

Saints Alive!

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



**May
2025**



£1
(suggested donation)

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 May and June). 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 or come and see the bar staff any Friday evening.

All Saints Café: Keeping music live



Fridays in May

- 2nd** Brumside Radio Open Mic
- 9th** Mad Moll
- 16th** Clare & Ben Noakes:
Songs from the Shows
- 23rd** Strings and Things
- 30th** Fifth Friday Blues

Fridays in June

- 6th** Brumside Radio Open Mic
- 20th** The Dog Walker Band,
Slow Train
- 20th** Midsummer Music
with The Busketeers
- 27th** Voices

From the vicarage

Dear friends and neighbours,

The range of activity, service, commitment and skill shown in this collection of reports is remarkable. They tell a story of imagination and generosity, community life and connectivity. They trace a pattern of healthy relationships between generations and, I hope, between church and neighbourhood.

While much of this service has continued for some years, two things are different about 2024. One is that we have completed a major building programme this year. Between March and December, ASCDC has overseen and managed the remarkable completion of our community buildings, which involved a complex moving jigsaw puzzle as the work progressed. On time and on budget, it was an extraordinary achievement. I want to pay huge tribute to Dave Priday and Angela McDermott for meeting the day-to-day challenges of all this; to the ASCDC directors, under Sarah Wilson's careful and considerate chairing, for tenacity, imagination and courage in pursuing the bid and holding their nerve through complex negotiations with funders and banks and other agencies; to all who worked on the project professionally, from Ash our architect consulting with so many stakeholders, to the skilled craftspeople who executed the work; and to Andy Savage who project-managed the whole thing with remarkable energy and commitment.

I am also hugely grateful for the way everyone onsite, The Robin Centre, Youth Project, tenants, Lunch Club, Badminton Club, children's church groups, Café, have all been so adaptable as the site has necessarily shifted and changed through the year. You have been patient and helpful. Now, here we are offering amazing new facilities for Kings Heath, especially younger people.

Another less spectacular difference this year is that the vicar was away for a sabbatical. With Tariro's assured priestly ministry and encouraging presence I knew all would be well, but it is very significant that all this activity and change could continue smoothly without the vicar around. I could feel a bit crestfallen, redundant, not missed... but I feel grateful, proud, admiring, because this illustrates the sense of shared vision, mutual care and common purpose that I have always admired about you at All Saints.

The core of our common life at All Saints, of course, is worship and reflection on our life, commitments and the world's needs with the help of the inexhaustible riches of our Biblical tradition. With you, this feels richer year by year. In 2023 we renewed and refreshed our vision, not knowing the new build was impending. That process meant we were ready when the opportunity came. Now we are ready to refresh our vision for the reordering of church itself.

Humbled and grateful,

David

APCM agenda – Sunday 11 May 2025

Meeting held in church after the 10am service. Before the meeting a ‘Vestry Meeting’ will take place to elect churchwardens for the coming year.

1. Welcome and opening prayers
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the previous meeting – 21 April 2024 *to be displayed on church noticeboard*
4. Church electoral roll *page 5*
5. Report on the proceedings of the PCC *pages 6-11*
6. Elections to the PCC
7. Report on the proceedings of Deanery Synod *page 12*
8. Elections to Deanery Synod
9. Reports on the financial affairs of the church:
 - a. PCC main account *pages 13-15*
 - b. Lunch Club *to be given at meeting if available*
10. Election of auditor
11. Churchwarden’s report *pages 16-17*
12. Election of sidespersons
13. Vicar’s report *to be given at meeting*
14. Report from the Pastoral Care Team *page 18*
15. Reports from the committees of the PCC:
 - a. Children’s Committee *to be given at meeting if available*
 - b. Justice, Peace and Green Group *page 18*
 - c. Social and Fundraising Committee *pages 18-19*
 - d. Youth Management Committee *pages 19-20*
16. Reports from the companies:
 - a. All Saints Community Arts *pages 20-22*
 - b. All Saints Community Catering Limited *to be given at meeting if available*
 - c. All Saints Community Development Company *pages 22-23*
 - d. All Saints Community Projects *pages 23-31*
 - e. The Robin Centre *page 32*
17. All Saints Players report *page 32-33*
18. Coffee Team report *pages 33-34*
19. Crafters report *page 34*
20. Lunch Club report *page 34*
21. Magazine report *page 36*
22. Meditation Group report *page 38*
23. Music report *pages 38-39*
24. Ramblers report *page 39*
25. Safeguarding and Child Protection report *page 40*
26. 20s and 30s Small Group report *page 40*
27. Village Square Gardeners report *page 40*
28. Open discussion
29. Closing prayers

Church electoral roll

Every six years commencing from 2007, it is a diocesan requirement that a new church electoral roll is prepared. Therefore this year a new roll is being prepared and is nearing completion.

The new roll is being prepared by contacting as many people as possible on the present roll by a number of means including direct contact, speaking to church members, telephone, text and email where the other methods failed.

Additionally, new members have been added by direct contact aided by notices given at the services, notices placed on the principal doors into the church and in the church newsletter.

In keeping with the diocesan requirements and current data protection requirements, mostly persons whom I have contacted and where I have obtained their consent have been included on the new roll. Some names have been removed where a relative, a friend has been in touch or I am aware that they have moved away from the area.

The following summarises the current status of the new roll at the time of writing:

- Number of persons on April 2024 version of the roll: 199
- Number of persons who have died in the period: 6
- Number of persons not wishing to be included on the new roll: 5
- Number of persons who have not been transferred to the new roll: 12
- Number of new persons: 15
- Number of persons pending and responses awaited or unable to contact: 9
- Number of persons on the revised roll at this time: 182
- Projected final total: 185

Please note that at the time of writing, the roll is still active and the numbers may change before the APCM. Final numbers will be reported at the meeting.

Tony Cocks
Electoral Roll Officer

PCC

Introduction

The PCC continues to be a thoughtful, enthusiastic and active group of mainly volunteers who help to guide the life of All Saints. The PCC is very appreciative of all those others who also contribute their time, effort and skills to keep everything running at All Saints. There are many organisations and projects that share the All Saints campus and everyone's hard work helps to support and deliver the vision for All Saints.

Structure of the PCC

At the moment, the PCC comprises the vicar (David Warbrick) and 15 others. Martha Ann Brookes continues as lay vice chair, Steve Brittle continues as treasurer and Anthony Cocks (Tony) continues in the role of PCC secretary. Tariro Mukoja (assistant curate) has now left the PCC to take on a new role as vicar of Ascension Stirchley and Anglican priest for The Cotteridge Church.

So far as churchwardens are concerned, Vivien Thickett has been warden since the last APCM, partly to cover legal requirements while David was on his sabbatical between May and September 2024. Vivien has been supported by a contingent of former wardens and has been undertaking the basic duties of a churchwarden mainly with respect to the church services but also other occasional duties which would normally be the wardens' remit. Vivien has continued until now but will be retiring at the APCM in May. Vivien and former churchwardens have been discussing the best means of encouraging members of the congregation to come forward to assume the role for the next year or two after the APCM. A number of prospective candidates have been approached but no-one has as yet agreed to take on the role.

There are two readers who are automatically co-opted on to the PCC, Claire Wesley and Margaret Healey-Pollett. Margaret has been on sabbatical but has not yet returned to the PCC.

Jim and Margaret Andrew (lay members) and Claire Wesley continue to be our Deanery Synod representatives and are automatically co-opted onto the PCC. Based on the number of persons on the electoral roll, the church is permitted a total of four lay members to the Deanery Synod so at present there are two vacancies.

New members are always welcome to the PCC if there are readers of this article considering joining, as they bring in new ideas and younger members in particular provide a balance of age and experience within the membership to keep the church a vibrant place for all.

The other members are Sarah Baker, Philip Brooks, Tim Cuthbertson, Roger Drew, Brian Miles, Daniel and Sarah Wilson and Des and Sheila Workman.

This year, Daniel Wilson and Brian Miles have both completed three years since previously being elected as lay members in 2022. Daniel has decided to continue and is seeking re-election; Brian has decided to stand down from the PCC for the time being. Brian has been a dedicated member for many years.

Based on the number of persons on the electoral roll, the church is permitted a total of 11 lay members so at the time of the APCM there will be two vacancies.

Proceedings of the PCC

Since the last APCM the PCC has held six meetings, usually the third Tuesday of the month apart from August. The Standing Committee met on four occasions with a fifth scheduled for April 2025 before the APCM.

The following summarises the main matters that were reported on by members and discussed over the period since the last APCM. Most matters covered by other reports are not included although there may be some overlap:

Finance:

General: As ever, our treasurer has given the PCC a comprehensive update on the financial position of the church on a monthly basis providing in advance of meetings information on expenditure and income and then explaining the salient points at the meeting. The current situation is given in more detail in the PCC Main Account documents on pages 13-15.

The treasurer has also given the PCC details of regular giving, overall net worth and any special and significant financial matters.

Budget for 2025: The treasurer presented an estimate of the 2025 budget based on extrapolating from the actual expenditure for the previous year.

Parish Giving Scheme: The treasurer has reported that a significant number of people have changed their method of giving to the Parish Giving Scheme (via Direct Debit) which is very encouraging. This helps very much to reduce the work necessary by the finance team so far as claiming back tax is concerned as this is done directly by Parish Giving on behalf of the church.

Digital card reader: The digital card reader for donating online continues to be popular.

Common Fund: Details have been received from the Bishop of Birmingham, The Rt Revd Dr Michael Volland, giving an explanation of proposed new arrangements with respect to the amount to be paid into the Common Fund by each of the churches in the diocese, and specifically All Saints, to cover diocesan expenditure.

The Bishop's Council is changing the method by which the amount of the Common Fund to be paid by each church is determined. This is currently being developed but in the interim for 2025 the Bishop's Council is basing the amount on its estimate for 2025 of the anticipated cost of an incumbent (vicar), and any support such as a curate, the cost of training and developing future clergy, and parish support infrastructure such as accommodation for an incumbent. For All Saints this has been estimated at circa £85K. It is understood that the costs allocated to this for each church irrespective of their location whether in a poor area or well-off area is the same across the diocese.

