

# ***Saints Alive!***

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



**March  
2025**



**£1**  
*(suggested donation)*

# *From the vicarage*

Dear friends and neighbours,

Such serious news; so much conflict; such unpredictable leaders for powerful nations; such sinister far-right election results around Europe; such disorientation for the Church of England; such climate-related fear. Is this really the time to put energies into a pantomime?

Precisely because of such news, such conflict, such capricious leadership, such seriousness, this is exactly the season for a pantomime.

February's extravaganza was wonderful to participate in. When all is so serious, rehearsals were funny and lively, the atmosphere one of unstoppable goodwill, mutual encouragement, everyone rooting for whoever was performing at any given moment. What an antidote to the gleeful criticism and scorn in the air out in the world. The equality of attention for each other, from aged three to 77, big part, small part – dare I say it, tall or short? – was delightfully uncompetitive.

Pantomime always involves the subversion of authority, the exposure of the ridiculous and hardly-exaggerated displays of human folly. Participating as audience or cast, we exercise the most important muscles, we test political perception. When we are angry at overbearing leaders taking themselves too seriously, before we call them out, as we should, it is both wise and subversive first to ensure that we don't take ourselves too seriously. The cast may be acting daft, but as audience also, by joining in, laughing at bad jokes, like a child being tickled, wanting it but not wanting it, we deliberately refuse to take ourselves too seriously. Something is released, just for a while, and we feel better prepared to face the serious world.

It's exaggerated and daft, but it is doing a very similar thing to our most serious, reflective, thoughtful acts of worship. The same muscles are being exercised. The same skills are being deployed. The mixture of script and improvisation is similar. The musicality is from the same place where both heart and skill interweave.

I am very proud of a church community that can curate the exquisite service of Carols by Candlelight as well as *Snow White*. Both show a big heart; an affectionate humanity. Both bring skill and feeling together wonderfully.

Thank you to Clare, Ben and Kevin, and all who made it possible. Now, to the serious season of Lent where, in a different idiom, we admit our frailty and folly, yet refuse despair.

Gratefully,

*David*

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

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

# A right royal panto!

It all started locally back in 2018 with *Cinderella*, followed by *Jack and the Beanstalk* in 2020. With *Dick Whittington* then helping to bring back the 'feelgood factor' post-Covid in 2023, this year it was the turn of *Snow White* to get the All Saints panto treatment.

Scholarly research tells us that pantomime as we know it today stretches back almost 200 years, though *Snow White* itself was a later 20th-century addition to the genre. Providing a first live theatrical experience for most children, then and now, early devotees of pantomime included Charles Dickens, William Gladstone, Lewis Carroll and Queen Victoria.



Always combining slapstick, spectacle and subversion, it has however constantly evolved to act as a cultural barometer of its time, reflecting current attitudes, beliefs and preoccupations. So, in continuing this glorious tradition of cross-dressing, terrible jokes, hissing the baddies and the triumph of young love over evil (this time with Prince Neville of Northfield eventually winning the fair hand of Snow White), what did we get in Panto 2025, All Saints-style?



Playing again to two sellout audiences and with the largest ever cast including partygoers, villagers, trees and woodland creatures, the first and most obvious mirror on today's PC world (and that's *not* the electrical retailer) was the inclusion of seven 'people of below average height'. Yet before this all got too serious and worthy, all were of course of much greater stature than Snow White herself, the tallest being six feet five!



Once again, David Warbrick forsook his day job as vicar at All Saints to take on the plum role of Dame Victoria Sponge, with all the over-the-top sartorial elegance and outrageous double entendres we have come to love and expect.

Snow White was played with innocence and poise by 12-year-old Lucy Groves. She finally triumphs – of course – over the evil Queen Beryl, magnificently played and sung by Charlotte Champneys who was fully deserving of the audience’s constant vocal disapproval. (Special mention here too of her increasingly frustrating conversations with her ‘mirror’, played in elegantly urbane style by David Harvey.)

As ever, there were regular allusions to other pantos and folktales, with running gags aplenty keeping us royally entertained. Nigel and Christopher Pietroni in particular were hysterically funny as Nifty and Shifty, with their inspired take on the roles of *The Fast Show’s* camp tailors Ken and Kenneth. In measuring King Cornelius (played with suitable gullibility by Damian Hursey) for his wedding suit of magic – in other words invisible – cloth, their constant catchphrase, ‘Ooh! Suits you, sir!’, carried on throughout the interval, as Nifty and Shifty moved throughout the audience to measure us up for our own wedding attire.

Much of the plot – such as it ever is – involved the Queen’s efforts to get Snow White to eat a poisoned apple. So far, so traditional. More unexpected was that every time an apple was produced, a Minion (played with energy and panache by eight-year-old Jake Groves) unexpectedly rushed across the stage brandishing an alternative yellow fruit shouting: ‘Apple? – no, banana!’ Any non-ficionados among the cast of the *Despicable Me* series of films were inevitably perplexed. You too? You had to be there!



