

Saints Alive!

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



**November
2023**



£1
(suggested donation)



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



From the editors

Dear friends and neighbours,

As they say, time flies when you're having fun! It's hard to believe that it's been nearly eight years since we took over the editorship of *Saints Alive!* magazine (next month will see the 80th edition we have put together). In that time we have learnt so much about the life of the church campus and the people who create it, and have enjoyed trying to bring as wide a variety of content as we can to every edition, looking forward and looking back, with the hope that each one is an interesting snapshot of church life that month.

For a while now, current and recent past editions of the magazine have been available on the All Saints website (at <https://allsaintschurchkh.org/about-us/publications/>), and that this has increased its readership beyond those who are able to pick up copies in church; we also have a regular mailing list of people to whom it is sent. Elsewhere in this issue you will see a new flyer which details the many ways in which All Saints members and friends can keep in touch and stay connected – the importance of being able to do so has really been highlighted by Covid and its aftermath. It was notable for us that during the first lockdown of 2020 in particular, when nothing was able to happen on the campus and nobody was going anywhere, we had probably the most sustained burst of interest in the magazine (both in terms of submissions and of enquiries about how to access it – we continued to publish online throughout the lockdowns) in our time as editors.

We are really grateful for all contributions we receive for the magazine – big or small, from regular writers or occasional correspondents – but are always on the lookout for even more. For every person we know, every event we attend, every story we hear, there are doubtless another five or ten or more that aren't on our radar, or perhaps on yours – but which we would like to be! Although, as mentioned, editing the magazine has given us a far greater knowledge of what is happening in church and who is making it happen, there is always more going on than we are aware of, and new and interesting people we don't know. The same must be the case for everyone in and beyond the congregation, so we'd love to be able to share more stories with our readership – nobody can be at everything, or know every person associated with All Saints, but everyone does something, knows some people and has thoughts or opinions on topics great or small, so we encourage you to share them with us!

Please do, then, get in touch with us with anything that you think might be of interest to your fellow All Saints-ers – reflections on life within and beyond the church campus; reviews of concerts, books, films etc; tales from your working life or trips you've taken; jokes, puzzles or cartoons; details of forthcoming events that you are involved in or attending; stories or recipes; ideas for regular features; memories of All Saints life from previous decades; in fact, anything that will add even greater flavour to the magazine. We're usually around in church on Sunday mornings if you want to come and have a chat, or send any thoughts or ideas to magazine@allsaintschurchkh.org – we're looking forward to hearing from you!

Ben & Clare

Memories of war

In the month of Remembrance Sunday, many thanks to Des Workman for this information about Birmingham's Hall of Memory, and a Kings Heath memorial.

The Hall of Memory was built to commemorate the 12,320 Birmingham citizens who died and the 35,000 who were wounded in the First World War.

On 12 June 1923, the Prince of Wales laid the foundation stone. He said that the building would stand to 'symbolise to generations to come that Birmingham stood for, during a period of great national crisis – work of every kind unflinchingly given, compassion to the sick and wounded, courage and resource in adversity, and, above all, self-sacrifice in the face of death'.

The Hall of Memory was opened by HRH Prince Arthur of Connaught on 4 July 1925. Built of Portland stone, and constructed almost entirely by Birmingham craftsmen, it cost £60,000 raised solely through public donations.

Around the exterior on granite pedestals stand four larger-than-life bronze statues by local artist Albert Toft. They represent the Army, Navy, Air Force and Women's Services.

When it was opened, opposite the Hall of Memory, outside what is now the Rep Theatre, stood a colonnade of Portland stone. When Centenary Square was built, the stones were moved to the Peace Gardens (formerly St Thomas' Church) in Bath Row. The Hall of Memory and the colonnade was designed by S N Cooke and W Norman Twist. It was built by John Barnsley and Sons, and John Bowen and Sons.

Visitors enter the Hall of Memory through huge cast bronze doors. Inside the Hall, a sarcophagus-shaped dais of Siena marble sits in the centre of the marble floor. On top of the shrine rests a glass and bronze casket containing two books: the First World War and Second World War Roll of Honour.

The cover of the First World War Roll of Honour bears the words:

'There was none that gave them an ill-word, for they feared God greatly... So they passed over, and all the trumpets sounded for them on the other side.'

Across the Hall is a third Roll of Honour containing the names of Birmingham citizens who have died in campaigns since the end of the Second World War.

Facing the main entrance is a stained glass window designed by R J Stubington. On the walls are three carved Art Deco bas-relief plaques depicting scenes from the First World War. *Call* shows men leaving home to join His Majesty's Forces; *Front Line* represents a party of men in the firing line, at the foot of which is the inscription 'At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them'; *Return* shows men, after battle, returning to their homes. The plaques were designed by local artist William Bloye and carry three inscriptions:

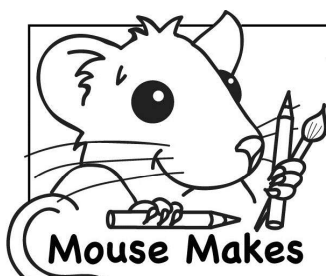
'Of 150,000 who answered the call to arms 12,320 fell: 35,000 came home disabled.'