However the Bishop's Council recognises that parishes may not have the means to pay the amount allocated to them and is allowing an aspect of 'free will' to PCCs to determine their contribution to the Fund as a balance between their mission and ministry and their operating costs.

Donations to Christmas charities: Our treasurer has reported that the amount given by the congregation during the Christmas service to be allocated to the three chosen charities, viz Acacia Family Support, Practical Action and the Disasters Emergency Committee, had totalled a net amount of circa £1,125. This was split evenly between the three charities (£375 each).

Giving to good causes: It has been decided that in view of the current financial situation of the church accounts as of the end of 2024, it is evident that the church finances will only be able to afford a lesser sum than previously in the region of £5K, originally £9K. However, it is currently proposed that donations for 2025 should be to the same charities and apportionment as in 2024.

Blue Envelopes: A decision has been made by the finance team to phase out the use of the Blue Envelopes for making regular donations to the church finances as the number of people using this system is very small. This arrangement finished at the end of April. Monies donated on the plate either in an envelope or cash after this date are now considered as 'plate collection' and treated accordingly for Gift Aid purposes.

Safeguarding:

Safeguarding co-ordinator: Safeguarding has a regular slot on the Standing Committee and PCC agendas, being a very important aspect of church activities. In May 2023 our new safeguarding co-ordinator, Eira Jones, was appointed to take over from Mary Miles. Eira has since become familiar with all aspects of this essential role. Unfortunately Eira decided to retire in December 2024 due to family circumstances; David has someone in mind to ask to take over from Eira, but in the meantime will be holding the dedicated safeguarding mobile phone should anyone wish to raise an issue, and also the computer. He also said that Claire Wesley, the diocesan safeguarding officer, is willing to support a new co-ordinator as necessary.

DBS verifier/administrator: Vicki Willinger, the office co-ordinator for the Youth Project, has been undertaking this role for some time now but is retiring from the role and a replacement is being sought.

Parish Dashboard: This is a diocesan means of monitoring the status of safeguarding in individual parishes in terms of, for example, training. It is a live website-based arrangement and continuously requires updating. It operates on a green/yellow/red system, with red items needing urgent attention.

Safeguarding Action Plan: The Action Plan is derived from the Parish Dashboard so updating is done to the Dashboard which automatically feeds into the Action Plan. This highlights which actions are red and need addressing.

Training for leaders etc: Safeguarding training and DBS checks are being undertaken for leaders and helpers who are in the public eye at, for instance, the Iona Service, and the new servers at the 10am service.

Safeguarding Learning and Development Framework 2024: The diocese is due to change the training for safeguarding by means of a new Framework which has been published on the Church of England's Safeguarding e-manual and came into effect on 1 January 2025. One of the key changes for parishes to be aware of is that the Domestic Abuse module becomes a requirement for anyone (volunteers and employees) working with children, young people or vulnerable adults, including pastoral visitors, and a recommendation for PCC members. The Framework clarifies that all safeguarding modules required for a role must be completed within six months of taking up the appointment.

Youth and children's work in personal homes: Following non-statutory guidance from the Government in 2023 about after-school clubs, where it was clearly stated that youth work services should not be delivered from private dwellings, the 30k Project team (the 30k Project seeks to develop and support 30,000 new leaders of children, young people and their families) has issued a document that seeks to tailor these principles to specific Church of England settings/practices.

Advice from the National Safeguarding Team is that it must be clear what the rationale for using a personal home is, and that it is strongly advised that the advice in both the 30k document and a document authored by the UK Christian Youth Work Consortium and Churches Together should be adhered to. An example would be where a gathering was taking place in a private home and other people such as a spouse or offspring had not been DBS checked but were freely moving around the home. This is something that the Church of England is currently considering.

Parish pastoral care: There have been some changes to the safeguarding training on the diocese website for those undertaking pastoral care and the Pastoral Care Team has been made aware of these requirements.

Safeguarding incidents: There have been three safeguarding incidents since the last APCM in April 2024, two in the Youth Project and one in The Robin Centre. All incidents have been resolved satisfactorily.

Church policies: Over the years, almost 40 policies have been prepared, some with respect to safeguarding, such as Safeguarding and Child Protection, Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults and Creating a Safe Environment, and others relating to other matters such as Health and Safety, Data Protection, IT, Mobile Phones, Smart TV Devices, Photography, Filming and Social Media, Alcohol and Drugs, Equal Opportunities and Diversity, Recruitment and Selection and Home Visit Guidelines, to name but a few.

These procedures are periodically reviewed by the various organisations in the church to ensure that they are up to date and fit for purpose. The policy review lead works in conjunction with the PCC to liaise with the various organisations to implement the review of a policy when the time arises and manage the review process on behalf of the PCC.

Reordering the church:

General: Reordering of the church is now back on the agenda and is an exciting development. David feels that now is the time to continue with this project which was probably the origin of the idea to redevelop the site in the first place. Since it is some time since the original concept was conceived and things have changed, like different service patterns, availability of space and the nature of the congregation, a fresh approach is necessary.

A core group is proposed to redevelop proposals and at some point a workshop involving the whole congregation will feed ideas into the core group. The core group would need such skills as architectural, technical, financial, liturgical, musical, children's activities, lighting, sound, IT and secretarial. The process would involve concept design, costing, faculty approval, detailed design and implementation. The proposals would require PCC approval.

David has prepared an 'All Saints Reordering Group' proposal which has now been accepted by the PCC and consideration is being given to who should be asked to join the group to match the skills required.

Revised design: The original design needed revisiting as it is some time since the original concept was conceived and things have changed. It is clear that there has to be a balance between religious and artistic needs.

Drawings: Drawings of the proposals for the original design are being sourced as a starting point from which to develop modified proposals.

Funding: It is understood that there is significant funding available particularly as it would encompass a green energy scheme. It is considered that there should be a fundraiser included in the Development Group or to involve the Youth Project fundraisers.

Consideration is also being given to the suggestion that new chairs could be offered to members of the congregation and the wider community for say £250 per chair with the name of the purchaser on the chair, similar to the sale of bricks along the path on the east side of the church during the development of the Village Square.

Green energy: This was considered a specialist element to proposals and would need expert advice. It has been suggested that Ben Smith, Net Zero Carbon Project Manager at the diocese, may be able to help with this.

Security: There has been a recent attempt at a break-in to the church via some of the leaded windows, including a stained glass window in the lady chapel. It is understood that a similar break-in occurred at roughly the same time at the Methodist Church. The police thought that it was most likely to be someone looking for money to buy drugs.

It is important for users of the church to be aware and vigilant in closing and locking doors etc, and good lighting is very helpful. The possibility of installing CCTV cameras at strategic locations around the church as an extension to the Centre CCTV security system is being considered. There was evidence that CCTV footage helps to identify offenders more easily.

Asbestos removal/leak in heating system: Leaks in the heating pipework in the north aisle and a smaller leak in the cellar under the North Vestry have both been rectified and are being monitored to check that the repair is permanent. This took place after the asbestos lagging and old organ ducting was removed from the cellar through which the heating pipes run.

The lagging to the pipework passing through the cellar, which is a cold area in the winter, has subsequently been replaced with modern lagging.

The asbestos removal was undertaken by Mercia Environmental Services of Kings Norton and the leaks rectified by TBM Heating of Worcester, which specialise in church and cathedral heating systems.

Cracks in stonework: A structural engineer has recently inspected three areas in the church where cracks were identified in the stonework during the last quinquennial inspection. These are in the chancel above one of the windows and in the wall above the entrance to the boiler room from the North Vestry, but the worst location is the north porch which is showing signs of some movement.

The structural engineer considers that some remedial work could be applied to one of the cracks but the other cracks be monitored for further movement for 12 months. The defects in the north porch are thought also to be due to possible softening of the ground due to a fault in the surface water drainage system and this should be inspected for defects.

However it has been decided for the time being that monitoring of the cracks should take place first before any other works or expenditure, to establish if or how much the north porch in particular is moving.

Christmas services: There has been some concern regarding the large numbers of people who attended the Christmas services, with many standing, particularly at Carols by Candlelight which was considered problematic especially from a safety point of view.

Methods being considered to manage the large numbers of people include changing the layout of chairs, changing where the singers gather, possibly an overspill with a screen in the hall, ticket-only access, eliminating giving candles to the congregation, longer candles that safely last the length of the service, ensuring that all fire exits are open and easily accessible, ensuring that there is adequate space for wheelchair users, and parking children's pushchairs in another room to make more space in the church.

Oversight: Richard Warton, formerly chaplain at the QE hospital, is now vicar of St Francis of Assisi's Church, Bournville and is also the person leading the Oversight Area venture. An Oversight Group meeting was held in November 2024 at St Bede's Church, Brandwood which a number of All Saints people attended. It is understood that there was a good turnout from each of the churches in the Group. It was an interesting day and it proved a useful starting point for attendees to get to know each other; also it enabled a start to be made of thinking about how the Group might keep in touch and help each other in the future.

Dogs in church: There have been one or two occurrences of dogs being brought into church. There is concern that safeguarding may be compromised, particularly in relation to small children and people with a fear of dogs, phobias and allergic reactions to dogs.

It has been agreed that only registered assistance dogs should be allowed into church. Other dogs would not be permitted. It is understood that there is a notice to this effect by the south door. The matter was raised some years ago with the same conclusion.

Foodbank donations: In October 2024 the church received from B30 & South Birmingham Foodbank a certificate of appreciation for donation of over 100kg of food by the congregation to the Foodbank. The certificate was displayed on the church noticeboard and a copy included in the newsletter.

Next meetings

These are scheduled as follows:

Standing Committee meetings: 17 June, 21 October, 9 December 2025; 17 February, 14 April 2026.

PCC meetings: 20 May, 15 July, 16 September, 18 November 2025; 20 January, 17 March 2026.

Tony Cocks
Secretary

Deanery Synod

The Kings Norton, Moseley and Shirley Deanery Synod has continued to meet at various locations across the deanery during the past year. The management of the deanery is currently under review following the elevation of the area dean, Phelim O'Hare, to higher things in the diocese and the moving on of the phenomenally efficient deanery administrator to pastures new almost simultaneously. It will be interesting to see what evolves on this front, given the pressure on resources in the diocese generally – a situation which has been at the forefront of Synod meetings this year.

