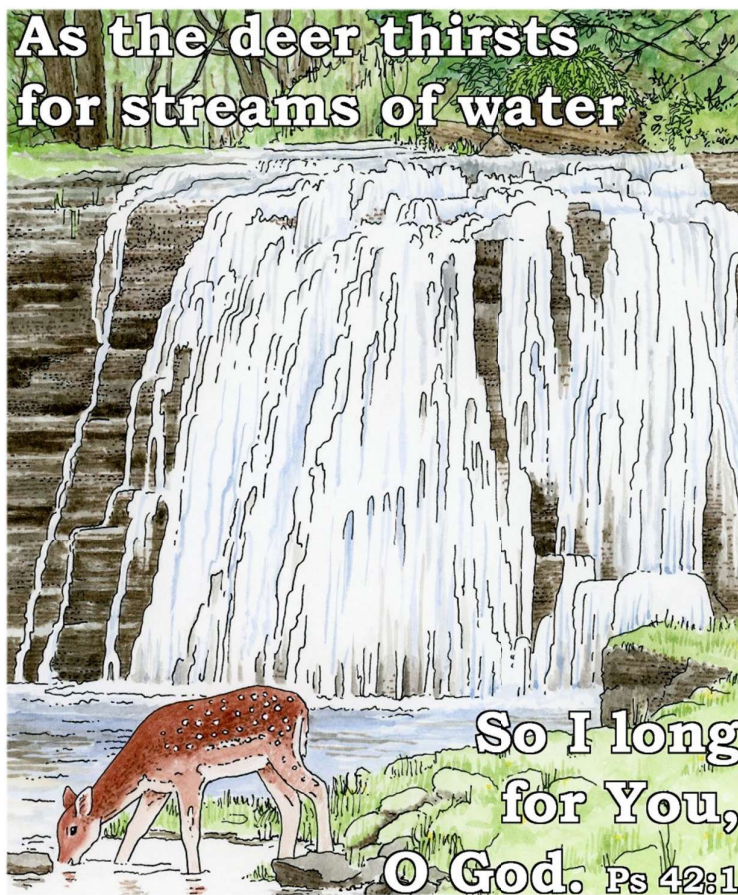


Saints Alive!

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



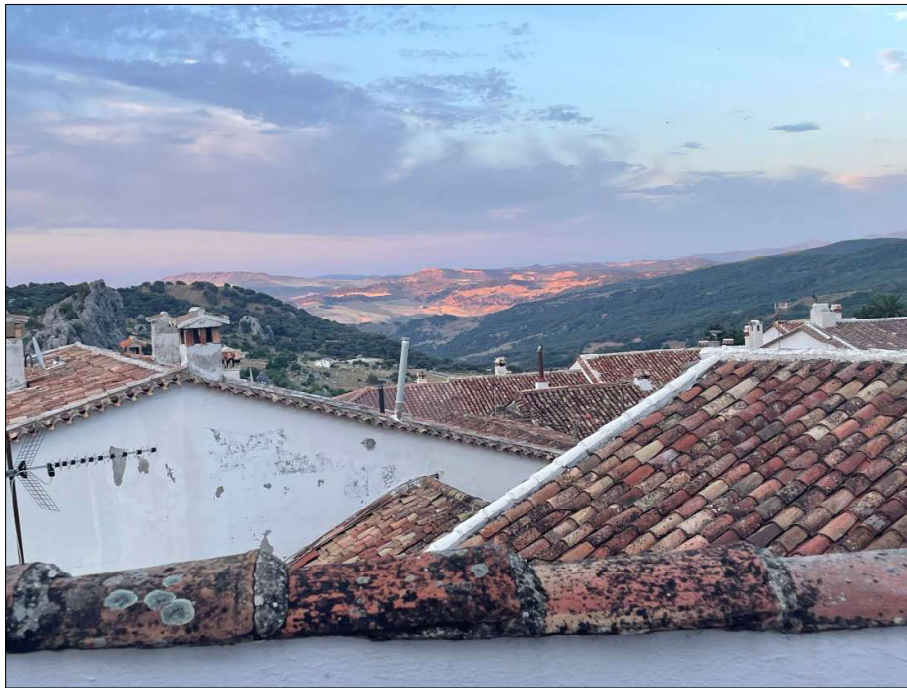
July &
August 2025



£1
(suggested donation)

From the vicarage

Dear friends and neighbours,



A year ago this was my view at Morning Prayer. I was looking out from a roof terrace in a small house in Grazalema, Andalusia. Griffon vultures wheeled overhead while swallows dived and turned acrobatically beneath them. It was the middle of my sabbatical, a sense of depth and presence in this mountain town, the furthest point from home in both kilometres and time.

