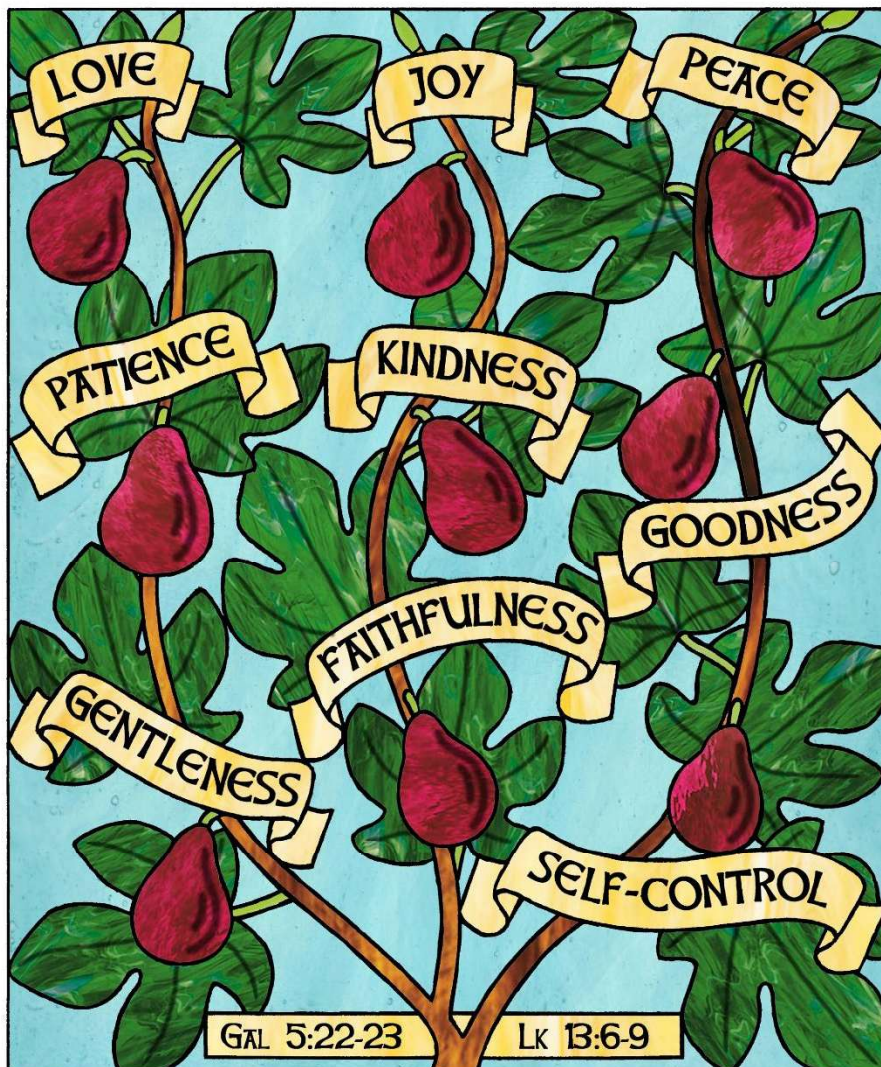


# *Saints Alive!*

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



June  
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](mailto:allsaintscommunitycatering@gmail.com) or come and see the bar staff any Friday evening.

## All Saints Café: Keeping music live



### Fridays in June

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

### Fridays in July

- 4th** Brumside Radio Open Mic
- 11th** Mad Moll
- 18th** Ingrid's Accordion Group  
and the Café Band
- 25th** Strings and Things

# ***From the vicarage***

Dear friends and neighbours,

I am a fiftysomething white Liverpoolian bloke. I am not afraid that crowds will march on my house and throw bricks through the window or that social media will spread hate about people like me on the grounds that a fiftysomething white Liverpoolian bloke drove into the crowds celebrating Liverpool FC's League victory in our city last weekend. It is bleakly comforting that, by publicising the ethnicity of the driver, such trouble was avoided. Last summer, of course, following the tragic Southport attack, there were such riots and destruction, fuelled by prejudice and fake righteousness.

The racist passive aggression of our society might hard to put your finger on – at least if you're a white bloke like me – but sometimes it becomes unquestionably tangible in a crisis such as this. But surely that passive aggression is felt every day; its unquantifiable hostility has to be managed every day by people on the receiving end; as ever, the wrong people bear the burden of it. We should not despair but from all our diverse ethnic and religious origins, we should be keen to grasp any opportunity to improve our language, clear our vision, learn how our voices sound to others and be curious about what gifts others' heritage brings us.

One opportunity for such language-checking and vision-clearing came when Mukti Barton published her book *Wrestling with Imperial Christianity* (DLT). I was disarmed and honoured to be asked to contribute reflections at her book launch. Here below is what I shared. I was also glad to be in conversation with Tariro about the Zimbabwean experience of liberation from the oppression of the British Empire and she shared her reflections on how tragically one oppression was replaced by another kind, compelling us to keep open the question of what follows liberation.

I commend Mukti's book to you, and encourage sharing stories, books, poems, resources that have helped you clear your vision, gain greater self-understanding or understanding of another's culture and experience. If the window cleaner has to call by the house every couple of months, surely the window cleaning of our society and our souls needs more urgent and regular attention.

