

# ***Saints Alive!***

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



November  
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 November and December – correct at time of going to print).

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 November

- 7th** I'm Homeless,  
'Get Me Out of Here'  
(Brumside Community Radio Open Mic)
- 14th** Dog Walker Band  
with Hannah Brown
- 21st** Slow Train and Café Band
- 28th** Mad Moll

### Fridays in December

- 5th** Strings and Things
- 12th** Voices
- 19th** Christmas Party  
(all welcome to take a turn)
- 26th** *Break for holiday*

# *From the vicarage*

Dear friends and neighbours,

I'm not proud to say that I broke my radio the day Synod failed by a whisker to vote through the ordination of women as bishops. In the women's toilet at Synod that day, the then Dean of York, Vivien Faull, said to a tearful Paula Gooder that, before long, Paula would preach at Vivien's consecration as bishop. Sure enough, not very long afterwards, the vote had gone through with more robust legislation than first drafted. We got there. We are still not out of the woods, mind you. There are still 'Five Guiding Principles' which help those still opposed to feel they can remain in the Church of England. While I am glad if we can stay in profound fellowship with them, I can't help being fed up that the existence of those five guiding principles means we are still institutionally passive-aggressive towards all ordained women. If anyone asked for five guiding principles to be put in place to help them cope with the fact that a bishop is, say, Black or Asian, we should be appalled.

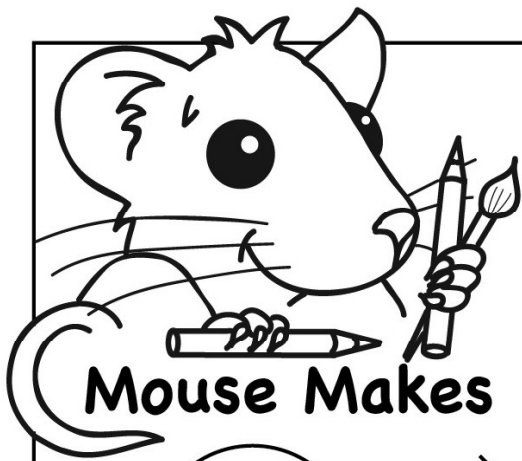
We are just now frustrated and many are hurt and dismayed that the House of Bishops has said that a further vote is needed for the blessing of same-sex marriage in church to be approved by Synod, requiring a two-thirds majority in the houses of Laity, Clergy and Bishops. This had been required for women's ordination which, though blindingly obviously right, was nonetheless a momentous advance. Such a change should, surely, be confident, bold, and irreversible. That the vote be two-thirds meant that it was not, and could not be considered, close. I do think such majorities will, in the long run, give us confidence and momentum as we grow the Church's ministry and deepen her understanding of grace by celebrating gay marriage and affirming the marriages and outstanding ministries of many gay priests. It will be momentous. I am holding on to the experience of ordination of women as we endure this frustrating period in the journey towards fuller expression of the Gospel.

It was very moving to see the King dedicating a statue at the National Memorial Arboretum this week honouring gay servicemen and women, listening to their experience and looking forwards. I was very sorry that some demonstrators managed to make the news item about Prince Andrew, rather than about such courageous, hitherto oppressed people. That memorial, though, reminded me just how far the whole nation has come since the imprisonment, prosecution and persecution of Alan Turing. It is no comfort that the Church is not the only institution to be so clumsy and cruel. But it can give us hope and traction in prayer as we consider the Church's healing in the context of so many other signs of change and liberation around us.

Hold on. Vivien, now Bishop of Bristol\*, and Paula did.

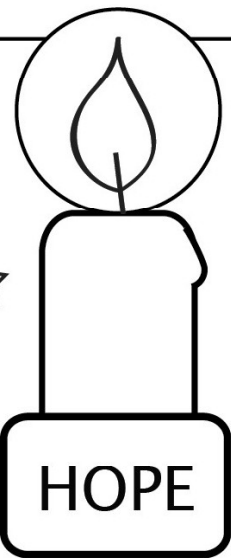
## *David*

\* I admit, Vivien might have made the odd mistake along the way. She wrote one of my references when I went for selection for ordination in 1987.

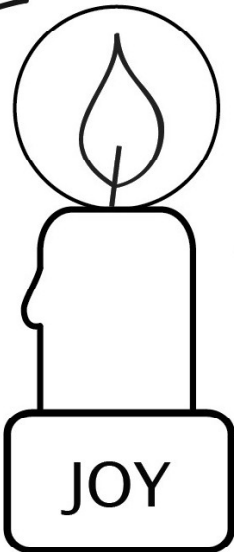


**LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS**

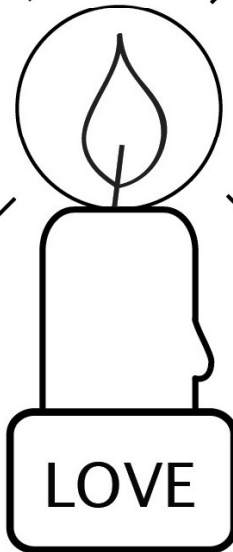
Advent Sunday this year falls on 30th November. ADVENT is a time to celebrate the ARRIVAL of Jesus, God's Son, our Saviour. We look forward with HOPE, we give thanks for God's LOVE and the PEACE and JOY we have in Jesus.