The days seemed huge: coffee and a novel on waking with the light. Breakfast, then Morning Prayer. The lectionary reminded me of the passage of days, and connected me lightly with Tariro and all of you at All Saints. Chores, then I settled with a theology or history book, taking notes for an hour and a half. Down to the square for coffee and a Spanish history book. Collect ingredients for the evening, then back for a second session reading in the cool of the house. A lunch of delicious leftovers and then gather sun cream and water for the afternoon walk. I never mind the heat. Near or far, the walk anchored the day and felt huge, lavish, spacious, knowing there seemed so much huge time that morning, and after a walk, there was a whole evening's cooking still ahead.

After a shower, cherished ingredients assembled (a deep purple aubergine to stuff with almonds, or quails' eggs to top a stew of red peppers), cooking was unhurried. Early evening reading journals tracing the journey of the last seven years, then after my meal, the day rounded off with a novel. Such was the cadence of each day for three precious weeks in the heart of three precious months.

It would be easy to feel wistful, wishing myself back there. That would drain energy from the present and maybe nurse resentment. It was, however, at that furthest point from home and parish ministry that the reality of the richness of parish ministry and the gift of home was felt most profoundly. The meaning of the sabbatical time lay as much in the meaning of the previous seven years as it did in the places and books I was exploring.

A year on, remembering that remembering time, I feel energised by a sabbatical I still have. It has not gone. It is still a gift. That I had All Saints to return to makes me immeasurably blessed. I am also reminded, tracing those spacious days, that the days are just as huge here. If each moment is dwelt in attentively, gratefully, then every day is huge. Pigeons and gulls wheel around over Kings Heath, not griffon vultures, but their flight is no less a miracle.

Thank you for being the people I could miss, and return to, whose openness, curiosity, trust and diversely patterned faith gives meaning to my life.

David

Mouse Makes

“ Just as a **body**, though **one**, has **many** parts, but all its many **parts** form one body, so it is with **Christ**. For we were all baptised by one **Spirit** so as to form one body... Even so, the body is not made up of one part but of many... ”

...Now you are the body of Christ, and **each** one of you is part of it.”
from 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Just as the different parts of our body need each other to make a **whole**, living person so Christians need each other to make a **whole** living church!

“Though we are many, we are one body in **union** with Christ, and we are **joined** to each other as **different** parts of one body.”
from Romans 12:1-7

Look in the Bible verses for the words written in **bold** then look for these words too!

GOD • TOGETHER • EQUAL • ALL • EVERY
HEAD • EYES • EARS • MOUTH • TONGUE
TEETH • NOSE • ARMS • HANDS • FINGERS
LEGS • KNEES • FEET • TOES • GIFTS

America: so large, so different, but somewhat the same as the UK

Our son first went to the USA on the Mountbatten Internship which enables British students to spend a year with an American company and American students to spend a year with a British company. This led to the offer of a permanent job, meeting his American future wife, and finally settling in the USA about 14 years ago (having done voluntary work in Africa, a master's degree at York and some world travelling). This has led to Sheila and me making regular visits to the places in which he has lived and worked – Denver, Colorado, Washington, New York City and now upstate New York. We now consider ourselves 'seasoned' America watchers.

America is huge – it is not all the same; we have people say to us: 'How did they vote for Trump? Does everyone have a gun? What about medical aid? Are all Americans obese?' Well, is a bit like saying all of Europe is the same; is the health service better in France than the UK? The rise of the right wing in certain European countries is mirrored by Reform in the UK. As regards fast food and obesity, it depends on lots of other factors such as income, where you live, social mobility and lots more. In Ithaca where Simon lives you see lots of joggers, people keeping fit and shopping healthily and organically at the supermarket. Lots of houses in Ithaca have signs stating 'Be Kind', 'All Lives Matter'; it is a university town, very left wing and Democrat. Drive 35 miles up the lake to Union Springs and you find a hunting, fishing community, which voted for Trump and where most people drive a large truck and there are signs stating that they object to plans for a solar farm.

When we were in Thomas (a small town in West Virginia) it reminded me of being in a northern former colliery town. Thomas had been a mining community up until the 1990s. Since the mine closed, the town has tried to reinvent itself as a tourist centre (hiking in summer and winter, sports in the fall). It also is trying to become a centre for arts. But we met a former miner who was now working in a Christmas shop, which I must admit I found rather sad. From working at the coalface to selling Christmas tree decorations.

We recently had Artsfest at All Saints, a Wedding Festival last year, and are giving the Square over for a celebration of Eid. *The Times* stated some time ago: 'If you're moving to Birmingham and cannot afford to live in Moseley go to Kings Heath or the now up-and-coming Stirchley.' The reverse of that is the American owners of Birmingham City Football Club, along with the mayor of the West Midlands, wanting to put a huge investment into east Birmingham, as it is one of the most deprived communities in the UK with a unemployment rate of nearly 25%. It made me wonder: if our church and the Village Square was in Shard End, would it have the diversity and 'happenings' that we have at All Saints?

