

# ***Saints Alive!***

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



**March  
2023**



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and



# *From the vicarage*

Dear friends and neighbours,

## **Godly conversation**

It sounds quaint when the archdeacon reassures the bishop that the priest about to be installed as vicar somewhere is found to be 'of godly conversation'. My toes curled a little at my own installations. We might dwell on what godly conversation sounds like this Lent as we hear fascinating conversations with Jesus in our readings from John's Gospel. You realise how much of John is conversation with Jesus: with his mother and the servants at the wedding, with Nicodemus in the night, with the foreign woman at the well, with anxious parents around the healing of their son, with Mary and Martha, with Pilate. Most intense of all there are the three-and-a-half chapters of conversation over dinner on the night before he died.

The other Gospels share Jesus' teaching, parables and movement through the landscape and seascape very vividly, so the offer of John is different. We didn't need another account in the same style. Written a few decades later John's disciples, drawing on the long memory and intimate detail known by John himself, add poetry, matured theology and a different imaginative way into the Gospel. Eavesdropping on conversations about and with God, we are invited to consider our own conversation with him/her. As Nicodemus, a conflicted community leader, struggles to free his imagination enough to enjoy the God he meets in Jesus, we are invited to ask if we might be keeping our vision too narrow, our horizons too small, our expectations of God too low.

As the Samaritan woman pushes back, eager to test and find out more of Jesus, we are invited to measure our own curiosity about faith, checking whether we might have settled into lazy acceptance. As Mary and Martha face Jesus candidly with their grief and bring both intellect and passion to the fore in theology, community-making and worship, we are called to awaken our intellect and free our emotional inhibitions in our discipleship. In all of these and more, we the readers are reminded that there is no existential matter more important than how we are with God.

When you find yourself overhearing an interesting conversation at a gathering, sometimes you find yourself drawn in. This is John's hope. Lent gives us opportunities for more intentional Godly conversation, in our Lent groups, after worship as we restart Sunday morning coffee, around the *Octave* paintings in church, and beyond Lent in our All Age Worship and evening services.

As St Augustine teasingly put it: 'If God does not exist, nothing matters. If God does exist, nothing else matters.' While not baldly, simply true, it is a good jolt, a reminder that we have the opportunity in our conversation to remind each other what gives us meaning, another Johannine name for which is fullness of life.

Verbose as ever, but thrilled to have all of you to listen and talk to,

*David*

# A capital panto!

After *Cinderella* in 2018 and *Jack and the Beanstalk* in 2020, this year it was the turn of *Dick Whittington* to get the All Saints treatment. Back with two sell-out performances following an enforced break after Covid, all the classic panto ingredients were still hilariously on show, including lots of cross-dressing, terrible jokes, an outrageous dame and the obligatory triumph of young love over evil.

We in the audience of course also got plenty of opportunities to take part, shouting 'behind you!', hissing the baddies, cheering our heroes and singing along to some of the songs, with Pharrell Williams' *Happy* a particular highlight. One of the joys of putting on pantos is the fun to be had in adapting the words of well-known songs (and in this case hymns): *For those in peril on the sea* will never sound the same again, with lines like 'We've got our citrus fruit so curvy / so none of us come down with scurvy'!

The top-quality production clearly reaped the rewards of months of preparation by an enthusiastic 30-strong cast and skilled backroom team. The sets were imaginative – transporting us from a sweetshop, via the docks, to a paradise island with a royal palace – with one-man band (Ben Noakes) as backing group keeping the show rolling along.

Not only did the cast span the ages – from Jake aged 6 to Don, an ever-spirited 92 – but their acting skills were tested to the limits, from villagers and islanders through to tougher roles as trees, a plant, kitchen cupboard, a shelf, eggs, baked beans and even a safe. Such versatility!



Difficult – and maybe even invidious – to pick out individuals among so many top performances perhaps, but the church resonated with the largest of boos every time Kevin Groves as the nasty King Rat appeared with his superbly scary team of little rats; Nigel Pietroni too was suitably larger-than-life as Sarah the cook, making the very most of his dame role.