The meetings which Jim and I have been able to attend as All Saints reps were:

- In February 2024 at St Andrew's, Barnt Green at which various members of the diocesan finance team explained how we as a church resource our mission endeavours and gave a detailed breakdown of the ways in which the diocese spends its money through supporting parishes in areas such as clergy housing; advice on buildings (at no charge) and dealing with faculties; safeguarding and finance support; supporting clergy in various ways; and supporting, among other things, missional teams, interfaith activities, education etc. The diocesan budget was not in a particularly healthy state at that point with a major shortfall in Common Fund payments and changes to the way the Church Commissioners will be distributing funds. It seems unlikely that the situation has changed very much since then.
- The October 2024 meeting was held at St James', Shirley with a presentation from The Revd Catherine Grylls, diocesan Ministry Development Lead – Lay, about the Growing Gifts programme and lay ministry.
- The most recent meeting was in March 2025 at St Laurence, Northfield where we heard from Dr Jan Smart, the diocesan secretary, and Andy Winmill, Director of Mission Support, about the formulation of strategy and the strategies being developed in parishes and Oversight Areas and how these might interact. It all seems to boil down to resources – or lack thereof, an ongoing theme of meetings this year.

On a more local note, there was another gathering of the parishes making up our oversight area, in November 2024 at St Bede's, Brandwood. The parishes in our group are Hazelwell, Starchley, Cotteridge, Brandwood and Bournville, with the vicar of Bournville acting as Oversight Minister. It was a really good opportunity to find out about each other, to get to know each other better and to start thinking about ways in which we might co-operate and help each other – even if it's just something as simple as lending a Santa outfit for someone else's Christmas Fair!

It would be really good if we could have some additional reps from All Saints. The Synod is a good way of finding out more about what's going on in the wider church and meeting other Christians from different areas. If anyone is interested in finding out a bit more, do have a word with Jim or me.

Margaret Andrew

PCC main account – balance sheet 2024

ALL SAINTS CHURCH BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

Charity Commission No. 1145723

Previous Period	FIXED ASSETS		Current Period
	41500	Investments at Purchase Cost	27,500.00
	-	Capital Property	0.00
41,500.00		Total Fixed Assets	27,500.00
			Purchase Cost
			27,500.00
	CURRENT ASSETS		
	-	Cash	0.00
	10,253.44	Current Account ****1163	4,593.95
	-	Savings Account ****1181	0.00
	1,000.00	Current Account *****635	2,375.00
	-		0.00
	-		0.00
	-		0.00
	-	T & C (Transfers and Contras)	0.00
	170,500.00	Long Term Int Free Loan to Dev Co from Bequ	170,500.00
	-		0.00
181,753.44		Total Current Assets	177,468.95
223,253.44		Total Assets	204,968.95
	LIABILITIES		
	-	Creditors	235.60
	3,191.03	Creditors (VDF)	2,075.60
	81.82	Memorial Garden	414.56
	-		0.00
	-		0.00
		T & C (Transfers and Contras)	0.00
3,272.85		Total Liabilities	2,725.76
219,980.59		TOTAL ASSETS MINUS LIABILITIES	202,243.19

GENERAL PUPOSE FUND			
181,697.01	Balance as per last Balance Sheet	219,980.59	
206,582.91	TOTAL Income	160,493.41	
168,299.33	Deduct TOTAL Expenditure	178,230.81	
219,980.59	Accumulated General Purpose Fund	202,243.19	

Notes to Accounts: 0.00

Note A. Investments

The details of the investments held are:

	Cost	Market Value
CCLA CBF Church of England Investment Fund (Income)		
Investment Fund 2279.19 Shares as at 31 December 2024	27,500.00	52,700.93

Note B. Church Hall Lease

A lease from the Diocese for seventy five years from 24 June 1967, at an annual rent of £100, is held on the Church Hall. This annual rent is now paid by the Development Company.

Note C. Creditors

The balance on Creditors (VDF) is the money due to the Vicar for his Discretionary Fund.
The balance on Creditors is the money received for Christmas Collections but not yet paid.

Note D. All Saints Community Catering Ltd

The Church holds a Share Certificate for £10,000 one pound shares in ASCC Ltd, following the closure of the Cafe in 2020. The shares are currently assessed to have a Nil monetary value, although we have received a donation of £1543.21 from them as a gesture towards repayment and interest in the past.

PCC main account – Expenditure 2024

EXPENDITURE TO		31-Dec-24	
2023		2024 Budget	2024 Actual
£		£	£
5310	Worship: supplies, gifts/expenses for visiting clergy Music: inc. Resources, copyright and organist fees	6,900.00	3,628.31
			2,394.11
			1,234.20
12234	Ministry Costs Vicar and Curate Expenses: inc chapter retreat, hospitality, telephone, mileage Vicarage water rates, minor repairs Curate Housing Expenses Training / Education Youth Project - Part Room Rental Children Arts SJAG Lunch Club		11,570.55
		4,300.00	2,862.99
		950.00	956.91
		4,100.00	3,523.92
		330.00	0.00
		3,500.00	3,521.80
		350.00	217.41
			0.00
		160.00	349.12
			138.40
24560	Church Building: minor repairs, refuse collection, sundries and equipment Utilities Insurance, £10.6M new cover 2015 Church Centre facility fee		34,870.08
		6,950.00	15,632.92
		16,500.00	12,308.51
		6,600.00	6,928.65
		0.00	0.00
8627	Communication and Administration: Parish Office (inc telephone, stationery and expenses) Printing and Publicity/Website		8,625.33
		2,800.00	2,809.16
		6,000.00	5,816.17
12100	Admin Salary	13,000.00	37,266.89
	Salary Share received		24,818.48
73200	Common Fund	75,600.00	75,600.00
8591	Supporting Other Causes (not including earmarked collections)	9,700.00	4,936.00
61	Miscellaneous	500.00	60.00
0	Major Repairs to Church/PCC Property		0.00
144683	TOTAL	158,240.00	151,738.68

Summary

	Budget	Actual
TOTAL OUTGOINGS	158,240.00	151,738.68
TOTAL INCOME	158,030.00	148,001.28
DEFICIT/SURPLUS	-£210.00	-£3,737.40
Memorial Garden - Restricted Fund		151.38

PCC main account – Income 2024

INCOME TO		31-Dec-24	
2023		2024 Budget	2024 Actual
€		€	€
120645	REGULAR GIVING		121706.94
	Giving	106000.00	97901.27
	Tax refund	23000.00	23805.67
19	Magazine Surplus/Deficit	130.00	20.35
	Magazine Income		95.00
	Magazine Expenditure		74.65
7246	Fees	5000.00	1136.00
	Total Fee Income		2735.00
	Diocesan Fees paid to Diocese		1599.00
1502	Dividends/Interest	1500.00	1710.24
0	Curate Housing Diocesan Rebate	0.00	0.00
2536	Fund Raising	2500.00	1386.64
183	Refunds/Recycling/Utility Grant	0.00	130.00
1789	Sundries/Photocopier	2000.00	16246.14
2376	Church Rental	2400.00	1895.40
4965	Donations	5000.00	2769.57
41449	Bequest	10500.00	1000.00
0	Appeal - Church Heating		0.00
182710	TOTAL	158,030.00	148,001.28

Churchwarden

There being no previous warden in post, I began my term of office in April 2024, initially to cover the three months of the vicar's sabbatical, but it became apparent that more time was needed to complete what presented as being necessary tasks, so I volunteered to remain for the year. This report covers that year of my wardenship.

It had been 25 years since I previously held the role and in that time there have been many changes – most for the better regarding the 'housekeeping' tasks falling to the warden: now the campus management is undertaken by ASCDC, whereas then it was the responsibility of the PCC. The warden's statutory responsibilities remain the same.

Key activities undertaken

Decluttering church: There was need to assess what items were being unnecessarily stored in church and so the broken blue chairs, old Nativity set, random craft materials, residue of items from YP ministry, old kneelers, random bags of redundant items and many boxes of old ASCDC, ASYP and The Robin Centre files in the loft above the Marjorie Allen Room were all sorted, removed or rehomed where possible. The Traidcraft cupboards were partially adapted for the Crafters' items, and various cupboards etc cleared to make space for the new coffee items. The organ space is designated to become a green room/office/meeting space and so will need further attention prior to reordering the church as a whole.

Cleaning: A high-level 'clean' was successfully undertaken by the usual team; less well achieved were attempts at low-level cleaning. A volunteer now cleans once a fortnight and is managed by Angela. Thanks to a most generous donation, Jericho, the contractors for the rest of the Centre, now clean in the alternating weeks. It is a relief to know the church now looks and feels clean and feels more welcoming.

All Saints Youth Project: ASYP moved into Marjorie Allen Room during building work. This caused a great deal of disruption and hard work moving furniture and equipment and accommodating everyone, and was achieved with a good level of co-operation. The rooms were vacated in February and we now have full access to the rooms at the back of church.

Sunday morning coffee: On the retirement of Des and Sheila after many years of excellent service, a revamp of the system was undertaken by Lindsey and Ted, to enable coffee to be served in church. New equipment was purchased and extra volunteers supplemented those already helping; the whole now functions very well and is most appreciated – witness the length of time people stay after the service to share and chat!

Health and safety:

- The altar platform was inspected and repaired after an unfortunate fall sustained by a server one Sunday. Thanks to Martha Ann for assisting in securing the carpets and covering cables.
- Further issues regarding personal safety were addressed – it was important to ensure that Tariro felt comfortable during the riots which unfortunately occurred in David's absence.
- The risks of lone working were revisited to ensure all such volunteers knew the requisite procedures.
- Fortunately, only one rat was discovered this year!

- The capacity at Christmas services, while these were gratifyingly very well attended, gave cause for concern. We reviewed how better to accommodate families, pushchairs and mobility scooters, and also considered the safe use of handheld candles by the congregation.

Counting system: This was refreshed and new volunteers joined the rota – thanks to Sarah Wilson and Tony Cocks for their support. The Blue Envelopes have now ceased to be a source of donations which, again, reduces the task somewhat.

