

Saints Alive!

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



**June
2023**



£1
(suggested donation)

From the vicarage

Dear friends and neighbours,

You wouldn't want to be gay and living in Turkey or Uganda right now. Or rather, you would *want* to be gay, if you are gay. You want to be yourself, love yourself, know yourself to be loved by God and to be open and joyful about whoever you love. You would long for the freedom to enjoy the country of your birth which you love and want to live freely in. You'd want to enjoy being Turkish and gay, being Ugandan and gay. It is heartbreaking to think of LGBTQ+ people from either country having to consider leaving and seeking sanctuary elsewhere. Why should they have to?

President Erdoğan's strange and menacing 'victory' speech spoke grandly of unity, then bizarrely laid into LGBTQ+ citizens, proving himself to be a man of deep and unresolved, probably unidentified fears. We know the terrible consequences of scapegoating, victimising and marginalising minorities and we know how such irrational cruel behaviour says more about the oppressor than it does about the chosen minority. The long shadow of the Holocaust reaches well into this century. We may feel powerless and frustrated in prayer for these countries.

We should not, of course, pray with a posture of righteousness. Not only are we still exploring and learning as a nation of complex interlaced cultures and opinions; before we pray for the safety of LGBTQ+ people around the world, we need to remember how shockingly recently homosexuality was counted 'illegal' in this country.

Alan Turing, brilliant mathematician, key figure in breaking the Enigma Code and helping us win the war against history's worst scapegoating dictator, was convicted of 'homosexual acts' just seven years after the war ended. He agreed to undergo 'chemical castration' as an alternative to prison. Two year later he died of cyanide poisoning. His inquest gave a verdict of suicide. How I wish we could take him down the Mall, past Whitehall, the Cabinet War Rooms and Parliament, striding along the strand to the City of London to Threadneedle Street, and into the Bank of England, and show him into the plushiest office and place on the table before him a £50 note and say to him: 'Alan, 55 years after this country, which you loved, tortured you to the point of suicide, the people of Britain voted you one of the most impressive people of the 20th century. So this, our most valuable banknote, was issued with your picture on it on 23 June 2021. Your birthday.

'We want you to be gay, to enjoy being gay, and to live here and to be fulfilled and honoured...'

...Of course it is too late for us to say this to Alan Turing. Posthumous 'pardon' was the best we could manage for Alan and many like him but, however well-meaning, even that is passive aggressive. But imagining his story and that of the country he served is both to humble and to instil hope. Acknowledging how far we have come in 60 years, we perhaps have something we all can pray for communities and nations still in turmoil. We can open ourselves to see who is scapegoated today and to hear the voices of any for whom liberation and fullness of life is still out of reach, and any whose gifts we ignore or, worse, use and discard, blinded by prejudice.

Our prayers for Turkey and Uganda must arise from a posture of humility, and be emboldened by the staggering courage and grace of LGBTQ+ friends who have borne all the cost and pain of our stumbling national journey.

As for this letter, I am aware that there is a question: who is 'we'? I reflect clumsily as a straight white bloke who's met no resistance. Any reader for whom LGBTQ+ is 'we', if there is any crassness on my part, tell me and, if you can, forgive, yet again.

David

Coffee is back!

Other beverages are available...





After the long pandemic break, coffee is being served again from the South Vestry after the Sunday 10am service ☺. Until September 2023, coffee will be served on the first Sunday of the month (after All Age Worship) with the intention of it becoming a weekly event from September onwards. There is a great team of volunteers who are waiting to serve you to a Fairtrade cuppa and a biscuit to enjoy while you mingle and chat. 'Free from' biscuits and oat milk are offered too. Donations are welcome (if possible, but not obligatory) to cover the cost of the consumable items. As small change is not carried by all (in our post-pandemic cashless world) you may prefer to donate a sum to cover for a few weeks ahead.

We offer our sincere gratitude to Sheila Workman who has organised Saturday and Sunday coffee for 20 years at All Saints. The new coffee organisers are Lindsey and Ted Hammond. More volunteers are welcome and no experience is required. Being on the coffee team is a good way to say hello to everyone as you serve coffee and to provide an important facet of our community life. If you are interested, please make contact in church or email lindseyhammond21@icloud.com.