Reflecting the importance of the All Saints Youth Project, a number of young adults from its Inclusion+ group began the second half of the afternoon in the forest cottage, leading the audience in a rousing rendition of 'Heigh-Ho, Heigh-Ho, it's off to work we go'.

As ever, too many participants to mention all individually, but the excellence of the production clearly reflected months of hard work by all the cast and skilled backroom team. The highly entertaining show had atmospheric sets and lighting, with musical backing by one-man band Ben Noakes keeping the show on the road. And everything benefited hugely from the combined flair and imagination of producer Clare Noakes and director Kevin Groves.

Once again, a fantastic effort by everyone, which also happened to raise over £1,100. Did we all have a good time? Oh yes we did! And will we come again next time? Oh yes we will!

**Graham Noakes**

*Many thanks to  
Luke Holmes for the photographs*



## ***From the archives: Mothering Sunday***

On 30 March, the UK will celebrate Mother's Day in a flurry of flowers, chocolates and lovingly-prepared burnt-toast breakfasts in bed. Amid this secular celebration it is easy to overlook the religious origins of Mothering Sunday, which date back to the Middle Ages.

Initially a day when Christians returned to their 'mother' church on the anniversary of their baptism, Mothering Sunday evolved and was officially established on the Fourth Sunday of Lent. In the Middle Ages it became a day to celebrate the Virgin Mary and the custom of offering flowers in church as a sign of devotion began. This practice developed further to include all mothers and the foundations of the current retail bonanza were laid in the 17th century.

Mothering Sunday became a special day of celebration as those in service would receive a day off to return to their mothers. Lent fasting was relaxed, hence the day also being known as Refreshment Sunday.

The important role of a mother has always been acknowledged by the Church and in 1876 Mary Sumner, the wife of a rector, started a group to support mothers in bringing up their children. This was the beginning of the Mothers' Union, a charity which today has four million members in 83 countries worldwide. The support was clearly welcomed and by 1892, only 16 years after its formation, there were 60,000 Mothers' Union members in 28 dioceses, including a group at All Saints.

The All Saints Mothers' Union was founded in 1883 and thrived for over a century. The church archives include a copy of the recipe book produced to celebrate its centenary in 1983 and many photographs of their members. The most interesting document is the 'Member's Card' (right) belonging to Ellen Smallwood who joined the Union in October 1925.

A hundred years later the language of the objectives (see below) that Ellen commits to is somewhat archaic; however the underlying intentions are still relevant for mothers, and fathers, in the 21st century. Objectives 5 and 6 – 'to guard [my children]... from bad and doubtful companions, influences and amusements' and 'to be very careful as to the books, periodicals and papers which they read' – are surely even more important than ever to responsible parents trying to control their children's screen time and internet access.

Mary Sumner believed that women had a vital role to play in developing a better society. She wanted to create a support network for disadvantaged women, giving them a voice and improving their standing in society. Today's Mothers' Union continues this work around the world. It works to strengthen relationships in families and communities by creating safe spaces and listening, helping communities to overcome challenges and create a sense of belonging. Advocating and influencing change remains important. Globally the Mothers' Union now focuses its efforts on creating a peaceful and safe environment for all fighting for gender justice and building individuals' self-reliance.

Due to the passion and commitment of its millions of members, the organisation that Mary Sumner began has evolved to remain relevant to society. Almost 150 years after its inception the work of the Mothers' Union remains as important as ever.

### **Marion Wilson and Vivien Thickett**

## **Objects**

### **I DESIRE BY GOD'S HELP-**

- 1. To guard my Home, to the utmost of my power, from the dangers of Infidelity, Impurity, Intemperance, Betting, and Gambling.**
- 2. To teach my children to pray daily, to read the Bible with them, especially the four Gospels, and to instruct them in our Holy Christian Faith.**
- 3. To lead them to hallow God's Day, and to worship Him regularly in His House of Prayer.**
- 4. To train my children to be obedient, truthful, pure, self-controlled and industrious, and to set them a good example in word and deed.**
- 5. To guard them from bad and doubtful companions, influences, and amusements, and to discourage slander and gossip in my Home.**
- 6. To be very careful as to the books, periodicals, and papers which they read, and which are seen in my Home.**
- 7. To encourage a spirit of reverence by precept and example.**

# The Mothers' Union.

"What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."—*St. Mark x, 9.*

## MEMBER'S CARD.

(Revised 1919.)

### Objects.

- 1.—To uphold the Sanctity of Marriage.
- 2.—To awaken in Mothers of all Classes a sense of their great responsibility in the training of their boys and girls (the future Fathers and Mothers of the Empire).
- 3.—To organise in every place a band of Mothers who will unite in prayer and seek by their own example to lead their families in purity and holiness of life.