So far, no mention of the plot? No surprise really, as in true panto style it remained suitably sketchy in just about getting us from Alderman Fitzwarren's house in London, where a plague of rats is causing mayhem, across the sea to a remote island called Mycoco (I kid you not!), where everything ends happily.

Two other key elements along the way stood out, however. Reflecting the importance of the church's local outreach programmes, a large number of young people from the Inclusion+ group at All Saints Youth Project started off the second half in rousing fashion, carrying us across the ocean safely with their version of *Sailing* – which brought the house down with the biggest cheers of each performance.

And when everyone reached their destination, they were welcomed by King Juan, played as ever with overwhelming exuberance by David Warbrick. We know that along with his fellow islanders he hadn't seen a woman for 15 years, but to fall for the questionable charms of Sarah the cook (he'd 'never seen a woman like her') did bring to mind the phrase 'should've gone to Specsavers'...



With a generosity typical of David in his day job as vicar of All Saints we were not at all surprised at King Juan's offer to Captain Cook of a replacement for his stricken ship – but we didn't anticipate that he would have called it 'The Bursting Brassiere'!

At the start of the show, producer Clare Noakes announced that half the money raised by the event would go to the DEC Turkey-/Syria Earthquake Appeal. This gesture was received very positively by the audience and no doubt contributed to the £1,500 profit achieved, as well as additional donations given directly to the appeal.

All in all, a huge effort by the team – including theatrical director Fiona Briggs, who was unable to be there on the day for the happiest of reasons as she welcomed her daughter – and hugely rewarded. Did we all have a good time? Oh yes we did!

### Graham Noakes



*Photographs by Joe Pearce  
and Vivien Tilsley*

# Warden's musings

Like a brief spell of sun on a windy, showery day or the fleeting glimpse of the rosy chest of a male bullfinch on the bird feeder, earlier this month the church was transformed into a theatre and a select audience of a few hundred people were transported to panto-land. On the Sunday after Candlemas, I watched the last rehearsal as I took down the Christmas candle stands, removed the candles and cleaned some of the wax up. I've added the wax to the stockpile I have in the garage waiting to melt it down. Not sure when I'll get round to that given the price of gas. I think I'll have to contrive of a safe way of using candles to heat the wax and melt it. Not sure how many candles it will need to generate enough heat to melt a pan full of wax, but it will certainly be cheaper than using the hob. Sort of like LNG tankers which transport gas in a liquid form to terminals like those in Pembroke Dock. They use a little of the gas cargo that 'boils off' to power the engines and the refrigerators that keep the bulk of the gas cooled to prevent it vaporising.

The following Thursday I met Daniel, Brian, Mike and Clare in church to set up the blackout curtains that create 'backstage' areas, the stage backdrop curtain that used to be used for FreeSpirit, and set



*Handel's lesser-known Arrival of the Lights of Panto...*

up the microphones and lighting which Brian and Mike had picked up from Hall Green Theatrical Supplies. This year we had three microphones hung above the stage and four set up in front of the stage which proved quite successful and avoided needing radio mics which can experience reception dropouts as people move round the stage (or literal dropouts in

some of the more enthusiastic dance sequences...). We also put some of the lights on the lighting bars which are supported from the aisle arches – I've always wanted to use those as it doesn't feel like a proper theatre unless you've had to try to adjust lights from the top of a ladder: I think they were also a relic of the FreeSpirit days. We helped Clare organise props (her seagull pie was a thing of beauty), put in dozens of safety pins to hold curtains together, and try and ensure that performers could move about backstage without tripping over – and then we had the technical rehearsal in the evening: our first chance to see the panto in full and for everyone to work out their entrances and exits and get used to getting on and off the stage with the curtains up.

On Friday we were back for the dress rehearsal which, as the name suggests, meant that we all had to wear dresses – no, just kidding... The dress rehearsal was the first chance to see people in full costume and make-up and an opportunity for the cast to get used to stumbling around in almost complete darkness backstage. And then on Saturday evening, after two amazing performances to a packed house (church), we quickly reinstalled the altar and lectern and cleared enough to allow the Sunday service to take place before joining the rest of the cast for a little after-show sustenance at the vicarage. My final challenge that evening (which almost defeated me) was trying to make sure that I disconnected and reconnected the right cables so that the lectern microphone and lapel radio mics were on the correct channels for Sunday. There are only eight cables and eight channels to choose from – how hard can it be? (Now did cable 7 need to go in channel 4 or was it 5 that goes in 4 and 7 that goes in 5 and which port did I take this cable out of...? It nearly got me!)