Lindsey and Ted Hammond

From the registers

	We congratulate: Isaiah Anthony Pinnock, baptised at All Saints on Pentecost Sunday, 28 May
	We remember: John Felton, whose funeral took place at All Saints on 5 May Iain Galloway, whose funeral took place at All Saints on 13 May

(Ex)-warden's musings

Well... those of you who avidly follow my warblings may have noticed a short interruption in service last month. As you may know, after five years serving as your churchwarden, I decided to stand down and give someone else a chance to enjoy the fun and take on the role. I've said it before, but I did enjoy the role of warden. I enjoyed the power and influence – all the parties and perks of the job... just kidding. There were only a few parties. I wanted to reassure anyone considering whether to take on the role, now or in the future, that the churchwarden does not need to *do* everything, but to make sure that everything *gets* done – eventually. Which means that the key skill required is organisation. Organisation and persuasiveness – the two key skills required are organisation and persuasiveness. And a fanatical devotion to the Pope. The *three* key skills are... Apologies for those not acquainted with Monty Python who wonder if I have finally lost the plot. My point is that I don't consider myself a natural at some of the skills that the churchwarden needs. Such as welcoming. Becky is the sociable one in our partnership. I'm the grumpy one. Luckily, as Becky said, I had a wonderful team of welcomers. I also had a lot of help from other ex-wardens who picked up things I'd missed (like ringing the bell before the service – thanks Des; and programming the heating – thanks Tony; and sorting out the cellar leak – again, thanks Tony and Daniel) – I could go on for some time and would be bound to miss someone so I'll stop there.

Last week when I popped into church to avoid my day job, David bumped into me chatting to Tony and Daniel on the Square – three ex-wardens, who also happen to be engineers, discussing water pumps. See – that's a little secret I'll let you into if you're not married to an engineer: we love our subjects. Tony loves bricks – he's a civil engineer. I love pipes – I'm a mechanical engineer. There are a whole gang of people at All Saints who are happy doing practical stuff to do with the building and we are loosely known as the buildings fabric committee – like a normal committee, but we don't have meetings unless they involve staring down a hole or up at a roof or gutter, or we are meeting around something we happen to be moving. These people (me included) will be around to help the next wardens as they helped me.

When I left to go back to my computer, Tony and Daniel were digging out the water stop tap on the High Street by the gates into the churchyard, hoping to find an actual tap at the bottom of the hole. If there is and it works, then the dripping tap in the North Vestry may finally get fixed. It has been leaking since before I became churchwarden (Daniel said it has been leaking for many years). I dread to think how much water has been wasted over the years, but there is no other way to isolate it to change the washer. I never got round to fixing it as I knew it would involve getting very wet. So, as I said, these jobs get done – eventually... I still have a few things that I need to do which I can hopefully get done in the next few months. I do have less time now as my consultancy work has expanded. I've been very lucky to be able to work part-time while I was churchwarden – all the time spent on distractions I don't invoice for. I'm very good at distractions: sorting washing, hanging out washing, cleaning the bird feeders, emptying the dishwasher, watching the birds and scaring away the magpies with a water pistol. All are acceptable distractions when supposed to be working. Being churchwarden was a good distraction...

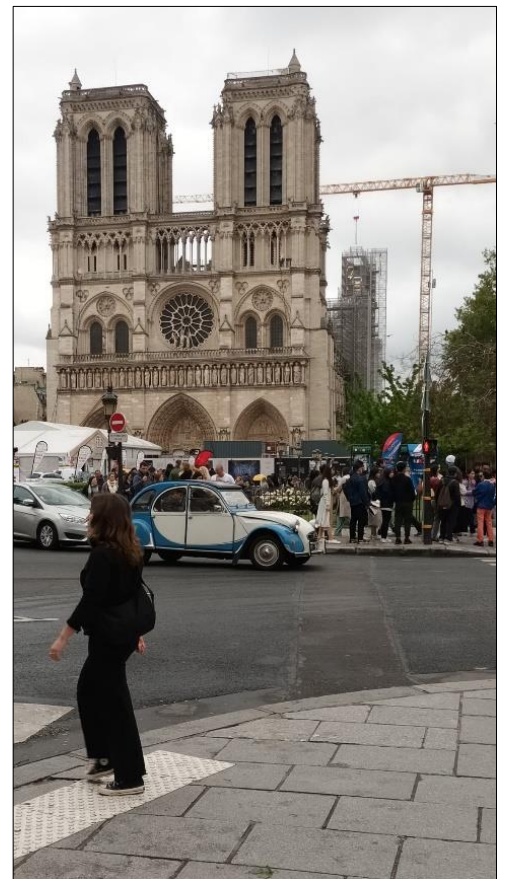
I think this is a real luxury we have in this country in this time. Free time. Leisure. We currently are sharing our house with two adult blue tits and an as-yet-undisclosed number of blue tit chicks. They have managed to find a hole underneath the eaves and are living in part of the roof. I feel genuinely in awe of the adult blue tits flying to and fro with caterpillars to feed the growing chicks – pretty much non-stop – all day. Every few minutes one of the adults returns with a caterpillar or a fly of