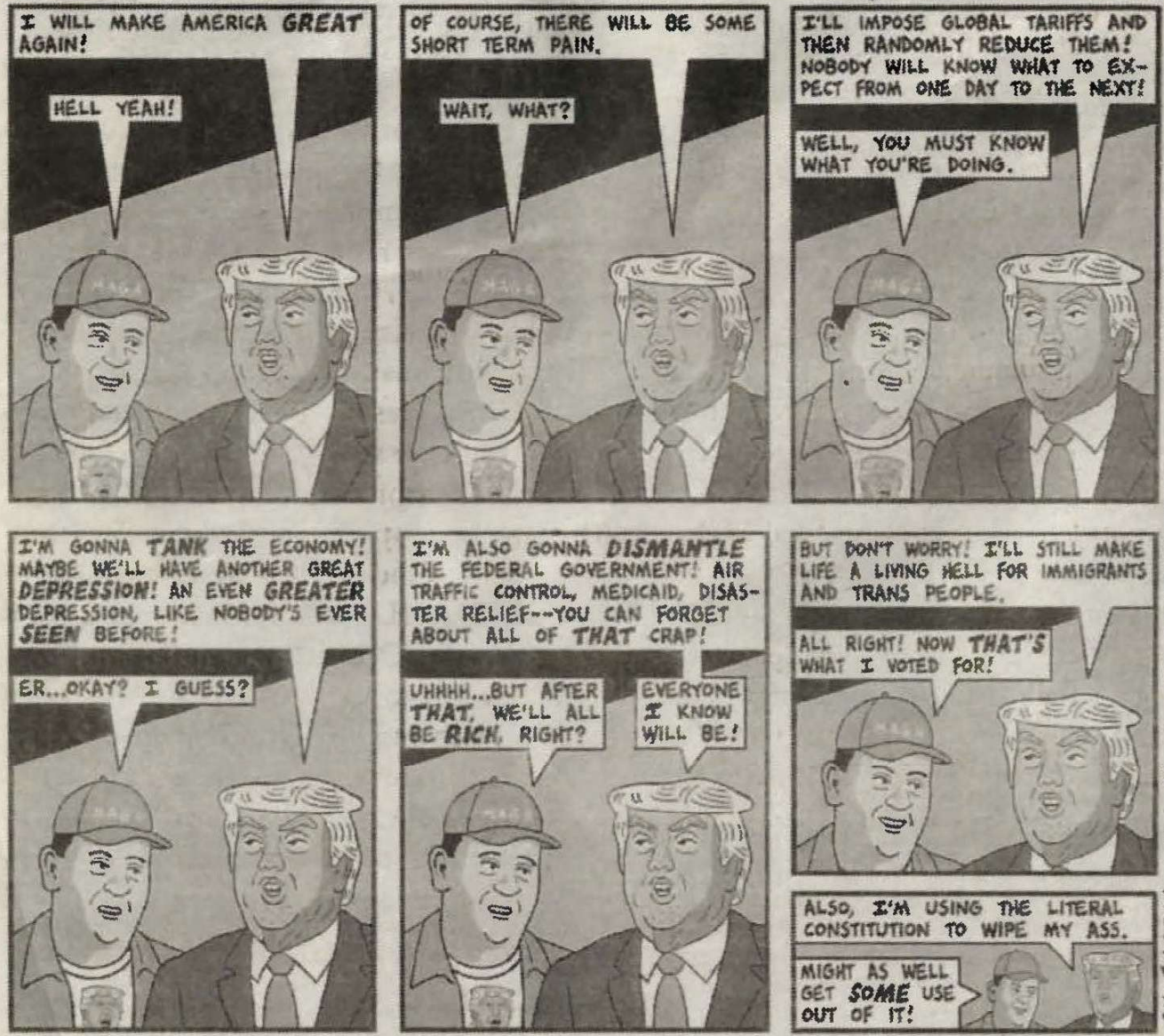
What do we make of present America? It is diverse, different, insular, fun, and a lot more. It is not all 'Trump-supporting right-wing gun-toting individuals'. The cartoon opposite appeared in our son Simon's local weekly free newspaper, the *Ithaca Times*. I think you could probably see a similar cartoon with Nigel Farage in *The Times*, *The Independent* or *Private Eye*.

Let's celebrate living in Kings Heath, recognise our good fortune, and be aware that everyone matters.

Des Workman

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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

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

From the registers



We remember:

Graham Bleakman, whose funeral took place at All Saints on 16 June

Joan Walters, whose funeral took place at All Saints on 23 June

Jean Evans, whose funeral took place at Lodge Hill Crematorium on 26 June

Christian Aid quiz

On Saturday 21 June, 84 people gathered in the hall to take part in a quiz to raise money for the work of Christian Aid. Knowledge of different pasta types, being able to work out the conversion rate of miles to kilometres, and the ability to decode cryptic clues to chocolate bars were certainly of help in scoring points, but were not needed to have a good time, which was had by all – with the happy by-product of raising £640.