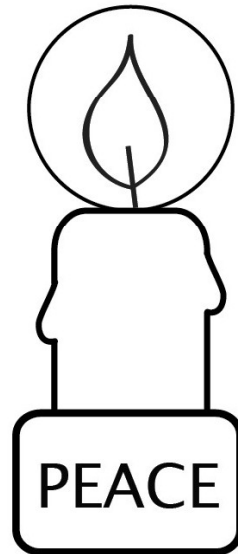
Read: Isaiah 40:5  
*What shall be revealed?*



Read: LUKE 2:10-11  
*Who is 'God's news of great joy' for?*



Read: John 3:16  
*How did God show He loves us?*



Read: Romans 5:1-2  
*Through who do we have peace with God?*

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

ADVENT • ARRIVAL • HOPE • JOY • LOVE • PEACE • GOD • GLORY  
MESSAGE • PROMISE • PROPHECY • FORETOLD • JESUS • SAVIOUR  
CHRIST • GIFT • GOOD NEWS • RETURN • CANDLE • LIGHT



## From the archives:

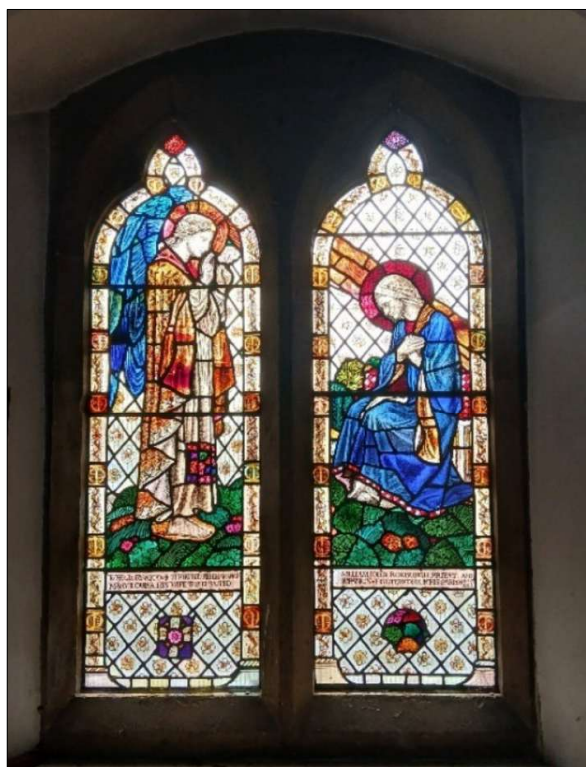
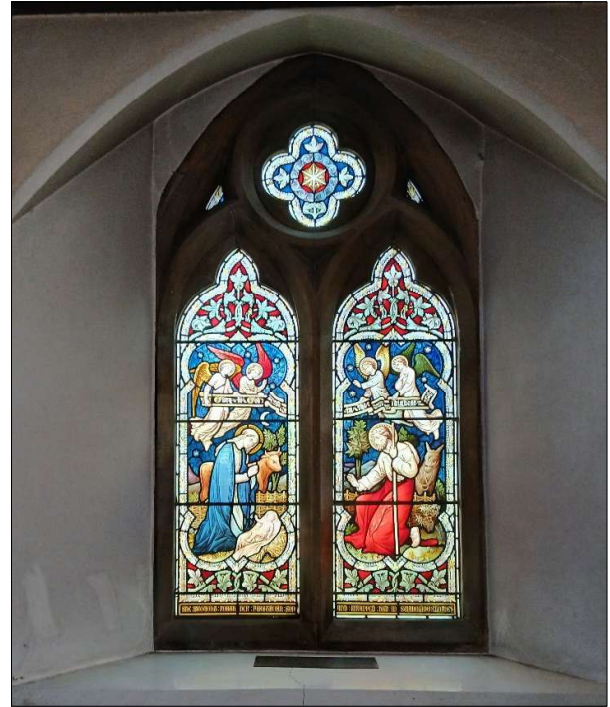
### November – a month to remember

As we mark All Saints' Day, All Souls' Day and Remembrance Sunday during November, three significant memorials in the lady chapel remind us of the enduring contribution made by three past members of our community.

The beautiful, richly-coloured east window of the Chapel (*right*) was added in memory of the **Reverend Webster** and his wife. They led and nurtured the All Saints community from 1866 to 1886, a period of great change.

Consecrated in 1860, All Saints became a parish in its own right in 1863 as the 'quiet and picturesque' village of Kings Heath grew steadily. Among many other accomplishments, Revd Webster established an organised Sunday School, a lending library and various welfare-related subscription clubs such as the Clothing Club and Coal Club. The parish magazine began and the first vicarage was built by 1870.

The original church architects had planned for All Saints to have a spire and a second, 'north' aisle, and these were duly added by 1883 due to the dedication of Revd Webster. Sadly, he died in 1886 aged only 60, shortly after his beloved wife.



It is fitting that the Websters' memorial window enhances what is now the children's area. A brass plaque beneath it records that it is the gift of '*...Teachers, Children, and a few Friends of the Sunday School*'.

The adjacent window on the south wall of the chapel (*left*) commemorates the work of the **Reverend Roxburgh**, vicar from 1907 to 1912, and his wife.

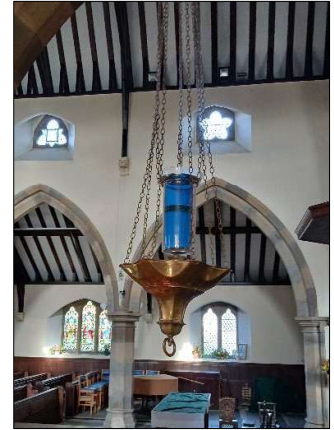
Revd Roxburgh was a missionary, keen to connect the local community into the church. It was he who created the lady chapel as a less imposing space, suitable for smaller weekday services. Among other achievements he oversaw an increase in Sunday School attendance, started no fewer than 28 clubs and associations, and introduced the Good Friday Act of Witness through Kings Heath which continues today.

The inscription on the window, which depicts the Annunciation, reads: *'To the Glory of God & in Thankful Remembrance of William John Roxburgh, Priest. And Mary Louisa his Wife. The Devoted Companion of his Life & Work in this parish 1907 to 1912.'* Revd Roxburgh returned to missionary work in 1912 and a hallmarked silver plaque, once affixed to a communion rail gifted in his memory, tells us that sadly he died in South Africa due to 'overwork' In August 1919.

Alongside these two windows hangs a sanctuary lamp (*right*), a long-lasting memorial to **Lieutenant George Lomas** from Howard Road who was killed during the Battle of Normandy, part of 'D-Day Overlord', in July 1944, aged just 23.

We reflect on these enduring memorials to three men who died prematurely but whose huge contribution to our community and current way of life continues. We remember them this November.