'At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.'

'See to it that they shall not have suffered and died in vain.'

The Second World War Memorial Stone was originally located outside the Royal British Legion Club in Station Road. It commemorates the men of Kings Heath who gave their lives in the Second World War. When the club closed a couple of years ago they gave the Stone to All Saints. In October this year it was placed opposite the cross in the Village Square below the chancel window.





Mouse Makes

"Do not be anxious about anything,
but in every situation, by
_____ and
_____,
with thanksgiving, present your
_____ to God."
Philippians 4:6-7 NIV

"The _____
is _____
to all who
_____ on him in
_____."
Psalm 145:18

"For where two or three
in my name, there
I am with them."
Matthew 18:20

PRAISE GOD

PRAY FOR THE NEEDY

PRAY FOR THE SICK

PRAY FOR THE CHURCH

SAY SORRY

PRAY FOR OTHERS

PRAY FOR YOURSELF

THANK GOD

FOR MY FAMILY

PRAY FOR FRIENDS

W O R D S E A R C H

C	O	N	F	E	S	S	P	K	R	Q	C
N	E	A	R	M	D	P	E	H	E	A	R
T	I	M	E	E	D	A	T	E	Q	M	Y
I	Q	E	J	D	T	P	I	P	U	E	O
F	P	V	O	I	R	P	T	R	E	N	U
O	R	D	I	T	U	R	I	A	S	K	T
R	A	E	C	A	T	O	O	Y	T	P	R
G	I	V	E	T	H	A	N	K	S	R	A
I	S	O	S	E	S	C	A	P	R	A	Y
V	E	T	G	A	T	H	E	R	U	Y	E
E	L	E	C	A	L	L	I	S	T	E	N
M	U	B	L	E	S	S	R	L	O	R	D

NIV

Look up the Bible verses, fill in the blanks then find them in the word search

Find these words too:
APPROACH
MEDITATE
HEAR • LISTEN
BLESS • PRAISE
FORGIVE • NAME
CRY OUT • AMEN


" _____
always, _____
continually, _____
in all circumstances."
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

"Therefore, _____
your sins to one another and
_____ for one another,
that you may be healed."
James 5:16

" _____
yourselves
to prayer, being
watchful and
thankful."
Colossians 4:2

notorious
presents

A Ceremony of Carols



Directed by Clare Edwards
Featuring Harpist Rahel Schweizer

Saturday 9 December 2023, 7.30pm
All Saints Church, Kings Heath, Birmingham
Tickets [tkt.to/notorious](https://www.tkt.to/notorious)

**Immerse yourself in the magic of the festive season with
notorious!**

The choir will be joined by our very own talented harpist, Rahel Schweizer, to perform the **Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten** – a choral work renowned for its hauntingly beautiful melodies and intricate vocal arrangements. We will also perform a selection of uplifting carols and tranquil Christmas music – all in the beautiful setting of All Saints Church.

Saturday 9th December, 7:30pm (Doors open 7pm)

All Saints Church, Kings Heath B14 7RA

Tickets £14 (concessions £12) available at [tkt.to/notorious](https://www.tkt.to/notorious)

For a limited time we're offering **10% off tickets** when you join our mailing list – please register by visiting our webpage and follow the link on the homepage!

www.notoriouschoir.org

From the PCC

Since the last issue of *Saints Alive!*, there has been one meeting of the Standing Committee on 17 October. There were a number of topics discussed and a résumé of these is given below:

Finance:

Expenditure: Our treasurer was not able to attend on this occasion so we did not have an update further to the last report in October. However the financial situation then was that expenditure for this year to the end of August 2023 was circa £94K. Expenditure on utilities continues to be significantly higher than budgeted. The treasurer explained that the standing charge for gas and electricity was now much higher than could have been predicted when he was preparing the 2023 budget. To cover this an extra £2.5K will be required.

Income: The treasurer reported that income at the end of August was circa £128K but it did include a bequest of £39K. The account was effectively therefore currently in deficit to the amount of circa £5K.

Regular giving: The treasurer reported that the average for the past 12 months was some £572/month up on last month's average.

Overall net worth: At the end of August the church balance net worth was circa £216K, but as reported previously did include the as yet unpaid long-term loan of circa £170K to the Development Company. This gave a surplus of circa £46K.

Safeguarding: Our safeguarding co-ordinator, Eira Jones, kindly attended the meeting and a number of issues were discussed in this respect, as follows.