**I** DESIRE to acknowledge that by my marriage vow I have pledged myself to love, to help, and to be faithful to my Husband till death us do part.

**I** DESIRE to remember that my Children have been made Members of our Lord Jesus Christ in Holy Baptism, and dedicated body and soul to His Service, and that it is my duty so to train them that they may continue His faithful Soldiers and Servants unto their lives' end.

**I** DESIRE BY GOD'S HELP—

1. To guard my Home, to the utmost of my power, from the dangers of Infidelity, Impurity, Intemperance, Betting, and Gambling.
2. To teach my children to pray daily, to read the Bible with them, especially the four Gospels, and to instruct them in our Holy Christian Faith.
3. To lead them to hallow God's Day, and to worship Him regularly in His House of Prayer.
4. To train my children to be obedient, truthful, pure, self-controlled and industrious, and to set them a good example in word and deed.
5. To guard them from bad and doubtful companions, influences, and amusements, and to discourage slander and gossip in my Home.
6. To be very careful as to the books, periodicals, and papers which they read, and which are seen in my Home.
7. To encourage a spirit of reverence by precept and example.

**G**OD grant that I may so use the means of Grace, that united to our Lord Jesus Christ, and abiding in Him I may be enabled to fulfil my duty as a faithful Wife and a wise and loving Mother.

### Special Prayer for Communicant Members.

**G**OD grant that I may so use the means of Grace, that united to God through our Lord Jesus Christ, and being continually strengthened and refreshed with the spiritual Food of His most Blessed Body and Blood, I may fulfil my duty as a faithful Wife and a wise and loving Mother in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### The Mothers' Union Prayer to be said daily.

**O** LORD, fill us with Thy Holy Spirit, that we may firmly believe in JESUS CHRIST, and love Him with all our hearts. Wash our souls in His Precious Blood. Make us to hate sin, and to be holy in thought, word and deed. Help us to be faithful wives and loving mothers. Bless us and all who belong to the Mothers' Union, unite us together in love and prayer, and teach us to train our children for Heaven. Pour out Thy Holy Spirit on our husbands and children: Make our Homes Homes of peace and love, and may we so live on earth, that we may live with Thee for ever in Heaven; for JESUS CHRIST's sake. Amen.

"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."—*Joshua xxiv, 15.*

"I am the Vine, ye are the Branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing."—*St. John xv, 5.*

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."—*St. Matthew v, 8.*

# High days and holy days

## **21 March – Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury & Reformation martyr**

If you have ever been caught up in a great event at work, which has gone on to change your own life, then Thomas Cranmer is the saint for you. He was the first ever Protestant Archbishop of Canterbury, following King Henry VIII's decision to pull away from Rome and set up the Church of England.

Born in Nottingham in 1489, Thomas Cranmer became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1533 and was adviser to both Henry VIII and Edward VI. He helped Henry with the annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon, and along with Thomas Cromwell, supported the principle of Royal Supremacy (where the king is sovereign over the Church in his realm). Under Edward VI, Thomas Cranmer made major reforms to the C of E. He put the English Bible into parish churches, compiled the first two versions of *The Book of Common Prayer*, and worked with continental reformers to change doctrine on everything from the Eucharist and veneration of saints.

But kings and queens, like American presidents, change, and the Catholic Queen Mary I was determined to wipe out Protestantism. Thomas Cranmer was imprisoned for two years, found guilty of heresy, and burnt at the stake on 21 March 1556.

## **31 March – John Donne, the metaphysical poet**

John Donne (1572-1631) was an English poet, scholar, soldier, secretary and finally Dean of St Paul's Cathedral in London, but he is most remembered for his poetry. He was born into a Roman Catholic family in London at a time when the Church of England was the dominant faith, and those who remained Roman Catholic were considered second-class citizens. Although Donne studied at both Oxford and Cambridge, because of his Roman Catholicism he was denied a degree; so in 1592 Donne went to London to study law at Lincoln's Inn.

In 1594 Donne decided to convert to the Church of England, and this opened up a whole new life for him. In 1596 he joined the naval expedition led by the Earl of Essex against Cadiz in Spain. When he returned in 1598, he was appointed private secretary to Sir Thomas Egerton, Lord Keeper of the Seal. All was going well, but then he fell in love with Egerton's 16-year-old niece, Anne More, and in 1601 he secretly married her. Egerton was furious; Donne lost his job and even ended up in prison for a short time. For several years after that Donne worked as a lawyer. Then in 1610 he wrote a book encouraging Roman Catholics to take the Oath of Allegiance to the King. The book caught the eye of James I, who may have suggested that Donne go into the Church. Certainly, Donne was appointed as a royal chaplain only a few months after his ordination in 1615. In 1617 Donne's beloved wife, Anne, died. In 1621 he was appointed the Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, and proved to be a much-loved and inspiring preacher.

