

Welcome to  
your Parish Church  
in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS  
KINGS HEATH

# The fox and the hen

Holy Communion

Second Sunday of Lent, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2025

## We gather

*If you are worshipping at home, have ready in an honoured place a portion of food and something to drink. It may be bread and wine or something else. Set your Bible alongside. You might light a candle.*

*Music as we gather:* [Here is love, vast as the ocean](#)

1. Here is love, vast as the ocean,  
loving kindness as the flood,  
when the Prince of life, our ransom,  
shed for us his precious blood.  
Who his love will not remember?  
Who can cease to sing his praise?  
He can never be forgotten  
throughout heaven's eternal days.

2. On the mount of crucifixion  
fountains opened deep and wide;  
through the floodgates of God's  
mercy  
flowed a vast and gracious tide.  
Grace and love, like mighty rivers,  
poured incessant from above,  
and heaven's peace and perfect  
justice  
kissed a guilty world in love.

*(words: 'Dyma gariad fel y moroedd' by William Rees, trans William Edwards;  
music: Robert Lowry)*

*When the song ends we stand to sing:* [New every morning is the love](#)

1. New ev'ry morning is the love  
our wak'ning and uprising prove;  
through sleep and darkness safely  
brought,  
restored to life and pow'r and  
thought.

2. New mercies, each returning day,  
hover around us while we pray;  
new perils past, new sins forgiv'n,  
new thoughts of God, new hopes of  
heav'n.

3. If on our daily course our mind  
be set to hallow all we find,  
new treasures still, of countless  
price,  
God will provide for sacrifice.

4. Old friends, old scenes, will lovelier  
be,  
as more of heav'n in each we see;  
some soft'ning gleam of love and  
prayer  
shall dawn on ev'ry cross and care.

5. The trivial round, the common  
task,  
will furnish all we need to ask,  
room to deny ourselves, a road  
to bring us daily nearer God.

6. Only, O Lord, in thy dear love  
fit us for perfect rest above;  
and help us, this and ev'ry day,  
to live more nearly as we pray.

*(words: John Keble, based on Lamentations 3:23; music: Samuel Webbe)*

Priest: In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus  
Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

WELCOME and NOTICES

*We pray:* **Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires  
known and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the  
thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy  
Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily  
magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## We seek forgiveness

CONFESSION

Deacon: Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though  
we have rebelled against him. Let us then renounce our wilfulness  
and ask his mercy by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

*Silence*

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and cleanse me from my  
sin. Lord, have mercy.

**Kyrie eleison.**

Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Christ, have mercy.

**Christe eleison.**

Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Lord, have mercy.

**Kyrie eleison.**

(cf Psalm 51)

*Silence*

*ABSOLUTION At home we pray for forgiveness. In church, the priest declares forgiveness for all, wherever we worship:*

Priest: *May* almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners, bring *us* his pardon and peace, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*We pray* COLLECT for The Second Sunday of Lent

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

BIBLE READINGS [Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18](#)

*In Church we remain seated to sing PSALM 27. At home, you might read this aloud.*

The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?

When evildoers assail me  
to devour my flesh—  
my adversaries and foes—  
they shall stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me,  
my heart shall not fear;  
though war rise up against me,  
yet I will be confident.

One thing I asked of the LORD,  
that will I seek after:  
to live in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
to behold the beauty of the LORD,  
and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter  
in the day of trouble;  
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;  
he will set me high on a rock.

Now my head is lifted up  
above my enemies all around me,  
and I will offer in his tent  
sacrifices with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud,  
be gracious to me and answer me!  
'Come,' my heart says, 'seek his face!'  
Your face, LORD, do I seek.  
Do not hide your face from me.

Do not turn your servant away in anger,  
you who have been my help.  
Do not cast me off, do not forsake me,  
O God of my salvation!  
If my father and mother forsake me,  
the LORD will take me up.

Teach me your way, O LORD,  
and lead me on a level path  
because of my enemies.  
Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,  
for false witnesses have risen against me,  
and they are breathing out violence.

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD  
in the land of the living.  
Wait for the LORD;  
be strong, and let your heart take courage;  
wait for the LORD!

NEW TESTAMENT READING [Philippians 3:17-4:1](#)

HYMN [Be still, for the presence of the Lord](#)

1. Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here;  
come, bow before him now, with reverence and fear.  
In him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground;  
be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.

2. Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;  
he burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned.  
How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light!  
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

3. Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place;  
he comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace.  
No work too hard for him, in faith receive from him;  
be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

*(words & music: David J Evans)*

### GOSPEL READING [Luke 13:31-end](#)

*At home, if you are able you might stand for this reading. In church we remain standing and, when it is announced, we say:*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON *in Church is from David.*

*At Home: So much attention is given to one or two capricious assertions of highly competitive, egotistical leaders that, occasionally, we should probably pray for wisdom about when it is best to ignore such people. The gleeful fascination of our press with the current US president, for example, arguably gives him the very attention that he is desperate for and is so clearly very bad for him. Let's not be snobbish. We generated two such leaders in quick succession, who made their untethered assertions, loved dressing up for photos and fed off attention in a self-destructive way. The more attention we gave the more they craved it (until they were held to account for mistakes and then, of course, they tended to hide...in a fridge on one famous occasion). It might be kinder to ignore them sometimes. It also might be better for us to spend our energies on what we can do and contribute rather than fixate on what others flail around unreliably saying they'll do or not do.*

*With unclear motives, some people warn Jesus of Herod's murderous intent. Jesus at once ignores him and sends him a message. "Go tell that fox..." he says, but the message is that Jesus insists his agenda will not be dictated or distorted by Herod. He will continue his life giving ministry until he judges it the right time to head to Jerusalem (city of salem – of peace.). His message is darkly ironic: "It surely wouldn't be right for any prophet to die anywhere other than the city of peace." He highlights Jerusalem's conspiracy with Empire, and the self-defeating religious authorities glorying in the wrong things and repeated*

*tendency to get rid of the solution while giving too much attention to the people who are the problem.*

*It's important that this ignoring is not the same as considering the egotist as entirely irrelevant. Jesus knows Herod has power. His father has killed innocents before him. He will appear again scrutinising Jesus before his execution in Chapter 23. Jesus casts him as a fox (cunning and deadly) so in that sense takes him seriously, but then with wry humour Jesus feminises the discourse, comparing himself to a mother hen (the fox's dinner) with huge pathos wanting to protect Jerusalem from harm. Still, it's his own agenda, even going towards his death in Jerusalem. "I'm busy, Herod, today, tomorrow, then on the third day..." Luke points towards not only Jesus' death but his resurrection. God's agenda is so much more interesting than yours, Herod.*

## We affirm our faith

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*We stand, if able, and turn to look in the direction of Church, aware of our small part in God's long story of being with humankind:*

**We believe and trust in God the father,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist.**

**We believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again.**

**We believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world.**

**This is the faith of the Church.  
We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy  
Spirit. Amen.**

(adapted from Common Worship)

### INTERCESSIONS

*In government and international relations, pray for wisdom about who to listen to; whom we should give publicity to; when the loudest are best ignored; whose need really ought to be setting the agenda.*

*Imagining Abraham's ambitious sacrificial ritual, perhaps alarming in its bloody imagery, give yourself space to feel the energy of his actions and the powerful sense of expectation he has that something important is going to happen; his expectation that God will act and*

*be present to him. This pre-religious action millennia ago is graphic and instinctive. Consider the long distilled religious ceremony we partake in now. It may seem rather more civilised and less messy, but let us ponder in prayer what level of expectation we have that God will meet us in our rites and how far we are ready to be changed by them. We pray for the Church to find new, fresh expectation and hope in God, and to be humble enough not to over define what we think God ought to do.*

*In our local Church life we pray for Tariro and Brian preparing for new ministry at Stirchley and Cotteridge.*

*Among those who are unwell we pray for John Watling, Helga McKiernan and Jack Gauder.*

*Among those who have died we remember Paula Davies and Kathy Farbrother.*

## THE PEACE

Deacon: Christ came to preach peace to those who are far off and peace to those who are near. The Peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## HYMN [The God of Abraham praise](#)

1. The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above,  
Ancient of everlasting Days, and God of love:  
Jehovah, great I AM, by earth and heav'n confessed;  
we bow and bless the sacred name, for ever blessed.

2. The God of Abraham praise, at whose supreme command  
from earth we rise, and seek the joys at his right hand:  
we all on earth forsake, its wisdom, fame and pow'r;  
and him our only portion make, our shield and tow'r.

3. The God of Abraham praise, whose all-sufficient grace  
shall guide us all our happy days, in all our ways:  
he is our faithful friend; he is our gracious God;  
and he will save us to the end, through Jesus' blood.

4. The whole triumphant host give thanks to God on high:  
"Hail, Father, Son and Holy Ghost!" they ever cry:  
Hail, Abraham's God and ours! We join the heav'nly throng,  
and celebrate with all our pow'rs in endless song.

*(words: Thomas Olivers, based on the Hebrew 'Yigdal' alt; music: Traditional Hebrew melody)*

*The Table is prepared in Church. At home, now is the time to say the Lord's Prayer (below) and consume the food and drink you have prepared, first praying:*

God, whose Spirit unites and inspires us, with this symbolic meal bind me into the fellowship of the world wide church, and assure me of my place in your heart. **Amen.**

## We tell the story of God's faithfulness

*In Church we stand, if able, for the Eucharistic Prayer*

Priest: The Lord is here.

**All: His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Maternal God, you long to gather your children as a mother hen gathers her brood under her wings. You have made the descendants of Abraham as many as the stars in the sky and the sands in the desert; and in your great mercy you have made us, too, children of your blessed unbreakable covenant. In Jesus you came among us in grace and truth; in his death we showed the depth of our departure from your ways; in his resurrection you demonstrate that nothing is impossible with you. And so we gather at your table like angels at your throne, joining the archangels as they continually sing anthems of heavenly praise.