- **Golden Rule:** Eira reiterated the so-called 'Golden Rule of Safeguarding' being that 'everyone is responsible'.
- **Review of policies:** Two safeguarding policies, viz 'Safeguarding and Child Protection' and 'Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults', have recently been reviewed as well as two more, viz 'Health and Safety' and 'Creating a Safe Space'. The updated versions are currently being distributed to the various organisations on the site.
- **Young Offenders policy:** While there have been several attempts at finalising this in the past, its completion is still required. David, our vicar, has agreed to liaised with Mary Miles, our former safeguarding co-ordinator, with a view to completing it in the near future.
- **DBS:** Eira said that Mary Miles would be taking over the DBS work for the site. They were keen to streamline the process digitally using the Cloud.
- **ASCC (Community Catering):** Eira explained that ASCC has a new member called Helga who is assuming the role of the safeguarding lead for ASCC. She has experience of safeguarding and it is considered that her skills will be very useful in this regard. Eira would be meeting with Helga shortly to exchange notes on the subject.
- **Annual safeguarding meeting:** David advised that the cross-site annual safeguarding meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 5 March 2024.
- **Holiday:** Eira said that she was shortly going on holiday for about a month and would leave her phone with David during this time as the principal contact for safeguarding matters while she is away.

Churchwardens: A replacement or replacements for Chris Pearce is still being sought for the post of churchwarden or churchwardens. In the interim a rota of former wardens is fulfilling duties, particularly for services.

Development Company/Youth Investment Fund grant: the team progressing the application for the Government Youth Investment Fund grant (YIF) reported that the application is progressing well. There are still a few outstanding matters to attend to. A suitable project management team and architects have been appointed and the team continue to liaise with all stakeholders, finalise legal requirements and make preparations for a planning application. An official announcement is to be made in due course.

Air entering heating system: In absence of a churchwarden, our PCC secretary explained the situation that they had been progressing with respect to rectifying the leak on the church heating system, having identified the leak as being from a joint where the heating pipes enter the church on the north side.

The diocese is providing assistance via its People & Places Parish Support Services which assists with HR, buildings and bookkeeping in its deaneries. To take advantage of this, we have been liaising with the diocesan surveyor to identify a suitable contractor for undertaking the repair work.

To date, the surveyor with two contractors have visited the site to view the problem and identify and cost possible solutions.

As the leak is in a very inaccessible place, the current proposal is to cut the pipe either side of the leaking joint, ie inside and outside of the church building, and splice in a new piece of pipe. This will involve excavating a trial pit on the outside of the church to establish the nature of the pipework in this area where one of the cuts and subsequent joints would be made. Following this, the details of the repair can be finalised and costed. The surveyor has to date requested a price from a suitable contractor for excavating and reinstating the excavation which is due shortly.

For one reason or another, the implementation of the repair work is taking much longer than expected. As it is now necessary to regularly heat the church, and as the repair would require the heating to be switched off and the system emptied, the repair will be postponed until next summer. In the meantime, the system will be regularly bled to remove air as necessary.

Quinquennial inspection plan: The proposal to mobilise a structural engineer to review 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 is currently on hold.

Archiving: a considerable archive of historic documentation is currently stored on the site accumulated by former members of the church, particularly Margaret Shepherd and Stan Budd whom some readers will know were longstanding members of the church. These records are currently stored in the South Vestry. There is also further more recent documentation stored in the coach house (next to the vicarage), as well as other locations both on and off the site. It is proposed that this in many ways interesting collection is to be catalogued and made accessible to the congregation and the community.

The group led by Vivien Tilsley is currently identifying what archive material that there is and how much as a first stage in this project.

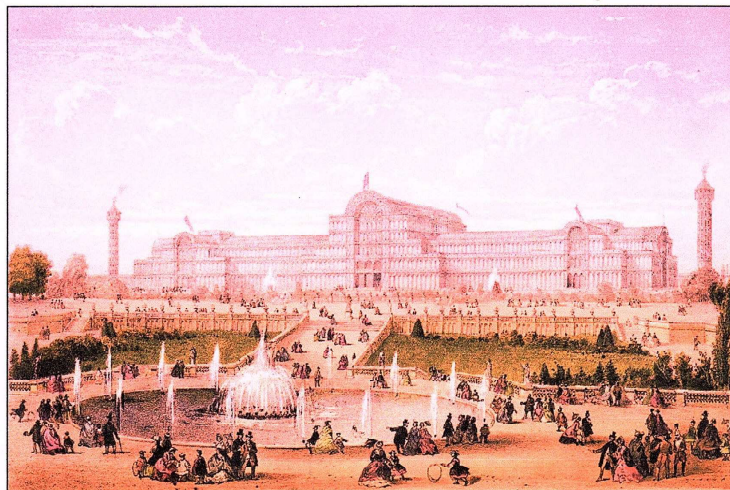
John Parkin (Reader): John Parkin, one of our Readers for many years, has decided to retire in November. John has had a remarkable and dedicated time in the church as a Reader and will be greatly missed. It is expected that he will give his last sermon as reader in early December 2023. More will no doubt be said about this in the next month or two.