Throughout his working life Donne continued to write poetry, though most of it remained unpublished until 1633 and was mostly forgotten after his death until early last century. Then, in the 1920s, both Ezra Pound and T S Eliot openly acknowledged their literary debt to him. Donne's place as one of the greatest of the 17th-century 'metaphysical' poets is now assured. He wrote both sacred and secular poetry, with his main theme being that of human love and divine love.

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



# ***Becoming churchwarden and volunteering***

***All Saints is currently seeking people to fulfil the vital role of churchwarden, and in a recent order of service David also mentioned other opportunities for volunteering across the campus; we reprint these along with a more detailed churchwarden job description from Vivien Thickett below.***

Opportunities for volunteering at All Saints – in no particular order and by no means a comprehensive list of examples:

**Churchwarden:** Elected by the congregation at the annual meeting, a Bishop's officer in the local church, sharing responsibility with the vicar for the oversight of PCC, congregation and church building, this crucial and rewarding role involves encouraging the many volunteers who make All Saints' life possible. We have lots of capable former wardens who support the present warden and who can tell you what the role involves – see job description below:

*The role of churchwarden at All Saints has evolved and changed much over the decades.*

*The perception that it involves a massive commitment of time and energy, and the shouldering of a great weight of responsibility, is for the most part not a true picture of the role today.*

*Much has changed over recent time in the life, mission, worship and campus of our parish church, and our diocese, and what used to be perceived as a heavy burden is now immeasurably lighter, and allows for considerable more flexibility than known previously.*

*A churchwarden, as a Bishop's appointee, is directly responsible for both overseeing the maintenance of the fabric of the church building, and the adherence of the incumbent to acceptable forms of worship, as sanctioned by the diocese. Wardens are also ultimately responsible for overseeing safeguarding and the management of an interregnum (not anticipated for a number of years!).*

*The unique privilege of the role involves developing a deep cohesion with the Ministry Team, and offers an unparalleled exposition to exploring the worship forms and liturgy of the Anglican Church of England. Most wardens admit to a deepening of their faith as a result of their commitment as a warden.*

*Those who have served at All Saints in this highly rewarding and honourable position, who could now be considered to be churchwardens emeritus (having served three years or more in the past), are seeking to encourage others who may or may not have considered volunteering for the role.*

*For two years, in the absence of such a dedicated warden, these emeritus wardens have been performing the requisite weekly duties in order to maintain the full range of needs for practical worship for the vicar Ministry Team and congregation.*

*However, this is a temporary solution and is not sustainable.*

*There is pressing need for member(s) of the congregation to offer to undertake this prestigious role with honour, humility and enthusiasm, and who will accept a joyous challenge!*

*All Saints needs people who are willing to work as the leader of our larger team – which constitutes welcomers, deputy wardens, clergy and lay ministers, servers, sacristan, verger, musicians, PCC*

*members and other volunteer groups – and who are able to adopt a fresh approach to facilitating our worship, our church building and our community service, as we move ever onward. The role is primarily one of facilitation and leadership, where delegation is paramount.*

*Could this be you?*

*Wardens are traditionally 'sworn in' for one year's tenure; in reality, a minimum of two years in post is desirable to thus learn the role, to maintain continuity, and then to hand over to the next warden(s). There is a vast range of support, experience and advice available from all those who have served in the past, and the elected warden can develop their particular skills in areas of the role in which they feel comfortable. There is always someone else who can 'do' whatever other tasks are necessary!*

**Safeguarding co-ordinator:** A crucial role as first point of contact for anyone with safeguarding concerns; monitoring the processes the PCC and companies have in place to ensure proper safeguarding is consistent across the site; keeping the safeguarding 'dashboard' up to date and bringing any necessary steps to the PCC's attention for action. Please speak to David if you would like to be considered for this role.

**Parochial Church Council membership (elections at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 11 May):** The PCC is the legal body responsible for the running of All Saints Church, meeting about six times a year, overseeing worship, finance, pastoral care, liaison and support for our family of charitable companies that work in the Centre, and particular care of the church building.

**Music:** We hope it is clear from Sunday worship that anyone who would like to be involved in church music, as singers or instrumentalists, is very welcome to speak to Ben and Clare Noakes ([music@allsaintschurchkh.org](mailto:music@allsaintschurchkh.org)) about how to join in. We enjoy a wonderful standard and variety of music, without the formality of auditions or membership of a particular choir or music group. Don't be shy of asking about how to get involved.

**Ministry with All Saints children:** Can you commit to leading or supporting a children's group once per month? We would love to have a diverse children's team that represents the wider congregation and our current children's group (for primary school aged children) is urgently in need of more volunteers. You do not need to have any previous experience – just enthusiasm – and will not need to lead sessions, unless you would like to. Support and resources are provided. If you're interested or would like to find out more, please email Grace: [children@allsaintschurchkh.org](mailto:children@allsaintschurchkh.org).