**Marion Wilson & Vivien Thickett**



*Rehearsals will shortly be starting for **Carols by Candlelight** – this year there will be two services, taking place at 4pm and 6:30pm on Sunday 21 December.*

*Do please let us know if you would like to join us to sing or to play an instrument, or to find out about other music during Advent and over Christmas.*

*All are welcome to take part in these or any other musical activity in church, whether regularly or occasionally.*

*Please contact Music Co-ordinators Ben & Clare Noakes for more information:*

*E: [music@allsaintschurchkh.org](mailto:music@allsaintschurchkh.org)  
T: 07967 730156 / 07929 593097*

**MINI CHRISTMAS FAIR**  
**Saturday 6 December**  
**10am-2pm**  
**Garden Room,**  
**All Saints Centre**

*Preserves, handmade cards, knitted Nativity set raffle, Christmas knick-knacks, tombola and a small selection of fairly-traded goods*

*Music from Ben, Clare and friends between 10:30 and 11:30*

*Free admission – get a Baileys hot chocolate from the Café, listen to the music and please come and support!*

## ***From the registers***

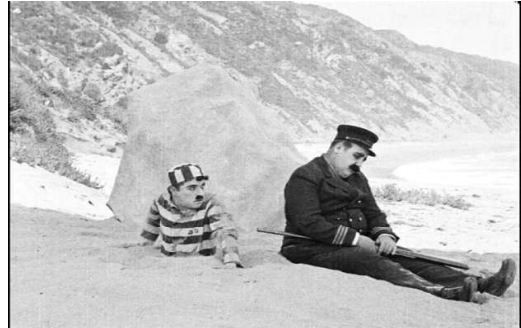


**We remember:**

Alma Beattie, whose funeral took place at Robin Hood Crematorium on 7 October  
Keith O'Leary, whose funeral took place at Robin Hood Crematorium on 8 October  
Margaret Guy, whose funeral took place at Lodge Hill Crematorium on 23 October

## ***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. In this issue we look forward to two opportunities to be entertained in church in November.*



# **SILENT MOVIE NIGHT at ALL SAINTS CHURCH, Kings Heath**

THREE FILMS

**Laural and Hardy in Angora Love**

**Buster Keaton in The Boat**

**Charlie Chaplin in The Adventurer**

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 15<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm**

---

**Live Musical Accompaniment on Organ and**

**Piano by Vincent Byrne**

**Percussion by Nick Ward**

**Tickets Just £10 (accompanied children £5)**

**FREE SWEETS WITH ALL TICKETS**

Tickets in Advance from the All-Saints Community Cafe,  
and All Saints Church on Sunday Mornings.

All Saints Church is at the corner of Vicarage Road and the High Street.  
Or you can pay on the door. Licensed Bar on the Night and Snacks.

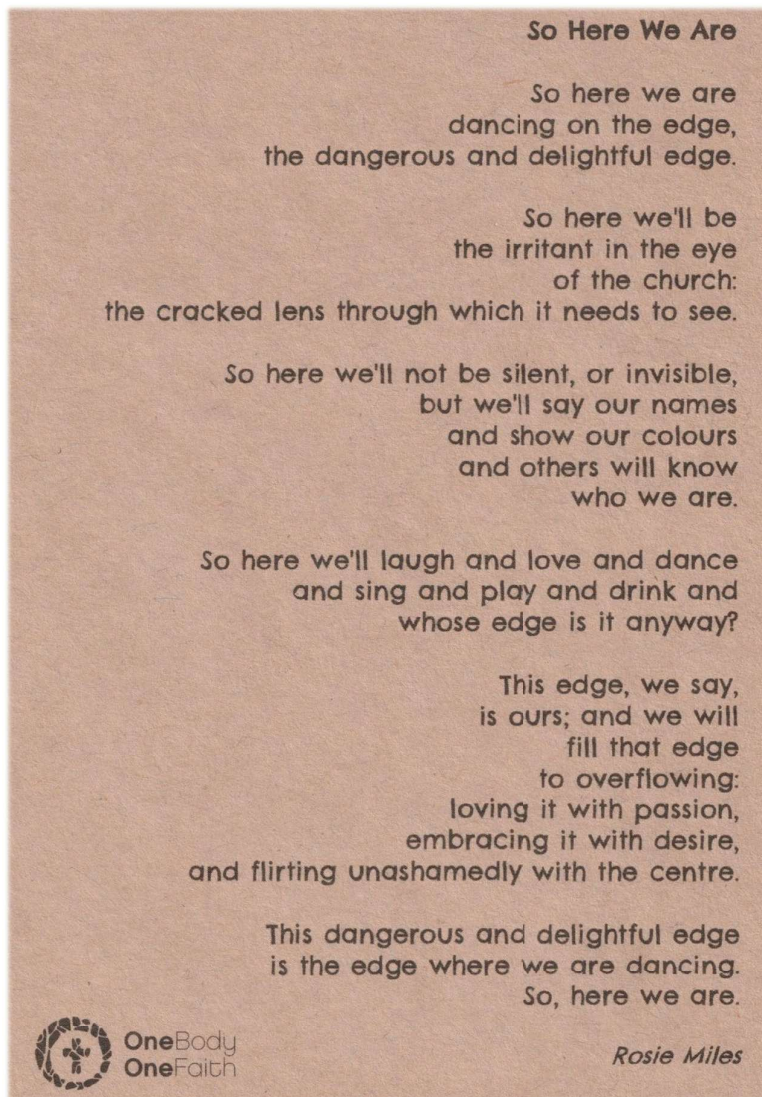


# Inclusive Church

Nigel Pietroni spoke in church on Sunday 26 October inviting members of the congregation to sign an open letter, following the decisions by the House of Bishops earlier last month over the *Prayers of Love and Faith* and by the continued absence of a clear pathway for clergy to enter same-sex marriages. We are pleased to include the full letter overleaf, which includes a QR code that CofE members can click on to add their signatures to the letter.