**David**

## ***Naked soldiers***

***Book launch of Wrestling with Imperial Christianity by Mukti Barton,  
St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham, 22 June 2025***

*Is it just my odd imagination, or can anyone else see the naked soldier in Ephesians chapter 6? Imprisoned by Empire, St Paul strips his guard of armour and recasts the metallic defences and weapon, radically subverting their military violence, protecting himself with faith, salvation, truth, righteousness, and the Gospel of peace. How magnificent, funny, daring that sounds. How differently the text lands after the Constantinian conversion. How dangerously different the same verses sound being read without irony at the funeral of a British Prime Minister whose body arrived at the cathedral on a gun carriage.*

*St Paul's chosen sword is sharper than the guard's two-edged Roman sword: it is the penetrating Holy Spirit herself (see Hebrews 4:12). Mukti insists again and again that the Divine Wisdom, active in creation and ever since, inspiring wisdom warriors in every age, overwhelming man[sic]-made barriers of ethnicity, religion and class, is the One who alone can liberate us from adoring Mammon. We live as part of God's good creation, but constantly fixate on possession and loss, quickly idolising territory, or our own ethnicity, or material wealth, and even our very Christian faith itself. Mammon in essence does not exist. Like the eye of Sauron it is vacuous, empty. There is nothing there. It has potency only because we give it power when we turn God's good gifts, blessed materiality and priceless spiritual traditions into idols.*

*Hebrew Wisdom literature could seem like a cuddly sideshow in the swashbuckling Biblical narrative, marginalised by the big characters of Isaiah, Elijah, Jeremiah, Moses, David... a string of male names. Mukti firmly and correctly places Wisdom literature and the short, intense book of Ruth centre stage. The female figure of Divine Wisdom helps the wise reader of all the male-dominated texts discover they aren't so male after all. Sifting through layers of subsequent generations' interpretation and translation, Mukti reveals the effects of the whitening of scripture, the imposition of hierarchies in language that need not be there, and traces some of the historic abuses of empire these incremental habits have underwritten.*

*In doing so, Mukti does a very Godly thing: that is to hold the big picture and the small significant detail in view at the same time. For example, she makes the big-picture, cosmic assertion of our diversity, every colour and gender refracting the image of God. Correctly reading Genesis, it is a logical impossibility to insist that one ethnic group, or gender, or religion (she notes the anachronistic use of the term retrospectively) can be entitled to superiority over another.*

*Then, up close and in detail, she analyses the Hebrew terms we have constricted in translation. YHWH ends up male 'Lord', yet 'his' key characteristic of 'rachem', the divine mercy, has the same root as womb. If we habitually said the Lord Almighty shows womb love, then the male terminology would be transformed. 'Almighty' – Shaday – can be a high place, but having the same root as breast we picture a breast-shaped mountain. The climax of Jacob's blessing for his sons is 'promising God's blessings of the breast and of the womb'. If among the 48 times it appears in the Bible we even sometimes translated Shaday 'breast-love' or blessing of the breast, then the tone of our worship and the pattern of our ethics formed through the habits of worship would be radically different.*

*As a white middle-class bloke who attended a slave-owner's school, I am humbled yet excited by the immersive experience of reading this book, and being taught to wrestle with the contradiction in terms which is Imperial Christianity. The shrill and often dangerous reactions to, say, Corinne Fowler's Green Unpleasant Land is from people who are terrified that someone is coming to take things off them: a classic Mammonic state of mind, as Mukti shows. But as I read and delve with Mukti's sharp eye, I do not experience loss, except, perhaps, a helpful loss of pride and entitlement. I feel breathy excitement; I see ever greater richness; I feel liberated. It's important to say, Mukti has not taken the words 'Lord' or 'Almighty' off us, if we still want to use them. Rather, she has displayed, prism-like, the fascinating and beautiful spectrum of meanings in the Hebrew and Greek and called out the dangers if we only use those terms. Perhaps I am more in the category of oppressors liberated from*

*the evil eye than I am of oppressed liberated from another's power, but as Mukti takes me through the book of Ruth, or Genesis, or the Epistles, I am not losing anything except privilege. I am gaining nuance, insight, and dare I say it, I am being led by her into a place where I have a slim chance of gaining wisdom. Like those who illogically fear that gay people enjoying marriage somehow takes away something from straight people enjoying marriage, when it's exactly the opposite, there is only gain for all of us in the richness, the liberation, the nuance and fresh exploration. Mukti, and indeed the Spirit, give us far more than is being deconstructed.*

*Speaking as an Anglican, we are in a cathedral; I serve our neighbourhood from a Victorian parish church. But we are part of a network that redistributes wealth across the diocese, and I feel, as Anglicans, we may have something timely to offer if we can recover pre-Constantinian courage and humility. We do have all this kit and parochial obligation. We are locally exploring how to make the problematic buildings and baggage turn surprisingly into blessing and grace. We emerge from recent crises deeply humbled. Maybe it's a good time to be an Anglican serving in Birmingham – not claiming any superiority in the nonconformist and multifaith city, but asking: How are we to live and minister as Anglicans with the clarity of vision you offer us?*

*Mukti provides an amazing array of language and resets our Biblical confidence. Absorbing her book, ideas and way of seeing, I see two cautions. One is, we must be careful how we express ourselves. It would be very easy to sound as if we are a superior sect and the rest of the world is materialistic; what people might hear is a rerun of the tiresome self-righteous 'true meaning of Christmas' sermons. Mukti offers something radically different from that, but in making it our own, we must not risk sounding like that.*

*The second thing is to wonder what we liberate each other to. The Zimbabwean experience is a warning. Justice is not a high standard. It looks like it when you haven't got it, but it's a low standard. It is mere fairness. What lies beyond in God's realm is grace. What does grace, which is better and more overwhelming than fairness, look like in the 21st century? Justice, in other words, is not a destination but a beginning.*

## ***Grace supporting All Saints' ministry***

We are grateful for and moved by every financial gift given to sustain All Saints, from regular giving among the congregation to spontaneous gifts from visitors. We always remember Jesus' noticing how great was the widow's gift of some copper coins. We cherish all gifts as grace.