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**



God our salvation, you have made us a people for your own possession, and we become yours as you become ours in the sharing of this meal of bread and cup. Send down your Holy Spirit, that these tokens of earthly sustenance and heavenly joy may be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying, "take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

*A bell is rung.*

After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

*A bell is rung.*

Deacon: Great is the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

God our stronghold, as we walk this Lenten journey through the wilderness with you, make this eternal food enough to feed us through times of uncertainty and fear. Soften in us the impulse of greed, that, as we share the bread of life, we may continue to understand the word "enough." Shape our hearts to long for that day when you gather your children to yourself, and inspire us to make all who are created in your image our companions at this and other tables, until the day when all our hungers are satisfied and every friendship is fulfilled in the company of your Holy Trinity, through whom and with whom and in whom, all honour and glory are yours, now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Deacon: As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

Priest: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All: Though we are many, we are one body.  
For we all share in one bread.**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you. Eat in remembrance that he died for you and feed on him in your hearts with thanksgiving.

**Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world: grant us peace.**

*We share the bread and wine, now for us the body and blood of Christ. All are welcome to receive. If you prefer not to share the common cup, receiving just the bread is as much communion as receiving both. If you prefer not to receive but would value a prayer of blessing do come forward and simply keep your hands by your sides. We will pray for you.*

*For the sake of those with gluten intolerance, please do not dip your wafer in the wine.*

#### SONGS *during Communion*

1. In bread we bring you, Lord, our bodies' labour.  
In wine we offer you our spirits' grief.  
We do not ask you, Lord, who is my neighbour,  
but stand united now, one in belief.  
O we have gladly heard your Word, your holy Word,  
and now in answer, Lord, our gifts we bring.  
Our selfish hearts make true, our failing faith renew,  
our lives belong to you, our Lord and King.

2. The bread we offer you is blessed and broken,  
and it becomes for us our spirits' food.  
Over the cup we bring your Word is spoken;  
make it your gift to us, your healing blood.  
Take all that daily toil plants in our hearts' poor soil,  
take all we start and spoil, each hopeful dream,  
the chances we have missed, the graces we resist,  
Lord, in thy Eucharist, take and redeem.

(words & music: Kevin Nichols, arr Andrew Moore)

1. To be in your presence, to sit at your feet,  
where your love surrounds me and makes me complete.

*This is my desire, O Lord, this is my desire,  
this is my desire, O Lord, this is my desire.*

2. To rest in your presence, not rushing away,  
to cherish each moment, here I would stay.

(words & music: Noel Richards)

## We are sent out

**All: Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with your Word  
[and with the body and blood of Christ]. Strengthen us in  
the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise  
and glory. Amen.**

### THE BLESSING

*[May] Christ give us grace to grow in holiness, to deny ourselves,  
take up our cross and follow him, and the blessing of God  
almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among us and  
remain with us always. Amen.*

### HYMN [Ye servants of God](#)

1. Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,  
and publish abroad his wonderful name;  
the name all victorious of Jesus extol:  
his kingdom is glorious, and rules over all.

2. God ruleth on high, almighty to save;  
and still he is nigh: his presence we have:  
the great congregation his triumph shall sing,  
ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.

3. Salvation to God who sits on the throne!

let all cry aloud, and honour the Son.  
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,  
fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.

4. Then let us adore, and give him his right:  
all glory and pow'r, all wisdom and might,  
and honour and blessing, with angels above,  
and thanks never-ceasing, and infinite love.

*(words: Charles Wesley; music: from the 'Paderborn Gesangbuch' [1765])*

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ, Amen.**

*Iona Service this evening at 6.30pm*

***"All shall be well: nurtured by God."***

*Each Wednesday evening for the next four weeks we say  
Compline at 9pm in the chapel: a simple fifteen minute  
service of night prayer.*



This order of service is  
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## PHOTOGRAPHY

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**All Saints Safeguarding** While we are in the process of appointing a new Child Protection Coordinator, if you have any concerns or worries about children, young people or vulnerable adults and don't know what to do, don't hesitate to contact David, the Vicar on the dedicated safeguarding number: 07497 781681.

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## **Giving to All Saints**

If you wish to contribute financially to sustain All Saints Church and our ministry to Kings Heath you can:

- leave a gift of cash on the collection plate on your way out of church;
- use the card reader near the Church door;
- make a transfer to

HSBC - Sort Code 40-11-15

All Saints Kings Heath PCC - A/C No. 71801163.

If you would like to find out about arrangements for regular giving to All Saints, please speak to Steve Brittle about the Parish Giving Scheme.

Kathy Farbrother's Funeral will be held at Grenoside  
Crematorium, *5 Skew Hill Lane Grenoside Sheffield*  
*South Yorkshire S35 8RZ*

***Thursday 20th March at noon.***



Join us as after the service during coffee  
we send a message that we welcome  
refugees and we stand in solidarity with  
them.

We will be making orange hearts after



as

church. We plan to

- Send some to Yvette Cooper
- send some to our MP Tahir Ali
- Post messages on social media