Nigel also shared an [article](#), 'Winded After the Death of LLF [Living in Love and Faith]', by David Monteith, Dean of Canterbury and former curate at All Saints, on the effects of the bishops' decisions on LGBT+ clergy and people in the church.<sup>1</sup>

**Rosie Miles writes:** I wrote this poem over 25 years ago after spending a week on Iona with a whole bunch of lesbian and gay folk. Our week was led by the late, great Kathy Galloway. It was powerful, joyful and formative. The poem got published in *The Courage to Love: An Anthology of Inclusive Worship Material* (DLT, 2002, pp78-79). Some years later One Body One Faith (formerly the Lesbian & Gay Christian Movement) produced a postcard of it. Here it is. Here. We. Are.



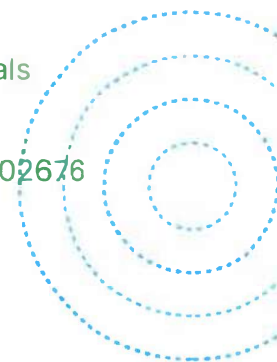
<sup>1</sup> The article can be read at <https://tinyurl.com/yeh4nv65>.

An ecumenical network of churches, groups and individuals  
uniting together around a shared vision.

Contact via [office@inclusive-church.org](mailto:office@inclusive-church.org) Registered charity 1102676



# Inclusive Church



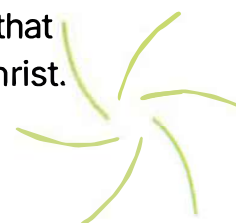
October 2025

## Open Letter from Members of the Church of England

We, the undersigned, are clergy and lay members of the Church of England, who are deeply disappointed by the recent decisions of the House of Bishops regarding the *Prayers of Love and Faith* (PLF)<sup>1</sup> and the continued absence of a clear pathway for clergy to enter same-sex marriages.

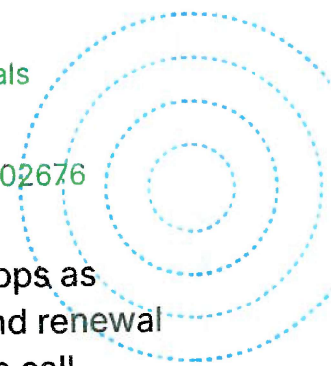
We affirm publicly that:

1. We long for the Church of England to become a truly hospitable Church for LGBTQ+ people, where all may find authentic welcome, safety, and joy in the life of Christ's Body.
2. We lament that, despite words of apology for the Church's treatment of LGBTQ+ people,<sup>2</sup> those words have not yet been matched by our deeds.
3. We give thanks, and are grateful for, the witness and example of ecumenical partners and denominations with whom we work, who offer a full welcome to LGBTQ+ people, and who have seen the Gospel flourish as a result.
4. We commend the use of the Prayers of Love and Faith<sup>3</sup> in every context, as a step towards the equality we seek. We will seek to use them in our own parishes and communities as a visible expression of God's inclusive love and where we are personally unable to do so, we will nevertheless ensure that this ministry is offered.
5. We will not withdraw our Parish Share, or other financial contributions, in protest. Instead, we choose to invest in the shared mission and ministry of our dioceses, believing that generosity, not punishment, reflects the character of Christ.



An ecumenical network of churches, groups and individuals  
uniting together around a shared vision.

Contact via [office@inclusive-church.org](mailto:office@inclusive-church.org) Registered charity 1102676



6. We commit ourselves to pray for the House of Bishops as they navigate these decisions, and for the healing and renewal of the whole Church as we continue to discern God's call.

Recent surveys and votes in General Synod have consistently shown that the majority of those within the Church of England now seek greater inclusion and affirmation of LGBTQ+ people<sup>4</sup>. It is not right that these voices remain unheard, nor that the Church continues to inflict the pain of exclusion and rejection on LGBTQ+ people, their friends, families and allies.

The *Living in Love and Faith* (LLF) process has received significant investment of time, money, prayer, theology and discernment. It has engaged deeply with scripture, tradition and reason, whilst seeking to also listen to lived experience. We do not support coercion or silencing of any view, but rather commit to open, honest and compassionate dialogue that honours individual conscience and fully hears the call to love one another as Christ has loved us.

We call on the House of Bishops to offer leadership and direction that honours the inclusive majority of the Church of England and truly values LGBTQ+ people. We speak now, not in defiance, but because we *live in love and faith*, believing that the Church is at her best when we love courageously and listen deeply. We stand together, trusting that the Holy Spirit will lead us into all truth.

Yours faithfully...

Scan QR code  
to access form to sign



---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.churchofengland.org/media/press-releases/update-living-love-and-faith-october-2025>

<sup>2</sup> Resolution of General Synod, February 2023 <http://churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith/bishops-response-living-love-and-faith>

<sup>3</sup> Prayers of Love and Faith <http://churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/prayers-of-love-and-faith.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> These include Times survey of CofE clergy Aug 2023; survey of Anglicans including laity Feb 2023 and the *Are You In* survey from Inclusive Church in Autumn 2024.





# Ex Cathedra

Inspiring singing

## A Goodnight Music of Remembrance and Hope

**All Saints Church,  
Kings Heath**  
Sat 8 Nov 2025, 7pm

A programme of contemplation and comfort – from William Byrd to Johann Ludwig Bach and Kerensa Briggs – designed by guest conductor Eamonn Dougan for Remembrance weekend. Richard Rodney Bennett's work is an exquisite memorial to Linda McCartney, while James MacMillan sets the poetry of a young Scottish soldier killed in World War 1.

Running time is approx. 2 hours including interval.