Inventory: A full inventory had not been attempted since 2022. It is now underway and planned to be completed by the APCM. We have some very nice silverware, beautifully maintained by Bernice, but some items are difficult to identify. Preparing photographs and a complete description of each item is underway and will be useful also for insurance purposes, in the unlikely event we have to make a claim.

Mission report: David has completed and returned this to the diocese.

Archdeacon's visitation: This took place between the archdeacon and the warden on Wednesday 23 April 2025. Generally most issues requiring discussion this year were not problematic for All Saints; however issues regarding keyholders and the security of church assets were raised and this area needs further action, especially after the recent unsuccessful break-in attempts.

PA system: Learning the operation of the PA system was a challenge for me but thanks to the many 'techies' we have, I have become fairly competent. It is important that everyone can hear the liturgy, preacher and singers.

Archive material: This is expanding and requires additional space – the vestments in the South Vestry will be rehoused in a suitable separate cupboard, so that work on the archive material can be more comfortably and safely undertaken. Thanks to the Crafters for funding the development.

I have been hugely enabled by the work of those emeritus wardens, especially Sarah, who weekly sustain services and other duties in the absence of a formal warden. Together we reviewed the role and tasks of a warden and sought ways to better explain the role so that others with the capacity and capability would consider volunteering to continue after me.

I have been fortunate to receive a wealth of support and enthusiasm for all the above tasks and I value particularly the help given by Tariro, Angela, Dave and all the warden/welcome team, the PCC, and of course David in his accommodation of, and sanction for, my many initiatives.

I am humbled at the honour the role brings and hope I have done justice to the required responsibilities.

Vivien Thickett
Churchwarden (interim)

Pastoral Care Team

The Pastoral Team has continued in 2024 to care for those unable to come to church, taking home communion and responding when people make the transition to residential care by taking communion to establish their belonging in the church even as they settle somewhere new. David appreciates their vigilance and attentiveness, keeping one another up to date on how people are, and when a visit from the vicar or curate may be needed in particular. Overlapping with the Pastoral Team are the confidential Prayer Circle who carefully, discreetly, diligently and lovingly respond to requests for prayer for individuals. Again, this is another kind of attentiveness David admires greatly. We plan to recommence Welcome Teas at the vicarage soon, giving relatively new friends the chance to meet some who have been worshipping at All Saints for some time.

David Warbrick

Justice, Peace and Green Group

The Justice, Peace and Green (JPG) Group has not met in 2024 but members of the Group have continued with activities organised by email and supported other activities in the church.

Regular items include recommendations of charities for the church's annual charity giving and Christmas collections as well as reporting on the energy use in the church via the Energy Footprint Tool (EFT).

Highlights in the year included:

- Christian Aid Week from 12 to 18 May including a stall at the Farmers' Market and Christian Aid Week envelope distribution in church. There was also a young people's car wash to raise money.
- Occasional foodbank collections such as at harvest.
- An energy audit in October as we are a large user of energy in the diocese. As part of this we have a £3,000 grant to spend this year on small works that can help reduce our energy usage.

A WhatsApp group also exists to pass on other information, including events and petitions to support. Church members have supported local refugees from Ukraine via messages from this group, helped with the Walk of Witness and campaigned against the war in Gaza.

New members to the JPG Group or the above WhatsApp groups are always welcome.

Daniel Wilson

Social and Fundraising Committee

A quieter year for the Social and Fundraising group (there is a lot going on at All Saints and other events can take over or dissipate the involvement of people).

We held two talks by our own Jim Andrew on Sarehole Mill and Hallmarking.

In November Corinne Fowler challenged us with her insights into the background to many of the National Trust's properties and the origins of many of the country's historical houses' wealth (much from slavery, or oppression of the working class).

We supported the Festival of All Saints Weddings organised by Marion Wilson and Vivien Thickett and other events at All Saints.

Our big income last year came from our successful silent movie night with the talented Vincent Byrne playing the piano and organ.

Des Workman

Youth Management Committee

Members

Alison Wall (treasurer), Brian Miles (fundraising), Jenny Warbrick (Church Youth Group), Steve Hayes, Lindsey Hammond, Alasdair McCarrick, Sandra Fortnum, Brenda Inman (chair), Maryan Cabdi (staff – *left July 2024*), Romana Kelly (staff), Ian Barber (staff), Vicki Willinger (staff).

In 2024 the Youth Management Committee continued to:

- Support the work of the Church Youth Group and church-related activities currently run by Jenny Warbrick and her team.
- Support the work of ASCP by managing the Youth Project, including:
 - the day-to-day running of the Project;
 - ensuring that 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; and
 - ensuring that policies are followed.

The Youth Management Committee is a sub-committee of ASCP and also reports to the PCC.

Members of both management committee and the ASCP board also contribute to task groups including fundraising and recruitment and selection.

Church Youth Group report

Thanks to Becky Frall and Juliet Bick who co-ordinated Youth Group while David and I were on sabbatical. A successful barbecue and games evening was held last summer to celebrate the end of the school year and welcome Year 6s before they started Youth Group in September. We have a fluid

group of three to eight young people who come regularly and we have greatly expanded our leadership team this year. We welcome Heather Bateson and Peter Champneys, and John Wallace-Howell will soon be joining us. We love the energy and fresh ideas that they bring (they also considerably lower the leaders' average age!). Thanks to Lynn Busfield who rejoined the team this year but is now stepping back.

We have had some very thoughtful discussions with the young people on social media, love and relationships, and forgiveness. The young people interviewed Don Stacey and Sylvia Mogg about their long lives and the role faith has played. At Christmas they painted candles, learned the paper craft of quilling and to make starters: soup, salad and pâté. Thanks to Svetlana Juzbasa, Becky Morse-Brown and David Warbrick for their creative and culinary expertise. A great team of car washers made lots of money for Christian Aid last year and we plan to do the same this year (on Sunday 11 May). We are currently making care packages for those doing GCSEs and A Levels and wish them all the very best for their exams. We have two Youth Group members preparing for confirmation and we look forward to celebrating with them in the autumn. We are delighted with the new facilities in the All Saints Centre and are undertaking a review of the format and timing of our sessions this summer to innovate and encourage growth.

Jenny Warbrick

For the **Youth Project report** please see the All Saints Community Projects report, which starts on page 23.

Thanks for the continuing support, interest and actions from the Youth Management Committee members. It would be good to grow the membership of the group so if you have an interest in and heart for young people please join us.

Mary Miles

Chair of the Board

All Saints Community Arts

ASCA's work has taken a new focus this year in the resumption of the Archive Project. We have a fresh team working together to categorise, explore and utilise the wonderful material we have inherited from the diligent collections of the late Stan Budd and Margaret Shepherd.

Post-Covid, and the upheaval caused by the building work, meant that the material had been removed from its dedicated cupboards in the South Vestry, and so the hunt to gather the material back together was on! Everything finally found its way home, and the first task was to explore the content and then to group items together by date and subject: all is now stored and labelled in over 30 sealable plastic boxes.

The material includes an almost complete set of parish magazines from 1868 onwards, photographs, reports, accounts and correspondence. The documents chronicle the activities of many groups, clubs and social events plus key changes to worship and social norms and a significant amount of local history.

The Archive Group agreed – and achieved – the following objectives for 2024:

- Appoint a volunteer undergraduate student on placement to support archiving – to this end Hannah Gadd from UoB contributed 70 hours' supervised and remote work during October-December; this was facilitated by Gill Binnie.
- Deliver an exhibition during Birmingham Heritage Week in September – this was a joint exhibition by Marion Wilson, Ian Binnie and Mary Harding, detailing the history of the church and the First World War soldiers named on the memorial tablet. A hundred visitors enjoyed the exhibition and tours of the church in early September. Group members acted as stewards during the opening times.
- Improve the Group's knowledge and skills regarding best practice in this field – we benefit greatly from the involvement of Ian and Gill Binnie; Gill facilitated a group visit to the Birmingham People's History Archive to share advice on storing, handling and cataloguing archive documents. She also arranged a visit from the regional manager of TNA (The National Archives), and shared introductions to student placement schemes, as well as delivering oral interview training to the group.
- Contribute a monthly article for *Saints Alive!* relating to the archives – we are grateful to Marion Wilson for her indefatigable scouring through the old church magazines to find appropriate seasonal 'snippets' for publication.

Further projects planned for 2025 include:

- Creation of a more detailed digital inventory – we are fortunate to have the offer of a PC on which to record this information, along with oral history interviews.
- Three separate exhibitions will be mounted, for Kings Heath Artsfest and VE Day, both in May, and Birmingham Heritage Week in September.
- Student(s) to be sought to add support as before.
- More safe and accessible storage space is necessary.
- Funding to be sought for improved storage and cataloguing.

My personal thanks go to all the team members who show so much support and enthusiasm and willingly share their various skills, which are well utilised. We welcome anyone who has skills they can offer, especially in writing bids for funding.

A Festival of All Saints Weddings – September 2024

The Festival enjoyed the support of an enthusiastic team and a wide audience. The event, an idea from Marion Wilson, celebrated memories and photographs from 45 weddings dating from 1927 to 2024 – almost a century of All Saints weddings; 19 mannequins sported dresses, suits, a naval uniform and even a kilt, illustrating changing customs and fashions. The stories of other weddings were told through photographs and ephemera.

A launch event for contributors and volunteers was held on the Friday evening. The exhibition opened to the public on Saturday, ending with an uplifting concert that afternoon from the talented All Saints singers and musicians. It also opened for a short period on Sunday afternoon, after a joyous Eucharist including wedding music and an inspiring sermon from Nigel Petroni. A wedding cake to celebrate the occasion was cut by Don Stacey, who married at All Saints, as did his parents and his children.

The Festival was a successful community event. Due to the goodwill and generosity of many people it broke even financially and attracted 200 visitors to All Saints. Many had never been inside the church before. Thanks go to many, and especially to Marion Wilson and Jenny Warbrick for their research, ingenuity and creativity.

Vivien Thickett
Chair

All Saints Community Development Company

2024 has been a remarkable and memorable year in the life of the All Saints Community Development Company. We have at last begun to realise a major original objective of our charity, which is an entirely new set of premises for the long-standing and highly successful All Saints Youth Project. This is coupled with new facilities for The Robin Centre (our day centre for older people), extended accommodation for our tenant CircusMASH which trains people in circus skills, and the release of much-needed space for other ASCDC purposes.