On Sunday after the service a small group of people cleared up all the make-up, props, costumes, feathers, took down the curtains, lighting, staging, reset the PA and moved all the furniture back to where it should be, stacked all the extra chairs, put the backdrop screens back up above the Marjorie Allen Room, and Becky hoovered the whole church. By 4pm, we dropped the last bits off at Clare's house and went home and the only evidence that there had been anything out of the ordinary in church was a patch of glitter on the carpet in the North Vestry. (Well, almost the only physical evidence – surprising how much glitter there is in church...)

From the ridiculous (?) to the sublime and downright depressing, I've been watching *Edge of Darkness*, which was released as a BBC miniseries in 1985, on BBC4 this month. It's really strange to think that when it was released there were only three or four channels to watch on TV! I was 14 and still remember watching it so it made a lasting impression. I can't remember whether it influenced my later career choice, but it is quite compelling with its tale of industrial subterfuge. Despite now knowing that there are all kinds of holes in the story, it is worth watching if only for the flamboyant American CIA agent as the perfect foil for Bob Peck's deadpan Yorkshireman. And as for the cars and telephones, which I remember... it's weird seeing a Morris Minor driven at reckless speed round a city centre because whenever you see one now it's usually tootling along slowly in a vintage car rally!

I've also just rewatched the Chernobyl miniseries. Speaking as an engineer in the industry, I think it is a pretty good attempt at explaining a very complex accident. I believe there is a good deal of artistic licence with the dialogue and some of the plotlines, but the vastness of the task to clear up the most severe nuclear accident in the world is clearly portrayed.

The official death toll of around 30 or so who died within weeks of the accident from acute radiation sickness were mainly operators and firemen. Because they weren't monitored – or, if they were, no figures have been released – no-one really knows the fate of the thousands of soldiers and other recruits who worked in the following months to clear the surrounding area of animals, cut down forests and bury contaminated topsoil; nor of those who watched the accident from nearby Pripyat. International estimates suggest only a handful of people have probably died from cancers, but it is very difficult to know for sure. The series tells the story of the human 'liquidators' – mainly soldiers and raw recruits – who were each paid a bonus to do 90 seconds' work in full protective gear shovelling debris from the reactor core off adjoining roofs back into the reactor pit. The working area was so radioactive that no robots or electronic equipment could survive there and 90 seconds was calculated as the maximum 'safe' period to work there. They never like letting engineers talk to the press because we won't say 'it is safe' – there is no such thing as absolute safety. All things are relative.

There followed years of work to contain the damaged reactor culminating in 2016, after Ukraine was



*Chernobyl New Safe Confinement under construction  
(image: EBRD from WNO website)*

independent, in a feat of engineering ingenuity and international co-operation when the New Safe Confinement – a vast metal arched structure 110m high and spanning over 250m with built-in internal cranes – was moved into place. Due to the radiation dose rates above the damaged reactor (the containing structure put in place after the accident was less effective and deteriorating), to comply with modern EU working practices and standards, the

New Safe Confinement had to be built on rails alongside the reactor and was then jacked into place in an operation lasting days. It is the world's largest movable structure and completely contains the whole reactor building; it will enable the eventual safe dismantling of the reactor and preparation of the waste for disposal. The €1.5bn cost was met by many countries with the bulk coming from the EU.

The Chernobyl accident is considered to have contributed to the breakup of the Soviet Union and therefore to Ukraine becoming independent. Given the sacrifice of those who lost their lives in the Chernobyl accident and its aftermath, worked on the clean-up accepting that the radiation dose may increase their risk of future illness, lost their homes (most people have not been allowed to return to the area even now), worked on the containment and continue to this day working to ensure the site remains as safe as it can be – Russians, Ukrainians and Europeans working together – Russian military actions putting the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Plant in Ukraine at risk are particularly cynical and chilling.