We are also hopeful that we will be able to bring back our Pre-school Praise group – if enough volunteers come forward!

If you would like to help but feel unable to commit to once per month, please do still get in touch as we are hoping to put together a list of DBS-checked helpers that we can call on on a more ad hoc basis when we have a gap in our rota due to holidays/other commitments.

Help us welcome more families to All Saints and make a difference for the children in our congregation!

**All Saints Youth Project:** See leaflets on the following pages.

**The Robin Centre – day care for older people:** Speak to David Ritchie, Kath Isaac or Des Workman. (The Robin Centre’s board is particularly seeking a treasurer.)

**Opening church on Saturdays:** Volunteers needed to staff church two at a time to welcome passers-by, especially on days when there are events in the Square. Sign the list in church if you are interested. Indicate if you would be willing to draw up a rota of such volunteers.

**All Saints Community Development Company board:** Overseeing the running, maintenance and development of the whole site: speak to Andy Savage or Sarah Wilson.

## ***Welcome and warmth***

This month marks two years since the reintroduction of the provision of coffee after Sunday Eucharist. Gathering in the baptistry, a growing number of people are enjoying the relaxed and friendly conversations which it enables after the service. From a monthly event offered by a team of 12, ‘Coffee’ has grown to become an important weekly opportunity for fellowship and a welcome to newcomers. And a hot drink is always recommended after a winter service!

Under the efficient stewardship of Ted and Lindsey Hammond the team now includes 23 members and being on ‘coffee duty’ is always a pleasure. Clear instructions, photographs and training videos have been well received by the team and enabled them to overcome the vagaries of the coffee percolator and solve the 3D puzzle which is the store cupboard. The first comforting glugging and drifting aroma of coffee during the service is always a relief to many! Special birthdays are celebrated with CAKE and more CAKE and there is never a shortage of generous and delicious donations.

Ted and Lindsey recently hosted the second bring and share lunch for the coffee team. The opportunity to gather in their comfortable home to share good food and supportive friendship was much appreciated and well attended. Their enthusiasm and the willingness of the team have added warmth in every sense of the word to Sundays at All Saints and make an important contribution to the community.

In his prelude to Grace at the lunch David did observe that it has taken 23 or more people to replace the indefatigable Sheila Workman, who delivered the coffee sessions for many long years previously. We are thankful for her contribution to our fellowship and the long-established tradition that she continued. We trust that it will be maintained into the future.

If anybody would like to join the team of volunteers, please let Ted or Lindsey know. You are unlikely to have to offer more than one Sunday a month and are guaranteed a very warm welcome.

**Marion Wilson**

**You can support the Project through financial donations**

through our website (PayPal) both individual or regular, card, cash, cheques.

If you wish to support the work of our fundraising consultant with a regular standing order then please fill in the form. They helped us raise over £100,000 last year for a cost of £10,000. Any donations can be gift aided to raise an extra 25p for every pound donated

**Contact us. Please feel free to contact us for any further information or to talk about volunteering**

**Email: [info@asyp.org.uk](mailto:info@asyp.org.uk)**

**Phone: 0121 443 1842**

**Post or visit: All Saints Youth Project, All Saints Centre, 2 Vicarage Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham B14 7RA**

**Find out more about us**

**Website**

**<https://www.allsaintyouthproject.org.uk>**

*'At meetings I enjoy hearing of the amazing and inspiring work that is done with young people and families'*

**We very much welcome support via regular donations however small or large**

*Please consider setting up a standing order with your bank using these details :*

Our bank details ( Cooperative Bank)

**A/C: All Saints Community Projects**

**Sort code 08-92-99**

**Account Number 6537 9954**

**Please put surname & initial in 'Ref' field**

**ALSO** If you are a UK tax payer **please fill in details below and post or drop in this form** to All Saints Youth Project at All Saints Centre 2, Vicarage Rd, B14 7RA

**Gift Aid increases your support by 25% !!**

I am a UK taxpayer and wish to gift aid donations (please tick)

Title (Mr/Ms/Mrs/etc) :  
Name

Address:

Today's date:

Email :

## Supporting All Saints Youth Project

*'I volunteer because going to a youth club helped me as a teenager and I understand the importance of them for young people'*



**Volunteering Opportunities – could you do this?**

**Board of Trustees**

Board members are elected. Some members take on specific responsibilities Meetings are every 6 weeks in the evening

Board is responsible for:

Ensuring the project is delivering its aims as stated in its constitution

- Agreeing the budget
- Spending and keeping money safely and legally
- Fundraising
- Strategic development
- Making decisions
- Contracts including staff contracts
- Ensuring we follow charity commission and Company House rules