Programme includes:

**JL Bach** Unsere Trübsal  
**Bennett** A Good-Night  
**Brahms** Dem dunkeln Schoß der Heiligen Erden  
**Briggs** Media vita  
**Byrd** Ne irascaris Domine  
**Charpentier** Agnus Dei (Messe pour les trépassés)  
**McDowall** The Lord is good  
**MacMillan** When you see millions of the mouthless dead  
**Pärt** Nunc dimittis

**EX CATHEDRA Choir**  
**Eamonn Dougan** conductor



Book now at [www.excathedra.co.uk](http://www.excathedra.co.uk)



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

# Music matters

*What would you choose for 'Desert Island Hymns'? How would you go about planning the music for a funeral or other ceremony? The value of conversations about church music.*

As we entered Robin Hood Crematorium for Alma Beattie's funeral last month, we were heartened to hear *All people that on earth do dwell* (well, the first three verses at least, on loop) being played through the speakers. When Alma had still been able to join us to sing she had mentioned at choir practices that it was a favourite of hers, and that she had had it at her wedding; she suggested it (in the fabulous arrangement by Ralph Vaughan Williams) for the Festival of All Saints Weddings last year and always made a point of coming up and saying how much she appreciated the hymn whenever it was included in a service at All Saints. So it was good to note its presence in her funeral service, and equally heartening to hear voices from around the crematorium joining in as the chapel filled with people.

In fact, the celebrant pointed out that Alma had chosen all the music and readings that were to be included at her funeral when the time came, and this reminded us of something we think of often at such times – the importance of writing down, or telling friends and family, any hymns or songs, recordings, Bible passages or other readings that we would like to have at our own funerals. The point of this is not to be morbid, and certainly not to wish our lives away, but we have been involved in providing the music for a number of funerals where the people planning them, keen to give their loved one the service that they deserve, are at a loss as to what to select. For some members of All Saints we have been able to offer favourites based on conversations and friendship over the years, and of course we are always very happy to make suggestions of suitable items, but it is a particular honour to be able to prepare and play pieces of music that have been requested as having been especially dear to the person who had died.

This music is certainly not limited to *Abide with me* or *Nimrod* – over the years at All Saints I have been asked to play, among many others, tunes from musicals as people gather, the theme from *The Magnificent Seven* as a funeral party has entered church, *Let all the world in every corner sing*, Psalm 150, and *We'll Meet Again* at the end of a service. Increasingly one or more pieces of recorded music will be requested (likewise at weddings) – again, this could be anything from Puccini's *O mio babbino caro* to Elvis Presley's *Love Me Tender* – and of course this is common for crematorium services.

This then led me to think of the hymns that I'd like at my funeral – it doesn't take much for me to start musing on favourite hymns and therefore far from being a miserable train of thought, this gave another welcome opportunity to think about church music! Should you be interested, as things stand I've currently narrowed it down to the following four: the aforementioned *All people that on earth do dwell* – not only do I agree with Alma that it's a cracking hymn, but we also had it at our wedding and at both of our children's baptisms; *The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended* – the words are well suited to a funeral and **St Clement** is a lovely piece that doesn't feature at All Saints very often (as noted in these pages before, it feels somewhat incongruous singing about the end of the day at a 10am service); *Thine be the glory* – what a tune, and there's certainly a place for uplifting words and music at a funeral; and finally, my mention of *Abide with me* above as perhaps a 'stereotypical' funeral standby was not a criticism – it remains an incredibly, movingly appropriate piece of music. This is before even considering readings, anthems, voluntaries... no firm decisions there yet but I promise to practise what I preach and make sure any ideas are written down somewhere! (Although anyone who's read this column over the years, or been in a practice that I've taken, will know that I don't keep many thoughts about church music to myself anyway...)

I'm sure many of you have in your mind an pool of pieces from which you would choose if invited on to *Desert Island Discs*, and the reasons behind them, which are probably as interesting as the choices themselves. This narrowing down of what can feel like an overwhelming, if not near-infinite, number of possibilities to just a few selections was in my mind when thinking about the hymns for a funeral named above; choosing music for the carol service, for instance, can feel like a similar task, as was trying to finalise music for our wedding. Again, and partly to avoid the service lasting until the start of the first dance, we limited ourselves to four hymns – you already know about *All people that on earth do dwell* (complete with three trumpets to grace Vaughan Williams' last verse), and having sung at numerous marriage ceremonies as part of the choir at her home church Clare didn't feel that she could have a wedding without including *Love divine, all loves excelling* to the gloriously singable **Blaenwern**; our other two choices were then, eventually, agreed upon for no other reason than we both thought that they were excellent, positive, and rousingly singable – *All my hope on God is founded* and *Tell out, my soul*. A friend played a Telemann flute solo for us during the signing of the register; and as with *Love divine...* there was no other choice for the exit music than the 'Wedding March' from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* – often the 'obvious' piece is popular for a reason.

Sometimes, then, it's as wise not to overthink things – simply liking a song is as valid a reason to include it in your service as any 'deeper' profound reason. I couldn't whistle you the tune now from the Vivaldi concerto that carried Clare down the aisle (and indeed which might have been more suited to the aisle at St Paul's Cathedral than St Paul's, Ruislip Manor as the organist played the entire four-minute movement...) but I do remember that from the range of pieces that we considered, and that our organist played to us in suggestion, this was the one that we both knew was right. *Thine be the glory* may be associated with Easter but I would love for it to be included at my funeral whenever in the year it falls; we have sung *O come, all ye faithful* at a wedding at All Saints in May because the bride and groom wanted it, it's a great sing, and they reasoned that pretty much everyone in the congregation would know it – which proved, of course, to be true. What better reason to select a hymn for a service of blessing, marriage or remembrance than to know that people will feel comfortable to join in, and that the roof may be raised in the process?

So what would your 'desert island' church music pieces be – what hymns, songs, anthems, organ voluntaries, choral pieces would you take with you and then, as per the Radio 4 perennial, which one would you rescue from the waves above all others? Regular readers will not be surprised to know that my answer to that latter question would have to be *Lo, he comes with clouds descending* – I basically cannot imagine a better hymn tune to play, or to sing, than **Helmsley**. But what beyond that? After citing it throughout this article I think that *All people that on earth do dwell* would have to be there; another representative from our wedding, or my funeral choices? The first song that I ever played for a church service? Something not sung since primary school but that I can remember all the words for 40 years on? (That's another reason often given for choices that people make in picking songs for ceremonies – that they are remembered with affectionate familiarity from school; in our Sunday morning practices we can all often tell the 'vintage' of a particular 20th-century song by which choir members remember it from school assemblies or concerts!)