Ken Mason, whose ashes were buried here this month, used to sing in the choir in the time of Clifford Beech. He has left £1,000 to All Saints in his will, for which we give warmest thanks.

This month, someone left an anonymous gift of £500 in Church. We cannot, of course, trace them, and respect their privacy, but the PCC and David want to acknowledge the gift publicly in case they read our magazine or *Outlook*. We are humbled by their humility.

# Kings Heath Artsfest

*On 3 & 4 May the All Saints campus played host to Kings Heath Artsfest – below is a message from the organisers, along with some photos of the weekend kindly sent to us by Angela McDermott and Marion Wilson.*

A huge thank you to everyone who collaborated, supported, or simply turned up to Kings Heath Artsfest – what a wonderful event!

Special thanks to the amazing Artsfest team: Andy, Angela, Nuala, Scarlett, Nick, Dave and Ewa – and their families and friends – for volunteering and helping to run the event!

Shoutouts to:

- CircusMASH for an excellent performance.
- All Saints Youth Project, The Robin Centre and Parks for Play for their incredible support.

We're also incredibly grateful for everyone's patience over the past 12 months while building works were in progress.

A heartfelt thank you to the wonderful team at All Saints Church for their WWII in Kings Heath display – truly memorable.

There are so many people to thank – apologies if we've missed anyone. We appreciate you all!







## ***From the archives: Good news!***

Many of you will have attended the VE Day events the Archive Group arranged, including the most interesting exhibition and talk by Ian Binnie. For the Kings Heath Artsfest, Marion Wilson mounted a revealing exhibition showing how our church building and campus have changed and developed since 1860. This is still on display and we intend to find a permanent display place for this as a reminder of our heritage.

All Saints has always aimed to be responsive to local needs, and sees its role as an active member of the community, here for all. These, and the other successful exhibitions we have mounted over the past year, have encouraged many people to come into the church, an appreciable number of whom had never visited before, this despite their family connections and celebrations taking place here in previous generations. It is good to see so many people come and enjoy the space, as well as the events themselves, and we intend to continue to grow this interest through discovery of our shared history.





We are delighted to have received an anonymous donation towards our future efforts, and this has enabled us to acquire a much-needed laptop! This is vital in our development in creating a digital inventory of the material we have, which will enable us to search and identify specific items far more effectively. We can store photographs and visual images without the need to handle them, thus better preserving the originals. We can also store recorded interviews, and transcripts of these, from those of our number who have generously revealed their memories and stories of wartime and church life. We have obtained a digital voice recorder to this end as well; so, many thanks to our greatly-appreciated benefactor! We will continue to fundraise as there are digital storage issues that we need to resolve.

To that end, the Crafters had kindly funded us in providing a separate storage cupboard for the servers' vestments, so that we can extend the area we have for our cramped boxes and files. This will allow for easier and safer access when conducting research, and scope for adding more valuable items to our collection.

Further good news is that we will welcome two undergraduate history students from University of Birmingham, who will each spend 70 hours working with us over the coming summer months. This additional effort will greatly assist in developing a spreadsheet for our inventory; inputting the data of our material; transcribing and editing oral interviews; and researching material for ideas for future exhibitions. Eleanor and Tabitha start in June; please say hello if you see them around the campus.

Our next exhibition is planned for Birmingham Heritage Week in September, so please watch this space!

**Vivien Thickett**

*Photographs from Marion Wilson and Benjamin Noakes*

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

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



As well as the exhibition, the VE Day anniversary was marked at All Saints with prayers at the War Memorial at 6pm, joining the nation in ringing the church bell at 6.30pm, and lighting the beacon at 9pm.

# ***Around the campus***

*There is so much happening on or near to the church campus each day of every week, and it is interesting to find out a bit more about the different activities that make up part of life at All Saints. Thanks to Des Workman who this month provides details below of a couple of forthcoming events.*

Come along to a **Christian Aid Quiz** in the church hall at 7pm on Saturday 21 June!

New quizmasters this year, Jake, Tom, Charlotte, Heather and friends, bring you a fun evening to challenge your memory, skills and knowledge.

Teams of up to six – don't worry if you are on your own, we can find you a team to play with. Prizes for the winning teams!

Tickets on sale on every Sunday morning or on the door, or phone Des on 0121 443 5292 – just £10 per person (children £5), to include a supper of baked potatoes with vegetarian chilli or cheese.

All profits go to Christian Aid – finish our Christian Aid collecting with a fun Saturday evening.