Many thanks to everyone who came along, and particularly to the team of quizmasters and to all who helped sell tickets, set up and pack away, and prepare and serve food. Jake Bateson took some photos of the evening, which we share below.



‘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.

Music matters

Summertime, and the living is easy; / time for looking back at hymns from last year.

You'll remember some, others may be forgotten – / but what did we sing most? Find out here!

In the same way as newspapers and magazines publish summer book lists – in which celebrities reveal what they will be reading on holiday (or what they would like you to think that they will be...) – around this time, it has become our custom in the July & August magazine to revisit at what was sung at All Saints during the previous calendar year; so here goes for 2024, in which we programmed music for 62 services in church as follows:

- 42 sung Holy Communion services at 10am on Sundays: for each of these, four hymns (to begin the service; before the Gospel – or, at a baptism, processing to the font; the offertory hymn after the peace; and before the dismissal), a song for before the service, and one or two (and/or a choir anthem) during communion, were chosen.
- 10 All Age Worship (AAW) services at 10am on Sundays – these were on the first Sunday of each month, with the exceptions of April (the Sunday after Easter Day) and August. The pattern of music for these is rather more fluid than for the 'regular' Sundays, including between four and eight hymns, songs or chants for the congregation, plus a sung Sanctus (the Argentinian 'Holy, holy, holy'). There isn't a choir to lead the music for these services; occasionally one or two singers have provided something extra before the service, during communion or at the end, but these informal items haven't been included in our overall numbers for the year.
- 10 non-Sunday-at-10am services: Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday afternoon, Easter Dawn, RSCM *The Big Hymn Sing*, Memorial, Carols by Candlelight, Crib, Midnight Mass and Christmas Day.

Throughout 2024 an order of service continued to be posted online most weeks, with links to music recordings where they had been made during the lockdown periods – how long ago do they feel now...? We haven't made any new recordings since 2021, but our archive of recorded music and readings is still accessible at <https://soundcloud.com/all-saints-kings-heath>. The Wednesday services usually contain a hymn but we don't count these in our overall totals as generally the selected one is a repeat from the previous Sunday¹; where Sunday evening services involve music this is chosen and organised by those taking the service, and also not included here. Likewise we haven't counted anything sung at weddings, funerals, stand-alone baptisms, services put on by external organisations, or concerts, productions etc that the church has hosted.

So, these 62 services included 225 different congregational hymns, not only an increase of 13 on the previous year but 10 more than the previous highest total since our records began; this equates to 3.63 'unique' congregational hymns per service. I'm still not sure that this statistic is in any way meaningful, but if we consider that at least two thirds of the 62 services only include four

¹ Well, I say that... having looked at the 51 Wednesdays in 2024 for which we suggested a hymn (the 52nd Wednesday was Christmas Day), on 18 occasions, or 35% of the time, it wasn't one that had been sung on the preceding Sunday, particularly when that Sunday had been an AAW. However, with four exceptions – *How sweet the name that Jesus sounds*, *Praise and thanksgiving*, *Blest are the pure in heart* and *The Lord will come and not be slow* – these 18 were sung elsewhere during the year, and sometimes in the same month. Some weeks there isn't a Wednesday service, or the hymn isn't sung, and there is always the option for those involved in the service to change it if desired. Three hymns were put forward twice for Wednesdays during the year – *Be thou my vision*, *I come with joy* and *Now the green blade riseth* – with the tune of that final one, **Noël nouvelet**, also being the tune for another Wednesday suggestion, *Jesus Christ is waiting*.

congregational hymns, 3.63 unique ones per service across the year is a pretty good indication of the variety that we are able to include at All Saints.²

Of these 225 different hymns, then, 31 were sung twice³ – this was a drop on last year, but there was an increase to seven of hymns that were included three times for the congregation: *Alleluia, sing to Jesus* (each time as the offertory hymn), *Lord, for the years, Love divine, all loves excelling* (three verses, sung always to **Blaenwern**) and *O Jesus, I have promised* (four verses, always to **Day of Rest** and as the final hymn), then three seasonal favourites, the first two of which usually make this list, *Hark, the herald-angels sing, O come, all ye faithful* (three verses at the carol service then with the final one, beginning ‘Yea, Lord we greet thee’ at Midnight Mass and on Christmas Day), and *We three Kings of Orient are*, which bookended the year appearing as it did in January and December. *Hark, the herald...* also formed part of the choir’s voluntary at the end of the Christmas Day service, mashed up with the music and some words from *Jingle bells*.