some sort in its beak, waits patiently, checking in all directions in a nearby tree or bush before diving into the hole where the nest must be. That must be around 250-300 insects a day. Every day. In addition to the blue tits, we have seen house sparrow, dunnock and great tit fledglings in the garden in the last month. It is staggering how much life there is in the trees at the end of the garden. Still, not all the birds are so picky. I watched next door's cat being sick on the path the other day. While it was still hacking up the rest of its breakfast on the lawn, a very bold crow sauntered up the path and proceeded to eat the cat's sick. Lovely. Waste not, want not I suppose. The cat just sat and watched in disbelief that the crow was brazenly pecking away only three feet from where the cat sat. That was a particularly productive half-hour of work...

I'm very lucky to have such a good view from my office in the loft. Becky refers to it as my eyrie. I've watched as the winter trees have gradually got 'fatter' as the buds grow and then suddenly wave upon wave of beautiful green has erupted. And these tender, sticky, sappy leaves have attracted all the bugs and caterpillars which provide food for the birds. I suppose what's amazing is that, despite the best efforts of all the birds, there will still be plenty of insects hatching out to moths and butterflies and whatever else. And I must have pulled out over a hundred sycamore saplings from the veg beds at the bottom of our garden. How come nature is so good at germination when I can't get anything to sprout no matter how much care and attention I give it?

This staggering proliferation of life means I that have spent quite a bit more time weeding the garden – my gardening style is somewhat 'slash and burn' as we are lucky enough to have a decent-sized garden which backs on to woodland (with a big sycamore right against the fence...). It takes all my spare time to keep it from rewilding itself completely. I do leave it reasonably untidy to encourage the wildlife but when the path at the bottom that leads to a compost bin and the back gate had disappeared completely, I felt that it was time to act. I have managed to reclaim some of the veg patches which had been sadly neglected last year and have managed to plant out some veg (including a bag of Jerusalem artichokes that Becky bought for some recipe and which sat neglected in the cupboard until they started sprouting – who knows what will grow there; maybe a beanstalk...?). As noted above, my germination skills are non-existent so we bought seedlings from the garden centre. Don't ever let it be said that we don't treat the slugs in our garden well – premium-quality lettuces for them to eat. I will be spending more time getting those overdue jobs at home done now I'm not at the church as much – one such project is to build a composting loo in the garden (that will be another story sometime...).

I missed part of the tree bud burst this year as I had to go to Paris on business and spent four days away from home. It was nice to be at in-person meetings for a change and I did enjoy seeing a bit of Paris – albeit mostly just walking between hotels, office and various restaurants (some very good meals out). To keep up the theme, I took a photo of three very sad-looking French pigeons sitting on a warm vent from the Metro. I also managed a little sightseeing on the way back to the Gare du Nord to get the Eurostar home, wandering across the Île de la Cité and past the Notre-Dame cathedral which looks splendid in its partially-restored state. Paris was the setting for the book *Perfume* which is a wonderfully gothic murder story that David



recommended to me – and which I read, enjoyed and have now mislaid. I didn't realise at that time that Alan Rickman starred in the film adaptation as the father of the protagonist's ultimate target. I'm currently reading Alan Rickman's diaries – he seemed to eat out every night and led a hideously busy social life. I think he would have fitted in well at All Saints judging by his politics and ethics. That would have been a coup for the pantomime!

Given that his diaries are just sort of everyday 'stuff', they make a strangely compelling read. I do have to keep checking who various actors mentioned in the diaries are. He was very self-critical and clearly felt that most of the film work he did was not of the standard he would have liked. Strange life, to leave behind something so personal – like musicians who have recorded songs, I guess. Speaking of standards (or lack of them), when I stopped being churchwarden, I assumed that you would not have to endure my magazine ravings anymore, as I'd have nothing worthwhile to tell you about (I can hear you saying that my articles were rarely about anything anyway...). I regret to inform you that Clare asked if I could continue the column, showing just how desperate they are for material. However, I didn't get the email reminder from Ben in April for the May edition, which suggests there may be a difference in the editorial standards considered acceptable within the Noakes household? *[As if... we're always in complete agreement! – Ed 1. Oh no we're not...! – Ed 2.]*

I wanted to say a big thank you to everyone who has helped out and continues to help out with warden and welcoming duties. And a big thank you for the gifts – wine is always welcome! And I will enjoy selecting something to read – maybe in the garden with a glass of wine – once I've finished Mr Rickman's diaries.