Next meetings: These are scheduled as follows:

SC meetings: 12 December 2023; 20 February, 16 April, 18 June, 15 October 2024.

PCC meetings: 21 November 2023; 16 January, 19 March, 21 May, 23 July, 17 September, 19 November 2024.

Tony Cocks
PCC Secretary



The Building of Crystal Palace

A talk by Jim Andrews

at All Saints Church, Kings Heath

On Saturday November 11th at 3pm

Tickets just £5 including tea or coffee and cake

**Buy them from the All Saints Cafe, Office or on
Sunday Mornings in Church**

In 1851 a vast glass and cast iron building was designed, fitted out and opened in London for the Great Exhibition. All the Glass and Cast Iron was supplied from the West Midlands. Larger than three football pitches placed end to end it was a marvel of Victorian engineering. Jim will describe how the Victorians built this in less than a year.

(Ex)-warden's musings

I hope you enjoyed your extra hour of sleep? So the clocks have gone back and we are firmly into autumn – one of my top four seasons. Speaking of clocks, I'm not sure how many noticed, but a few weeks back, when Des was ringing the bell before the service, he rang six bongs out of the 39 (for the 39 articles) before the rope snapped and he was deluged in 30ft of rope. Hopefully the first six are the most important articles... I nipped up the tower with the detached rope and had to undo various knots to be able to pass the rope back down through the holes in the floors. I was so intent on this task that I forgot it was 10:00 so got a nice surprise when the clock strike started hammering the bell 12 inches from my head. After I'd recovered, I reattached the end of the rope to the bell 'donger' as Becky called it (the correct term is clapper and in case you are ever in need, there is a specialist company offering clapper reprofiling services – amazing what you find on t'internet). Having lowered the rope back through the holes it was of course somewhat shorter than it used to be due to the broken end having frayed, tying knots, etc. I reattached the 'extra bit' of rope which has always been rather mysteriously attached by a variety of knots that sailors like John Parkin would NOT recognise and it is now the right length and much neater. I had my fingers crossed when the bell was rung during the Eucharistic prayer just in case my knot was no good... Apologies for any disturbance noticed at the back of church! On the plus side, I did check while I was up the tower that the pigeons haven't got back in to nest. They haven't – but the large pile of brick dust, dirt and pigeon poo is still waiting for me to bring down.

On the topic of guano, as a break from work, and to try and keep them warm enough, I'm regularly peeing on the compost heaps (don't tell my neighbours and don't worry – they are hidden behind the greenhouse). I hope to keep them active enough to start rotting down all the fallen leaves. Inspired by John Morse-Brown, I have been turning and aerating my compost piles to encourage the decay process. I haven't yet bought a compost thermometer, but when I turn them over, they are evidently warm as they steam a bit when the air is cold enough. Or maybe that's just me steaming from the effort of shovelling compost? It is quite impressive how the volume reduces. Each pile is contained in a wooden structure made of old pallets and they are about a cubic metre each. I must have added at least a cubic metre of shredded hedge trimmings as well as grass cuttings, straw and rabbit poo, etc, as I've turned them over and they just keep shrinking as the bacteria and worms do their stuff.

I've just been reading up on Wikipedia and composting is remarkably complex. The essential ingredients are carbon (brown stuff), nitrogen (more likely green stuff of veggies), oxygen (this is where the turning over regularly comes in) and water. Not too much as it starves the heap of oxygen, nor too little as it stops working if too dry. Apparently grass cuttings have a 15:1 carbon to nitrogen ratio and fallen leaves have a 50:1 ratio and you need about a 25-30:1 ratio in the heap. So go easy on the grass cuttings and the leaves – unless you have plenty of both. But still, it explains why piles of fallen leaves take years to rot down and why the heap stops working if there are too many grass cuttings. I do like to know why something works or doesn't. As John M-B told me, if the pile is about a cubic metre in size and you turn it regularly (the website says every two days – I'm not that dedicated but every week or two is what I'm trying to maintain) then you can get the temperature up which helps it rot faster and kills off some of the pathogens and weed seeds.



We go on holiday to a lovely campsite in Pembrokeshire every year where each pitch has a composting toilet. I plan to build one in our garden (again – don't tell the neighbours). The composting loo is basically a normal loo seat built in a small shed which has a separator bowl to keep the urine separate from the solids. The urine can go into a soak-away (or on the compost heap where it helps provide phosphorous for plants, moisture and keeps the temperature up) while the solids go into a bucket that you empty into a lidded bin every so often. Loo paper and cardboard can go in and you add some sawdust/wood chippings each time you use it to add enough carbon and to soak up any moisture. This stops it being smelly. Conventional

flush toilets are bonkers. They take two valuable resources (human waste and drinking water) and mix them up making both useless and costly to deal with. Anyway – our campsite owners took us round 'behind the scenes' last year and we saw where they spread the compost from the loos (after about three years of rotting down). They use it to fertilise their tree nursery and there were tomato plants everywhere, as apparently that's the only seed that survives the composting process! They don't eat the tomatoes produced as they don't know what all their guests have been eating... (in our regular week, half of the guests are Kings Heathens so it should be good quality poo). Apologies if you are eating a snack of tomato bruschetta with a little olive oil and garlic while reading this.