How has this come about? In June 2023 we heard that our bid for a Youth Investment Fund (YIF) grant totalling over £3 million had been successful. Working to a tight timetable, many project meetings to establish the requirements of the project were held with the main stakeholders (All Saints Youth Project, CircusMASH and The Robin Centre) and the design team (BPN Architects, Sculpt Design and PMP Consultants). It was decided to retain and refurbish the old church hall, the current home of CircusMASH. A planning application was submitted in September 2023. A question was raised about the possibility of bats living in the crevices of the old hall which required an ecological survey before permission could be granted in March 2024. BSN were the preferred contractors for the build and were commissioned in January 2024.

The securing of this YIF grant and subsequent work around planning, tendering and project management has taken a huge effort from the board, especially from board member Ben Howells who did more than anyone to win the grant, ably supported by our chief officer Andy Savage – I pay tribute to them.

Work on the new build began in April 2024 with a target to be completed by mid-December. The stakeholders moved into their new locations in January 2025. The newly-named Garden Room (the old Robin Centre) is now another lettable space for small events or combined with a hall letting (opening the partition) has capacity for larger events. The Garden Room toilets are now available for church use on a Sunday morning and for other events held in church. A grand opening of the revitalised Centre is taking place over the May Day weekend, 3 and 4 May 2025.

Notwithstanding this achievement it has been another financially challenging year for ASCDC, with costs exceeding income for the fourth successive year. This has been caused partly by cost inflation but mainly by high interest rates on our mortgages; these increased enormously over the course of 2022-23 and have increased further during 2023-24.

The Café continues to run under the management of ASCDC as reported last year. The Youth Investment Fund project has enabled the premises to be remodelled and improved which may allow a viable café to operate going forward.

During the new development, the Centre continued to run successfully. We have maintained our tenancies and our regular schedule of activities and events including Eid celebrations in June 2024 for the second year.

Angela McDermott continues as administrator for the Centre and the church, with an increased workload from the YIF project; we are very grateful for her efforts.

Dave Priday continues to oversee the running of the site and his engagement with tenants, users of the centre and general public are much appreciated.

We are constantly seeking ways in which we can boost revenue and contain expenditure, but interest rate movements will remain the key factor. Against that background, we strive to continue to serve the local community as best we can, in collaboration with our All Saints partners. In the long term, eventual repayment of the mortgages will make an enormous difference to the finances and enable us to invest more effectively in our community goals.

Sarah Wilson
Chair

All Saints Community Projects



This year ASCP has continued to:

- Manage, fund and develop the **All Saints Youth Project**.
- Produce 10 issues of **Outlook** in the year, which is funded by the PCC. Thanks to Pat Rowland and her proofreading team.

ASCP works with and/or is a member of:

- The Children's Quarter
- Safe Spaces
- All Saints Community Catering Limited
- Hall Green Neighbourhood Network

ASCP would be happy to support any groups or individuals that would like to be involved with or start a community group. If you are interested please contact the chair, Mary Miles, through the Youth Project office on 0121 443 1842.

All Saints Youth Project

The need for more support for young people and families has grown over the last 12 months with continued cuts to provision in the city and the closure of nearly all city youth centres, a lack of opportunities for young people, and a lack of accessible support for parents/carers.

1. Our Aims

- 1. To help and support all young people in their transition from adolescence to adulthood through the provision of an integrated and holistic programme that strives to be accessible and inclusive particularly to those with disabilities and special needs.*
- 2. To deliver and develop our service where all young people have the right to be safe, be healthy, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and to achieve economic wellbeing.*

2. Our Objectives

- 1. To provide a safe place for socialising, enjoyment and positive activity.*
- 2. To raise young people's self-esteem and confidence by developing new skills and providing a sense of achievement.*
- 3. To promote positive behaviour and personal responsibility for the benefit of themselves and the community.*
- 4. To encourage young people to take personal responsibility for their future.*
- 5. To provide an opportunity for young people to talk to supportive/caring adults in a non-threatening environment.*
- 6. To ensure that activities are accessible for young people with additional needs.*
- 7. To support young people by supporting their families.*
- 8. To provide information and guidance on health, legal, careers and other appropriate issues for young people.*
- 9. To provide opportunities for staff.*

We have been networking with, and receiving referrals from, organisations to support young people and their families. These have included:

- Adult and Social Care BCC
- S.E.N.D
- Fircroft College
- Parent & Carers Forum
- Thrive
- West Midlands Police
- Birmingham Carers Service teenage parents support
- Autism West Midlands
- Autism 360
- Umbrella
- Positive Pathways
- Stage 2
- CircusMASH
- Midland Operatic
- Aquarius
- Birmingham Careers Service
- Local schools
- Autism Awareness
- Forward Thinking Birmingham
- Birmingham Children's Trust
- The Brandwood Centre
- Forward Carers



- Local police and community officers
- Local foodbanks
- The Wellbeing Project
- Christians Against Poverty (CAP)
- Sudden Productions
- Birmingham City Mission

Our safeguarding policies for children and vulnerable adults have been reviewed. Our designated safeguarding leads are:

- ASCP board lead: Mary Miles
- The Youth Project: Ian Barber, Vicky Willinger and Maryan Cabdi

The staff team is as follows:

- Ian Barber – family support co-ordinator and Inclusion+ co-ordinator
- Vicki Willinger – office co-ordinator
- Maryan Cabdi – youth work co-ordinator (*left July 2024*)
- Romana Kelly – youth work co-ordinator
- Pat Buckley – Inclusion+ worker
- Sophia Shaheen – youth worker
- Chelsea Moorhouse – youth worker
- Louise Wood – Inclusion+ worker
- Debbie Nixon – family support worker
- Dawn McKeever – counselling lead
- Matt Griffin – youth worker (*left May 2024*)
- Miranda Doyle – cleaner (*left September 2024*)
- Dillan McKeever – youth worker
- Oscar Harvey – Mosaic (Making Our Sexualities And Identities Count) lead worker
- Rebecca Cox – youth worker

We have a creative and diverse staff team and group of volunteers who put young people first.

All Saints Youth Project provides recreational and informal educational opportunities and support for young people aged 10 to 19 years old (up to 25 for those with disabilities) to enhance their lives and grow their social/personal development. Our work with young people includes fun, friendship and care. While much of our work is aimed at the young people themselves, we look to promote family wellbeing and to help parents/carers in dealing with issues that their young person is facing. Issues facing the family may be about the parent's drug or alcohol abuse, poverty, domestic violence or just improving the communication between the young person and parents/carers.

During 2024 the Project has had contact with over 350 individual young people and over 300 families. A team of staff and volunteers delivers support/services: four open-access youth club sessions and three sessions for adult members with learning disabilities every week, counselling and one-to-one support, special projects and workshops, holiday schemes, residential, events in the local community, family support through individual family interventions, support groups (eg ADHD)



and courses (eg Teen Triple P). We are an inclusive project with many young people with disabilities and neurodiversity. In addition we have a very high proportion of young people who are vulnerable through family circumstance (eg on the edge of crime, domestic abuse, poverty) and some of these are referred to us by GPs, social services and police.

In September we had to move out of our building for refurbishment and ran our sessions in the hall with access via the Village Square and Café. Other work took place in the meeting rooms at the back of church, and in the church. Our office moved to the Marjorie Allen Room at the back of church. This obviously put some constraints on what we were able to deliver but thanks to everyone who made this as easy as possible. We hope to move into our new building at the beginning of 2025. Young people

have been involved in the use and design of the new building.

Open youth club sessions: Four sessions run every week during termtime supplemented by holiday programmes during school holidays.

Two of these sessions are in the evenings. Young people that attend include those with a range of learning disabilities, behavioural issues, neurodiversity and additional needs. A range of activities, selected in consultation with the young people, happen in these sessions including arts, music, games, cooking, chess club, projects and workshops including MMA (mixed martial arts), sexual health and healthy relationships, mental health and wellbeing, drama and podcasts, relaxation and stress release.

Two of these sessions are after school drop-ins with young people participating in a range of recreational activities, staff support with homework, forming friendships and having fun, in a safe environment with caring adults.

Weekly attendance during 2024 has been between 20 and 30 young people per session.

Our residential ran at Easter with 22 young people attending an activity weekend at Condoover Hall.

Holiday schemes: We ran holiday schemes in May, July/August and October 2024. The summer schemes ran for three weeks, four days a week attended by 40 to 50 young people. Breakfast and lunch were provided. Activities in holiday schemes included games in the park, sports activities, an arts project with Lever Arts, workshops with Aquarius on substance abuse, sexual health issues with Umbrella, finance, health and hygiene, day trips to parks, the cinema, go-karting and Drayton Manor Park. Some sessions were open specifically for our older members (16 years+).



Lack of space between September and January restricted some of the activities we could provide.

A young person, T, 11 years old, used to come for about an hour to an hour and a half during drop-in and then would be picked up by a parent. He has recently started to stay for the evening session too and interact more positively with young people of different ages. He is usually very active and friendly but struggles with concentrating on one activity. This also prevented him from spending productive/enjoyable time with others for an extended period of time. Our new volunteer has managed to introduce this young member to new games which hold his interest and as a result he has been spending time with other youth club members in a more productive way where he challenges others to a game and plays the game until it has ended. We have used prizes (donated Pokémon games and cards) given at the end to T to reward his positive interaction and growth.

Youth worker

Website: Alongside social media, the All Saints Youth Project website has been maintained with up-to-date timetables, news posts and information.

MOSAIC: We are very proud to be a space where young people can feel comfortable to express themselves and experiment with their identities. The group has grown to an average of eight to 10 a week. The group has regular meetings to plan its programme which has included a range of arts and crafts including Boro and Sashiko embroidery reusing materials, movie nights, quizzes and games tournaments. During the session members have time to socialise and talk to each other and the leaders. Outside the session the group went to the theatre to see *Becoming Nancy* and had a day together at Queens Heath Pride in Kings Heath. They are hoping to be involved in the planning of 2025's Queens Heath Pride.