## ***'The Scarborough of the Midlands'***

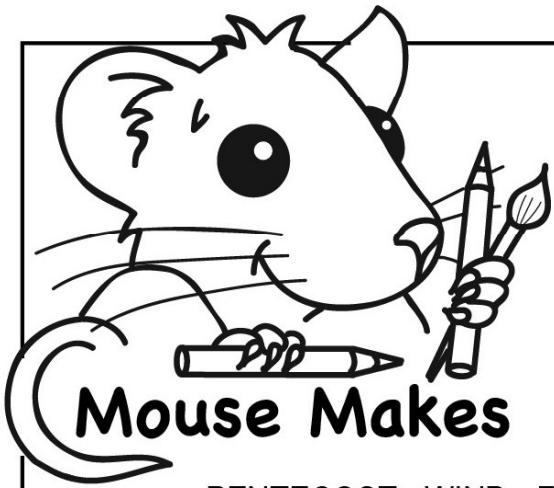
Did you know? Earlswood Lakes were created 200 years ago to supply water to the Stratford-upon-Avon Canal BUT a hundred years ago they became a destination, called by one newspaper 'the Scarborough of the Midlands', with boats for hire on the lake, launches carrying passengers, fishing, woodland walks, 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.

# ***From the registers***

	<p><b>We remember:</b> Joan Margaret Szczepanska, whose funeral took place at All Saints Church on 2 May</p>
	<p><b>We remember:</b> Kenneth Mason, whose ashes were buried in the Memorial Garden on 17 May</p>



# Mouse Makes

- PENTECOST • WIND • FIRE
- HOLY • SPIRIT • TONGUES • RESTED
- JERUSALEM • JEWS • GALILEANS
- HEAR • LANGUAGE • ARAMAIC • GREEK
- HEBREW • PARTHIANS • MEDES
- ELAMITES • MESOPOTAMIA
- JUDEA • CAPPADOCIA • PONTUS
- ASIA • PHRYGIA • PAMPHYLIA
- EGYPT • LIBYA • CYRENE
- ROME • CRETANS
- ARABIANS • GOD



READ  
Acts  
2:1- 41

It was fifty days since **Passover**, and Jews from many countries had come to **Jerusalem** to celebrate Passover. As the **Apostles** were gathered together the **Holy Spirit** came upon them and they began to speak in other **languages** as the Spirit enabled them. The crowd that were listening were amazed as they heard about God in their own language. *How many people heard, believed and were baptised that day?*

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
The Bible or parts of the Bible have now been translated into over 3,000 different languages since it was first written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.

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

# ***Appreciating the Memorial Garden***

A sunny summer will hopefully offer opportunity to appreciate the tranquil oasis of the Memorial Garden after Sunday Eucharist. The area has achieved its objective of being 'a garden of beauty for the repose of the dead and a place of quiet contemplation' and offers a special place to gather after the service.

The archives inform us of interments here since 1978 but it was not until 2010 that determined efforts to improve the aesthetics of the area began, as part of the Village Square development. Initially there were insufficient funds to deliver the plan but willing volunteers and generous donations finally achieved the first stage of improvements in 2014. The changes had to be approved by the Diocesan Advisory Committee and the Victorian Society, among others with a planning interest. Huge gratitude is owed to those who pursued the vision and literally laid the foundations of this beautiful resting place.

Work has progressed since 2016 as funds have allowed. Fresh planting continues and paths have been improved, resurfaced and edged with blue brick. The lawn has also been extended to provide space for interment of a further 156 people's ashes, bringing the total capacity to around 300 plots.

For the past decade the garden has benefited from the devotion of Don Stacey and his considerable gardening expertise. For those who have relatives interred here the Garden is a particularly special place to reflect and remember. The foresight of those who created it and Don's continuing careful stewardship is very much appreciated.

## **Marion Wilson**



*This is one of two large planters donated by All Saints Community Arts.*

*Lindsey and Ted Hammond recently replanted this in memory of Lindsey and Rosslyn's father, Ron Hart.*



*Don Stacey preparing to carefully relocate a hollyhock which had outgrown its space in the second large planter. The planter has now been replanted with an acer surrounded by dahlias to match the other one.*



*The photo on the right then shows Don and Marion with the pot after replanting.*

# *Blessing the newly-completed All Saints Centre*

On 9 October 1997, all members of All Saints were invited to attend a Reordering Conference to discuss how the whole church site could be redeveloped to 'serve more fully the purposes laid down in our Statement of Values'. The ambition was to do more to support the local community and form beneficial active partnerships. The event spawned ambitious ideas, scepticism, daunting fundraising and planning obstacles but, most importantly, a vision for the future. Led by The Revd John Wilkinson, a determined team formed to pursue the challenge. It would have been difficult at that time to contemplate quite how long it would take and how much resilience would be required.



28 years later, on Sunday 4 May 2025, All Saints was delighted to welcome Esther, Bishop of Aston to bless our community and the newly-extended All Saints Centre. The formal opening marked a rededication to serve and tend Kings Heath by the people of All Saints. The delivery of the final part of the Centre is the result of years of relentless planning and fundraising by a committed group of staff and many volunteers. The completion of the plan is testament to the resilient strength of the All Saints community and its desire to offer appropriate facilities and support to the people of Kings Heath. All those who have been involved should be proud of their huge achievement.





Bishop Esther was clearly delighted to attend the rededication, her 'first gig' after having been installed the previous day. The Bishop presided over communion and then the congregation processed from the church to the Centre, surprising some early visitors to Sunday's successful



Artsfest. The atmosphere on the Square changed markedly to a respectful hush during prayers as Bishop Esther blessed the Café and sprinkled holy water at its entrance. The procession moved on through the Centre to Feet First, the Young People's Centre, CircusMASH and then The Robin Centre. Each area was blessed, prayers were said and flowers given to a representative of the group. Prayers concluded in the courtyard before an opportunity to relax and celebrate over coffee and homemade scones in the newly-created 'Garden Room'

and to congratulate those who had made this happen. This was a joyous day and an important landmark in the history of All Saints, 165 years after the foundation stone was laid. What next... the reordering of the church? All Saints' life never stands still.