The article on Wikipedia goes on to talk about human composting which is a variation on burial but designed to rapidly decompose the body, while 'normal' burial puts the body out of reach of most of the things needed to compost. Burial by human composting is environmentally better and produces compost which helps plants grow. Being scattered as compost around a newly-planted tree would be great as the materials that formed the body would be taken up and become part of another living thing that would far outlast the person who planted it. I read that Dame Judi Dench plants a tree every time one of her friends dies. I like that. Becky is keen on being hot-composted – not in the garden I hasten to add. It must be done properly. It is legal in Sweden (they are so cool) and in six US states, but not yet possible in the UK, although probably not technically illegal.

Speaking of Swedes (the people from Sweden, not the vegetables), we are going to see *ABBA Voyage* in London in half-term. The engineering geek in me is fascinated to know how they make a holographic show work. The dancing diva in me just wants to bathe in glitter, sing and dance. We've been listening to ABBA a lot to make sure we know the words so we can sing along. And because, why wouldn't you listen to ABBA? We got 'dancefloor' tickets which are a bit cheaper. I am slightly apprehensive that Becky and I will appreciably raise the average age on the dance floor. I'm also trying to decide what to wear – maybe the white satin flared dungarees with sequined edging at the back of the wardrobe will have a use after all...



Chris Pearce
Ex-churchwarden



ALL SAINTS PLAYERS PRESENT...

The All Saints Theatrical Revue!

Saturday 10 February 2024

19:30

All Saints Church Hall

Everyone is invited to start preparing acts, finding their comedy duo partner, forming their barbershop quartet, composing their latest sonnet, polishing their tap shoes and refining their juggling, ready to take to the stage.

All are welcome and no previous experience is necessary – all you need is an enthusiasm to entertain your friends...
for one night only!

Please contact speak to Clare Noakes, either in person or via email (players@allsaintschurchkh.org) if you would like to take part or learn more!

Tickets will go on sale in the new year.

Music matters

Over the summer I had an enforced three months off from the CBSO Chorus, as two performance dates and a choir tour to Monaco clashed with Aston University graduations, the start of the academic year and a big two-day conference. I did rather enjoy having Wednesday evenings to myself and it meant that I was able to watch a lot more of Olly and Josh's cricket matches than I usually am able to. But it was therefore with an eager sense of anticipation that I once more locked my bike up outside CBSO Centre on a Wednesday evening in mid-September, ready to catch up with my CBSO friends and once more contribute to one of the best symphonic choruses in the country. And what better way to get back into it than with preparation for a celebration of Simon Halsey's 40th year as Chorus Master of the choir.

Simon has chosen the programme for his anniversary concert and it's cracking! It contains, unashamedly, some of the best 'sings' of the British choral tradition (Parry's *I was glad* and Handel's *Zadok the Priest*), a folk song-inspired work by Britten, the fabulously shimmery *Stars* by Ešenvalds, written for chorus and tuned wine glasses, and a jolly little piece by Judith Weir simply entitled *Sing*. Alongside these, however, the second half comprises a 50-minute work by contemporary composer Jonathan Dove, called *There Was a Child*.

I hadn't sung this before, though the CBSO Chorus performed it 13 years ago (I was away from the chorus at the time, discovering motherhood), so it's been great to learn some new music. The work was commissioned by Rosemary Pickering and Richard Van Allen in 2009 to celebrate the life of their son Robert, who tragically drowned in an accident aged just 19 in 1999. Writing about the commission, Dove said '...we immediately felt it should involve singing. Singing with other people is



Jonathan Dove (© Marshall Light Studio)

one of the most joyful activities I know, so this had to be a choral work. And music celebrating young life should include the sound of children's voices.'

The texts for the choirs and two soloists (a soprano 'mother' and tenor 'son') are all poems which, Dove explains, were informed by stories about Robert: poems by Charles Causley and Langston Hughes describing the wonder of birth; by Wordsworth, Keats, Traherne and Emily Dickinson conjuring up different aspects of childhood – naughtiness, carefree playfulness, youthful adventures. The first page I glanced at when I opened the score had the text 'of fish, a pretty kettle' which made me smile and definitely boded well for the rest of it!

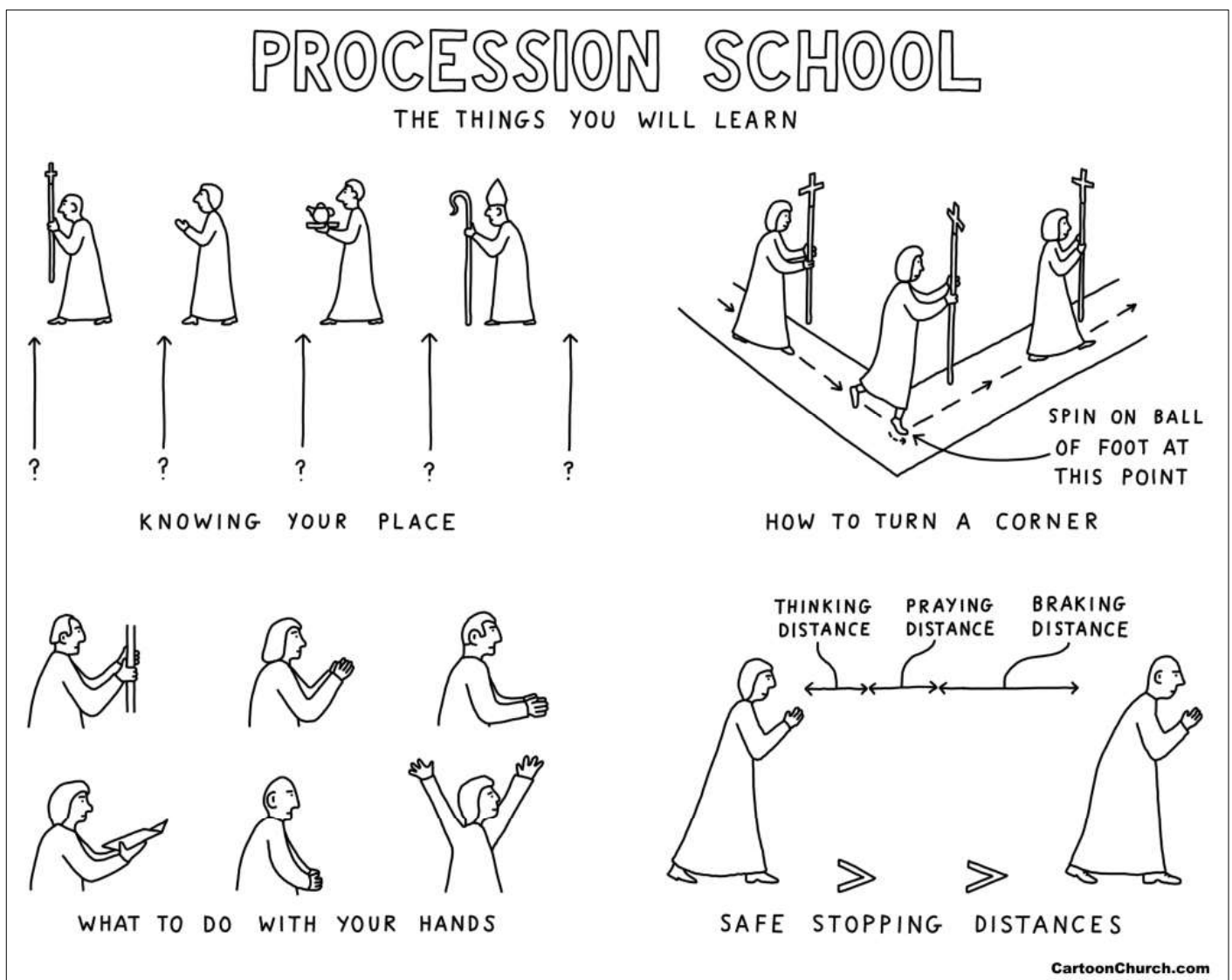
Most of the texts are celebratory, but there is no avoiding the terrible moment when a young life is cut short in the middle of adventure. Shakespeare evokes the grief of a mother for her child, in an emotional duet between the soprano and tenor, the son with text by Chidiok Tichborne expressing how his life is cut short: 'My tale was heard and yet it was not told / My fruit is fall'n and yet my leaves are green / My youth is spent and yet I am not old.'

However, the work does not end with the child's death. It continues to conclude with a fabulous setting of Walt Whitman's poem *There Was a Child Went Forth*. It's a glorious description of a child absorbing everything around him and connecting with the whole world, whether 'for the day, or a certain part of the day, or for many years, or stretching cycles of years.' The music of this last movement weaves the text in a clever, melodious, intricate way, combining the full symphonic chorus, the children's choir, the soprano and tenor soloists, but finishes with a solo tenor line: 'These became part of that child who went forth every day and who now goes and will always go forth every day.'

There are some instances where I have to try not to concentrate too hard on the words we're singing, as otherwise I'll never get to the end. I think this will be one of them, but I can't wait to perform this and all the other showstoppers to a packed Symphony Hall on 30 November.