Youth participation: We recruited a youth participation worker in the spring but due to building and staff constraints she changed her role to youth work co-ordinator and ran our sessions and holiday schemes. We will be recruiting a new youth work co-ordinator in the new year.

Counselling: With our counselling lead we have continued to build a team on a sessional, freelance or volunteer basis and this has been very successful with a team currently of six. Although this has enabled us to clear a lot of our waiting list we still do have one, as demand has increased. During the year 176 young people and adults have received counselling support ranging from a single contact through to a series of sessions. The main concerns were anger issues, family issues, low moods, social anxieties and bullying.

Counselling case study

Client B was referred to the project by his parent. The referral outlined that the client was 13. He had a diagnosis of autism and had recently been placed with his father due to his mum asking him to help her take her own life during an addiction episode.

We agreed that he required extra time to process any exchange between us. After session four he began expressing his feelings in relation to his mum. This reflection continued, as he processed his feelings of fear, anger and acceptance that he did not have control over his mum's addiction and the incidents that had occurred were not his fault. When the client returned after the holiday we began to work on an emotional toolkit for the client to help him.

Our sessions together have now ended as the client expressed that he felt able to accept his mum's addiction and distance himself and his relationship with her from that addiction.

Counsellor

Inclusion+: We run three sessions each week for adults aged 19+ with learning disabilities. Over 50 members with learning disabilities or vulnerabilities have taken part in our activities this year.

Afternoon sessions included the group working hard to devise, write and perform their own pantomime performance called *This is Me* in April with two sellout performances in church. The audience was treated to singing, dancing and a message that they received with fun, enjoyment and admiration. Thanks to all who took part including 20 members and staff.



Next the group embarked on a homeless project that involved dance workshops with Birmingham Opera Company. This culminated in a performance in November with over 50 people in the audience. This raised £500 for the charity I'm Homeless, 'Get Me Out Of Here' and the group also collected donations of personal hygiene products to give to the City Mission.

The evening social sessions out included local pub visits, film nights and fish and chip nights, karaoke and disco, Air Nation bounce, visit to Freefall at the Hippodrome, a pantomime visit and a narrowboat trip. Sessions included *Inclusion+ Got Talent*, karaoke, a movie night, bingo and quizzes.

In August the group ran three events at the All Saints Café for themselves, carers and parents and also invited the members of The Robin Centre: *A Summer of Music and Dance Fest* on a Friday afternoon and attended by 20+.

A new session Employability on a Friday, for members of Inclusion+ who wished to look for employment and/or volunteering experiences, started in May. The programme included CVs, interview skills, portfolio building, safe internet searches, IT skills, team building, confidence building and communication. The group also attended a jobs fair. Nine-plus attended the sessions. Opportunities were there for both work experience and volunteering. Individual members took up opportunities to volunteer in gardening, childcare, shop work, café work, radio presenting and college courses in dog grooming.



21 Inclusion+ members returned to Butlins for their residential in July 2024. Members agreed it was time for a change in 2025.

Family support – The Carers' Space at All Saints: Over 350 families have received support this year.

Parenting programmes:

- 3 x Autism 360 (10 weeks) – 31 participants
- 1 x Teen Triple P (eight weeks) – seven participants
- 3 x Non-Violent Resistance (10 weeks) – 32 participants
- Autism 360 10 workshop

Parent/carer support groups (four of these groups are run by parent volunteers):

- Parents' Wellbeing
- Autism/ADHD
- IMPACT
- Transgender
- Kinship

Family support case study: Grandparents caring for two grandchildren with additional needs

J made a self-referral to All Saints' Parents' Wellbeing group. On initial visit to ASYP, J informed family support worker that she and her husband have kinship care for their two grandchildren who both have special educational needs. During the discussion J expressed feelings of exhaustion, isolation and a lack of support from the allocated special guardianship officer. J and her husband attend All Saints' Kinship Care group, and the NVR and one-to-one family support sessions. During support sessions, J and her husband expressed their frustrations regarding the lack of support/contact with the allocated support worker.

Action:

With the grandparents' permission an email was sent to the support worker requesting that a meeting was called to give the grandparents the opportunity to highlight their frustrations with the service. I also requested that their granddaughter would benefit from a consistent worker who could build a positive relationship to help her explore her thoughts and feelings. Grandparents notified us that after the meeting I had attended with them the support worker visited the family home to discuss further support. After the visit they felt positive that the new allocated worker was listening to both their needs as grandparents caring for two young people with additional needs and those of their granddaughters.

Parent support worker

Family fun days: During the year we ran nine family fun days in school holidays with activities including arts and crafts, games, circus skills, disco, karaoke, sensory space, sports day and food. Attendees included parents, young people and siblings in family groups, with an attendance of 302 over the nine days.

Speakers, workshops and parents' wellbeing group have included:

- SENDias Birmingham
- Talking SENSE/EHC plans
- Birmingham Parents Forum
- The Shaping Birmingham's Future Together Strategic Partnership
- Mindfulness
- Yoga
- Christmas Arts and Crafts by Andy's Cards
- Postbox Toppers

- Autism West Midlands
- Healthy Minds

The Carer's Space has had 73 drop-ins.

Feedback from parents about courses

'I really benefited from the warm learning environment and the openness of being able to ask questions without feeling judged.'

'I have a better understanding of my teenager's understanding of a healthy parenting style.'

'Both my son and I are now able to recognise our difficulties and what we need to do to improve our relationship.'

'I have found the group very helpful. Being here has been great for letting me know I'm not alone. I have learnt to recognise the nature of my teenager and to deflect. How not to escalate situations that would normally become aggressive.'

'Having my partner with me has brought us closer together and we now work together when managing violence and aggression from our teenager. The course has reinstated my confidence as a person and as a parent.'

'Many of us had teenagers with additional needs and the facilitator adapted the course well to ensure we all felt supported.'

Our team have referred 42 families to foodbanks and 63 families to the local Household Fund. We received 10 food parcels from Moseley and Kings Heath Lions, 23 families received toys from Birmingham City Mission, and 70 selection boxes from various businesses and members of the community which enabled us to give every young person and parent a selection box for Christmas.

Challenges

Our biggest challenge is recruiting experienced staff. Although we like to encourage our young people to become first volunteers and then paid staff the Project still needs a core of experienced, knowledgeable staff to lead and support. Youth work itself does not seem to be a career of choice, probably because youth work itself is only happening in very few places. There is no longer a youth club on every corner and no longer a universal service for all young people, places for safe association.

Thanks to all the staff and volunteers who have continued to provide opportunities for young people in our restricted space. We look forward to moving into our new building and furniture is already being bought and scavenged.

Future developments

The biggest development is how we can use our new space for the benefit of more young people. This will include more activity space, extra counselling rooms, a bigger office and a kitchen.

Congratulations and thank you to ASCDC in their success in achieving the grant for a building and support for staff posts to extend and develop All Saints' work with young people.

Fundraising

Fundraising continues to be a priority but we are pleased that the YIF funding from ASCDC and the new build has provided financial support for staff employment. We also achieved a three-year lottery bid, continue our monthly appeal mailings and are applying for a Children in Need grant. Thank you to the fundraising group.

We would like to thank Ted and Lindsey Hammond for the Christmas quiz which was again very successful and raised over £1,000. Also to Gillian and Jake Lever who not only ran a workshop to make Christmas cards that were sold at their Open Studios event but also gave us a generous donation from the sales of their work at this event. We are always looking for new ideas or kind businesses or millionaires!

Thanks to all our regular givers. Please get in touch if you wish to join this group of generous donors.

Current trustees on the All Saints Community Projects board

June McDonaldson (company secretary), Mary Miles (chair), Alison Wall (treasurer), Daniel Wilson, David Warbrick (vicar, ex officio), Denis Murphy (assistant treasurer (hons)), Claire Slater, Eira Jones. Liz Haskins is minutes secretary.

Youth Management Committee

A list of committee members can be found at the start of the Youth Management Committee report on page 19.

Thank you to the board and Youth Management Committee members for their continued hard work, creativity and their shared skills and abilities.

The trustees and Youth Management Committee members would like to thank our staff and volunteers for their resourcefulness, flexibility, creativity and positivity and the care they show for young people and their families.

Thanks to the PCC for its continued support – we continue to recognise the importance and benefits of being part of the ‘family’ of All Saints, and the support of people thinking about us.

We are also extremely grateful for the support of all the grant-making organisations, trusts and individuals, including our regular givers, without whom we would not be able to deliver and develop the services and activities that we provide with the local community.

Find out more about us:

- Website: <https://www.allsaintsyouthproject.org.uk/>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/allsaintsyouthproject/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/allsaintsyup>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsyouthproject>

Mary Miles
Chair

The Robin Centre



If 2023 was a year of consolidation for The Robin Centre, 2024 was a year of anticipation as we waited for completion of the new development and our move into new premises. There was, inevitably, some disruption to our routine as members had to enter across the Village Square and be met at the outer door by staff working in relays. That entrance became our only way in and out, for supplies also. We knew this was all in a good cause and people settled into the new pattern uncomplainingly. Our special thanks to Dave Priday and his colleagues for keeping the flow of traffic, our taxis and daily bus, moving smoothly across the Square.

Our membership held steady, at or above our break-even point, with the inevitable turnover as members become too frail or ill to continue to attend, counterbalanced by the regular arrival of new members. About two thirds of our members are self-funding, the remainder funded by the city council.

During the year the council, following yet another review of day centre services, decided that all day centres in future will have to go through a tendering process to continue to be eligible for council funding. Much time was spent by social services explaining the elaborate process involved. (The bidding process went live in February 2025 and we submitted our bid in March; it will be some time before we hear the result.)

Financially, we are stable despite the increases in expenditure across the board. We increased our charge to self-funders in April and received an uplift in council payments which helped. We have not had to dip into our reserves which stand at about £63K.

Prior to the pandemic we used a minibus service provided by Shencare, a social transport provider in south Birmingham. We decided to re-engage them to provide some of our service since they, unlike the taxi firm, are insured to make sure that members reach their front door safely and can assist them to do so. Taxis have continued to be used for other members.

Hot lunches were provided by Broad Lane Café which has provided excellent service, with dessert provided by our own staff. During the year we made two trips to Stratford-upon-Avon (different members each time) and took members for a pub lunch. A wide and varied programme of activities takes place every day at the Centre.