Sadly I think this is the closest I'll get to being in print and I don't imagine a publisher will be very interested... better stick with the day job.

Chris Pearce
Ex-churchwarden



notorious
presents

SING & TONIC

Sunday 2nd July 2023, 3pm
conducted by Clare Edwards



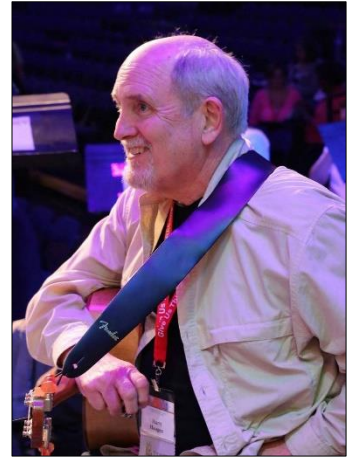
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Music matters

'The love of Christ shall end divisions' – celebrating an American hymnist's irresistible inclusivity. (And also celebrating/commiserating over the answers to last month's puzzles!)

The Royal School of Church Music's annual Music Sunday falls on 11 June this year, and among the hymns and songs that have been chosen to mark it at All Saints is one of the most popular contemporary pieces that has been added to our repertoire in recent times: *Let us build a house*, often more commonly known by the repeated phrase in its refrain 'All are welcome', by the prolific writer and composer of liturgical music Marty Haugen (pictured right). This song seems to occupy a place alongside others, such as *I, the Lord of sea and sky* by Schutte and Graham Kendrick's *Lord, the light of your love* (another whose chorus provides a phrase for its more familiar title, 'Shine, Jesus, shine'), which due to the singability of their words and music have quickly found a regular place – some would say ubiquity – in the canon.



Like these two fellow hymnists, Haugen often (although not exclusively – the book *Common Ground*, for instance, includes an interesting alternative tune to Fred Pratt Green's *When, in our music, God is glorified* which, while not superseding Charles Villiers Stanford's **Engelberg** to which we usually sing this, does provide a jauntier, livelier option for that Music Sunday-appropriate text) writes both words and music. He was born in Minnesota in 1950 and was raised in the American Lutheran Church, although his first church music position was in a Roman Catholic parish; like those of Bernadette Farrell, another hymnist whose pieces we have embraced at All Saints in recent years, Haugen's songs very much have an inviting, ecumenical feel to them. (Although I make this point genuinely, I can't use the word 'ecumenical' without thinking of Father Jack's fellow priests in probably my favourite TV show of all time, *Father Ted*, prepping him for the arrival of some bishops by teaching him two catch-all phrases to deal with any topic raised in conversation, as opposed to his usual, let's say less pious, outbursts: 'Yes', and 'That would be an ecumenical matter'.)

Let us build a house was first published in 1994 and we discovered it in *Common Ground*, which came out in 1998. It also appears in various other books, including the latest iteration of *Ancient & Modern*, although didn't make it into *Complete Anglican Hymns Old & New* of 2000 – indeed, despite being responsible for more than 400 published works Haugen doesn't appear in our book at all, although I rather suspect this will be rectified in any future edition that may be produced. Of this vast output some of Haugen's other songs have featured at All Saints in recent years, including *Here in this place new light is streaming* (also known by one of its repeated phrases, 'Gather us in') and the Christmas song *Holy Child within the manger*.

Establishing popularity relatively quickly has ultimately been possible for *Let us build a house* due to its sheer irresistibility – over five verses (sometimes we leave one out, but this is a good example of a song that can bear five long-ish stanzas plus short refrain) the message of inclusivity builds and builds until we sing: 'Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: All are welcome in this place.' Likewise the melody, well-crafted as is its piano accompaniment, has a momentum that carries us through each verse to land emphatically on that repeated 'all are welcome' phrase each time.