**Youth Management Committee**

YMC members are staff and co-opted individuals. Some individual members take on specific responsibilities Meetings are every 8 weeks in the evenings

The YMC is responsible for:

The day to day running of the project

- Ensuring we follow a young people centred approach

- Supervising and supporting staff
- Agreeing the programme
- Reviewing staff reports and addressing issues raised
- Resources
- Managing the budget
- Ensuring policies are followed

We have **task groups** for some activities. These can be short or long term and can be composed of members from either committee, staff, young people or other interested individuals. These will include:

- Fundraising group
- Recruitment and selection group
- Special events

**Volunteering Opportunities** - As a volunteer you will be working alongside a team of paid staff, offered training and will require an enhanced DBS check which we pay for .

You could be - Working with young people in afternoon and evening sessions, be involved in short or long term projects for young people and/or families, bringing your skills and sharing them with young people/parents/families,

*'I do this because I have been greatly helped in the past by kind and generous people and this has made me want to give back by helping others in turn'*

**What do you need to be a volunteer**

A 'heart for young people'

A positive approach to young people and the Project

Willingness to learn

Willingness to share

Commitment

Time

**Fundraising** - We raise all our funds ourselves.

Our **Fundraising Group** is always looking for new members. They meet every 4 weeks and have responsibility for raising funds to keep our core work going.

They write bids, fill in application forms, apply for SLA's and write any necessary reports and support our fundraising consultant

*'I personally benefitted from the youth project in its early years and get immense satisfaction from seeing the projects growth'*

*'I help by supporting staff who do an amazing job'*

# *The Fundraising Team at*

## *All Saints Youth Project*

### *Something for everyone !*

We have a lot of different volunteering activities that people can choose to help with, depending on your preferences, skills and availability. Below is an outline of what the Fundraising team does... but please don't be afraid to contact us (see over) to find out more. We welcome all help, however much or little time you may have to contribute !

#### **Our Objectives:**

- Finding funding opportunities (grants or 'service' schemes ) that relate to ASYP core activities.
- Developing new activities /opportunities linked to our strengths and users.
- Finding funders for our 'extra' non term-time activities (eg. Young people's holiday schemes)
- Publicising ASYP activities and community contribution

#### **How we fundraise ...**

- Applying to suitable foundations or trusts for grants.
- Working with service 'contractors' (e.g NHS-linked scheme) to provide a needed service via ASYP
- Approaching local organisations and businesses for support for or sponsorship ( e.g. masons, sponsored runs by groups, individuals , etc. )
- Fundraising events and other smaller initiatives e.g. tombolas, raffles in collaboration with staff.

#### **Our regular activities :**

- Working with our advisors to respond to the best current grant opportunities and grant bodies.
- Get grant applications prepared, customised and sent
- Talk with staff to write up interim and end-of-grant reports to larger donors and foundations.
- Review progress on any specific outcomes required by funders (e.g. collating feedback from carers or young people for a specific activity)
- Work with board and staff on budget implications and fundraising progress throughout the year.
- Support the staff in delivering local fundraising activities

#### **Who we work with..**

- Staff members (ideas for activities, costings, feedback on current outcomes where required), success stories and case studies for appeals
- Advisory consultants (e.g for PR material like appeal booklets, more 'targetted' application for major donors and related reporting schedules )
- Board and YMC members ( report ongoing income successes, feedback on funding opportunities , etc.

***Please do contact us for an informal chat on how we work and what you might like to do to help ASYP***

***- Denis Murphy, Assistant Treasurer (hon)***

***Tel 0790 003 3425 or [d.murphy@asyp.org.uk](mailto:d.murphy@asyp.org.uk)***

## MEMORIES OF WW2

Thursday 8th May is the 80th anniversary of the end of WW2 in Europe, although World peace was not officially declared until VJ Day, 14th August 1945.

All Saints will be marking this historic event of VE Day in many ways, including an exhibition to explore what life was like in the vicinity of Kings Heath during the war years, from aspects of both church and community experience.

*DO YOU HAVE, OR KNOW ANYONE WHO HAS, STORIES AND MEMORABILIA OF THE WAR YEARS?*

We would love to hear your stories and carefully display any treasured items of interest.

We are also keen to audio-record interviews with anyone who can describe what life was like as a child in these times, and how it impacted their life and that of their family and friends.

*Please contact us for more information:*

*Vivien : [asca@allsaintschurchkh.org](mailto:asca@allsaintschurchkh.org)*

*Parish Office [Angela] : [parishoffice@allsaintschurchkh.org](mailto:parishoffice@allsaintschurchkh.org) 0121 443 4579*

*Or speak to anyone on the Archive Team.*

## ***From the registers***



**We remember:**

Patrick Willis, whose funeral took place at All Saints on 6 February

# ***Music matters***

***It's been a while since a musical quiz appeared in these pages, so here's one to give the little grey cells a bit of exercise... Here are some last lines from hymns and songs in Complete Anglican Hymns Old & New – but what is the first line of each? Answers in the next issue!***

A joy that knows no limit, a lightness in my spirit, here in the grace of God I stand.