My thanks as always to Paula McGrath and her staff team, to our committed volunteers, and to my fellow trustees.

David Ritchie
Chair

All Saints Players

The Players didn't actually play a great deal in 2024! There were plans afoot to put on another Theatrical Revue in 2024, but various events conspired against us and this didn't happen. That's not to say we won't look to do one in 2026, so please do watch out for notices about how to get involved!

2024 did see the start of the Players' work for the 2025 pantomime. Without the directorial expertise of Fiona Briggs, who had moved away, we were delighted when Kevin Groves agreed to step into the void that had been created, taking on the role of theatrical director for *Snow White*. We held auditions in early September and had a very difficult challenge to whittle down the interested and talented parties to fit the parts available. After much consideration, the cast was set, with a mixture of old and new Players in both the principal roles and the chorus. Once more the cast spanned the generations, with Cara (then aged three) acting alongside a number of our group who first took to the stage a good many decades earlier. As this is a report for 2024, you'll have to wait until next year's report to find out how the panto went, but I think it's safe to say that the Players proved that dramatic enthusiasm and creative talent are still as strong as ever at All Saints.

I should take this opportunity to say that all are welcome to join the Players – there is no minimum commitment or prior experience required. We don't meet regularly, but form (or reform) once a year to put on either a pantomime (every other year – next one hopefully in 2027, with rehearsals starting in October 2026) or a revue (hopefully at some point in early 2026). Anyone who signs up to be a part of any production is automatically a member of our merry band until they ask not to be and we try to rotate starring roles around, so everyone gets a chance to have their place centre stage if they want!

My enormous thanks to the rest of the production team, namely Kevin Groves and Ben Noakes, for their unwavering support and wise counsel, as well as everyone who has been involved in the Players, whether onstage, backstage, setting out chairs, clearing up glitter, selling refreshments or tickets, providing props, costumes, make-up – and, of course, to all our audience members.

Clare Noakes
Producer

Coffee Team

Welcome and warmth

The rattle of the tea trolley at 9:30am every Sunday signals that 'coffee' is being set up in the baptistry to provide refreshments for after the 10am service. The aroma of coffee and the comforting gurgling sound of the percolator partway through the service is a reminder that all are welcome to stay for coffee. The welcome extends to anyone dropping into church whether or not they have joined the service.

Week by week the baptistry is full of people chatting over a cuppa, enriching the community life of All Saints Church. Special birthdays/anniversaries are often celebrated with cake and more cake! When the weather is warmer the north door is opened for coffee to be enjoyed in the Memorial Garden.

The All Saints coffee team comprises 23 volunteers who serve in teams of four on a rota (usually two or three times in a three-month period). Volunteers complete the All Saints volunteer form and training is provided. The team is supportive and flexible stepping in for one another as needed. Thanks to our youngest volunteer (Joseph), who stepped down in the autumn, for his stalwart work on the team post-Covid.

Coffee, tea and other consumables are fair trade items. Free from options are also provided. The children's table offers squash and biscuits.

Donations cover the cost of coffee/tea. Purchases of biscuits, milk and other consumables are reimbursed but more often than not donated by the team (this is not expected). In 2024 a sum of £165.21 was passed on to All Saints Church's fund. In the past year the coffee donations have also funded various special events, eg sweet treats for CofE Volunteer Sunday (June); celebration drinks to welcome back Jenny and David (September); mince pies for Christmas morning; and coffee on Good Friday post the walk of witness to name but a few!

The coffee team gathered together in February for a bring and share lunch (becoming an annual event) giving thanks for the important work of this team and to enjoy getting to know one another a little more.

If you are interested in being a coffee team volunteer please talk to Lindsey or Ted Hammond.

Lindsey and Ted Hammond
Organisers

Crafters

The Crafters continue to open their stall on a Sunday morning selling a range of jams, preserves and chutneys. The Craft Fair held in December raised £840, and this money all goes towards the 'extras' for All Saints; it purchased our beautiful new Nativity set. Sheila, Pam and the team would like to thank everyone who continues to support the crafters. They are constantly looking at new types of jams and preserves to make and sell.

Sheila Workman and Pam Coley

Lunch Club

From January to July we met weekly in the Chapel Room, with a faithful membership of 10.

From September we met just monthly, often having to meet in the Café because of renovation work. Members still very much enjoyed the time together though.

Food has been purchased from the Café which has worked well, including an excellent Christmas lunch.

It has been very sad that Gill Parkin's failing health means that she is no longer able to take part and we all miss her very much.

Thanks go to all the helpers and members.

Elizabeth Turner
Co-ordinator

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in John chapter 5 verses 1-18

Jesus was in Jerusalem for a festival, and he visited the pool of Bethesda. People said that an angel sometimes made the water ripple.

Sick people waited for the water to ripple, because they thought that the first person in would be healed.

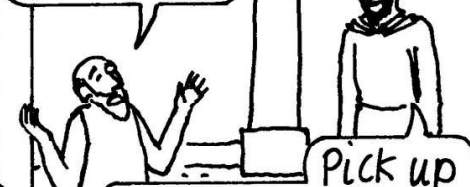


Jesus went up to a man who had been sick for 38 years.



Do you want to be healed?

I've got no-one to put me in the pool, so I can never get in first.



Pick up your mat and walk!



He was healed! The man picked up his mat and walked around. But it was the Sabbath.

God had given the law that the Sabbath day was a rest day (Ex 20: 8-11)... but to make sure it was kept, the Jewish leaders had made up rules, and then more rules so that anything that even might be work was banned.

The Jewish leaders saw the healed man.



It's the Sabbath! You can't carry a mat, that's 'work'!

The man who healed me told me to carry it.



Which man?

I don't know.

Later, Jesus found the man in the temple.



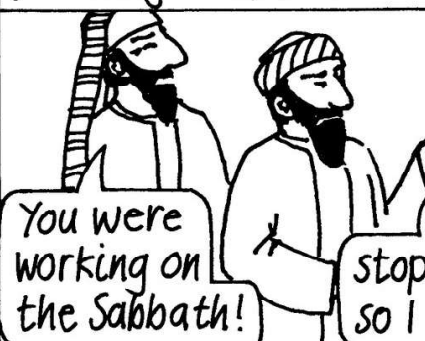
You are healed now, but don't sin any more, or something worse might happen to you.

Now the man knew who Jesus was...



he went straight back to the Jewish leaders to tell them.

and they went to Jesus



You were working on the Sabbath!

My father, God, doesn't stop working on the Sabbath so I keep on working as well

Not only does he disobey our Sabbath rules, but he says he is equal to God!



We definitely have to kill him.

Magazine

In 2024, as usual 10 issues of the All Saints parish magazine *Saints Alive!* were published. New editions are available from the first Sunday of each month, with the exception of January and August: hard copies can be picked up from the back of church, and the magazine is also published online in the 'Publications' section of the All Saints website. We continue to build up a list of people to whom a hard copy is sent by post.

The price per issue remains at £1, but this is very much a suggested donation and cost should not be a barrier to anyone in the church reading the magazine in either online or printed form – it continued in 2024 to bring in a modest income but more importantly to be another way of keeping us all in contact with each other and the wider Kings Heath community. Information about the ways in which payment can be made for the magazine can be found on the opposite page.

A mixture of items was included in the magazine over the past year, as follows:

- A letter from David, Tariro or the editors at the start of each issue, and updates from the PCC.
- Articles submitted by people from within the congregation and beyond: these may be about particular areas of interest or experience; thoughts on church, local or worldwide matters, or remembering Kings Heath friends and places; accounts of something that the writer has recently done, whether at All Saints or elsewhere; or humorous creations. Demonstrating the diverse nature and interests of our congregation, topics covered in 2024 included, among others, Anna Chaplaincy and the Wave of Prayer; David's sabbatical and Sylvia Mogg's 100th birthday; the Orchard Women's Conference and art at Greenbelt; and the Nativity crib figures and the reuse of the knitted Christmas tree.
- Publicity for and a look forward to forthcoming All Saints-related plans, and reports on recent activity.
- Regular features include a delve into matters musical; 'High days and holy days' marking significant dates in the church calendar – for these and some other items, such as front covers, cartoons, jokes, and the 'Mouse Makes' or 'Bible Bite' (see previous page) pieces for younger people, we subscribe to a very useful website called Parish Pump; and updates on groups based on the All Saints site in 'Campus focus'. A fascinating new column, 'From the archives', was also introduced during the year.
- Advertisements for endeavours related to the church, its members and the All Saints campus.
- 'From the registers', recording recent baptisms, weddings, funerals and any other ceremonies that have taken place in the preceding month(s).

We are grateful to everyone who has submitted something to or agreed to write for the magazine during 2024 – the broader the range of contributors and of topics covered, the more interesting the publication will be, and we are very keen to restart our 'Getting to know you' interviews with members of the congregation. Do please continue to contact us in 2025 if you have something you think might be of interest, and spread the word – we'd love to see *Saints Alive!* read ever more widely!

Ben and Clare Noakes
Editors

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

STANDING ORDER MANDATE AND BANK PAYMENT INFORMATION	
<i>(Please detach and send to your bank) or use for Internet Banking Payments</i>	
To:	The Manager
Address:	_____

Postcode:	_____
Please pay to	HSBC PLC, Kings Heath Birmingham Branch
	Sort Code: 40-11-15
For the credit of:	
The PCC of Kings Heath Parish All Saints Church	Account Number: 71801163
the sum of £ _____	First payment on _____ / _____ /20
and monthly / weekly thereafter on the same date until cancelled by me, or on.....	
Reference:	G.P.F. V.D.F. M Garden Magazine <i>please delete the ones that do not apply</i>
<i>Please cancel any previous mandates to this beneficiary on this account number.</i>	
Name:	_____
My Sort Code:	_____
My Account Number:	_____
Signature:	_____
Date:	_____

If you bank online, you will be able to use the details below to set up a standing order:

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

If you have any problems or questions about setting this up, or the church's finances in general, please contact Steve Brittle, Treasurer on 01905 772171 or zena_steveb@btinternet.com.