Clare Noakes
Music Co-ordinator

*Tickets for this concert are available via the CBSO website www.cbso.co.uk
(and Clare has a 25% discount code for anyone who would like to use it!)*





Keep in touch - Stay connected

Welcome leaflet - there are hard copies at the back of church. If you can't find one, ask the Welcome team. Or the text is here on the website: <https://allsaintschurchkh.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/WELCOME-LEAFLET.pdf>

Weekly email Newsletter – You can find the last few on the website on the [publications](#) page (under About Us). Sign up here <https://landing.mailerlite.com/webforms/landing/o7a2q4>. There are hard copies at the back of church.

Website <https://allsaintschurchkh.org/>

Weekly Service Sheets – Available at church services or you can download these service sheets on the website under [Services](#)

Monthly Magazine – 'Saints Alive!' – there are physical copies at the back of the church for purchase or you can read previous issues online on the website under [Publications](#).

Monthly Outlook leaflet – for all the goings on at All Saints Centre. There are physical copies in church or you can read previous issues online on the All Saints Centre website <https://www.allsaintscentrehk.co.uk/about-us/outlook/>

Facebook Group – All Saints Congregation <https://www.facebook.com/groups/allsaintscongregation>

WhatsApp Groups – if you like keeping in touch via a WhatsApp group there are two:

All Saints News and Justice - and - All Saints Prayer and Share

Contact Angela McDermott the Parish Administrator and she can send you links to join. You can find Angela in the Parish Office (Monday to Friday 9-3) or you can contact her on 0121 444 0760 or email her at parishoffice@allsaintschurchkh.org

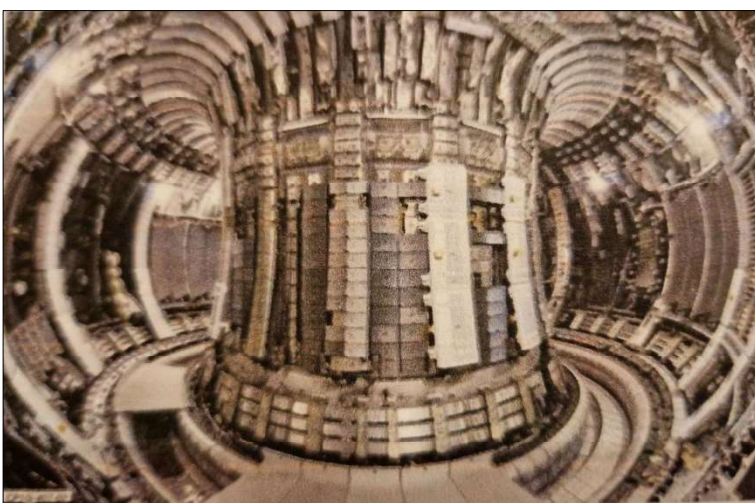
In person! Chat to David the vicar and Tariro the curate at the service.

A little note on fusion energy...

In his Ex-warden's musings column last month, Chris Pearce left in a teaser about fusion energy – here is his article following up on that subject.

There is a joke in the energy industry that commercial fusion energy is always 30 years away. It is probably still 30 years away at present. At Culham in Oxfordshire, we have demonstrated that a tokamak fusion reactor can deliver power and if we can overcome the problem of how to make superconducting magnets work it could deliver more power than it consumes one day. Culham is home to the JET (Joint European Torus) which generated its first plasma 40 years ago in 1983 and is continuing experiments to support the global fusion programme until next year. JET was constructed and operated as part of a European programme and it has made a very important contribution to the ITER reactor, being built in France, which should be the bridge to a commercial fusion plant. JET has a doughnut-shaped vacuum chamber in which tritium and deuterium (types of hydrogen) are squeezed by a powerful magnetic field to confine it and keep it away from the walls of the chamber. The gas is heated by electrical currents induced in it by further magnetic fields to turn it into a plasma – like a gas which is broken into its constituent ions. These are then heated by making them whizz round as an electrical current to create temperatures much higher than those on the surface of the Sun (the modest star that we orbit around, not the newspaper) – something like millions of degrees Celsius. At this point fusion occurs and the tritium and deuterium ions combine together to become helium releasing some spare neutrons containing huge amounts of energy.

The JET reactor has achieved a record amount of fusion energy of 59 million joules. If you boil a 2.5kW kettle for one minute, it uses about 150,000 joules, so you could boil your kettle 393 times with the amount of energy produced in JET's world record fusion burst. Unfortunately that energy was released in less than five seconds as heat and converting it into electricity is what ITER will try to solve. This world record is equivalent to between 20-30MW of power; however the power required to accelerate the plasma is around 34MW (for comparison, this would power 14,000 boiling kettles). So JET has got close to the point where the energy input to heat and accelerate the plasma is close the fusion energy released in the pulse; unfortunately this ignores the 700MW of electrical energy required to power the magnets which confine the plasma stream. This is enough power for a modest-sized city. When they want to run JET, they have to agree with National Grid when they



will draw this power off and they also spin up massive flywheels in advance as a way of storing energy which can then be released to generate huge amounts of power.