The RSCM, of which All Saints is a member, enables the flourishing of church music, encouraging and resourcing churches, musicians and church communities of all kinds and works to inspire the church musicians of the future. Do let us know, or check out <https://www.rscm.org.uk/>, if you would like to find out more about the organisation, its activities and publications

Now, to put you out of your misery, below are the answers to the short musical quizzes posed last month – firstly, we asked you to fill in the odd-numbered words in the first two lines of various hymns and songs; the gaps are completed in **bold** below:

All hail **the** pow'r **of** Jesus' **name**, / let **angels** prostrate **fall**;
All things **bright** and **beautiful**, / all **creatures** great **and** small,
A new **commandment** I **give** unto **you**: / that **you** love **one** another **as** I **have** loved **you**,
Colours of **day** dawn **into** the **mind**, / the **sun** has **come** up, **the** night **is** behind.
Dear Lord **and** Father **of** mankind, / **forgive** our **foolish** ways!
Father, hear **the** prayer **we** offer: / **not** for **ease** that **prayer** shall **be**,
From heav'n **you** came, **helpless** babe, / **entered** our **world**, your **glory** veiled;
Hark, the **herald-angels** sing / **glory** to **the** new-born **King**;
I, the **Lord** of **sea** and **sky**, / I **have** heard **my** people **cry**.
Love divine, **all** loves **excelling**, / joy **of** heav'n, **to** earth **come** down,
Make me a channel **of** your **peace**. / Where **there** is **hatred**, let **me** bring **your** love.
Now the **green** blade **riseth** from **the** buried **grain**, /
wheat **that** in **the** dark **earth** many **days** has **lain**;
O come, **O** come, **Emmanuel**, / and **ransom** captive **Israel**,
O for a thousand **tongues** to **sing** / my **dear** Redeemer's **praise**,
Praise, my **soul**, the **King** of **heaven**! / To **his** feet **thy** tribute **bring**;
Thine be **the** glory, **ris'n**, conqu'ring **Son**, / endless **is** the **vict'ry** thou **o'er** death **hast** won;
To God **be** the **glory**! great **things** he **hath** done; / **so** loved **he** the **world** that **he** gave **us** his **Son**;
We three **kings** of **Orient** are; / **bearing** gifts **we** traverse **afar**;
What a **friend** we **have** in **Jesus**, / all **our** sins **and** griefs **to** bear!
Ye choirs **of** new **Jerusalem**, / your **sweetest** notes **employ**,

We then asked which was the odd one out of each of these groups of three, and why? The odd one out in each case has been underlined, with the reason given in the bullet point below. (There may well be other right answers to these, which I'd be interested to hear – so be generous to yourselves when marking!)

The tunes **Aberystwyth** (*Jesu, lover of my soul*); **Kingsfold** (*I heard the voice of Jesus say*); **Rockingham** (*When I survey the wondrous cross*).

- This tune is in a major key; the other two are in minor keys.

All are welcome (*Let us build a house*); *All for Jesus!*; *All people that on earth do dwell*.

- As mentioned above, this isn't in our *Complete Anglican Hymns Old & New* book; the other two are.

The tunes for An upper room; *I cannot tell*; *Inspired by love and anger*.

- All are traditional tunes, but this one is English (**O waly waly**); the other two are Irish (**Londonderry Air** and **The Salley Gardens** respectively).

Author of life divine; *Let all the world in every corner sing*; *My song is love unknown*.

- This has six verses in our book; the others only have two.

The Baroque composers Johann Sebastian Bach; George Frideric Handel; Antonio Vivaldi.

- While Bach and Handel are each responsible for a number of hymn tunes in our book, their fellow composer Vivaldi is unrepresented. (If anyone would like to set some words to, for instance, one of the melodies from *The Four Seasons* then we'd be willing to try it out...)

Be thou my vision; *Lord of all hopefulness*; *Soul of my Saviour*.

- This is the only one not sung to the Irish tune **Slane** (rather its tune is **Anima Christi** by W J Maher).

The words of *Faithful vigil ended*; *I lift my eyes to the quiet hills*; *Tell out, my soul*.

- All are texts from the pen of Timothy Dudley-Smith, but *I lift my eyes...* is based on a psalm (no 121) while the other two are both based on passages from Luke: respectively, the Nunc dimittis (Luke 2:29-32) and the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55).

It came upon the midnight clear; *Jesus Christ is risen today*; *O come, all ye faithful*.

- This is a carol for Easter; the other two are for Christmas (this one really was that simple...).

The tunes **London New** (*God moves in a mysterious way*); **Winchester Old** (*While shepherds watched*); **Winchester New** (*On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry*).