The majority of these congregational hymns are, as usual, from our *Complete Anglican Hymns Old & New* (sometimes using tunes, arrangements and descants from other books, and sometimes with verses omitted and occasionally added), while 27 were from other publications (including *Ancient & Modern* and *Common Ground*, the latter a particularly fertile source of material for David when planning AAW services). Of the 225, one also featured before the service⁴ and seven during communion⁵. A further 42 songs from *CAHON* and elsewhere appeared before the service (including introits to start the services on Palm Sunday, Easter Day and for the Royal School of Church Music *The Big Hymn Sing* evening service in June), and a further 55 in communion (including anthems sung at the end of, rather than during, communion on Easter Day and at the Sunday morning service on the weekend of A Festival of All Saints Weddings).⁶

In addition to the above, other service music (the Murray and Shepherd settings, Ukrainian Kyrie, **Cwm Rhondda** and **Lux Eoi** Glorias⁷, Coventry Sanctus, Roger Jones’s Agnus Dei etc) was sung multiple times, as was *Christmas is coming* which was programmed each week when the Advent candle was lit. Other ‘extras’ also appeared as part of this service music, including *Love is his word* as feet were washed and then chants during the Watch on Maundy Thursday, *Amen siyakudumisa* as congregants processed to and from the font on Easter Day, and two sung affirmations of faith: *We believe in God the Father* on Palm Sunday (giving us another excuse, if it were needed, to sing **Blaenwern**) and *Though one with God, to Jerusalem*, marking the Feast of Christ the King. Along with our usual inclusion of psalms during Lent and Advent there were also seven choir-only pieces during

² The term ‘congregational hymns’ is used to refer to the four slots mentioned in the course of the first bullet point above (‘to begin the service...’ etc), but worshippers are of course always welcome and indeed encouraged to join in singing the pieces before the service and during communion – and also in 2024 Pharell Williams’ *Happy*, which Clare led as the ‘voluntary’ to close the July AAW. *Happy* had previously also been sung at All Saints in the 2023 pantomime... On the subject of our records, these did admittedly only begin in 2018, although if at some point I gather the strength and inclination it would be interesting to go back a bit further. (As with ‘congregational’, I use the word ‘interesting’ advisedly...)

³ Of these, *All hail the power of Jesus’ name* and *Praise to the Holiest* were sung to different tunes each time (respectively **Miles Lane** and four verses to **Diadem**, and **Richmond** and **Gerontius**); for one of its outings, we only sang four of the five verses of *Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour*. The reasoning (or otherwise) behind omitting verses has been discussed in these pages before and no doubt will be again!

⁴ Well, its words did... *Away in a manger* was included in the Crib service on the afternoon of Christmas Eve, and then the choir sang it to an alternative tune, **Mueller**, beforehand on Christmas Day.

⁵ These included *From heaven you came* twice as a congregational hymn and once during communion, and *We cannot measure* once with congregation and twice at communion.

⁶ We sang *King of the ages* twice before services, and *Broken for me* twice during communion.

⁷ As last year, both tunes also made one appearance each with, respectively, *Alleluia, alleluia, hearts to heaven and voices raise* and *Guide me, O thou great Redeemer* – singers will never tire of making the most of the harmonies in the latter!

Carols by Candlelight; on the subject of psalms, in 2024 we sang four different settings of Psalm 23⁸, and three of Psalm 150⁹.

Both *O Lord, all the world belongs to you* and *All things bright and beautiful* made reappearances at All Saints after absences of two and three years respectively, but well-known hymns not featured at all in 2024 included the lively *Come all ye people* which we had sung three times the previous year, *And can it be, Christ, be our light, Firmly I believe and truly, Inspired by love and anger, O thou who camest from above, O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness* and, for a second successive year, *Spirit of God* (the 'Mallaig Sprinkling Song').

As for tunes, naturally those to which we sing the hymns which appeared more than once featured prominently, but mention should also be made of **Breslau** (to which we sang *Take up thy cross, the Saviour said* once and *We sing the praise of him who died* twice), **Down Ampney** (once each with *Come down, O Love divine, Spirit of truth and grace*, and *Join with us, friends, today*) and **Skye Boat Song** (two times with *Spirit of God, unseen as the wind* and another with *Gather around, for the table is spread*) and nods given to regular favourites **Abbot's Leigh**, **Bunessan**, **Noël nouvelet**, **O Waly Waly**, **Repton**, **Slane** and **Woodlands** – bonus points awarded if you can name some of the hymns sung to any of these tunes!

In 2024, then, 312 different hymns and songs¹⁰, alongside the referenced psalms and service music and not to mention solos and voluntaries, were included in worship at All Saints. Of these, 14 were sourced from *Ancient & Modern*, 18 from *Common Ground*, one from *The English Hymnal*, 37 from a variety of other sources and 242 from our book – this contains 978 items in total (including 'Hymns and Songs', 'Children's Hymns and Songs', 'Chants', and 'Music for the Eucharist' which includes the mass setting by Dom Gregory Murray that we use), which means that we sang 25% of *Complete Anglican Hymns Old & New* last year; of the main general hymns and songs section we sang 228 of the 766 hymns, or 30%. I noted this time last year that in 2023 we didn't sing any hymns ending in the digits 02, 30, 35, 51, 63, 64, 69, 71, 91, 92 or 99 – this was largely rectified in 2024 although if we're going to up the percentage we could do with a 64 or a 71 before too long (we did at least manage the tune of 169 again, **Duke Street** for *Forth in the peace of Christ we go*, and 92 from *Common Ground*: Michael Perry's text beginning 'Now through the grace of God' which we sang to **Martyrdom**, best known as the tune for *As pants the hart* but which we also used for Timothy Dudley-Smith's *A purple robe...* the ever-complicated Venn diagrams of hymn texts and music!).

All of the above notwithstanding, however, I reckon that the piece of music most commonly sung during services at All Saints could actually be *Happy birthday to you...*

Ben Noakes Music Co-ordinator

⁸ *The Lord's my shepherd* (with words from *The Scottish Psalter* of 1650) sung congregationally to **Crimond** and during communion to **Brother James's Air**; *The King of love my shepherd is*; and one of two settings we use by Chris O'Hara, this based on an Irish air familiar to some as *She Moved Through the Fair*.

⁹ The choir sang it as Anglican chant on the RSCM's Music Sunday, and Psalm 150 also forms the basis of the words of *O praise ye the Lord!* and *Praise him on the trumpet* – two very different kinds of hymn that each cropped up once last year.

¹⁰ Two small qualifiers/caveats here from August, when hymns were announced and the Holy Communion in Summer service booklet was used, rather than an individual weekly order of service: one week the final hymn, *Through all the changing scenes of life*, was not actually sung as the priest inadvertently didn't mention it, moving straight from post-communion prayer to blessing to dismissal; and another week, due to holidays, we ended up not having a choir so *There is a Redeemer*, scheduled for before the service, wasn't actually sung, and *Bread is blessed and broken* was played during communion for the congregation to join in with if they wish – in the same way that *O Lord, hear my prayer* is at the Ash Wednesday service when we do not have a choir.

From the archives:

An exhibition for Birmingham Heritage Week



Church Lads' Brigade, 1903

After our successful participation in Birmingham Heritage Week 2024, the Archive Group is busy developing an exhibition for 2025. Displays will focus on All Saints' long-term commitment to provide for the needs of the diverse local population and will include many photographs from the archives.

The newly-extended All Saints Centre offers much-needed facilities to support the local Kings Heath community in 2025. The Café, Youth Project, The Robin Centre,

CircusMASH, medical facilities and regular activities in the church hall and on the Square provide for the local community in a variety of ways. While the building itself is new, with a strong physical presence at the heart of Kings Heath, the commitment to offering valuable support is not. The archives demonstrate that the importance of welfare, spiritual, social, sporting and creative activities has been rooted in All Saints from the beginning.



Sunday School outing to the Lickeys, c1911

The Heritage Week exhibition 2025 will explore and illustrate some of the many ways in which All Saints has supported the needs of the local community over 165 years.



All Saints dancing class, 1922

Documents and photographs in the archives reveal a multitude of activities which have evolved to fit economic and social norms. From the 19th-century Soup Kitchen to the more recent Inclusion+ pantomime in aid of I'm Homeless, 'Get me out of here', activities and social gatherings have responded to the needs of their time.

Girls' Friendly Society netball team, c1934



Annual gatherings such as the Parish Picnic became major social events and lifelong friendships have been forged through clubs and sport. Meanwhile, musicians, actors, crafters and artists have delivered countless performances, sharing skills and engaging with the whole community.



Lunch Club guest arriving



Vicarage garden party, 1996

Together these activities offer a fascinating glimpse into the extent of All Saints' outreach since 1860 and will create an interesting multifaceted exhibition.

Look out for more details on the newsletter, Facebook and the website but in the meantime do save the date: **Saturday 20 September 2025.**

Marion Wilson & Vivien Thickett

Get involved...!

There won't be a separate issue of *Saints Alive!* in August as many people, including the editors, will be away during the summer. But don't let that stop you thinking about ways in which you could contribute to the magazine!

We'd be interested to hear reflections from further afield, whether down the road or across the seas; read concert or book reviews from leisurely afternoons; or even receive ideas borrowed from other churches that you may have visited on holiday.

As encouragement (or if you reckon you can do better...), here's a joke for you if you enjoy a visit to the chippy over the summer:

A group of tourists stopped to visit a priory. The prior gave them a tour of the buildings, ending in the kitchen, where one monk was making fish and chips. One tourist said brightly: 'You must be the fish friar,' to which the monk gravely replied: 'No, I am the chip monk.'

Ben & Clare Noakes, Editors

E: magazine@allsaintschurchkh.org

T: 07967 730156 / 07929 593097

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 July

- 4th** Brumside Radio Open Mic
in aid of the homeless
- 11th** Mad Moll
- 18th** The Busketeers
- 25th** Strings and Things

Fridays in August

- 1st** Brumside Radio Open Mic
in aid of the homeless
- 8th** *Break for holidays*
- 15th** *Break for holidays*
- 22nd** Voices
- 29th** Harmonica Bob
& Big Boss Man

From the PCC

Since the last edition of *Saints Alive!* there has been one Standing Committee meeting on 17 June. The following is a résumé of the points discussed or items presented in advance of the meeting.

Finance:

Current financial situation: Our treasurer 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 May 2025.

He gave an oversight review of the salient points of this information.

Expenditure: The treasurer reported that expenditure to the end of May 2025 was circa £60.7K. The amount against Worship was higher than predicted as he had paid some copyright fees. However, now that Tariro, our former curate, had moved on, he was not having to cover her expenses which was helping the financial situation. He was holding some money to cover the cost of the repairs to the broken windows, currently in progress.

Income: The treasurer reported that income to the end of May 2025 was just slightly less than expenditure at circa £57.7K giving a deficit of about just over £3K. He explained that money that he regularly receives from All Saints Community Development Company to cover their use of Angela, our parish administrator, and also a refund from the Inland Revenue had not been received until early June and that if these amounts had these been included in the May total, the account would have been £2K in credit.

Bequest: David, our vicar, was pleased to be able to report that he had been notified of a bequest of circa £1,000 from the estate of a recently deceased parishioner.

Surprise bequests and donations: David is keen that, if a surprise unrestricted bequest or donation is received by the church, there is a more formally agreed way that above a certain threshold, a percentage of the money above that threshold is donated to support the diocese and possibly good causes as this latter has been temporarily reduced. A threshold of say a minimum of £1,000 was provisionally suggested and a percentage of say 10% of any amount above that threshold to be given to one and/or both of the above depending on the amount. The matter to be discussed at the next PCC meeting in July.

Lunch Club and Memorial Garden: The treasurer said that he is still receiving a regular donation towards these from a person in Canada whose mother had attended the Lunch Club in the past.

Balance sheet: The treasurer pointed out that money is currently being held in two bank accounts and also in the CCLA investments.

Overall net worth: The treasurer reported that overall, at this time, the church balance net worth was circa £199K, but as reported previously did include the as yet unpaid long-term loan of circa £170K to the Development Company with no specific repayment date.

Regular giving: He reported that the average monthly giving for the last 12 months compared with the average for the 12 twelve months was still marginally lower at minus £38. A campaign is being prepared which will be presented to the congregation shortly to encourage people to reconsider their current giving to the Church. David has prepared information to enable a pie chart of expenditure to be prepared and a statement for inclusion in the presentation pamphlet.

Parish Giving Scheme: It would appear that the means of increasing giving to the church via the Parish Giving Scheme may not be obvious, and details of this to be included in the presentation pamphlet.

Vicar's expenses: David presented a record of his expenses for the last three months to illustrate typical claims by him. He ran through the details at the meeting. The expenses include such items as expenses for visiting clergy, material for special services, travelling, and hospitality where associated with a church event. All agreed that the expenses claimed appeared very reasonable and in order.

Safeguarding:

DBS verifier/safeguarding co-ordinator: David was pleased to report that DBS checking by the diocese, safeguarding training and other arrangements for the new DBS verifier and safeguarding co-ordinator, Paul Collins, is progressing well.

Once the initial induction process has been completed, he proposes to introduce Paul to the congregation and also to Claire Wesley, the former safeguarding liaison officer at the diocese.

Communion assistants: David reported that DBS checking and safeguarding training for the new communion assistants and those requiring updates was progressing well. He was providing assistance where necessary.

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

Churchwarden's report:

Report: There is currently no churchwarden in place and therefore no report.

New churchwarden: David said that a Mr John Howell has expressed interest in undertaking the role of churchwarden having seen the notice in the church newsletter.

David is due to meet him in two days' time to progress the matter. John has been a PCC member of a church in the past and has also had experience of youth work.

John has fairly flexible work arrangements and therefore is able to accommodate the duties required of a churchwarden in his day-to-day activities.

Extraordinary meeting: David said that provided the initial arrangements can be finalised with John, his formal appointment could be done via an extraordinary PCC meeting.

Electoral roll: Our electoral roll officer, Tony Cocks, is to check if John is on the church electoral roll as this is a prerequisite of being a churchwarden. If not, this can easily be rectified.

Reordering:

Group chair: David said that Mary Gaskill, a member of the church and an architect by profession, has agreed to act as chair of the Reordering Group and he has arranged a meeting for this coming Thursday to progress the matter.

Other group members: David said that Daniel Wilson has agreed to join the group. He has significant knowledge of alternative power sources. Tony Cocks also agreed to join the group as secretary.

Future meetings: The following is the schedule for Standing Committee and PCC meetings for the next year.

SC meetings: 21 October, 9 December 2025; 17 February, 14 April, 9 or 23 June (provisionally) 2026.

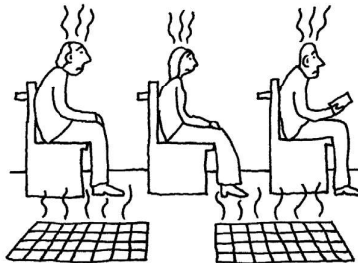
PCC meetings: 15 July, 16 September, 18 November 2025; 19 January, 17 March, 19 May 2026.

Tony Cocks
PCC Secretary

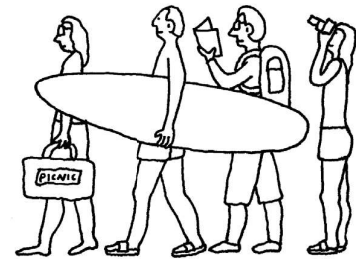
THE SUMMER



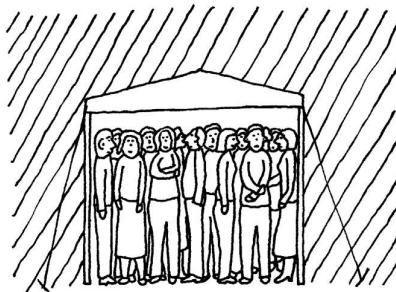
EARLY MORNING SERVICES
BECOME POPULAR



THE HEATING FINALLY
STARTS WORKING



A RELIEF CONGREGATION IS
BROUGHT IN TO COVER ABSENTEES



PARISH PICNICS
TAKE PLACE



THERE ARE NOT AS
MANY E-MAILS



MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH
SEND POSTCARDS

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.

High days and holy days

1 July – Henry Venn of the CMS

The Revd Henry Venn (1796-1873), whose father founded the Church Mission Society (CMS) in 1799, became the greatest missionary strategist of the 19th century. Never a missionary himself, Venn's parish-based ministry did not obscure his passionate interest in overseas evangelism, and in 1841 he accepted an invitation to become the honorary secretary of the CMS. That decision was to shape the history of overseas missions, and to make the CMS into the most effective force in Britain for delivering effective overseas mission. Henry was an outstanding administrator, and his wisdom and management of the missionaries enabled the CMS to grow and flourish. When Henry first worked with the CMS, it employed 107 European clergy and nine local indigenous people; by the time of his death, there were 230 European clergy and 148 local people in service.

After resigning as vicar of St John's, Holloway in 1846, Henry devoted himself almost exclusively to the work of CMS. He was directly responsible for sending out 498 clergymen, all of them chosen by him, and with most of whom he continued in regular correspondence. He also established bishoprics for the supervision of CMS missionary clergy and was usually involved in the appointments made. Henry and a missions colleague in America were the first to use the term 'indigenous church', and they were way ahead of their time in seeing the necessity for creating churches on the mission fields that in time would become not only self-supporting, but also self-governing and self-propagating. Alongside Venn's passion for evangelism was his concern for social justice, and he frequently lobbied the British Parliament, especially for the closure of the Atlantic slave trade.

13 August – Octavia Hill, social reformer and co-founder of the National Trust

The urgent need for decent, affordable housing is a hot topic these days. It was an even more urgent need in Victorian London, where the homes of the poor were tiny, cold, damp and infested with lice and vermin. Water came from an outside pump, and filthy outside toilets were shared with several dozen neighbours. Stoves were rare; most people ate cold meals. Labourers lived 22 years on average; more than half of all babies died before their first birthday.

Born into a comfortably-off family with a passionate interest in social change, Octavia Hill was determined to make a difference – and she did. Her first job in London in 1852 was teaching poor children to make toys; by 1856 Octavia was helping run classes for women at the Working Men's College in Great Ormond Street, and she and her sisters also started a school for very poor children. But what really grabbed Octavia's compassionate heart was the housing crisis. By 1864, with the help and advice of John Ruskin, she had launched a business scheme for improving Victorian housing in London. Gradually her scheme and experience expanded until a breakthrough came in 1884, when the Ecclesiastical Commissioners handed her a large part of their portfolio of properties to manage in Southwark. As the years went by, Octavia's help and advice were often sought in connection with promoting social reform by legislation, though her heart was always in the voluntary sector. It has been said of Octavia that her Christian faith made her seek 'to make life on earth as positive an experience as possible, particularly for the poor and disadvantaged'.

But today Octavia is remembered most for something surprisingly different: her joint initiative with Canon H D Rawnsley and Sir Robert Hunter in founding the National Trust in 1895. It has become Britain's leading charitable organisation for preserving historical buildings and places of natural beauty. Octavia's national fame never affected her – she lived quietly with her sisters in Marylebone Road until her death in 1912.

(adapted from 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.

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) 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
----------------	---------------	---------------

Ministry Team

Vicar	David Warbrick	vicar@allsaintschurchkh.org 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)	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)

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