Alleluia, alleluia, ris'n, ascended, glorified!

All laud we would render, O help us to see 'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

And earth to heav'n and heav'n to earth will answer: 'At last the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is King!'

And in that light of life I'll walk till trav'ling days are done.

And then in heav'n receive me, my Saviour and my friend.

Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray, your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Be thou our guide while troubles last, and our eternal home.

Ev'ry knee shall bow, ev'ry tongue confess that Jesus Christ is love.

God in three persons, blessèd Trinity!

Here for a season, then above, O Lamb of God, I come.

His name shall stand for ever; that name to us is love.

I'll labour night and day to be a pilgrim.

Mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness, trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.

Now above the skies he's King, alleluia! where the angels ever sing, alleluia!

Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning, God's re-creation of the new day.

Send your Spirit on all in your Church, whom you call to be turning the world upside down.

The one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore; for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

This is my friend in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend.

Till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

*(If you would like a clue, these all come from the middle third of the main section of our book, so start with the letters H-O inclusive.)*

**Ben Noakes**

**Music Co-ordinator**



## Friday Evenings in the Café

Every Friday evening, between 7 – 9, we are treated to musical entertainment, from local bands, in the Café. Our growing number of musicians include singers and instrumentalists who offer us an assortment of folk, rock'n'roll, blues, both their own compositions, and covers. On the first Friday of the month, Brumside Radio hosts an open mic evening, then on the other Fridays the bands are rotated. If there is a fifth Friday in the month, it is given over to our blues duo.



Look out for the monthly lists in *Outlook* and *Saints Alive!* (see boxes below for the line-ups for March and April). There are also announcements on Brumside Radio:

<https://brumsideradio.com/>

All welcome! The bar is open for drinks and light refreshments. There is a box for donations towards the cost of hiring the Café.

Any musicians who would like a performance slot, email [allsaintscommunitycatering@gmail.com](mailto:allsaintscommunitycatering@gmail.com) or come and see the bar staff any Friday evening.

## All Saints Café: Keeping music live



### Fridays in March

**7th** Brumside Radio Open Mic

**14th** Mad Moll

**21st** Strings and Things

**28th** Café Band

### Fridays in April

**4th** Brumside Radio Open Mic

**11th** Jacquard Duo, Café Band

**18th** Voices

**25th** Slow Train

**You are warmly invited to:**  
**An evening of food and conversation**  
**following a pilgrimage of solidarity**  
**with Palestinian Christians in their**  
**native land.**



Church of the Multiplication, Galilee

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March**

**7 – 9pm**

**All Saints Centre Café.**

**Donations to help cover the costs would be**  
**appreciated.**

# ***From the PCC***

Since the last edition of *Saints Alive!* there has been one Standing Committee meeting on 25 February. The following is a résumé of the points discussed or items presented in advance of the meeting:

## **Finance:**

Income and expenditure: Our treasurer, Steve Brittle, was not available to attend the meeting. However he did provide an advanced copy of the church final account for 2024 which showed that expenditure for the year was circa £151.7K but income for 2024 was slightly less at circa £148K giving a deficit of about just over £3.7K. Additionally, the account for 2025 to the end of January showed an expenditure of circa £11.8K and income of £10.3K giving a deficit of circa £1.6K.

Overall net worth: The advanced copy of the church accounts showed that at this time the church balance net worth was circa £201K, but as reported previously, did include the as yet unpaid long-term loan of circa £170K to the Development Company with no specific repayment date.

Regular giving: The advanced copy of the church accounts showed that the average monthly giving for the last 12 months compared with the average for the previous 12 months at the end of January 2025 was £123 which was higher than the December 2024 difference but significantly lower than it had been earlier in 2024 when it had been as much as £600 more.

Our treasurer has some concern over the current state of the church's finances and is now proposing to initiate a campaign to encourage the congregation to review their current giving to the church which he would initiate shortly.

## **Safeguarding:**

Safeguarding co-ordinator: David, our vicar, said that that our safeguarding co-ordinator, Eira Jones, has decided to stand down from undertaking this role due to family circumstances.

He would be holding the dedicated safeguarding mobile phone should anyone wish to raise an issue. A handover meeting has been arranged with Eira to take place shortly. A replacement safeguarding co-ordinator is being sought.

## **Churchwarden's report:**

Cleaning church: Our churchwarden, Vivien Tilsley, reported that cleaning of the church is now more formalised, greatly assisted by a very generous donation from a member of the congregation. A volunteer is undertaking some cleaning on a two-weekly basis and the Centre cleaners are now having regular sessions. She said that it was very pleasing to see the church looking so much more presentable.