It could be any of these, and my selection would be constantly changing; I might discover a new hymn next week that I think couldn't be bettered as a funeral option, and it was probably only the imminent printing of the order of services that set our wedding choices in stone. So if this circuitous article has a moral, I guess it is simply keep talking about, listening to, singing and discovering church music – there is more than enough good and appropriate stuff for any service under the sun.

**Ben Noakes**  
**Music Co-ordinator**

# *From the PCC*

Since the last edition of *Saints Alive!* there has been one Standing Committee meeting on 21 October. The meeting was well attended and there was meaningful and lively discussion.

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 the church accounts to the end of September 2025.

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

Expenditure: The treasurer reported that expenditure to the end of September 2025 was circa £105.4K.

- The amount against worship was higher than predicted due mainly to higher printing costs and other expenses arising from there being a need for more guest clergy to help David, our vicar, to officiate at some services now that Tariro had left.
- Training expenditure was higher than predicted, mainly due to David, being required to attend a three-day conference.
- Expenditure on the parish administrator's salary was temporarily higher than predicted as he had not received the September apportionment from All Saints Community Development Company (ASCDC) in time to add it to the September account.

Income: The treasurer reported that income to the end of September 2025 was less than expenditure at circa £103.6K, giving a credit of about £1.8K. Had he received the parish administrator's salary apportionment in time this credit would have been approximately double this figure.

- **Tax:** The estimate of tax was lower due to income being lower at this time. A tax submission to the Inland Revenue is due which will help.
- **Magazine:** Receipts for the magazine were lower but our treasurer did not know how many people were paying for this via the web.
- **Fundraising:** This was slightly ahead of predicted.
- **Church rental:** The treasurer clarified that this was only for the rental of the church (nave) and not for the rooms at the back which are managed by ASCDC.

Good causes: He was cautious about how much would be available for good causes this year but would have a better idea towards the end of the year.

Lunch Club and Memorial Garden: He said that he had not recently received any further regular donations 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. Lloyds currently charged for paying money into the account but he understood that they are going to stop charging now that they have become aware that All Saints is registered as a charity.

Overall net worth: The treasurer reported that overall, at this time, the church balance net worth is circa £204K, but as reported previously this does include the as yet unpaid long-term loan of circa £170K to the Development Company with no specific repayment date.

Regular giving: The treasurer reported that the average monthly giving for the last 12 months compared with the average for the previous 12 months was still lower at minus £146. This was to some extent compensated for by expenditure to date being lower than 12 months ago. He explained that the average was just based on regular giving from monthly summation of money donated by Parish Giving, standing order and cash in the collection. Cash did include money from the digital card machine or via QR codes displayed at the back of church.

Parish Giving Scheme: He noted that the numbers of persons donating via the Parish Giving Scheme has dropped slightly which is having an impact on the average total.

Finance campaign: David indicated that he is preparing information on expenditure to be included in a presentation pamphlet as part of the campaign to be presented to the congregation shortly to encourage people to reconsider their current giving to the church.

Easter Walk of Witness insurance: David reported that he has a meeting arranged to take place shortly with Church Together in Kings Heath in which that he would finalise the repayment of their apportionment of the Easter Walk of Witness insurance 2025 that All Saints had initially paid and which was outstanding.

Christmas charities: It is usual for donations from the Christmas services to be dedicated to three chosen charities. David is planning a safeguarding-themed All Age Worship service for the first Sunday in December in conjunction with the Safe Families and Home for Good charity. It has been suggested that this charity is considered as one of the Christmas charities.

### **Safeguarding:**

New safeguarding co-ordinator: Paul Collins has now taken on the duties of DBS verifier and safeguarding co-ordinator for the whole site and he was present at the meeting.

Safeguarding training: He has now completed the requisite diocesan online training and is due to attend a leadership course early in the new year. This will complete his formal training.

DBS and ID checks: These checks are now taking place smoothly and coming through very quickly. He now has the paperwork stored safely and securely and is working on some minor improvements to the process.

Safeguarding Hub: Paul has some concerns that because the regular update of DBS checking is currently a manual process where reminders are not ordinarily automatically issued to individuals, whether staff or volunteers, there is a risk of persons not being aware that they have to update their DBS check and safeguarding training.

The Church of England is introducing a web-based 'Safeguarding Hubs' as a free-to-use tool, which will work in conjunction with the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard for parishes to use which will help parishes to automatically keep track of DBS checks and safeguarding training for their paid staff and volunteers. It will automatically send reminders to individuals. He is proposing to use the tool to this effect.

Introduction of Paul to the congregation as new safeguarding co-ordinator: David is planning to introduce Paul as the new safeguarding co-ordinator to the congregation at the safeguarding-themed All Age Worship service mentioned above.

**Churchwarden's report:**

New churchwarden: John Wallace-Howell, our new churchwarden, is now settling into the role with assistance from former wardens and has expressed his gratitude for all the support that he has received so far.

Security review: As a result of their being a number of incidents of theft and attempted theft in the church recently, including of a mobile phone, stolen money and breaking into a cupboard, he has undertaken a security review with Vivien Thickett, our previous warden. This has included managing keys in a more secure way and the need for tighter security generally including ensuring that doors are locked when the church is unattended.

**Reordering – current Group members:** Mary Gaskill, a member of the church and an architect by profession who has agreed to act as chair of the Group, has sent out an invitation to those persons currently interested in being part of the Group to take place on Saturday 8 November. More details will be forthcoming in the next edition of *Saints Alive!*.

**Safety review of Carols by Candlelight service:** Improvements are in hand with respect to the forthcoming Carols by Candlelight service in December 2025 to avoid overcrowding and to reduce associated risks with this as occurred at the 2024 service.

Ben and Clare Noakes, who manage the music in church, have reported back on a number of the suggestions raised for managing the service which were discussed at the last PCC meeting, following consultation with singers likely to be contributing to the carol service.