- This is in Long Metre (88 88 – ie each line has eight syllables); the other two are in Common Metre (86 86 – ie the first and third lines have eight syllables, the second and fourth have six).

Majesty, worship his majesty; *Make way, make way*; *Meekness and majesty*.

- Words and music for this are by Jack W Hayford; those for the other two are by Graham Kendrick.

We hope that the above has once again encouraged you to leaf through our hymnbook (and beyond), and perhaps seek out texts and tunes which you are unfamiliar with – do remember, if there is a particular song that you would like to hear included at All Saints then please come and talk to us about it!

The tourist's prayer

With the sun finally reappearing, making the summer holidays feel a bit closer, thanks to Liz Haskins for digging this out and sending it to us.

Heavenly Father, look down on us, your humble, obedient tourist servants who are doomed to travel this earth, taking photographs, sending postcards and buying souvenirs. We beseech you, O Lord, to see that our plane is not delayed or diverted, our luggage is not lost, and our overweight baggage goes unnoticed. Give us this day divine guidance in our selection of hotels. We pray that the telephones work, and that the concierges speak English.

Lead us to good, inexpensive restaurants where the wine is included in the price of the meal. Give us the wisdom to tip correctly in currencies we do not understand. Make the locals love us for what we are, and we them. Grant us the strength to visit the museums, cathedrals and palaces, and if we skip a historic monument to take a nap after lunch, have mercy on us for our flesh is weak.

Dear God, protect our travelling companions from 'bargains' they don't need or can't afford. Lead them not into temptation for they know not what they do.

Almighty Father, keep our partners from looking at others, and comparing them with us. Save them from making fools of themselves in nightclubs. Above all, please do not forgive them for their trespasses, for they know exactly what they do.

And when our voyage is over, grant us the favour of finding someone who will look at our holiday snaps and listen to our stories, so our lives as tourists will not have been in vain.

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.

This is *your* magazine – the broader the range of contributors and of topics covered, the more interesting it will be!

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

Getting to know you

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

What is your name?

Lindsey Hammond.

What is (or was) your day job?

Alongside raising our three sons with Ted, I worked in secondary education for Birmingham Local Authority for 40 years (as a teacher, adviser then a senior leader). I enjoyed all my various posts and would encourage young people to consider teaching as their career.

How long have you been at All Saints?

53 years. My first 'Scripture' homework was to visit your parish church and write about its history. My mother and I attended our first service at All Saints (in September 1969) after which Father May very patiently gave us a tour of All Saints and I made copious notes. The rest is history!

What are you currently involved in at church?

I am on the team of Eucharistic ministers and the reading rota. I also volunteer with All Saints Youth Project. Recently, Ted and I have picked up the organisation of the Sunday coffee team.

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

So many! Our wedding in 1981 (we were married by The Revd John Duncan and Lewis Coley was the organist). The parish visit of the (then) Bishop of Birmingham, John Sentamu, was special and it concluded with a parish picnic in the old vicarage garden. The most recent Candlelight Carol Service – joyous.

Do you have a favourite hymn/Bible passage?

The Lord's my shepherd, both the traditional **Crimond** and the more modern version by Stuart Townend – both are a great comfort and make me cry.

What are you reading at the moment?

The Salt Path by Raynor Winn.

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

My maternal grandfather, Daniel Jones, who died before I was born. He was born in Aberfan, South Wales and started his working life aged 11 in the coal mine. He served in WWI and survived but then faced the hardship of the Great Depression. His courage and determination to find a better life brought the family to Birmingham; I would like to thank him.

Tell us a joke...

Did you hear about the actor who fell through the floorboards?
She was just going through a stage 😊.



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

From the PCC

Since the last issue of *Saints Alive!*, one Parochial Church Council meeting has been held (on 16 May). It was a lively and constructive meeting and well attended. The usual subjects were discussed and also one or two new topics which have arisen recently. The following summarises the discussions which took place.

Finance:

Expenditure: Our treasurer provided an update on the financial position of the church and reported that expenditure to the end of April 2023 was circa £47K, slightly less than that predicted. Two utility bills in March have had an impact. There was additional cost against Arts due to the need to pay for repair to a damaged painting. The Westhill arts organisation has offered to pay half but the meeting agreed that this was unfair considering it was not their fault. David, our vicar, said that he had received a 'wonderful' letter from them thanking us for dealing with the damaged painting so responsibly and would respond to them accordingly. It was noted that the church insurance excess of £500 being more than the repair cost precluded the option of claiming for the repair this way.

Income: The treasurer reported that income was much higher than expenditure at circa £80K but it did include a bequest of £39K. The account was effectively therefore currently in deficit to the amount of circa £6K. He commented that there is still some tax to be reclaimed which should bring it near to 'par'. Fundraising was pleasingly more than budgeted, partly thanks to the Social and Fundraising Committee fronted by Des Workman. Our treasurer said that it was unlikely that we would continue to get a rebate for power costs.

Regular giving: The treasurer reported that the average for the past 12 months was some £361 higher than the same month a year ago, although down somewhat on the average last month.

Overall net worth: The treasurer reported that creditors are the Vicar's Discretionary Fund and Memorial Garden and these are always open to receiving more donations. Overall, at this time, the church balance net worth was circa £215K, but as reported previously did include the as yet unrepaid long-term loan of circa £170K to the Development Company. This gave a surplus of circa £45K.

Church finances leaflet: The treasurer commented that he would feel more secure with additional funds but was pleased that the congregation is responding and a number of people have changed to the Parish Giving Scheme which meant less work in claiming tax relief by the finance team. It was evident that the number of people using the blue envelope method was diminishing in favour of other methods of giving now available.

Safeguarding:

New safeguarding co-ordinator: David was pleased to introduce Eira Jones, our new safeguarding co-ordinator, to the meeting and that she has agreed to take over from Mary Miles. Eira said that to date she has had a handover meeting with Mary Miles and is familiarising herself with all required.

New organisations: David reiterated the importance that new projects or organisations in the church should be aware of and implement the safeguarding and church policies.

He gave an examples of the monthly Sunday after-service refreshments and the pantomime where these had been addressed. With the latter, the appointment of a dedicated chaperone for the children in the cast had been made who was present at all the performances.

Review of policies: There are 30 different policies which have been developed over the past few years with respect to all the activities taking place on the site. These have to be reviewed periodically.

The safeguarding co-ordinator is responsible for reviewing and adjusting as required the three safeguarding policies, being: 1. Safeguarding Children and Child Protection; 2. Domestic Abuses; and 3. Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults.

The other 27, such as Health and Safety, Creating a Safe Environment, should periodically be reviewed by each of the five boards/organisations: All Saints Community Development Company (ASCDC), All Saints Community Projects (ASCP), All Saints Youth Project (ASYP), All Saints Community Catering (ASCC) and The Robin Centre.

The review frequency varies, some three years and some five. The PCC and PCC secretary have certain responsibilities as to how this is managed and discussion took place as to how this could best be implemented.

Governance:

PCC chair: David has been acting as a temporary chairperson of the PCC and was pleased to be able to report that Martha Ann Brookes has agreed to take on the role of PCC lay vice chair. David would still remain as chairperson but would take more of a 'back seat' role at meetings.

Directors: ASCDC, ASCP, ASYP, ASCC and The Robin Centre are all looking for additional directors to join their boards and bring new ideas to the table. There have been no developments since the last meeting but the matter is still active and any suitable prospective candidates of any background would be welcome.

Churchwarden: Our current churchwarden, Chris Pearce, retired at the APCM on 23 April. David and the PCC are actively seeking a replacement or replacements. In the meantime, it is proposed that the principal churchwarden duties are fulfilled by an interim rota of former wardens.

Future of Café Space and Government Capital Grant application: David explained that it is evident that the destiny of the Café Space has now become inextricably linked with the outcome of the application for the Government Youth Investment Fund grant. The usage/layout of the whole site is now in the 'melting pot' until the outcome of the application is more certain. In these circumstances, any letting of the Café Space in the short term is on hold as leasing at this uncertain stage could compromise the final site usage/layout. Discussion took place as to the need to clarify if the Café is part of the church's mission which was the original intention and how it originally functioned although from a business point of view this arrangement has been found not to be sustainable.

However, it is understood that there is funding available for spaces such as these to be run as community projects. For the time being it was agreed that the 'status quo' should be adopted while the grant application process proceeds, and also to give time for to reflect on the best course to take.

Youth Project finances: Our Youth Project representative on the PCC, Brian Miles, reported that there is great concern regarding the current situation with regard to the ongoing financing of the Youth Project. It is currently very difficult to get any funding at all and it is currently running at a significant deficit, cost v funds, and eating into reserves. Consideration is being given as to the best way of maintaining this very essential activity on the church site.

Electrical work: There are one or two items to be completed mainly associated with electrical sockets not working which are being resolved, particularly as they affect the positioning of the newly-purchased card reader machine for making donations to the church.

Air entering heating system: There has been further investigation work around the leak area on the northeast corner of the nave where the heating pipes enter the building from the boiler room. It is clear now that the leak is from an existing joint in the pipework. It was agreed that this would require input from a specialist contractor familiar with this type of pipework to rectify the problem. It is likely that arrangements for instructing a suitable contractor will be done with the assistance of the diocesan surveyor and this is being progressed at the moment.

Quinquennial inspection plan: Following a meeting in April with the diocesan surveyor, the next stage is to finalise the arrangements with the diocese so that a structural engineer can be mobilised. This would be to inspect the cracks identified in the quinquennial inspection located in the north porch, above the chancel north side window and above the door into the boiler room from the North Vestry. It is considered likely that in the first place a structural engineer would recommend a period of monitoring over, say, a year to see if there is any movement occurring or the cracks are static. Subject to the result of this monitoring suitable firms/contractors could be sourced by the diocesan surveyor as appropriate to undertake the necessary repairs to the cracks and the other defects in the exterior stonework of the church building.

Church records storage: David said that he had approached a contact in the Kings Heath History Society who has shown an interest in assisting with this. Also any readers who feel that they would also be interested, bearing in mind that some of the records go back to 1860 when the first phase of the church was inaugurated, please contact the vicar.

Multifaith event in Village Square: David reported that Councillor Lisa Trickett is keen to improve relationships in the Kings Heath community following the attack of a Muslim person in York Road recently. David, in conjunction with Lisa Trickett, Mohammed Ali and Andy Savage are considering holding an event in the Village Square on 2 July where the different faiths can give the community an insight into their festivals and the reasons that they have them. The event would be interfaith but Muslim-led.

David said that he would be happy for Muslim prayers to be said on the church site if need be so long as we understand what and why. However, he was open to receiving any comments or objections if people had reservations.

It was suggested that Churches Together in Kings Heath should also be involved to represent the Christian viewpoint and also to be fully inclusive.

Traidcraft/Fairtrade: It is understood that Traidcraft is no longer functioning or trading. Our Fairtrade representative, Gill Parkin is happy to continue to sell fairly-traded goods that she can obtain from a number of sources.

Discussion took place as to the preferred new name for this continuing enterprise, and it was agreed that 'All Saints Fair Trade' seemed the most appropriate.

The meeting finished after about 75 minutes with a prayer.

Next meetings: These are scheduled as follows:

SC meetings: 20 June, 17 October, 12 December 2023; 20 February, 16 April 2024.

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

Tony Cocks
PCC Secretary

All Saints Tea Cake and Music

**Join Us on The First Thursday of Each
Month for Tea, Coffee, Biscuits or
Cakes**

**In the South Vestry of All Saints
Church Kings Heath**

**Company, Warmth, and a sing a long for those who want
2.30 pm to 4pm - Free**



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

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



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



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.

Who's Who

Worship *(for clergy see back page)*

Children's Worship Co-ordinators	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	Tony Price	01564 824420

Groups, clubs and organisations

All Saints Ramblers	Des Workman	0121 572 3553
	Christine Powell	
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	Eira Jones	c/o 0121 444 0760
Traidcraft	Gill Parkin	0121 604 6127

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

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

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	Secretary	Treasurer
	Vacant	Tony Cocks, 0121 441 2945	Steve Brittle, 01905 772171
Members	Jim Andrew	Margaret Healey-Pollett	Chris Watts
	Margaret Andrew	(Reader)	Claire Wesley (Reader)
	Martha Ann Brookes	John Parkin (Reader)	Daniel Wilson
	Philip Brookes	Chris Pearce	Sarah Wilson
	Tim Cuthbertson	Vivien Tilsley	Des Workman
	Brian Miles	David Warbrick (Vicar)	Sheila Workman

All Saints Community Development Company (ASCDC)

Chair	Sarah Wilson	c/o 0121 444 0760	office@allsaints-cdc.co.uk
Projects Co-ordinator	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	Vacant	
	Vacant	
Licensed Readers	Margaret Healey-Pollett	c/o 0121 444 0760
	John Parkin	0121 604 6127
	Claire Wesley	0121 444 2778
Pastoral Care Team	Juliet Bick, Becky Frall, Margaret Healey-Pollett, Tariro Matsveru, Wendy Ross, Lu Skerratt-Love, David Warbrick, Jenny Warbrick, Des Workman	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