When one sees the scale of destruction of war or the aftermath of natural disasters and thinks about the effort involved with creating and building, it is easy to feel hopeless.

(Anyone interested in reading more about Chernobyl can go to the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/2sc3v769>.)

I guess we must hold on to hope and focus on the amazing things we can achieve by working together. The rewards from working for something that is greater than the sum of its parts, being part of a team or a community, are not measurable. The pantomime was a good example of this. As well as the bonds of friendship deepened or established between those directly involved, over 300 people came and for a few hours could forget the news and other worries and experience some joy and laughter and hopefully take away some happy memories as well as a few questions to ponder, such as '*Does Christopher really have a nautical background because he looked very at home in that captain's hat and parrot combo?*' or '*Was King Juan's chest hair real?*' Was it worth all the months of learning lines and rehearsing for a single day of performances? Was it worth all the effort of moving furniture, putting up curtains, lights and microphones to transform the church and then put it all back again? Was it worth all the organisational effort preparing music, props, scripts, etc? Was it worth all those involved giving up so much time?

To borrow a line... Oh yes it was.

**Chris Pearce**  
**Churchwarden**

## ***From the registers***



**We remember:**

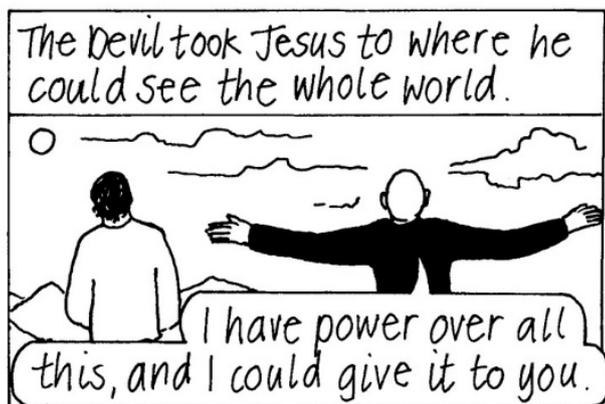
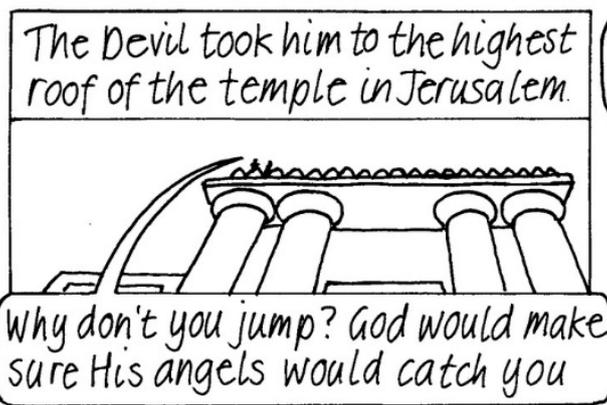
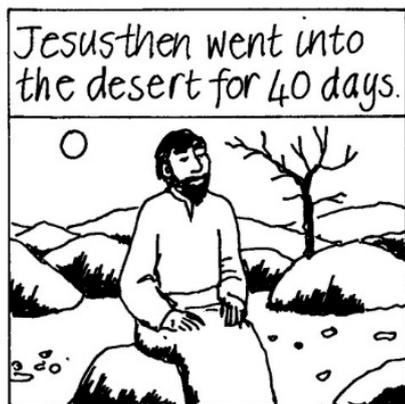
Mary Priday, whose funeral took place at St Mary's, Temple Balsall,  
on Wednesday 15 February

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Jn 1:29-34, Mt 3:13-17, Lk 3:21-4:13, Mk 1:9-12

People came to John to be baptised - washed  
in the river Jordan - to say sorry for what  
they had done wrong. Then Jesus came...



# Music matters

*Love, vast as the ocean for the old rugged cross – an in-depth look at two songs for Passiontide where we remember the mount of crucifixion that will be exchanged some day for a crown.*

*The old rugged cross* is one of those hymns which takes its most familiar title from a phrase in its refrain, not its first line (see also, for example, *Christ, be our light* rather than ‘Longing for light’, or *Lord of the dance* / ‘I danced in the morning’). I say familiar – in one respect it has done what *Amazing grace*, *Morning has broken* and others have achieved before it and transcended its religious roots to become a popular standard (recorded by singers ranging from Al Green to Johnny Cash, Patsy Cline to Ella Fitzgerald, and many more besides), and yet I wonder how often it is sung, for instance, on a standard CofE Sunday morning? I had never heard it until, around 10 minutes before the start of a service I was playing for at my mum’s Methodist church, the preacher asked if she could change one of the planned hymns and sing it instead; while sight-reading is a common requirement of musicians I felt a slight dread on looking at the music that it wasn’t quite as straightforward as it first appeared, while somehow also feeling that most people at the service would see it as a ‘standard’ and have a vague idea of how it should go and that therefore I really didn’t want to get a note out of place. Since that occasion well over 20 years ago I have come across *The old rugged cross* elsewhere, but only twice in a service – once at my grandmother’s funeral, and then at another funeral a couple of years ago for which I was asked to play at All Saints. Perhaps its use on such occasions goes some way to explaining why it seems to be up there with *Abide with me* as a combination of words and music that can without warning move the most stoical to tears.

The hymn listed in our book by its first line of ‘On a hill far away’ was written and composed in 1912 by American Salvation Army brigadier turned Methodist evangelist George Bennard, and received its first complete performance a year later. Despite achieving almost instant popularity, writing on [www.hymnary.org](http://www.hymnary.org) Tiffany Shomsky notes that it was not accepted by most major hymnals until the 1950s: ‘One reason was the prohibitive fee charged by the copyright owner. Another was the somewhat controversial nature of a hymn expressing such great affection for the cross itself, rather than for Christ, the one who died there.’ Its appeal beyond a commonplace church service and with country and gospel singers is perhaps not surprising – in a similar way to, for instance, *How great thou art* (another hymn more commonly known by the opening of its refrain rather than its first line, ‘O Lord, my God’), it is written in a popular song style and can perhaps therefore be seen as a precursor to pieces like *Shine, Jesus, shine* (‘Lord, the light of your love’) and contemporary Christian rock and worship songs.

*Here is love, vast as the ocean* is one of our most pleasing discoveries in recent years – if I hadn’t been leafing through the new *Ancient & Modern* for some inspiration for Passiontide music it might well have passed us by. The music to which we sing this hymn (**Dim ond Jesu**, or **Jesus Only**) is also by an American, the 19th-century Baptist pastor Robert Lowry, who gave us another favourite in *How can I keep from singing* as well as *Shall we gather at the river*, a song I feel I know despite having played it even fewer times than *The old rugged cross*, and which in turn feels like another precursor, in this case to that latter hymn. The four-part arrangement of **Dim ond Jesu** in *A&M* lends itself very well to unaccompanied singing, and is one of those pieces of music that you feel might have come into being organically and naturally rather than actually having had someone have to sit down and compose it. Certainly it is deceptively straightforward – metrical simplicity (each of the four sets of two lines of text is set to music of identical rhythm), lilting melody and solid, well-crafted alto, tenor and bass lines add up to more than the sum of their parts.

The text was originally written in Welsh as *Dyma gariad fel y moroedd* by William Rees and first published around 1847. Rees was a farmer who became a Congregational minister in North Wales and Liverpool, widely praised for his preaching and a contributor to radical publications and advocate for the abolition of American slavery; Cliff V Knight writes that Rees was ‘one of the most versatile and gifted Welshmen of the 19th century and exercised a powerful influence on politics, religion, poetry and literature in Wales’. Rees’s words played a prominent part in the dramatic Welsh Revival of 1904-05, described as the largest Christian revival in Wales in the 20th century – headed by evangelist and former collier Evan Roberts, it led in that period to the conversion of more than 100,000 people and inspired similar revivals worldwide. An account from 1907 by H Elvet Lewis describes a teenager singing, ‘with tears on her face and victory in her voice, the mighty love song of the revival – the hymn of Dr William Rees: *Dyma gariad fel y moroedd*. The song is of the marvel of Divine Love, flowing as vast oceans of tender mercies in never-ebbing floodtide; of the very Prince of Life dying, dying to redeem our forfeit life.’ This will have been to a different melody, the traditional **Cwynfan Prydain (Britain’s Lament)**, although Lowry’s tune was known (accompanying other words) at the time. It has also been suggested that Rees’s text has been sung to tunes as varied as **Ebenezer** and **Blaenwern**; it first became known in England through William Edwards’ translation published in *The Baptist Book of Praise* of 1899, not appearing in print alongside Lowry’s tune until 1977. We have commented when singing *Here is love* that it is a shame that there are only two verses, although my research for this article has shown that there are at least another two (unattributed) stanzas that have been printed elsewhere as part of this hymn; these may therefore appear at All Saints at some point in order to make the most of the music!

**Ben Noakes**

**Music Co-ordinator**

## ***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.



# *From the PCC*

A Standing Committee meeting was scheduled for 21 February but for one reason or another had to be postponed. As a consequence, there is limited scope for reporting anything new so far as PCC matters are concerned; however since the last PCC meeting on 17 January there have been one or two developments and ongoing matters that I can report on which may be of interest to readers.

**Finance:** Our treasurer provided an update on the financial position of the church for the new year in readiness for the Standing Committee meeting. Expenditure to the end of January 2023 for the year was circa £11,180, bearing in mind that the financial year runs from 1 January to 31 December. It does however not include the latest utility bills which are expected to be very significant. Income was marginally higher at circa £11,250. Overall, the account at the end of January was in credit.

Regular giving: The treasurer reported that the average for the past 12 months was some £643/month, up a small amount on the previous 12 months.

Card reader machine: Recent visitors to the church may have noticed that a card reader has been placed near the south door of the church. This is now a permanent fixture and people may wish to use this as an alternative means of giving to the church. If in doubt, there is usually someone nearby who can assist with operating it.

**Air entering heating system:** Following on from last month's article, a tracing dye was added to the header tank water of the heating system and it was found to emerge in the cellar; however the volume accumulating in the cellar was considered to be more than one would expect from just the heating system and it is fairly likely that ground water is also entering. This has happened in the past so is quite possible.

A leak has now, however, been found in the pipework where it enters the nave on the north side of the church near to where there was a leak previously. As it is right under the north wall of the church it will be difficult to gain access. It has been decided, in the short term, to wait until the summer to arrange for the leak to be repaired properly considering the difficulty of access, as it will require switching off the heating system and draining it. In the meantime, periodic removal of air is being employed to reinstate hot water to the heating pipes on the north side on the church and any radiators affected.

**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. At this point I am unaware of any developments in this regard.

**Quinquennial inspection:** As reported last month, a recent quinquennial inspection of the church building has identified a number of defects and to facilitate the correction of the defects identified it is proposed that this 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 would like to assist with this it would be very welcome.

**Warm Project Place:** Margaret Healey-Pollett, who ran the Café when it was open, has been running a Warm Place in the South Vestry referred to as 'Community Lunch'. She has been providing soup and fresh bread and other refreshments and some entertainment for anyone looking for a warm place, some companionship and sustenance.

**All Saints Café:** The Café has been open again for food and drink for a couple of weeks now. It is uncertain if this is a permanent arrangement or temporary but it is very welcome. By the time this article is published there may be more news about this.

**Village Square gardening:** The Village Square gardeners continue to meet on a Wednesday morning, generally between 10am and 1pm, to maintain the various flowerbeds and shrubs, and when necessary clear fallen leaves and dead branches from the various trees in the Square. The planting has recently been enhanced by about a dozen young trees, including flowering cherries, which were donated from the Commonwealth Games site. Visitors may be able to spot these planted in various locations around the Square.

The gardeners are always looking for additional help and anyone with a small amount of gardening experience is welcome to come along for an hour or two. Tools are available, although your own gloves are recommended. A drinks break is usually held mid-morning.

**Next meetings:** These are scheduled as follows:

SC meetings: 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

## ***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.

The next issue will be published in early April and will focus on the APCM – we look forward to receiving your ideas and submissions for future issues!

**Ben & Clare Noakes, Editors**

E: [magazine@allsaintschurchkh.org](mailto:magazine@allsaintschurchkh.org)

T: 07967 730156 / 07929 593097

# Three Choirs Concert

Sunday 26th March 2023, 3:00pm

All Saints, Kings Heath, B14 7RA

Tickets available on the door: £8 (cash only)

Under 12s free



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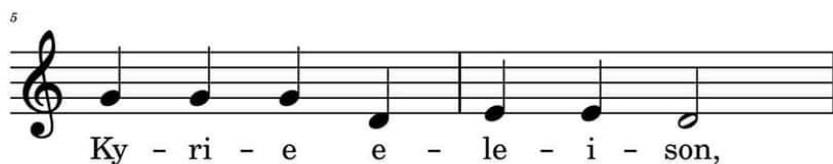
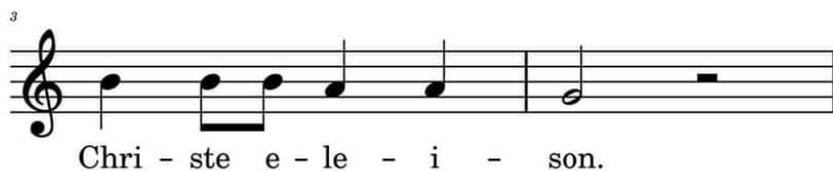
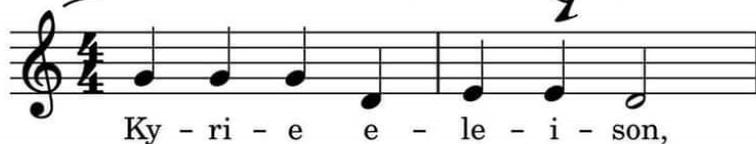
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## A Farmer's Kyrie



# More about Transform Trade

In the February magazine I introduced you to the new name for Traidcraft Exchange, which we have supported for many years, and gave some facts about the first of their key areas: tea.

Their other key areas are farming and fashion.



## Facts about farming from Transform Trade:

- **Half of the world's labour force works in agriculture – about 1.3 billion people.**
- **One third of food produced globally is either lost or wasted.**
- **Growth in agriculture is 2.5 times more effective than any other sector in decreasing poverty.**

Transform Trade's partners are transforming the business of farming with new ways of working that are good for people and planet. They look for farmers' groups, social enterprises and local NGOs that are doing transformative work in their communities and discover how best they can support them in their particular situation. This could be by teaching additional skills, sharing learning, or helping to convene meetings where they can speak to government officials or trading partners directly.

## Facts about fashion from Transform Trade:

- **About 300 million people are estimated to work in the clothing industry; a great proportion of these are women.**
- **In a 2020 survey of 250 large brands only 2% of these fashion brands have a published, measurable plan to achieve a living wage for their workers.**
- **60% of fast fashion items end up in landfill.**

There are huge problems in the fashion industry with workers being exploited, and working long hours in poor conditions for too little pay. Too often there is damage to the environment. The businesses responsible are profiting from this.

Transform Trade supports workers and artisans looking to change the fashion sector for good, with legislative and policy changes as well as better conditions and fair pay.

**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>

# 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](mailto: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>	
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Please pay to	HSBC PLC, Kings Heath Birmingham Branch
	Sort Code: 40-11-15
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The PCC of Kings Heath Parish All Saints Church	Account Number: 71801163
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If you bank online, you will be able to use the details below to set up a standing order:

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

If you have any problems or questions about setting this up, or the church's finances in general, please contact Steve Brittle, Treasurer on 01905 772171 or [zena\\_steveb@btinternet.com](mailto:zena_steveb@btinternet.com).