As a result, Ben and Clare have confirmed that from their point of view putting on two carol services will be viable, and therefore accept the request of the Standing Committee to proceed on this basis: one at 4pm and the second at 6:30pm, both on Sunday 21 December. This is being undertaken as a trial experiment in the first place. There would be no standing in the service and estimate is being made to establish the maximum number of seated persons that can be accommodated in the church at any one time including extra chairs where space is available.

Alternatives to having to have two services have been considered, eg a filmed relay to another space or a ticketed service, but these have so far been ruled out from a practical or musical point of view.

**North porch refurbishment:** In response to the recommendations of the last quinquennial inspection report, consideration is being given to a staged refurbishment of the north porch and possibly other stonework around the church requiring attention.

To initiate this process, names of suitable stonework contractors have been obtained from the diocese and two contractors have been met on site to inspect the porch and discuss the first stage of refurbishment, which will be mainly the external stonework.

Quotations have now been received from these contractors. However, as the weather is becoming less favourable now that winter is approaching, with likely frosts and also daylight hours significantly reducing, it is proposed to defer the work until next spring when weather conditions will be better suited to this type of repair work to be undertaken.

The companies would need to be given the opportunity to review their quotes next year which are only valid for a limited time period.

**Next meetings:** These are scheduled as follows:

SC: 9 December 2025; 17 February, 21 April, 9 or 23 June (provisionally), 20 October 2026.

PCC: 18 November 2025; 20 January, 17 March, 19 May, 21 July, 15 September 2026.

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



## Church Badminton Club

Fun • Fitness • Fellowship

**When:** Wednesday evenings, 8–10pm

**Where:** All Saints Main Hall, Kings Heath

**Who:** Open to all abilities (ages 16+)

Come along, keep active, and enjoy some great company.

No need to book – just bring yourself (and a racket if you have one!).

**Further information:**

Contact Steve Brittle through the Parish Office

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

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

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

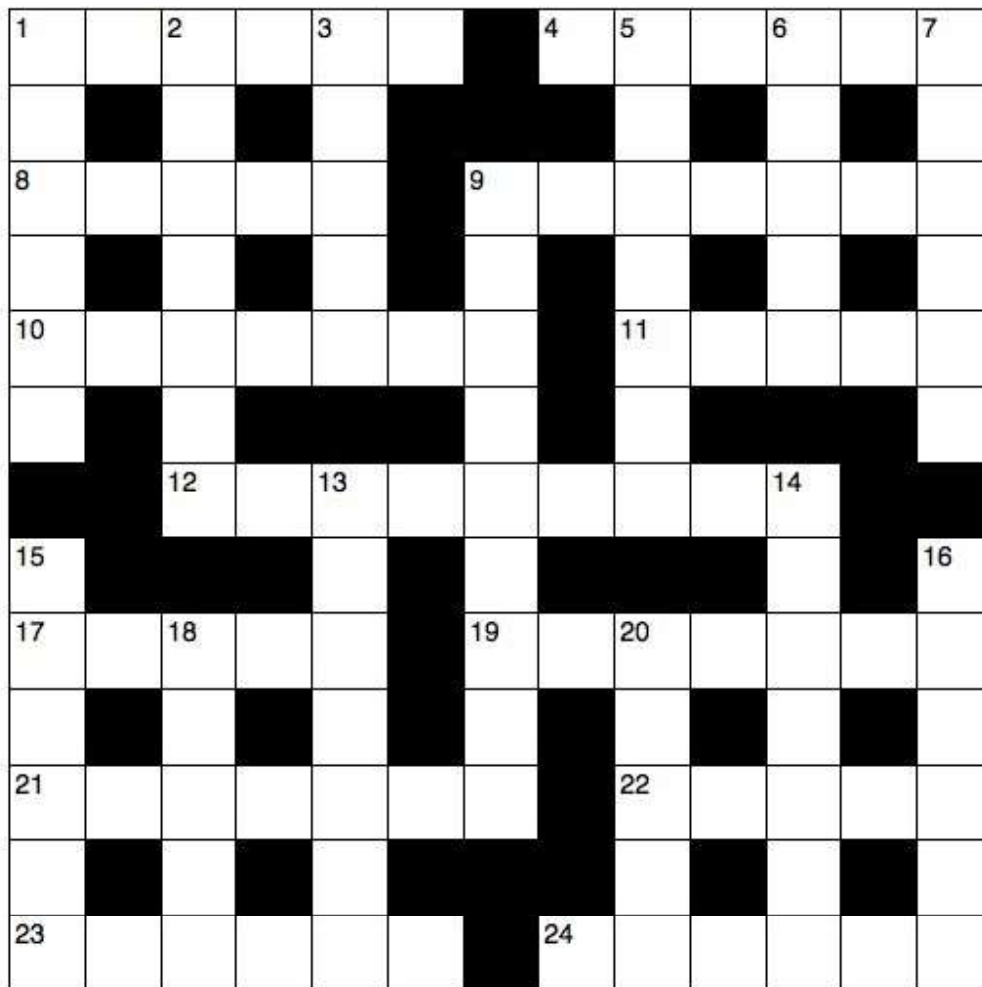
# Crossword

## Across

- 1 'The people were — at his teaching' (Mark 1:22) (6)
- 4 'He saved —; let him save himself' (Luke 23:35) (6)
- 8 He addressed the crowd in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:14) (5)
- 9 Father of James and John (Matthew 4:21) (7)
- 10 One who charges another with an offence (Job 31:35) (7)
- 11 ' — thy ministers with righteousness' (Book of Common Prayer) (5)
- 12 and 15 Down 'All — is God-breathed and is — for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness' (2 Timothy 3:16) (9,6)
- 17 'No — of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up' (Genesis 2:5) (5)
- 19 Made to feel embarrassed (Isaiah 24:23) (7)
- 21 This man built his house on sand (Matthew 7:26) (7)
- 22 David's hypocritical message to Joab on the death in battle of Uriah: 'Don't let this — you' (2 Samuel 11:25) (5)
- 23 Detest (Job 10:1) (6)
- 24 'God made two great lights, the greater light to govern the day and the — light to govern the night' (Genesis 1:16) (6)