The idea is that the next generation of fusion reactor, the ITER plant in the south of France, will be able to run continuously for short periods (JET does very short 'bursts' of generation) to demonstrate how a fusion reactor would be refuelled on load (the neutrons zinging about interact with beryllium which I think generates tritium

which fuels the reactor), how the heat energy would be converted to electricity and, most importantly, it will use superconducting magnets to create the confinement field which, because there is no electrical resistance, use very little electricity. They do need to be cooled to absolute zero, I think. Which is a challenge. If you want more details, ask a physicist... Materials for the reactor are

also a big challenge. Beryllium makes up 0.0004% of the earth's crust so it's not common. It is also dangerous for humans as it can cause fatal respiratory diseases. But there are thousands of engineers and scientists working globally on solving these problems. ITER is intended to demonstrate that a commercial plant is viable but it won't actually operate to generate significant amounts of power. That will be the generation after. So maybe 30 years is actually a reality now... In the meantime, there is no realistic alternative than to continue using nuclear fission reactors like the one being built at Hinkley Point C in Somerset or alternative small or advanced reactor designs.

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>

Around the campus

There is so much happening on or near to the church campus each day of every week, and it is interesting to find out a bit more about the different activities that make up part of life at All Saints. This month we take the opportunity to look at three things happening in the run-up to Christmas.



***Get into the Christmas spirit with a
Wreath Making Workshop.***

Come and join us at:

All Saints Church

Kings Heath

Friday

1st December 2023

2.30pm or 6.30pm

Tickets are £20 which includes refreshments and all materials to make a Christmas Wreath to take home.

All Saints Advent Craft Fair

SATURDAY DECEMBER 2nd 2023

In All Saints Church, Kings Heath,

10am till 2pm



Lots of homemade items and preserves

Gifts and Stocking Fillers

ADMISSION FREE

Come in and listen to the seasonal Music

from friends of All Saints

Nativity Set Raffle, Tombola Stall

Coffee and Mince Pies on Sale

Come and Enjoy

*Rehearsals will shortly be starting for this year's **Carols by Candlelight** service (taking place at 6:30pm on Sunday 17 December). Do please let us know if you would like to join us to sing or to play an instrument, or for information about other events during Advent and over Christmas.*

All are welcome to take part in these or any other musical activity in church, whether regularly or occasionally. Please contact Music Co-ordinators Ben & Clare Noakes for more information:

E: music@allsaintschurchkh.org

T: 07967 730156 / 07929 593097

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. 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. The church's Charity Commission Number is 1145723. 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

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High days and holy days

1 November – All Saints' Day: the feast day of all the redeemed

All Saints', or All Hallows', is the feast of all the redeemed, known and unknown, who are now in heaven. When the English Reformation took place, the number of saints in the calendar was drastically reduced, with the result that All Saints' Day stood out with a prominence that it had never had before. This feast day first began in the East, perhaps as early as the 5th century, as commemorating 'the martyrs of the whole world'. A northern English 9th-century calendar named All Hallows' as a principal feast, and such it has remained. Down the centuries devotional writers have seen in it the fulfilment of Pentecost and indeed of Christ's redemptive sacrifice and resurrection.

The saints do not belong to any religious tradition, and their lives and witness to Christ can be appreciated by all Christians. Richard Baxter, in the 17th century, wrote the following:

*He wants not friends that hath thy love,
And made converse and walk with thee,
And with thy saints here and above,
With whom for ever I must be...
As for my friends, they are not lost;
The several vessels of thy fleet,*

*Though parted now, by tempests tost,
Shall safely in thy haven meet...
The heavenly hosts, world without end,
Shall be my company above;
And thou, my best and surest Friend,
Who shall divide me from thy love? **

1,255 ancient English churches were dedicated to All Saints – a number only surpassed by those dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

* Maurice Frost (ed), *Historical Companion to Hymns Ancient and Modern* (London: Clowes, 1962), no 274, verses 1,3,6.

2 November – All Souls' Day: a time of reckoning with the past

The early Church was slow to dedicate a liturgical day to offering prayers and masses to commemorate the faithful departed. But in time prayers were offered on behalf of dead monks, that they might attain 'the Beatific Vision' through purification, which the Church later described as purgatory. Odilo, the powerful abbot of Cluny, decreed that All Souls' Day should follow the feast of All Saints' Day.

At least four ancient English dedications are known, the most famous of which are All Souls College, Oxford and the church at Langham Place in London.

In bygone centuries All Souls' Day was certainly uncomfortable for anyone who had wronged a person who had then died, for it was believed that souls in purgatory could appear on earth on this day, in the form of ghosts, witches or toads, to haunt anyone who had wronged them in life. On a more cheerful note, it was also believed that you could help the dead on this day by almsgiving in cash or in kind. Some of these beliefs seem to have been caught up in the popular customs of Halloween.

When the Reformation came, the Protestants disregarded the idea of purgatory, and this feast day remained with the Roman Catholic Church.

(adapted from www.parishpump.co.uk)