Future warden(s): Vivien said that she would be standing down from being churchwarden at the next APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting). Successors to Vivien are currently being sought.

Church inventory: This is a list of all the moveable items in the church and is checked annually to enable a report to be given to the diocese. This is due to be checked ready for the APCM.

## **Next PCC meeting agenda:**

One of the functions of the Standing Committee meetings is to decide on any issues that should be included on the agenda for the next PCC meeting in March 2024 and the format of the agenda.

The following was decided in the meeting under various formal headings:

Matters arising:

Lunch Club: status to be reported.

Statutory and standing items:

Reports from boards: this to be added as an agenda item. Only reports received and circulated in advance to be discussed. Reports during the meeting to be discouraged for expediency.

Current issues and projects:

Reordering: David's Reordering Group outline to be reissued to PCC members to seek their suggestions and who to be asked to join the development group in advance of the next PCC meeting.

AOB:

Only items sent to the PCC secretary in advance to be discussed at the meeting.

**Future meetings:** The following is the schedule for the APCM, Standing Committee and PCC meetings for the next year:

APCM: Although usually held two weeks after Easter Sunday which this year is on 20 April, it is currently proposed to move the APCM to 11 May as the New Centre Development Opening is scheduled for 4 May.

Standing Committee meetings: 8 April, 17 June, 21 October, 9 December 2025; 17 February 2026.

PCC meetings: 18 March, 20 May, 15 July, 16 September, 18 November 2025; 19 January 2026.

**Tony Cocks**

**PCC Secretary**

## ***Why not get involved...?***

We are always pleased to receive contributions for the magazine – including reports and reflections, reviews and recommendations, *Getting to know you* interviews (questions in the November 2024 issue) 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](mailto:magazine@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](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>	
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>	
<b><i>Please cancel any previous mandates to this beneficiary on this account number.</i></b>	
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:

Or you can scan this QR code to donate to the church:

**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).

# Who's Who

## Worship (for clergy see back page)

Children's Worship Co-ordinator	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 443 4579
	Paul Smart	c/o 0121 443 4579
Sacristan	Bernice Mattis	c/o 0121 443 4579
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	Ted Hammond	c/o 0121 443 4579
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

## Groups, clubs and organisations

All Saints Ramblers	Des Workman	0121 443 5292
	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 443 4579
Traidcraft	Gill Parkin	0121 604 6127

**Planned giving:** All are invited to join the planned giving scheme, contributing by Direct Debit (Parish Giving Scheme), Standing Order or Weekly Envelope. 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. The church's Charity Commission Number is 1145723.

**Parish Office:** For enquiries about baptisms, baby naming services, banns and marriages, please contact the Parish Office: 9:30am-3pm Monday-Friday or via [parishoffice@allsaintschurchkh.org](mailto:parishoffice@allsaintschurchkh.org).

**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 Martha Ann Brookes 0121 444 5655	Secretary Tony Cocks 0121 441 2945	Treasurer Steve Brittle 01905 772171
<b>Members</b>	Jim Andrew Margaret Andrew Sarah Baker Philip Brookes Tim Cuthbertson	Roger Drew Margaret Healey-Pollett (Reader) Tariro Mukoja (Assistant Curate) Brian Miles David Warbrick (Vicar)	Claire Wesley (Reader) Daniel Wilson Sarah Wilson Des Workman Sheila Workman

### ***All Saints Community Development Company (ASCDC)***

Chair	Sarah Wilson	c/o 0121 443 4579	<a href="mailto:office@allsaints-cdc.co.uk">office@allsaints-cdc.co.uk</a>
Projects Co-ordinator	Andy Savage	c/o 0121 443 4579	<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 443 4579	<a href="mailto:angela@allsaints-cdc.co.uk">angela@allsaints-cdc.co.uk</a>
Hall & Room Bookings	Angela McDermott	0121 443 4579	<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 Mukoja	07305 523619
Churchwardens	Vivien Thickett (interim)	c/o 0121 443 4579
	Vacant	
Licensed Readers	Margaret Healey-Pollett	c/o 0121 443 4579
	Claire Wesley	0121 444 2778
Reader Emeritus	John Parkin	0121 604 6127
Pastoral Care Team	Juliet Bick, Becky Frall, Margaret Healey-Pollett, Tariro Mukoja, Wendy Ross, David Warbrick, Jenny Warbrick, Des Workman	c/o 0121 444 0260
Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Eira Jones	<a href="mailto:safeguarding@allsaintschurchkh.org">safeguarding@allsaintschurchkh.org</a> 07497 781681
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 443 4579

[parishoffice@allsaintschurchkh.org](mailto:parishoffice@allsaintschurchkh.org)

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



THE CHURCH  
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