## Down

- 1 To make a serious request (1 Corinthians 1:10) (6)
- 2 Launches an assault against (Genesis 32:8) (7)
- 3 'The wicked man — deceptive wages' (Proverbs 11:18) (5)
- 5 Tuba ale (anag) (7)
- 6 'The day thou gavest, Lord, is — ' (5)
- 7 Old Testament measure of weight, equivalent to about 12 grammes (Exodus 30:13) (6)
- 9 Where Elijah restored life to the son of a widow with whom he lodged (1 Kings 17:10) (9)
- 13 Paul said of whatever was to his profit, 'I consider them — , that I may gain Christ and be found in him' (Philippians 3:8) (7)
- 14 City visited by Paul, described by the city clerk as 'the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis' (Acts 19:35) (7)
- 15 See 12 Across
- 16 Rioted (anag) (6)
- 18 She had a surprise when she answered the door and found 8 Across outside (Acts 12:13) (5)
- 20 Maltreat (1 Chronicles 10:4) (5)



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

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

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

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

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

# Accessing and paying for the magazine

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

**Ben & Clare Noakes**  
Editors

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

STANDING ORDER MANDATE AND BANK PAYMENT INFORMATION	
<i>(Please detach and send to your bank) or use for Internet Banking Payments</i>	
To:	The Manager
Address:	_____
	_____
Postcode:	_____
Please pay to	HSBC PLC, Kings Heath Birmingham Branch
Sort Code:	40-11-15
For the credit of:	
The PCC of Kings Heath Parish All Saints Church	Account Number: 71801163
the sum of £ _____	First payment on _____ / _____ /20
and monthly / weekly thereafter on the same date until cancelled by me, or on.....	
Reference:	G.P.F. V.D.F. M Garden Magazine <i>please delete the ones that do not apply</i>
<b><i>Please cancel any previous mandates to this beneficiary on this account number.</i></b>	
Name:	_____
My Sort Code:	_____
My Account Number:	_____
Signature:	_____
Date:	_____

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

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

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

# High days and holy days

## 8 November – Four Crowned Martyrs

Has your boss ever tried to get you to do something that is against your Christian faith? If so, here are some saints for you. They chose to make a Christian 'stand' at work, even though it really irritated their boss.

Claudius, Nicostratus, Simpronian and Castorius were simple stonemasons in early 4th-century Rome. They worked in the imperial quarries and workshops of Sirmium. They made a number of carvings for the Emperor Diocletian, who had a passion for building. Then Diocletian decided he wanted a statue of Aesculapius, the ancient Greek god of medicine. Here Claudius, Nicostratus, Simpronian and Castorius hesitated: they were Christians, and not comfortable about making a 'god'. They demurred. Their line manager Lampadius was furious, and soon had them imprisoned for refusing to sacrifice to the gods. Claudius and his friends were in bad trouble – and then it got worse: Lampadius suddenly died. His family were distraught, and so blamed the stonemasons. Claudius and his companions were killed by drowning.

The courage of these four simple stonemasons to risk everything rather than make a stone statue of a god was a great inspiration in the early Church. Their story was told and retold down the centuries; eventually Claudius and his friends became the patron saints of guilds of stonemasons in England.

## 9 November – Margery Kempe

Margery Kempe was born in 1373, the daughter of a wealthy businessman in King's Lynn; she married John Kempe and had 14 children. She described herself as 'not lettrid', for she could not read or write. Far from the usual 'saint' of the late medieval period, Margery was not a recluse, had not defended her virginity and was not a submissive wife. Her emotional engagement with the liturgy deeply unsettled the established local clergy, who distrusted her.

Margery began her spiritual pilgrimage with depression – probably brought on by the birth of her first child. She was so ill that she had been forcibly locked away in a room by her spiritual director, when she saw a vision of Jesus. He said to her: 'Daughter why have you forsaken me? I never forsook you.' Margery was then reassured that her depressive guilt and fear were misplaced, and that Jesus was actually welcoming her into a personal relationship with himself.

In 1436 Margery dictated her famous book, *The Book of Margery Kempe*. It was a sort of spiritual autobiography, and for centuries only edited bits of it were published for people to read. Then in 1934 a complete manuscript was found, and it led to a re-evaluation of Margery herself.

After years of being remembered as a devout mystic, Margery emerged as a more complete, more human woman from these pages. She loved clothes. She envied other people. She sometimes had fantasies, and sometimes few scruples. But she was also honest in her growing relationship with Christ, and finally found in him a fulfilment she could find nowhere else. That fulfilment helped her on her journey to gradual transformation. Margery died in 1440 and has been called 'the embodiment of an honest soul on a quest for God'.

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

# Who's Who

## **Worship** (for clergy see back page)

Children's Worship Co-ordinators	Sarah Jeffery	07759 386758
	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	Vacant	
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 John Wallace-Howell (Warden) 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
----------------	---------------	---------------

# Ministry Team

Vicar	David Warbrick	<a href="mailto:vicar@allsaintschurchkh.org">vicar@allsaintschurchkh.org</a> 0121 444 0260
Churchwardens	John Wallace-Howell Vacant	c/o 0121 443 4579
Licensed Readers	Margaret Healey-Pollett Claire Wesley	c/o 0121 443 4579 0121 444 2778
Reader Emeritus	John Parkin	c/o 0121 443 4579
Pastoral Care Team	Juliet Bick, Becky Frall, Margaret Healey-Pollett, Wendy Ross, David Warbrick Jenny Warbrick, Des Workman	c/o 0121 444 0260
Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Paul Collins	<a href="mailto:safeguarding@allsaintschurchkh.org">safeguarding@allsaintschurchkh.org</a> 07497 781681
Prayer Circle	(for confidential prayer requests)	<a href="mailto:parishoffice@allsaintschurchkh.org">parishoffice@allsaintschurchkh.org</a> 0121 444 0260

## Worship

<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)



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND