Kings Heath area.

Safeguarding: David reported that unfortunately Rosalyn Clare, who was considering succeeding Mary Miles as our safeguarding co-ordinator, has decided not to take on the role. David added that he was in the process of approaching another person to take up this important role.

Electrical work: The churchwarden reported that a recent electrical inspection has demonstrated that the church electrics are in good order other than with one of the internal lights, one of the external security lights and one earthing issue. He is proposing to instruct the work to be done shortly.

Air entering heating system: Churchgoers may have noticed that the north side of the church is not as warm as it might be. The churchwarden explained that for some time now it has become necessary periodically to bleed air out of the heating pipes along the north side of the nave and from the radiator behind the centre-left pews (looking toward the chancel).

This has recently required the process to be undertaken more frequently. If left for any length of time the pipes on the north side have been completely emptying of hot water from the boiler and so they remain cold.

A leak was found in the pipework where it enters the nave on the north side of the church some time ago but this had been fixed. However, the continued loss of air suggested that there is another leak, as yet unidentified. Beneath the north vestry is a small cellar which originally housed the blowers for the organ. The heating pipes pass through this cellar. A recent inspection of the cellar found that there was standing water in it to some depth. The suspicion was that this was water leaking from the heating pipes and letting air into the system. However, once the water was pumped out it was possible to inspect the pipes there was no sign of any leakage or damp areas indicating a leak. A heating company has visited the site to see if they could assist but nothing was forthcoming.

The jury is out at the moment as to what the cause of the air leaking into the system is and whether the water in the cellar is actually from the heating system, groundwater, or a leaking water main or service pipe. A tracing dye is to be added to the header tank water to see if it emerges in the cellar.

Churchgoers will be pleased to learn that there is heating in the pipes and radiators on the south side of the nave and the chancel so some heat can be maintained in the interim period, and temporarily on the north side of the church if the air is periodically released from the pipes and the radiator.

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 two 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.

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

Chris feels that he definitely wants to retire from being our churchwarden in April 2023. This has made it even more imperative that suitable candidates are found in advance and a process is ongoing at the moment to achieve this. Chris did say that he would be very happy to coach new churchwardens in what is required once they are in place. In addition, there are a number of ex-wardens who still attend church and they would no doubt also be able to provide advice and insight into the benefit they had gained from the experience.

Quinquennial inspection Every five years an inspection of the inside and outside of the church building is undertaken by an architect competent in this type of work. This is referred to as a quinquennial inspection. A number of defects have been identified in a recent inspection report and to facilitate the correction of the defects identified it is proposed that it would be best resolved by a specific working group. Some members of the PCC have shown interest in helping with this but ideally David would prefer some fresh faces to join the group and even lead the work. This is early days at the moment but if anyone reading this would like to assist with this it would be very welcome.

Records storage: Over the years, and particularly since the new church Centre has been operational, it has become apparent that a central and controlled storage system for suitable long-term archiving of paper and electronic records etc is needed. David would like to form a small group to identify what needs archiving and the best way of doing it. It should ideally include a person with an affinity for archiving and historic documentation and capable of an overview on the situation. If anyone reading considers that this is something that would interest them (not only from a pure storage viewpoint – some records go back to 1860 when the church was first built so there is significant historic interest there as well), then they are encouraged to get in touch.

Warm Project Place: David said that the church had registered as a 'Warm Project Place'. This was something that had commenced in the Youth Centre for two days a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 to 6pm. It gives a link for young people between the 4pm drop-in and the evening events. It provides young people with a warm space, company and a hot meal. It is understood that they have had between and 15 and 25 young people attending since it commenced.

Margaret Healey-Pollett, who ran the café when it was open, said that she is also working on a similar proposal for adults. However, it is understood that the Methodist Church is running a similar scheme and she is keen that she does not overlap with it or the Youth Project activities.

Tea, Cake and Music: Readers may be aware of Tea, Cake and Music which has been running for some time and is a place where people can come together for an hour or two once a week for a cup of tea and chat in the church Centre, entertained by a pianist. It was reported in the meeting that attendance at these weekly events has not been as good as it could be; even though the time had changed from morning to afternoon it had made little difference and was disappointing. If readers would be interested in coming to this weekly event, then details can be found in the Centre.

New nativity figures: Readers who attended the Christmas services may have seen the new nativity figures which were presented in front of the nave altar. These have been carved by a local sculptor and it is understood that there has been a very good response to the new figures. Three figures have been made so far and it is anticipated that the sculptor will be able to complete the set by next Christmas.

Discussion took place regarding what to do with the old nativity figures and the crib but no firm conclusion was reached. If readers would be interested in having these old figures, please contact the churchwarden.

Village Square: Discussion took place regarding the Village Square and that it is looking a bit 'tired' in some areas and could do with a bit of sprucing up. However, it is understood that this has been covered in the Vision Review which is ongoing.

Next meetings: These are scheduled as follows:

SC meetings: 21 February, 18 April, 20 June, 17 October, 12 December 2023; 20 February 2024.

PCC meetings: 21 March, 16 May, 18 July, 19 September, 21 November 2023; 16 January, 19 March 2024.

Tony Cocks
PCC Secretary

Accessing and paying for the magazine

The *Saints Alive!* magazine is available in digital form on the All Saints website at <https://allsaintschurchkh.org/about-us/publications/>, 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.

High days and holy days

2 February – Candlemas

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself. In New Testament times, 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when he made his first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child, to present him to the Lord. At the same time she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus we have the festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles on this day: hence the name Candlemas. The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40: Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the *Nunc dimittis*, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West; but in medieval times, the *Nunc dimittis* was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.

27 February – George Herbert, priest and poet

On this day the Church calendar celebrates George Herbert. For those who are muttering 'never heard of him', just think of the hymn *Let all the world in every corner sing*, which he wrote along with several others which are still popular, even if they are well over 300 years old. In the course of his short life he was a graduate of Cambridge University, a favoured politician of King James I, a distinguished poet of the so-called 'metaphysical' school, and a much-loved parish priest at Bemerton, Wiltshire.

Herbert was born in Wales but grew up in a wealthy family in England. As a student he felt called to ordination, but when he had graduated, he was drawn instead into the government of the time. As a protégé of King James he could have pursued a career in government, but that youthful call persisted and after a while he turned instead to the ministry of the Church of England. It was an era when many clergy were absentee incumbents, paying someone else to do the parish work while they lived elsewhere, but Herbert set himself to be a true parish priest, noted for his pastoral care and practical support of his parishioners. The whole of his ministry was fulfilled in that one parish, until he died in 1633 aged 39 from what we would now call tuberculosis.

It is of course his hymns for which he is chiefly remembered today, though his collected poems are also regarded as jewels of English poetry. Artistic commemorations of Herbert exist in several churches and cathedrals, including a stained glass window in Westminster Abbey and a statue at the front of Salisbury Cathedral.

(adapted from www.parishpump.co.uk)

From the registers



Funerals – we remember:

Cecil Lammy, whose funeral took place at All Saints on 6 January

Barbara Reid, whose funeral took place at All Saints on 18 January

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 2945
Gift Aid	Philip & Martha Ann Brookes	0121 444 5655
Envelope Giving Scheme	Martha Ann Brookes	0121 444 5655
Cash Counting Team	c/o Sarah Wilson	c/o 0121 444 0760

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, banker's order/standing order, or Direct Debit through the Parish Giving Scheme. 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, 10-10:30am.

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 9:15am 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 vacant	Secretary Tony Cocks, 0121 441 2945	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 444 8111
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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