# High days and holy days

## 8 March – Woodbine Willie, bringing love with cigarettes and the Bible

Here's a 'saint' that the Church of England remembers from World War I: The Revd Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy MC, or 'Woodbine Willie' as everyone knew this popular, much-loved army chaplain. When war broke out in 1914, Studdert Kennedy was vicar of St Paul's, Worcester; he soon volunteered to go to the Western Front as a chaplain to the army. Life on the front line in the trenches was a desperate affair, but soon Studdert Kennedy hit on a way of bringing a few moments of relief to the soldiers: as well as good cheer, he gave out copious Woodbines, the most popular cheap cigarette of the time.

One colleague remembered Kennedy: 'He'd come down into the trenches and say prayers with the men, have a cuppa out of a dirty tin mug and tell a joke as good as any of us. He was a chain-smoker and always carried a packet of Woodbine cigarettes that he would give out in handfuls to us lads. That's how he got his nickname. He came down the trench one day to cheer us up. Had his Bible with him as usual. Well, I'd been there for weeks, unable to write home, of course, we were going over the top later that day. I asked him if he would write to my sweetheart at home, tell her I was still alive and, so far, in one piece... years later, after the war, she showed me the letter he'd sent, very nice it was. A lovely letter. My wife kept it until she died.' Kennedy was devoted to his men, so much so that in 1917 he was awarded the Military Cross at Messines Ridge, after running into no man's land in order to help the wounded during an attack on the German frontline.

During the war, Kennedy supported the British military effort with enthusiasm, but soon after WWI he turned to Christian socialism and pacifism. He was given charge of St Edmund's, Lombard Street in London, and wrote a number of poems about his war experiences: *Rough Rhymes of a Padre* (1918) and *More Rough Rhymes* (1919). He went on to work for the Industrial Christian Fellowship, for whom he did speaking tours; it was on one of these tours that he was taken ill, and sadly died in Liverpool in 1929 aged only 46.

His compassion and generosity in the face of the horrors of the Western Front was immortalised in the song *Absent Friends*: 'Woodbine Willie couldn't rest until he'd / given every bloke a final smoke before the killing.' He himself had once described his chaplain's ministry as taking 'a box of fags in your haversack, and a great deal of love in your heart'.

## 25 March – Lady Day, or the Annunciation

This beautiful event (Luke 1:26-38) took place in Nazareth, when Mary is already betrothed to Joseph. The Archangel Gabriel comes to Mary, greets her as highly favoured, tells her not to be afraid, that she will bear a son Jesus, and that her elderly cousin Elizabeth is already pregnant (with John the Baptist). The church calendar is never quite as neat as some would like it. To celebrate the Annunciation on 25 March does indeed place the conception of Jesus exactly nine months from his birth on 25 December, but the latter part of March almost inevitably falls during Lent. But the birth and death of Jesus are intrinsically linked – he was born to die, and thus fulfil God's purposes. The Annunciation is a significant date in the Christian calendar – it is one of the most frequently depicted in Christian art; Gabriel's gracious strength and Mary's humble dignity have inspired many artists, and certainly, Mary's response to the angel has for centuries been an example of good faith in practice: humility, enquiry of God, and trusting acceptance in his will for her life.

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

# 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)***

<b>Officers</b>	Lay Vice Chair vacant	Secretary Tony Cocks, 0121 441 2945	Treasurer Steve Brittle, 01905 772171
<b>Members</b>	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	<a href="mailto:andy@allsaints-cdc.co.uk">andy@allsaints-cdc.co.uk</a>
Facilities Manager	Dave Priday	07732 137772	<a href="mailto:david@allsaints-cdc.co.uk">david@allsaints-cdc.co.uk</a>
Administrator	Angela McDermott	0121 444 0760	<a href="mailto:angela@allsaints-cdc.co.uk">angela@allsaints-cdc.co.uk</a>
Hall & Room Bookings	Angela McDermott	0121 444 0760	<a href="mailto:angela@allsaints-cdc.co.uk">angela@allsaints-cdc.co.uk</a>

### ***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)	<a href="mailto:parishoffice@allsaintschurchkh.org">parishoffice@allsaintschurchkh.org</a> 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](http://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](mailto:parishoffice@allsaintschurchkh.org)

[www.allsaintschurchkh.org](http://www.allsaintschurchkh.org)



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