**Marion Wilson**



*Photographs from Marion Wilson and Angela McDermott*

# ***From the PCC***

Since the last issue of *Saints Alive!*, which included reports from all the various organisations in the church in advance of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), there has been the APCM itself and one Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting.

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)**

**Introduction:** The annual meeting was held in the church on Sunday 11 May 2025 after the 10am service. It was well attended with some 40 attendees.

The agenda for the meeting and the reports from the various groups and organisations numbering some 21 had previously been published in the May edition of *Saints Alive!* and so were available for all to read.

The proceedings commenced with a short vestry meeting as scheduled to appoint churchwardens but there were, however, no new candidates.

Vivien Thickett, the churchwarden for the past year, had decided to retire from the post. David, our vicar, thanked her very much for taking up the role initially while he was on a three-month sabbatical. This not only satisfied legal requirements while he was away but was a great support to Tariro, our curate at the time, as well as providing the church with a warden. Vivien's continuing in the role since David's return in September to date was very much appreciated.

The main meeting then continued with a prayer given by the vicar.

This was followed by the customary apologies, and review and approval of the minutes of the previous APCM held in April 2024.

**Electoral roll:** This was followed by an update from the electoral roll officer, Tony Cocks. He reported that every six years the diocese requires a new roll to be made, and this is that year. He said that he had developed the new roll by asking as many people as he could contact on the old roll if they would be happy to be on the new roll. The number on the electoral roll at the previous meeting in 2024 was 199. However, during the period sadly a few people had died, some had left the church, and he had not been able to contact some; but on the positive side there had been 17 new people who had agreed to be on the roll with the result that it now stood at 180 persons.

**Elections:** This was followed by the very welcome election of various officers and individuals including re-election of one person to the PCC as he had completed three years, Daniel Wilson. Brian Miles, a member of the PCC who had now also completed three years since last being elected, has decided not to stand again for the time being. He was thanked for his long and dedicated service having been a very active and thoughtful member over many years.

This means that the current number of persons on the PCC is 16, comprising seven clergy and co-opted members and nine lay members. Based on the current numbers on the electoral roll a maximum of 12 lay members are permitted so there is scope for additional members should any reader feel so inclined.

**Election of churchwardens:** To date there has been nobody coming forward to take on the role of churchwarden following Vivien's resignation at the meeting despite a concerted effort by David, Vivien and former wardens.

**Report on the proceedings of Deanery Synod:** Margaret Andrew, one of the Deanery Synod representatives, was thanked for her report. There were no comments or questions.

**Elections to Deanery Synod:** There are currently two vacancies for this role. No candidates came forward at the meeting.

**Finance – PCC main account:**

General: Our treasurer, Steve Brittle, commenced by reporting on the highlights of the final audited account for 2024.

Income and Expenditure: He explained that overall, the expenditure had been circa £151K and income circa £148K which resulted in an overall deficit of £3.7K.

He said that the cost of utilities had been particularly high and there had been some significant expenditure on essential repairs to the heating system. This had also included expenditure on having asbestos lagging to heating pipes removed before the heating repairs could be completed.

Regular giving: The treasurer reported that regular giving for 2024 had been similar to the previous year and it was evident that it would be necessary to request the congregation to review their regular giving to the church. He had had to reduce the amount donated to good causes until such time that there are sufficient funds available to return the amount given to its former level, hopefully later in the year.

Current accounts: The treasurer reported that there is money in both church current accounts, HSBC and Lloyds, of which HSBC is the main account and Lloyds is the original church account. Although he has been considering closing the Lloyds account, it is useful for paying in church collection cash as HSBC does not have this facility in Kings Heath anymore.

General Purpose Fund: There are three items, viz two creditors and the Memorial Garden fund. The creditors are the Vicar's Discretionary Fund and the amount collected for the Christmas charities not as yet distributed at the time of the account period. It was commented on the excellent job that Don Stacey and his team are doing maintaining the Memorial Garden on the north side of the church. There is some surplus in this account at the moment.

Overall net worth: The treasurer indicated that that overall, at the end of 2024, the church balance net worth was circa £202K, but as reported previously did include the as yet unpaid long-term loan to the Development Company of circa £170K. This was interest free and it is unlikely that any will be repaid in the foreseeable future.

Auditing of the account: He finished by saying that the final account for 2024 had been audited by the regular auditor, William Anthony Friel (preferred name Tony Friel), and has been generally found to be sound.

**Discussion:** Discussion took place regarding regular giving in that there is some evidence from other churches that when giving is preached about regular giving can increase. However, another view was that this was not spiritually appropriate and awareness was of circumstances where a newcomer to the church had been completely put off coming again when preached about giving to the church. The vicar added that people outside the church are often unaware that the church runs on voluntary giving and there is no government assistance or the like. He also said that in the past he may have mentioned giving in a newsletter. The treasurer added that annual parish giving prompts cause donors to consider reviewing their giving. People's circumstances often change which can have an impact on the amounts that they are able to donate at any particular time.

**Lunch Club account:** David thanked all who run the Lunch Club. There were no questions or comments regarding the Lunch Club account.

**Election of auditor:** The treasurer said that Tony Friel, the current auditor of the church accounts, was happy to continue. He was nominated and accepted for re-election.

**Churchwarden's report:** David thanked Vivien Thickett for her report and said that he was greatly thankful that she had taken up the role, particularly while he was on sabbatical. She had an eye for detail and he found her support uplifting.

**Election of sidespersons:** David thanked all the sidespersons for their help over the year. He was pleased to announce that a further two persons, Ruth and David Harvey had agreed to join the team.

**Overview of reports:** For the remainder of the meeting, the vicar focused on all the various reports provided by the various groups and organisations expressing his thanks for all the hard work that everyone involved contributes to this very rich environment, commenting on the salient aspects of each and fielding any comments as they arose.

Points of particular note raised were as follows:

**Vicar's report:** David commented that that for many years he had felt that he was working next to a building site. There was always something to get used to while the various building projects on the site were taking place. Now, at last, now that the new Centre development was complete, much credit must go to All Saints Community Development Company (ASCDC) led by Sarah Wilson and the work managed by Andy Savage. The new developments could now be enjoyed and he was looking forward to the next phase relating to the reordering of the church.

**Report from the Pastoral Team:** David thanked the Pastoral Team members and added that they make an excellent team. He commented that he thought that they were the youngest team in the diocese and many had day jobs.

#### **Reports from the committees of the PCC:**

**Children's Committee:** Grace Storey, the leader of the children's worship, provided a short report to the meeting. She said that she was pleased to announce that Sarah Jeffrey had now joined her as a co-ordinator for which she was very grateful and was looking forward to working with her.

The children's group has continued to meet over the past year during school termtime. There are currently approximately nine children in the group which is relatively stable but she would like to grow the numbers. There is a sustainable number of other helpers but the arrangement is relatively fragile.

Following her report, she was asked if the children might be returning to the 10am service at the beginning and the end as was the case until recently as they are missed. Grace commented that she was hoping that this would start again once the practicalities of safeguarding etc had been finalised.

David thanked Grace and her helpers for all their hard and imaginative work in this essential part of church life.

Justice, Peace and Green Group: David thanked the Daniel Wilson as leader of the group for maintaining the impetus on environmental, political and economic matters as they are a relatively small group. He said that they would benefit from new members to maintain their impetus in this important aspect of church life.

Social and Fundraising Committee: David thanked Des Workman for all his initiative and energy and the team for all their work over the year.

Youth Management Committee: David thanked Mary Miles for her report on the Youth Management Committee and Youth Group.

Mary thanked ASCDC for providing them with modern new premises and for the additional funding to support new staff. She thanked Jenny Warbrick for providing a Youth Group report for incorporation in the Youth Management Committee report and for all her assistance in providing a strong link between the Youth Group and the Youth Project on the Management Committee. David thanked Brenda Inman for all the work she is doing to support the Youth Project as chair of the Management Committee.

#### **Reports from the companies:**

All Saints Community Arts (ASCA): David thanked Vivien Thickett, leader of ASCA, and her team for her report and for their skill in putting together the excellent archive displays of the 'Development of the Church since its inception in 1860' and for the 'VE80 Day and the Impact of WWII on Kings Heath' exhibition and talk in the church.

All Saints Community Catering (ASCC): Margaret Healey-Pollett as chair of ASCC was not available to attend the APCM. Tony Cocks relayed at her request a message he had received from her that they will be winding the Society down and will cease all trading at the end of June 2025.

All Saints Community Development Company (ASCDC): David congratulated the directors of ASCDC who have been relentless in progressing the extension to the facilities on the site. After a long and determined effort they have successfully managed to complete the development of the Youth Centre, The Robin Centre and incorporation of CircusMASH in the refurbished old church hall as a permanent arrangement for the foreseeable future.

He particularly thanked Sarah Wilson as chair and Andy Savage as overall manager of the development for all their hard and committed work.

All Saints Community Projects (ASCP): David thanked all involved in this very important organisation whose function is mainly to oversee the activities of the Youth Project. It is impressive the number of external organisations that ASCP deal with in fulfilling this mission. He found the case studies in the report particularly moving. He referred to the very sad death of one of the young people, Olly Price, and how this had had such a profound and moving effect on the other young people in the group.

He congratulated Pat Buckley for her excellent work over many years, at least 20 years, who has decided to stand down from the project. She has brought much to the project over the years.

The Robin Centre: David Ritchie, one of the board members, thanked everyone involved for providing them with excellent new premises to serve the people who attend. David thanked the Robin Centre team for all their adaptability during the building work for the new development.

**Other reports:**

All Saints Players: David thanked the Players for their report and said that once again they continue to provide excellent entertainment for all.

Coffee Team: David thanked the team for continuing to provide excellent refreshments at the services and on other occasions and particularly Lindsay and Ted Hammond for their thoughtful and effective management of this welcome activity.

Crafters: David thanked the whole team for all their hard work and commented on how much money they manage to make to support church projects and initiatives from selling such excellent jam.

Lunch Club: David reported that Liz Turner who has been running the Club so well for many years has decided to retire in the Summer. He thanked Liz for her gracious hosting and all who run the Lunch Club for keeping this essential community activity going. The Club has been running for some 60 years. He said that Liz was in conversation with Sarah Wilson to discuss how the Club can be continued.

Magazine: David commented that it was amazing where Ben and Clare Noakes get the energy from to manage the production of the magazine so well in addition to all the other things that they are involved in.

Meditation Group: David thanked Daniel Wilson for his report and commented that it is pleasing that the group provides an opportunity for quiet reflection in a busy world.

Music: David thanked Ben and Clare for leading the music and all the singers and musicians who also contribute. He is deeply thankful that they can consistently be relied upon to provide a good support for the services. He also thanked Jake and Charlotte for their support in the evening services.

Ramblers: David thanked Des Workman for continuing with this and that it was a great opportunity for friendship between church members and also non-church members.

Safeguarding and Child Protection: David thanked Eira Jones for her essential work while she was safeguarding co-ordinator mainly in 2024 and Vicki Willinger for her work as DBS verifier. Both have now retired from their posts. He said that he has interviewed and appointed a successor to cover both activities who would be starting shortly, and who would cover the requirements for the church and the whole Centre.

20s and 30s Small Group: David thanked Jake and Heather for leading this group and commented that it was gratifying to have young people and newcomers active in the church.

Village Square Gardeners: David thanked the gardening team for maintaining the various shrubs and flower beds in the Square. Their activities helped to provide pleasing flowers and seasonal colour to the area. The results of their labours had a wide impact on the community, not only members of the Church but also non-church members.

**Vote of thanks:** Vivien Thickett gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the whole congregation for all David's hard work as the vicar of the church. Vivien commented that before David went away on his sabbatical for about three months he said that it would give an opportunity for both the congregation and David to consider whether he is the right person for the next ten years at All Saints, having been in place for the last 15 years, or is a change of vicar required? Vivien said that on behalf of the congregation, she thought that she spoke for everyone that we were very pleased that he had decided to stay on and looked forward to his continuing as vicar for the foreseeable future.

The meeting finished after about 75 minutes with the Grace.

### **PCC Meeting**

A PCC meeting was held in the church on 20 May 2025. At the meeting, discussion included the following which may be of interest to readers:

#### **Finance:**

Current financial situation: The treasurer was not available to attend the meeting but provided in advance of the meeting a copy of the income and expenditure assessment, the balance sheet and the average planned giving assessment for 2025 to the end of April.

In summary of his report, expenditure and income to the end of April 2025 was circa £45.7K and £47.4K respectively; average monthly giving for the last 12 months compared with the average for the previous 12 months was unfortunately less at minus £135; overall the church balance net worth was circa £204K.

Diocesan support: David commented that he would like to be able to contribute more to support the diocese (a gift of grace, as he put it), particularly as our Common Fund giving is on the lower limit. He asked the PCC to consider this as a possibility should church finances in the future permit.

#### **Safeguarding:**

DBS verifier/safeguarding co-ordinator: David was pleased to report that he had recently interviewed a Mr Paul Collins for the posts of DBS verifier and safeguarding co-ordinator and Paul had agreed to take on the roles. Paul and his wife are now regular attendees at church services. Paul would be paid nominally three hours per week. Paul has previous experience with the duties required in these roles.

Safeguarding contact: Paul would be undertaking the necessary diocesan online training and would hold the safeguarding computer and contact mobile phone. He would also provide reports to PCC meetings and attend Standing Committee meetings.

Incidents: David said that he was pleased to report that there had been no incidents since the last PCC meeting in March.

### **Churchwarden's report on archdeacon's visitation:**

Vivien had had a recent meeting with the archdeacon and various matters were discussed.

The following are points that Vivien drew attention to in the PCC meeting:

Parish Dashboard: The matter of whether all actions had been completed in the Parish Dashboard was discussed. The document status will be reviewed once the new safeguarding co-ordinator is in place.

Churchwarden appointment: Vivien comment on the difficulty of finding suitable volunteers to take on the role of churchwarden. The Archdeacon had suggested that apportioning various responsibilities to other people such as completing the annual inventory was a way of reducing the workload of a warden.

Possible candidate: David said that he had found one person who had expressed interest in undertaking the role of churchwarden and was due to meet him shortly. The person had been a PCC member of a church in the past and has also had experience of youth work.

Deputies: One suggestion was to bring back the role of deputy churchwarden and identify suitable persons to take up this role. It was a more gentle way of introducing a person to what is required as a churchwarden.

### **Reordering Group:**

Discussion took place regarding suitable people to join a group to progress the project in the various roles. David said that he had been in conversation with Mary Gaskill, a member of the church and an architect by profession, to ascertain whether she would be prepared to chair this group; a reply was awaited.

Original drawings: Vivien was pleased to be able to report that she had discovered the drawings of the original proposals on a CD which would help in developing the new proposals.

**Cracks In stonework – north porch:** A recent structural inspection had recommended further investigation to establish if the ground at formation level is soft and possibly contributing to the apparent movement of the porch.

Discussion took place regarding these recommendations and whether further historic research should be done first to establish whether it was a long-term problem or whether it was a short-term problem. Previous quinquennial inspections to be examined to see if this had been raised as an issue to enable a decision to be made as to the best way forward.

### **Security/safety:**

CCTV: It was agreed that it would be an advantage if the Centre CCTV security system was extended to cover the church at strategic locations. The feasibility and likely cost to be discussed with ASCDC.

Mesh on windows: It was agreed that security mesh on some windows would possibly deter intruders, particularly the window at the east end of the church. Further investigation to be undertaken to establish availability and cost.

Sunday evening services: David said that where there would be only one official in attendance at a Sunday evening service that he would cancel the service on safeguarding grounds, as a recent incident where he was on his own had made him uneasy.

Training for welcomers: The safety of welcomers from unwelcome individuals was discussed. It was agreed that some form of training would be an advantage. The matter to be discussed in more detail at the next PCC meeting in July.

**Thank-you meal:** David said that he would like to offer all the key people and their partners involved in the completion of the new Centre development a thank-you meal at the vicarage. He requested approval of the idea and associated likely cost from the PCC. All agreed with this proposal.

#### **Future Meetings:**

These are scheduled as follows:

APCM: April 2026.

Standing Committee meetings: 17 June, 21 October, 9 December 2025; 17 February, 23 April 2026.

PCC meetings: 8 July, 16 September, 18 November 2025; 20 January, 17 March, 19 May 2026.

**Tony Cocks**  
**PCC Secretary**

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

We are always pleased to receive contributions for the magazine – including reports and reflections, reviews and recommendations, *Getting to know you* interviews (questions in the November 2024 issue) and hearing about activity across the church campus and beyond.

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

If you have any comments, suggestions, ideas for articles or would like to submit something for inclusion in a future issue, please contact **Ben & Clare Noakes, Editors:**

**E: [magazine@allsaintschurchkh.org](mailto:magazine@allsaintschurchkh.org)**

**T: 07967 730156 / 07929 593097**

# Accessing and paying for the magazine

The *Saints Alive!* magazine is available in digital form on the All Saints website at <https://allsaintschurchkh.org/about-us/publications>, with hard copies available to pick up from the back of church each month. The suggested donation for each issue is £1, but cost should not be a barrier to anyone in the church reading the magazine in either online or printed form. Cash donations can continue to be made via the slot at the back of church; alternatively a standing order can be set up to pay in advance for a year's-worth (10 issues) of the magazine – please see the form below – or a cheque made payable to All Saints Kings Heath PCC can be sent to the Parish Office (address is on the back page). The form gives the individual the ability for their payment to go towards one of three areas – please select the General Purpose Fund (GPF) and delete the other two. The church's Charity Commission Number is 1145723. Finally, if you or someone you know would like a copy of the magazine posting out each month then please contact us as below to arrange this.

**Ben & Clare Noakes**  
Editors

[magazine@allsaintschurchkh.org](mailto:magazine@allsaintschurchkh.org)  
07967 730156 / 07929 593097

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If you have any problems or questions about setting this up, or the church's finances in general, please contact Steve Brittle, Treasurer on 01905 772171 or [zena\\_steveb@btinternet.com](mailto:zena_steveb@btinternet.com).

# High days and holy days

## 25 May – The Venerable Bede

The Venerable Bede was an outstanding scholar who accomplished several ‘firsts’. He was the first historian to date events from the birth of Christ. He was the first person to write scholarly works in the English language. And, of course, his world-famous, magisterial *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, completed in 731, is still in print today.

Bede was born in about 673 and sent as a child to Wearmouth monastery, and then later transferred to the monastery at Jarrow. His was a quiet life: he probably never travelled further than Lindisfarne to the north, and York to the south. In about 692 Bede was ordained deacon and then, around 703, he was priested.

Bede once described his own life thus: ‘I have devoted my energies to a study of the Scriptures, observing monastic discipline, and singing the daily services in church: study, teaching and writing have always been my delight.’ It sounds unremarkable, but Bede’s fruitfulness has been extravagant: his writings have informed and influenced millions of people over 14 centuries.

As a theologian, Bede translated the Gospel of John into Old English, completing it on the very day that he died. He also wrote commentaries on various books of the Bible.

But Bede’s outstanding gift was as an historian. His *Ecclesiastical History of the English People* is one of the most important sources that we have for understanding early English history. Bede was scrupulous in his use of sources, clearly identifying them. He also was careful to distinguish between fact, hearsay and legend. He had a healthy scepticism, and certainly did not believe that everything he was told was necessarily true.

His *Ecclesiastical History* tells the history of Britain up to the year 729. It starts with the story of the Celtic peoples, who converted to Christianity in the first three centuries after the death of Christ. Bede then moves on to the invasion of Britain by the pagan Anglo-Saxons, in the 5th and 6th centuries. They themselves were in turn converted by Celtic missionaries from the north and the west, and by Roman missionaries coming up from the south and the east.

Bede himself lived during the time of the Anglo-Saxon Church, and was a wise observer of its various problems. He urged that episcopal visitations, confirmations and Holy Communions should be held more frequently – for the good of the Church.

## 21 June – Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year

June is the month of the summer solstice, the month of the Sun. *Sol + stice* come from two Latin words meaning ‘sun’ and ‘to stand still’. As the days lengthen, the sun rises higher and higher until it seems to stand still in the sky. The Summer Solstice results in the longest day and the shortest night of the year the Northern Hemisphere celebrates in June and the Southern Hemisphere celebrates in December.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### ***Parochial Church Council (PCC)***

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

### ***All Saints Community Projects (ASCP)***

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

### ***The Robin Centre for Older People***

Centre Manager	Paula McGrath	0121 444 8111
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# Ministry Team

Vicar	David Warbrick	<a href="mailto:vicar@allsaintschurchkh.org">vicar@allsaintschurchkh.org</a> 0121 444 0260
Churchwardens	Vacant Vacant	
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)	<a href="mailto:parishoffice@allsaintschurchkh.org">parishoffice@allsaintschurchkh.org</a> 0121 444 0260

## Worship

<b>Sunday</b>	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
<b>Weekdays</b>		Morning Prayer (09:30 Monday & Saturday; 09:15 Tuesday & Thursday)
	11:30	Holy Communion (Wednesday)

### **All Saints Church, Kings Heath**

2 Vicarage Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham B14 7RA

Administrator: Angela McDermott

Parish Office: 0121 443 4579

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

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



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