Meditation Group

The Meditation Group has met monthly on a Thursday evening in 2024. Various of the group hosted and led, and thanks to them and to all who attended.

Those who lead the evening choose a passage from the Bible or a book to meditate upon, and lead the meditation on this item. A session usually lasts about an hour or so including coffee. New prospective members are always welcome to attend.

Other groups connected with the church run other meditation or discussion groups or occasional day events. Please see Daniel Wilson if you would like further information.

Daniel Wilson
Co-ordinator

Music

During 2024 we provided music for regular Sunday morning and occasional evening services, including significant musical input to services throughout Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Advent and Christmas, and on other festival days; some activity from across the year is picked out below:

- Preparing and singing introits and anthems including *Peace I leave with you* by Amy Beach and a reprise of Sarah Baker's *Come together everybody* on Mothering Sunday (a service in which we marked the Royal School of Church Music's Women Composer Sunday, with all anthems and congregational hymns either composed or with texts written or translated by women writers); a dramatic 'Hosanna' antiphon to begin the Palm Sunday service; and the introit *This joyful Eastertide* and anthem *Christ the Lord is ris'n again* (by Richard Shephard) on Easter Day.
- Providing an anthem and hymns for Tariro and Brian's wedding, a wonderful celebration involving music from both our and Zimbabwean traditions.
- A special evening service in June, celebrating the RSCM's booklet *The Big Hymn Sing* produced for Music Sunday. The choir led a small but enthusiastic congregation in singing the top 10 hymns voted for in a poll that the organisation took along with the *Church Times*, interspersed with thought-provoking and personal reflections and music-related readings.
- Providing readings and choral, solo, instrumental and congregational music for an informal public concert to close the Saturday proceedings of the Festival of All Saints Weddings and in the Sunday morning service, all related to the wedding theme and much of it with personal connections to services at All Saints or involving its members.
- A morning of musical accompaniment to the Crafters' fair in December, including vocal and instrumental solos, some lesser-known seasonal choral items, and carols around the piano.

- The Carols by Candlelight service, which involved a large number of singers and instrumentalists from church and the wider community; on the afternoon of Christmas Eve music was as usual led by the Village Band assembled and directed by Martha Ann Brookes.
- Singing carols on the Village Square, which raised just over £215 for B30 & South Birmingham Foodbank.

We retained our customary inclusion of sung psalm settings from various traditions during Lent and Advent, with occasional other Anglican chants for Candlemas and Music Sunday; and the pattern of 6:30pm Sunday services has continued to involve All Saints members, including Jake Bateson, Charlotte Champneys and others, providing music in different styles.

Where services feature music that we recorded during the periods of lockdown and social distancing, links to these continue to be included in the online orders of service provided for those worshipping at home.

We are extremely fortunate in having a diverse group of singers and instrumentalists who join us to take part in services. We would like to thank everyone who has contributed this year, and welcome anyone who wishes to join in leading the music, whether regularly or occasionally. We are also grateful for the excellent digital organ and baby grand piano and access to other instruments, and to those who help to maintain them. The continued support from musically-sympathetic clergy, all who help to lead music, and the wider congregation is also very welcome!

As always we are very appreciative of the talents of those who played the organ or piano for Sunday services and practices in 2024, including Martha Ann Brookes and Sarah Baker, and gratitude is also due to Kathy Ward for providing music at Wednesday morning services. Finally, our thanks to Chris Watts for his valuable input into the regular hymn-choosing sessions and for continuing to introduce us to interesting new songs.

Ben and Clare Noakes
Music Co-ordinators

Ramblers

Started in 2001 by Pam Coley and Gill Parkin, All Saints Ramblers continues to offer a range of occasional rambles to All Saints members and friends. It is now a little bit more ad hoc and last year we organised about eight rambles. All are welcome – last year saw 24 different people ramble with us. The distances have reduced to between five and six miles (due to older members) but it is wonderful to be out in the country, getting exercise and chatting to people as you negotiate a stile or kissing gate. If you are interested in joining speak to Des or Sheila Workman or Pam Coley.

Des Workman

Safeguarding and Child Protection

We are very grateful to Eira Jones for being our safeguarding co-ordinator through 2024. She has examined our policies regarding safeguarding and, with her professional eye, found them to be very sound. We held our annual cross-site safeguarding meeting in the spring; a new policy for the recruitment of ex-offenders was noted. Any safeguarding concerns shared with other agencies had been done so correctly. Eira gave notice that she would step down at the end of 2024; a new person is in the process of being appointed. David, the PCC and designated safeguarding leads of each company/group are very grateful indeed for Eira's support, reassurance and expertise.

David Warbrick

20s and 30s Small Group

A group of 20s and 30s have continued to meet on a Thursday evening each week. During Lent we started off with a pancake evening (of course!) then we did a weekly Lent course together called *The Hardest Part* by Kate Bowler. We have spent time worshipping together on a Sunday evening once a month, and are looking forward to seeing how we can continue to grow our community over the coming months.

Jake Bateson

Village Square Gardeners

The Village Square gardeners continue to meet on a Wednesday morning, generally between 10am and 1pm, to maintain the various flowerbeds and shrubs, and when necessary clear fallen leaves and dead branches from the various trees in the Square.

Additionally a small group headed by Don Stacey also maintains the remodelled Memorial Garden on the north side of the church.

We have had three more volunteers join the group including one person from the Youth Project who started initially on a work placement but now comes regularly.

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

Tony Cocks

Christian Aid Week

This year marks the 80th anniversary of Christian Aid, which started in 1945 after the Second World War. For 80 years it has shared the Gospel calling people to champion dignity, equality, justice and faith. All Saints has a proud tradition of supporting and promoting Christian Aid.

This year's Christian Aid Week runs from Sunday 11 to Saturday 17 May and its theme is '7 days to make a difference' – together we can beat extreme poverty.

We start off our fundraising and promotion at the Farmers' Market on Saturday 3 May with a stall and helping with Artsfest (those offering directions will be holding a Christian Aid donation tin – please offer to volunteer for a few hours).

We will have an envelope collection in church on Sunday 11 May

Bring your car along for a Christian Aid car wash by All Saints' young people on the Sunday morning.

On Saturday 21 June we will have a Christian Aid Quiz in the hall with a supper of baked potatoes with chilli (vegetarian) or cheese: the cost is £10 per adult (children £5).

Please support Christian Aid Week – if you can volunteer please speak to Des Workman on 0121 443 5292.

'The Scarborough of the Midlands'

Did you know? Earlswood Lakes were created 200 years ago to supply water to the Stratford-upon-Avon Canal BUT a hundred years ago they became a destination, called by one newspaper 'the Scarborough of the Midlands', with boats for hire on the lake, launches carrying passengers, fishing, woodland walks, tea rooms and other attractions. Visitors came by train, car and cycle to spend a pleasant day with many attractions.

Our own Jim Andrew will host one of his fascinating talks on Saturday 12 July at 3pm in the church and tell us all about how Earlswood Lakes were compared to a major seaside resort.

Admittance is just £5 including tea or coffee and cake; pay or the door or get your ticket on a Sunday morning in church or from the Village Square Café.

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

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

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	Vacant	
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

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.

Ministry to the sick: Visiting the sick at home or in hospital – please inform the Ministry Team of anyone who is sick. The Blessed Sacrament is reserved and oil is kept for ministry to the sick.

Ministry of healing: Laying-on of hands and anointing – last Saturday in the month at 9:15am as part of Morning Prayer, occasional Sunday evenings (as announced), and at home or in hospital as requested.

Communion of the sick: At home or in hospital, as requested, communion is taken, monthly, to the long-term sick or housebound.

Other ministries: For blessing of homes, celebrations of anniversaries, thanksgiving after childbirth, confession and counsel, please contact the Ministry Team.

Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Officers	Lay Vice Chair Martha Ann Brookes 0121 444 5655	Secretary Tony Cocks 0121 441 2945	Treasurer Steve Brittle 01905 772171
Members	Jim Andrew Margaret Andrew Sarah Baker Philip Brookes Tim Cuthbertson	Roger Drew Margaret Healey-Pollett (Reader) Brian Miles Vivien Thickett 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	office@allsaints-cdc.co.uk
Projects Co-ordinator	Andy Savage	c/o 0121 443 4579	andy@allsaints-cdc.co.uk
Facilities Manager	Nick Pearson	07352 970109	facilities@allsaints-cdc.co.uk
Administrator	Angela McDermott	0121 443 4579	angela@allsaints-cdc.co.uk
Hall & Room Bookings	Angela McDermott	0121 443 4579	angela@allsaints-cdc.co.uk

All Saints Community Projects (ASCP)

Chair	Mary Miles	0121 449 0851
All Saints Youth Project	Vicki Willinger	0121 443 1842

The Robin Centre for Older People

Centre Manager	Paula McGrath	0121 444 8111
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Ministry Team

Vicar	David Warbrick	vicar@allsaintschurchkh.org 0121 444 0260
Churchwardens	Vivien Thickett (interim) Vacant	c/o 0121 443 4579
Licensed Readers	Margaret Healey-Pollett Claire Wesley	c/o 0121 443 4579 0121 444 2778
Reader Emeritus	John Parkin	c/o 0121 443 4579
Pastoral Care Team	Juliet Bick, Becky Frall, Margaret Healey-Pollett, Wendy Ross, David Warbrick Jenny Warbrick, Des Workman	c/o 0121 444 0260
Safeguarding Co-ordinator	The Vicar	contact details as above
Prayer Circle	(for confidential prayer requests)	parishoffice@allsaintschurchkh.org 0121 444 0260

Worship

Sunday	08:00	Holy Communion (said)
	10:00	Parish Communion (sung) with Junior Church All Age Worship on the first Sunday of the month
	18:30	Evening service
Weekdays		Morning Prayer (09:30 Monday & Saturday; 09:15 Tuesday & Thursday)
	11:30	Holy Communion (Wednesday)

We continue to provide a weekly online order of service via the website and newsletter for those at home. Up-to-date information can be found at www.allsaintschurchkh.org.

All Saints Church, Kings Heath

2 Vicarage Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham B14 7RA

Administrator: Angela McDermott

Parish Office: 0121 443 4579

parishoffice@allsaintschurchkh.org

www.allsaintschurchkh.org



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND