

Saints Alive!

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



**February
2026**



£1
(suggested donation)

From the vicarage

Dear friends and neighbours,

Ageing

If you've visited the vicarage you have probably seen what turned out to be my father's last painting. It evokes childhood weekends when, like many Scousers, we invaded North Wales. In the early '70s Dad painted a watercolour of Moel Famau, as seen through a car window in the rain. His final painting was acrylic, more vivid in colour, more textured, but definitely a re-remembering of the same view through the rainy car window. Already, as you can imagine, there are several layers of memory and meaning overlapping.

The overall impression of the painting is of a blue-green palette. Studying closely, though, you can see Dad has first applied amazing reds beneath, just bleeding through the more obvious presenting colours. Without that unexpected foundational layer of colour, the greens and blues would not glow as they do. Added to the layers of decades between the two paintings, there is the notional car window on which the droplets descend and blur the distant view. There are the artist's eyes beholding and inner eye remembering. There are our eyes beholding the painting and soul apprehending its meaning for us. Layer, upon layer, upon rich layer.

In written texts, when a more ancient text or story can be discerned in the presenting story, bleeding through, as it were, to the surface, the technical term for such layering is the delicious word **palimpsest**. Dad's painting is a palimpsest, each layer making a difference to the next, and contributing to the final richness.

As I turn 60, I find this a helpful way of thinking about ageing. Beginning my seventh decade I don't feel I'm losing anything. I still have my childhood. I still have my clumsy, but largely positive teens. I still have the falling in love and early marriage and ordination. I still have the evolving parenthood. Each of the churches and communities I've been privileged to serve are still feeding and influencing me. I still have the relatively mature years of late 40s, and the experiential richness of 50s is not fading. It's all still there as I step forward.

I can't do as many press-ups as I used to and my knees aren't as bouncy and reliable as they used to be on the descent of mountains. I am certainly more risk-averse than I was. I'm not saying ageing doesn't involve loss. After all, our family has travelled with dementia for nearly 20 years. I'm not romanticising. But ageing is not defined by loss. It is not primarily loss. It is mainly gain.

I am aware that my teenage clumsiness remains and I could be unwittingly hurtful as I turn 60. For I live with little regret, particularly about the big life decisions: vocation, education, partner, location. While like all of you I have experienced bereavement, and might have done or experienced other things, it has to be said that as a straight, white, middle-class bloke, I have met very little resistance. I have sacrificed little. My faith has hardly been tested. It is all too easy for me to say I have enjoyed each decade.

But pondering the palimpsest, for those who do live with regret, disappointment or pain, your life likely glows with more grace and courage and faith than mine ever could. Still, the dark, sombre colours and layers show through the brighter ones to make an ever greater richness which God can cherish and honour. At whatever stage we find ourselves, God does not waste any of our experience. We can surround ourselves with people who might bring out our best and help us make the most of our experience, whatever it may be. That's what church is for. We can be such a person for others as they make sense of their lives thus far.

I count it the greatest blessing that the people I get to experience my sixth and hopefully seventh decade with are you. Life and faith would be very much bleaker and shallower without you, who make it real.

With thanks,

David

The Martineau Trombone Quartet

Presents:

A programme of light classics and melodies,
including a special tribute to mothers.

FREE ENTRY

Retiring collection in aid of
The Youth Project at All Saints.



- Sunday 15th March at 3:00pm
- All Saints Church, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7RA

From the registers



We celebrate the confirmation by Bishop Michael of:

Emillie Owen, Kian Parmar, Lydia Morse-Brown and Naomi Cuthbert

at St Francis Church, Bournville on 25 January; Kian was also baptised



Beer and hymns



with music from All Saints singers
and musicians from Black Diamond
in memory of Jean Caswell and Alma Beattie

Saturday 7th Feb 6-7pm

in All Saints Church (admission free)

followed by a

Ceilidh (Barn Dance) 7.30pm-10pm



in All Saints Church Hall

with music from Mad Moll

Tickets for ceilidh: £10 adults, £5 children
Family ticket £25 (2 adults and up to 3 children)
(includes a Cheese Ploughman's supper)
Licensed bar and soft drinks available

*Tickets available: All Saints Community Café; All Saints Church after 10am
Sunday service; email parishoffice@allsaintschurchkh.org by Friday 6 Feb;
from Des Workman or Jenny Warbrick. Mention dietary needs when booking.*

Confirmations

On Sunday 25 January, four of All Saints' young people were confirmed by Bishop Michael at St Francis Church, Bournville. One of them, Emillie Owen, sent through a photo and some reflections from the candidates and their supporters, which we are pleased to share below.

Naomi: 'I loved the coming together of people from all churches who all wanted to be confirmed; it was a beautiful experience!'

Lydia: 'I really enjoyed preparing for the confirmation in the groups that David led and it was lovely that there were so many of us all being confirmed together. The service was really special and it was really nice to see lots of people from All Saints there to support us!'

Kian: 'It was an honour to support Kian in his baptism and all those who were confirmed gathered around him to support his decision to be baptised. Kian then joined us all to be confirmed which was a lovely experience.'

Emillie: 'I had the most moving afternoon and was proud to be confirming my faith in front of a huge congregation and to be blessed by Bishop Michael Volland was such an amazing experience. Thank you for all the support from my All Saints family. Bishop Michael's sermon was inspiring and showed me the way to be a Christian is to help others but allow yourself to be helped when you are in need. Jesus will guide us and be our light when we are in darkness – this was a beautiful analogy.

I am proud to be a Christian and being confirmed made me feel closer to God.

It was extraordinary to see so many Christians come together from churches across Birmingham and the community we created was beautiful!'



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 February and March – 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 or come and see the bar staff any Friday evening.

All Saints Café: Keeping music live



Fridays in February

- 6th** I'm Homeless,
'Get Me Out of Here'
(Brumside Community Radio Open Mic)
- 13th** Strings and Things
- 20th** Damian Hursey
and the Dreamakers
- 27th** Mad Moll

Fridays in March

- 6th** I'm Homeless,
'Get Me Out of Here'
(Brumside Community Radio Open Mic)
- 13th** Voices
- 20th** Slow Train / Café Quattro
- 27th** Dog Walker Band
and guest

Music matters

Advent with the Flintstones, goldfish with St Anne and ghostbusting with John Rutter: concluding our look at how hymns have been teasingly altered or repurposed.

In the last issue of *Saints Alive!* we started considering some of the inventive ways in which hymns have been (mostly) lovingly parodied and reimagined – whether singing *Abide with me* to **The first Nowell** or *Teenage Kicks* to **Jerusalem**; considering unexpected tunes such as the **Dambusters' March** or **Cranbrook** (*On Ilkla Moor...*); 'highly-flavoured gravy' and God 'walking his porpoise out'; or *What a friend we have in Jesus* and *The church's one foundation's* adaptations as wartime songs¹ – and there were so many examples that the theme has spilled over into this month's music article.

We need to begin by mopping up a few final suggestions from the 'In Quires and Places where they meme' Facebook page: who could resist *I saw three ships* to **The truth from above**, *Come, thou long-expected Jesus* to the **Flintstones** theme, or *Infant holy, infant lowly* sung as a round to **London's Burning**? Repaying the favour of Monty Python's take on Mrs Alexander's words mentioned last issue, which started 'All things dull and ugly', another text of hers, *There is a green hill far away*, can be sung to Sousa's **Liberty Bell** march, which the comedy troupe appropriated as its opening music. The versatile *Hark, the herald-angels sing* can be set to **Scarborough Fair**, or indeed as it was called here *Harkborough Fair* – an attempted pun is, I'm pleased to say, never far away (we noted last February that the **Fawlty Towers** theme tune can well carry the words of *O come, O come, Emmanuel* or, more appropriately to one of that show's characters, *O come, O come, Manuel...* and now remembering its late star Prunella Scales, with her suitably musical surname). I did like their potentially confusing juxtaposing of the words of *Hills of the north, rejoice* alongside those of *In Christ there is no east or west*; and referencing the ubiquity of one particular composer at this time of year, sung to the tune of *Ghostbusters*: 'If you need a song / for your carol book, / who ya gonna call? / JOHN RUTTER! / If you've got a tune, / but it needs a hook, / who ya gonna call? / JOHN RUTTER!'²

Martha Ann Brookes took up our invitation to seek out further examples: we combined *Ding-dong, merrily on high* with hints of *Deck the hall* (this latter tune also 'works' with the words of *Jesus Christ is risen today...*) before the Christmas Day service, in an arrangement in the vein of the *Jingle bells/Hark, the herald* mashup that she had similarly sourced last year; Martha Ann also unearthed a #CursedCarol that we'd missed (*O little town of Bethlehem* sung to Henry Mancini's *Pink Panther* theme) and another use, following last year's suggestion of mixing it with the *Coventry Carol*, for **Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious** – the ever-usable words of *While shepherds watched*; but the highlight was surely alerting us to the 21 December episode of Radio 4's *Broadcasting House* in which 'in a Christmas tradition we've one carol to the tune of another' as the presenter introduced the BBC Singers performing *Away in a Sleepy Lagoon*, that is *Away in a manger* arranged for Eric Coates' *By the Sleepy Lagoon*, aka the theme tune to *Desert Island Discs*.³

¹ In *The Daily Telegraph Book of Hymns* Ian Bradley notes another example of a hymn that thus 'suffered the indignity of being parodied. Soldiers in the First World War sang', in place of *Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty*: 'Raining, raining, raining, / always bloody well raining. / Raining in the morning, / and raining in the night,' with other verses following in a similar manner.

² Some years ago *Private Eye* printed a cartoon of choristers studying a piece of Christmas music with one saying: 'I can't believe it's not Rutter'; there is also a video of a song of that name performed by the choir Pitchcraft which brilliantly parodies Rutter's music, key changes and all, in the generous presence of the composer himself (see <https://shorturl.at/hqjR5>).

³ This can be heard at <https://shorturl.at/bv7Aq>, around 32 minutes into the programme.

In the All Saints Players pantomimes we have always included a hymn tune with rewritten lyrics: the tune of *Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost* accompanied words emphasising the importance of odd numbers to Snow White's seven new friends⁴; in our first panto Cinderella's lost slipper was obvious inspiration to appropriate the tune **Nottingham**: 'Take my feet, and let them be / swift and beautiful for thee'; we are perhaps proudest though of the use of **St Denio** for the ode at the top of Jack's beanstalk – 'Enormous, invincible, giant so wise' – and the very solemn reworking of *Eternal Father, strong to save* that was sung in *Dick Whittington* as the cast's ship was about to set sail, which included such couplets as 'I am not brave, I'm only bold-ish – / don't even want to see a goldfish'.⁵ In our 2019 comedy revue Gill Cole performed a superb Joyce Grenfell piece in which during the course of singing a pitch-perfect soundalike Christian hymn she becomes increasingly worried that she's forgotten to turn off the gas hob, moving from a perfectly normal first stanza ('Such peaceful thoughts my mind doth fill, / serene my heart today, / and sweet and calm are all around / and doubt is fled away') via almost Anglican chant-like extended lines such as 'I know exactly what will happen, all the water will boil away / and the bottom of the pan will get red-hot and fall on the floor of the kitchen' to the final verse when, she becomes resigned to her fate and prepares to depart church and makes a dash for home: 'Darling, I don't suppose that you / went into the kitchen and turned / the gas off underneath the soup? / No, I was afraid you wouldn't have done.'⁶

Clare and I have written a biographical psalm, with chant, for David's 50th birthday, congratulations for Nigel and Christopher on their marriage (starting 'O Chris and Nigel, Nige and Chris / your wedding day we sing you this' rather than 'O Christmas tree'...) and farewells on their departures to parishes new for former Children's and Families Minister Emily Hoe-Crook (to **As the deer pants for the water**) and curate Diane Thompson (*The Sound of Music's* 'So long, farewell' with rhymes like 'So long, farewell, auf Wiedersehen, adieu. / We hope that many bottoms fill your pews'). Not all repurposing needs to be humorous: in a football-themed All Age Worship service eight or so years ago we wrote some words that the congregation sang to the *Match of the Day* theme; familiar tunes such as **Woodlands** (best known to us as that for *Tell out, my soul*) or **Carlisle** (*Breathe on me, breath of God*) are excellent ways of introducing new texts to a congregation, and sometimes it's good too to sing familiar words to lesser-known tunes, as the choir has done in the past with the aforementioned *Take my life, and let it be* and *While shepherds watched*. In a similar spirit to the *O little town of Bethlehem/The House of the Rising Sun* 'protest song' approach mentioned last time, we have in recent years sung updated words to *Ride on, ride on* and *Away in a manger* which provide a more modern and realistic, perhaps less sanitised, take on the events that they describe.

Inevitably in researching this article I've gone down various online rabbit holes and spent rather longer than is strictly advisable looking at websites claiming to have 'funny' hymn parodies that are in many cases anything but... Not all though – I did chuckle at an ode to a goldfish (who'd have thought goldfish would get two mentions in the same column...?) set to **St Anne** (*O God, our help in ages past*) which starts: 'I have a little goldfish. / He doesn't make a sound – / he just keeps swimming round and round. / And round and round and round,' with the next verse continuing: 'And round and round and round and round / and round and round and round' etc.

⁴ Clare also remembers this tune being used in a childhood panto at her parents' church: 'When in battle do or die, / foremost in the frame am I. / Lead my men to victor-i, / Colonel brave, that's me.'

⁵ Apologies as anyone involved may never be able to sing **Melita** again without thinking of the panto words... We were hardly rushing in where angels had feared to tread here, though – in his book mentioned above, Ian Bradley quotes one parody from *The Times* which finished with the line 'For those in peril in the BBC!', and another cautionary warning (with an equally free approach to numbers of syllables...) for clergy 'which appeared some years ago in the Church of Scotland's *Ministers' Forum*': 'Whene'er you climb the pulpit stair, / proceed with caution, and beware, / lest tripping o'er your long black gown / you find you go not up, but down. / And earthbound falling at full throttle, / hear the faithful cry: "He's on the bottle!"'

⁶ The original sketch can be seen at <https://shorturl.at/xJ9UN>.

Some people might consider parodying or ribbing hymns, however gently, to be irreverent (in the true sense of the word; in its more general usage, 'irreverent' as an adjective can, like 'zany', be a potentially tiresome indicator of someone deliberately trying to provoke or stand out), but I think this is to miss the point – pretty much everything that has been cited in this two-part article has been done with genuine love for its source material; indeed, it could be argued that such parodies do their bit in helping to keep hymns alive and show their continued relevance. It's only really decent, or at least popular, words and tunes, after all, that are worth satirising – if nobody knows the originals, what would be the point? The comedian Rob Brydon has said that he only does impressions – many of which are uncannily accurate; viewers of TV's best panel show *Would I Lie To You?* will be well aware of his ability to inhabit the voices of (keeping up my own 'down with the kids' frames of reference...) Ronnie Corbett, Michael Caine or Terry Wogan – of celebrities that he likes, otherwise it's harder to get a handle on the voice, and I think the same is the case here: genuine affection for hymns and church music provides the best basis for sharp, knowing and accurate parody. So let's leave the matter here (for now – our figurative door is always open for rewritten words or *One hymn to the tune of another* ideas), gather round the equally figurative harmonium, and blame me as we launch into the words of *All for Jesus* to the melody of Rod Stewart's **Sailing**...

Ben Noakes
Music Co-ordinator

We don't like to make another (fond) jibe at the altos' expense, but this from Classic FM was too good to resist:

Soprano: *Hey, want to hear a joke?*

Alto: *Sure.*

Soprano: *Melody.*

Alto: *I don't get it...*

Soprano: *I know. You don't.*

There was a record turnout for carol singing on the Village Square on Christmas Eve, with a number of passers-by stopping to listen or to join in with singers from All Saints – and we are delighted to confirm that £110 was raised for Birmingham Christmas Shelter. Many thanks to all who sang, to those who listened and encouraged, to Des and Sheila for managing the bucket collection, and to David and Jenny for their hospitality afterwards.

Birmingham Christmas Shelter is a local charity that has raised funds and recruited volunteers each year since 1974 to provide local adults who are homeless or otherwise alone at Christmas with a free warm, safe and welcoming place to eat, shower, sleep and enjoy Christmas. It opens its doors to its guests for several days and nights during the Christmas week, when most of the other services that they rely on take a well-earned rest.

The charity responded: 'Thank you for your generous donation to Birmingham Christmas Shelter. It will ensure that we can continue to provide local homeless and other adults who would be alone at Christmas, with a free warm, safe place to spend Christmas.'

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to and supported music at All Saints, across the Christmas period and throughout 2025 – singers and instrumentalists are always welcome to join us, whether regularly or occasionally, so do get in touch or come along one Sunday morning and we will be very pleased to see you.

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. This month we include flyers for four regular events that happen on the church campus.

All Saints Community Centre
Kings Heath B14 7RA



CHAIR-BASED Yoga

Feel healthier. Increase strength, flexibility, tone; improve breathing; reduce stress

JOIN NOW!

Half term £36
(6 classes)
drop in: £7

Any body welcome!





Instructor
Carol Haynes
Iyengar yoga qualified
3 decades teaching

Mondays 1.30-2.30pm
(check around holiday dates)

For Booking:
contact:
hayoga17@gmail.com
or just come along

[@carma.ha](https://www.instagram.com/carma.ha)
carmaha-yoga.co.uk



BADMINTON CLUB



DATE & TIME: EVERY WEDNESDAY
8PM-10PM

COST
£6.50

VENUE : ALL SAINTS KINGS HEATH
ALL ARE WELCOME 16+

WHAT TO EXPECT : RELAXED GAMES AMONGST NEW FRIENDS, JUST BRING YOURSELF

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT
BADMINTON@ALLSAINTSCHURCHKH.ORG



Strong Mums Club


FREE DROP-IN PLAY SESSIONS FOR MUMS & LITTLE ONES

Looking for a friendly space to meet other mums while your little one plays?

Join us at the StrongMums Club – a relaxed play session where children can explore and mums can enjoy a chat and a coffee.

 Toys & play space in the Garden Room

 A welcoming atmosphere for mums

 No commitment – stay for as long or as little as you like

 Toilets available on site

 No need to book – just drop in!

 **MONDAYS 11AM – 1PM**

 **TUESDAYS 2PM – 4PM**

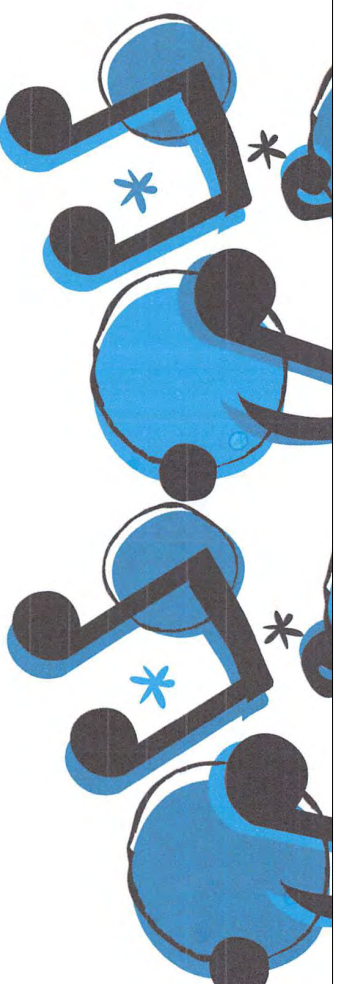
 **ALL SAINTS CENTRE, KINGS HEATH – GARDEN
ROOM B14 7RA**



WE KINDLY ASK THAT YOU
MAKE USE OF THE ALL SAINTS
COFFEE SHOP WHILE
YOU'RE HERE



THEY HAVE LOTS
OF YUMMY TREATS



KINGS HEATH CHOIRS

Starts September 8th!

Find your voice. Join the harmony.

YOUTH CHOIR (AGES 13-18)

Mondays 6:20-7:30pm

Pop, Musicals, Choral Classics

No experience needed - just bring the energy!

CHAMBER CHOIR (AGES 15+ & ADULTS)

Mondays 7:50-9pm

For more experienced singers

Explore new & timeless choral music

LED BY LINNEA MARKGREN



Rehearsals: All Saints Centre, B14 7RA

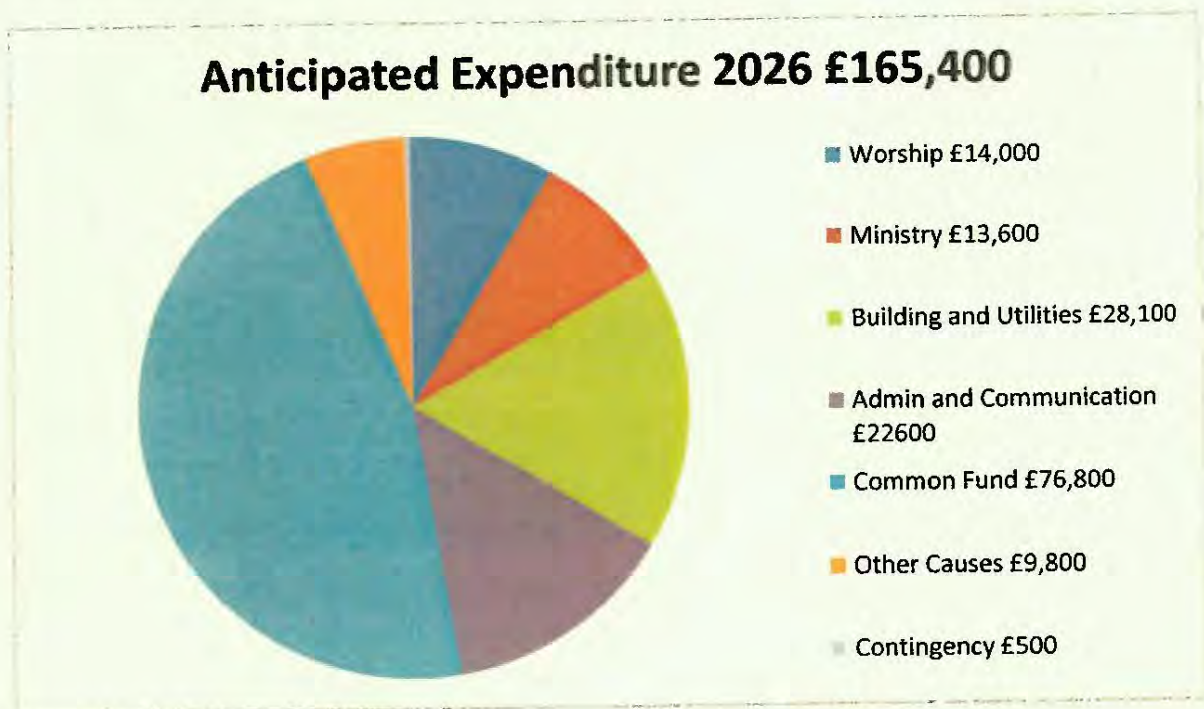
Info & Sign Up @ www.kingsheathchoirs.co.uk

Financial care for our Parish Church and our family, the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS
KINGS HEATH

The Parochial Church Council of All Saints monitors and plans our Church spending. We have estimated this year's needs if we are to sustain and modestly develop ministry here this year. These figures do not include the All Saints Centre development or activities run there which, though very much part of our shared mission, are managed and accounted for separately through our three charitable companies. We acknowledge how many people give to All Saints gifts of volunteer time and skill, and financial support directly to the Youth Project and other activities. We are grateful for all that has been given in the last year. We acknowledge the financial strain on everyone in the coming year.



Worship includes music, children's resources, visiting preachers' expenses, copyright licenses and altar supplies.

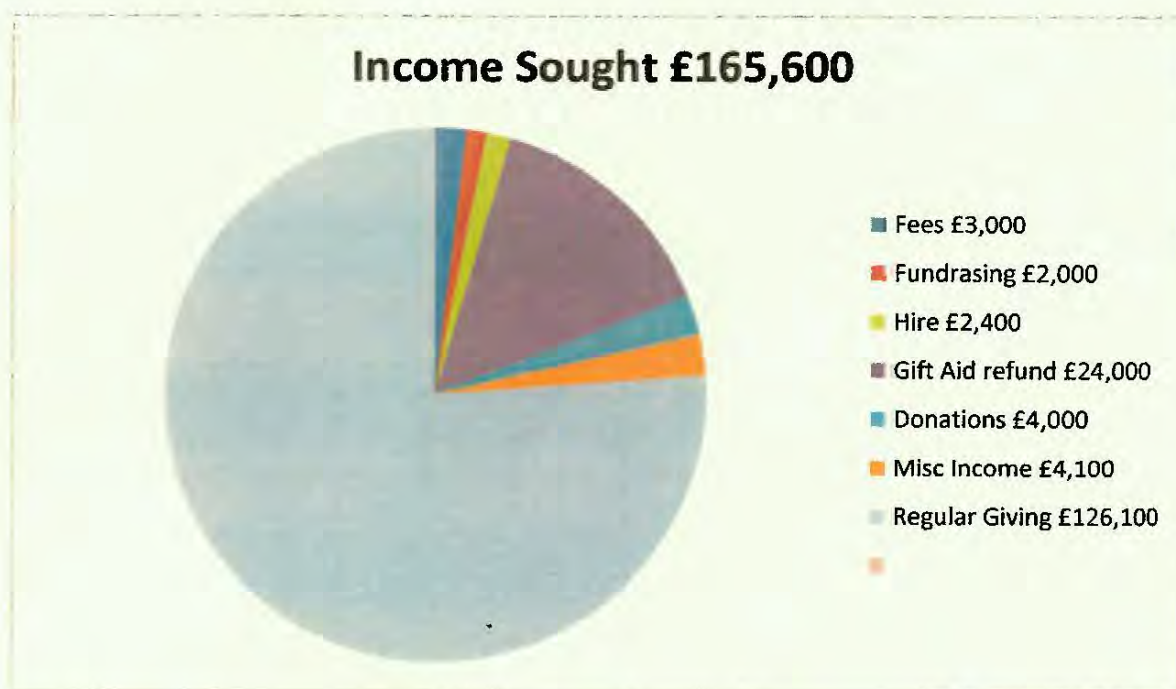
Ministry includes some aspects of clergy housing, telephone, travel expenses, hospitality, education and training; Children and Young People, Arts and Social Justice budgets, support for Youth Project room hire; training courses for laity and clergy.

Communication and Administration includes things such as office staff and telephone, printing and publicity, Safeguarding administration, website maintenance, Zoom and Mailerlite fees, Bank Charges.

The Common Fund Out of this central fund come all central support services such as safeguarding, training, surveyors, HR support, legal services, and clergy stipends, housing and pensions across the Diocese. Every neighbourhood, prosperous or poor, receives the same care. Clergy stipends are the same whatever the demographic of the church. We are asked to pay into the Common Fund as a parish according to our means.¹

Supporting Other Causes Since the first century the church has defined itself according to its relationship with the poor. We as a church family share a proportion of what we are given with people in need. Our Justice, Peace and Green Group help us to think carefully about whom we should support. We try to share a modest proportion of the gifts of grace we receive. We do not give away any funds donated with specific restricted purpose, such as gifts for specific appeals.

Building and Utilities includes utilities, insurance and minor repairs.



*The amount we need to raise from our regular giving in 2026 is £126,100, which works out at about £2,425 per week, which you could say is an average** of approximately £12.75 p/w per adult on the electoral roll.*

David says "I am hugely proud that the Church of England serves every neighbourhood with equal attentiveness and pays its priests the same across the Diocese. I have seen the free market approach in the US where Churches head-hunt and attract ministers with good pension and healthcare packages. I find that interferes horribly with the signals from the Holy Spirit and leaves poorer neighbourhoods disadvantaged. The Common Fund is one of our best expressions of Church."

****A personal note from David:** *My stipend and housing brings me to a near average income. I am acutely aware, though, that I live with greater security than most, and a disproportionate amount of church giving is from people with lower income than me. To reflect this, and to express for myself the highest priority of sustaining Anglican Church ministry in every neighbourhood, I choose to contribute about three times that amount. That is not to pressurise anyone, but to assure you that I read what I write to you.*

Thank you for taking time to reflect with us.

If you have any questions about Church finance, do talk to members of the PCC, or to David. (0121) 444 0260

As we ask you to consider your contribution to All Saints in 2026, we assure you of two things: First, we believe Christian giving is not competitive. Our gifts should always be in proportion to our means. ***This year it may be your Christian responsibility to reduce your offering as your circumstances change.*** Secondly, our decision is an intimate one, borne of our personal reflection on our own unique circumstances. Please rest assured that, if you choose to make your gift through Parish Giving Scheme, Standing Order or Gift Aid then the amount you decide to contribute will be known ***only*** to our Treasurers Steve Brittle and Ted Hammond, and Martha Ann Brookes who administrates Gift Aid. Needless to say, they hold that information in the strictest confidence. The Vicar doesn't know what anyone gives, not even Jenny.

Return the slip below to the box in Church if you wish.

✂-----

I would like to know about:

- Gift Aid. As I am a UK taxpayer, how can I increase my gift by 20% at no further cost to me through Gift Aid?
- the Parish Giving Scheme.
- leaving a gift to All Saints in my will.
- income and expenditure at All Saints in more detail.

Name

Please contact me by: Telephone

Email Post.....

.....

From the PCC

Since the last edition of *Saints Alive!* there has been one Standing Committee meeting on 8 December and one Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting on 20 January.

The following is a résumé of the points discussed at these, focusing more on the later (January) meeting:

Finance:

Current situation: Our treasurer provided in advance of the meeting a draft copy of the income and expenditure assessment, the balance sheet and the average planned giving assessment for the church accounts for the year to the end of December 2025.

At the meeting, he gave a detailed review of this information:

Expenditure: He made specific reference to the following comparing the estimated of budgeted amounts at the beginning of 2025 to actual amounts spent for the year:

- **Worship:** This was significantly higher.
- **Ministry costs:** These were significantly lower mainly due to our curate moving on midway through the year.
- **Church buildings including utilities:** These were significantly lower particularly due to utilities being lower than anticipated.
- **Administration:** Marginally lower.
- **Common Fund:** This has been paid in full for the year. The first payment for 2026 has been made at £6,550 which is equivalent to an annual amount of £78.6K. The diocese is asking for £96K which at this point is beyond the amount which the church finances can realistically support. This may be increased if there is a favourable response to the stewardship campaign or if there are any significant donations to the church in the period of which it has been previously agreed that a percentage of anything above £1K would be paid to support the diocese unless the money was ringfenced to be allocated to a particular use. He said that he had provided the diocese with our reasoning as to why we had not at this stage been able to offer them the full amount of our Common Fund contribution. He had actually received a message of thanks for his explanation from the diocesan finance officer who had also commented that All Saints stood just above average of all the parishes in the diocese in terms of their financial status.
- **Supporting other causes:** Originally budgeted at £9,800 but due to the current financial situation this had been temporarily reduced to circa £6,000. The treasurer was finalising the list of charities with the Justice, Peace and Green group before paying any money out.
- **Expenditure overall:** This amounted to a draft amount of circa £140.4K for the year (2025).

Income: The treasurer made specific reference to the following comparing budgeted to actual amounts received for the year:

- **Regular giving:** He reported that regular giving was significantly lower than budgeted and this had had a knock-on effect on the amount of tax able to have been claimed from the Inland Revenue. However, the average monthly giving for the last 12 months compared with the average for the previous 12 months was more by circa £40 which demonstrated an upward trend since the middle of 2025.
- **Magazine fees:** These were noticeably lower for the year, but it was possible that this was partly due to the money donated for the magazine in the donations box by the south door not being counted for some time.
- **Fees:** These were significantly more than budgeted.
- **Fundraising:** This was roughly as budgeted although did include an amount of £500 from the pantomime in February 2025.
- **Photocopier costs:** These were approximately as budgeted. He did however point out that the cost per copy for black and white is about 0.9p whereas full colour is 25p. He suggested that the use for coloured copying is minimised to reduce expenditure in this area.
- **Church rental:** Roughly as budgeted.
- **Donations:** Slightly higher than budgeted. One bequest of £1,000 had also been received.
- **Income overall:** The treasurer reported that the above represented an income to the end of December 2025 for the year of circa £140.9K giving a credit of about £500 overall. He did point out that this was on the basis of the giving to good causes being reduced as indicated above.

Balance sheet: The treasurer pointed out that money is currently being held in two bank accounts and also in the CCLA investments. The returns from the CCLA investments appear to have reduced a little since the middle of the year but this was recognised as a risk with this type of investment and could easily rise again. There was a reasonable amount of money in the Vicar's Discretionary Fund under Liabilities and a small amount in the Memorial Garden fund.

He said that he had not yet paid anything to Supporting Good Causes and the amount proposed of £6K was currently included on the balance sheet as a liability.

Overall net worth: The treasurer reported that overall, at this time, the church balance net worth was circa £203K, 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.

There was some discussion as to whether the loan should be written off but David, our vicar, pointed out that that the rooms at the back of the church represented an asset to offset against the value of the loan and was in memory of the money originally donated for the original church reordering and for the time being the loan status should remain as is.

Christmas charities: David confirmed the three chosen charities to whom the money collected from Christmas services would be donated were firstly a local charity, Safe Families; also, The Children's Society, a UK charity, and then the Disasters Emergency Committee. The treasurer reported that over £2,700 had been collected from the Christmas services, although a single donation of £1,500 had enhanced the amount. This represented over £900 to each charity.

Finance campaign – Stewardship 2026:

David reported that the presentation pamphlet as part of the campaign to encourage people to reconsider their current giving to the Church was now completed and copies printed for introducing to the congregation at the end of January 2026 (now passed) – see middle pages of this issue.

Safeguarding:

Parish safeguarding officer: Paul Collins continues with the duties of DBS verifier and parish safeguarding officer (formerly known as safeguarding co-ordinator for the whole site, and he was present at the meeting.

Safeguarding training: He has now completed formal safeguarding training apart from a few follow-ups.

Safeguarding Hub: Paul reported that he is shortly going to start uploading details of DBS and safeguarding training status of persons associated with the Centre and church activities to the Hub which will advise him automatically if anyone's status is out of date.

Safeguarding policies: Paul is proposing to review the two policies, Safeguarding and Child Protection and Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults, which are required to be reviewed annually.

Incidents: Paul was pleased to be able to report that there have been no incidents since the last Standing Committee meeting in December.

Churchwarden's report:

Christmas carol services: John Wallace-Howell, our churchwarden, reported that the two services arrangement for the Carols by Candlelight was a great success, the church being almost full for both services. He said that there were a few practical things that could have been of benefit.

Firstly, he could have done with a few more volunteers to help with the running of these services and the other Christmas services.

He had some concern that if there was bad snow and ice at the time of any of the Christmas services as happened this year, more should be done to provide a safer access to the church across the Village Square at the time of the services. Arrangements to be made for more salt to be obtained for next year.

Review of arrangements for Christmas services: He suggested that the arrangements for the 2026 Carols by Candlelight services should be reviewed again at the November PCC meeting.

Faculty: The question was asked for more detail of the nature of what is referred to as a 'faculty'.

It was explained that, with respect to the Church of England, a faculty refers to a legal permission or dispensation required for certain works or changes to church buildings, their contents and a churchyard. A faculty is essentially a formal authorisation granted by the Church authorities to allow a parish to carry out works that may affect a physical change to a church building, its contents or churchyard. This includes repairs, alterations and additions. It ensures that any changes are properly considered and managed within the framework of Church governance.

The churchwarden is essentially responsible for the church building, its contents and the churchyard so if a faculty is required, he would either have to apply for one himself or it can be delegated to another person.

It is currently an online system and is part of the Church of England's building control system.

Deanery Synod report: Our Deanery Synod representatives reported that there have been no Deanery Synod meetings since the last one in October 2025. Another one is due to be held in late February/early March 2026, date to be advised.

Reordering: The second meeting was scheduled to be held on 11 January but was postponed due to the poor icy weather conditions at the time. Another date is being fixed for a meeting to take place shortly.

Review of Carols by Candlelight Service: Ben and Clare Noakes, our music co-ordinators, reported that there were very favourable comments on the success of holding two carol services following the initial safety review after the 2025 service where there were too many people for the single service to be held safely.

All at the PCC meeting agreed that it had been a great success and were happy for it to take place in 2026 with a similar format.

David said that both services were equally moving and he was very impressed at the enthusiasm of all who took part and the positive reaction of the two congregations. In fact, this not only applied to these services but to all the Christmas services. The generosity of spirit and musicality was very evident. The services were a very pleasurable way of bringing the message of Christmas to the local community. There is obviously a demand from the local community for these types of services at Christmas time.

As indicated above, a further review to be held at the November 2026 PCC meeting.

Lunch Club: The number of people attending the Lunch Club had now dwindled to two and it was considered that something should be done to re-establish it as going concern for the more elderly people in the local community.

There were one or two points raised that would need consideration:

- **Hot vs cold meals:** Some elderly people preferred a hot meal to be provided rather than cold sandwiches as this is something that they can more easily do at home; they would be more tempted to come if a hot meal was provided.
- **Safeguarding:** Should the venue be more secure from a safeguarding point of view than the very public Café?
- **Way forward:** Members were keen for it to continue, and discussion has been had with the All Saints Café team and there are residual funds available.

It was suggested that perhaps it should be reinstated in conjunction with other local churches. David said that the next meeting of Churches Together in Kings Heath was on Monday 26 January (now passed) at which the matter would be raised for consideration.

Prospective new PCC member: Louise Wood, one of the staff of the Youth Project and a member of the congregation, has expressed a wish to become a PCC member. Louise attended the PCC meeting as an observer.

Her close association with the Youth Project would provide a better link to enable Youth Project issues to be expressed with the PCC. Additionally, that it was always a good thing to have new members to healthily challenge the views of more long-term members and also as a member of the congregation bring the concerns of the congregation to the PCC.

Different people had different skills to bring to the meeting.

Next meetings: These are scheduled as follows:

SC: 17 February, 21 April, 9 or 23 June (tbc), 20 October 2026.

PCC: 17 March, 19 May, 21 July, 15 September, 17 November 2026.

APCM: It was agreed that this should be held on Sunday 19 April 2026 after the 10am service in church.

Tony Cocks
PCC Secretary

The ASYP Big Christmas Word Quiz 2025

The annual Christmas brainteaser was again very well received and supported. We are delighted to report that nearly £1,100 was raised to support the Youth Project. This help is greatly appreciated and will contribute to the costs of the team continuing the tremendous work of the Project.

We would like to thank Jenny Warbrick, Angela McDermott and Vicki Willinger for their hard work and support this year.

We have started our planning for the next quiz and are always open to ideas as to how we can improve this fundraising activity.

With our thanks and best wishes,

Lindsey & Ted Hammond and Liz Haskins

Get involved...!

We are always pleased to receive contributions for the magazine – including reports and reflections, ‘Getting to know you’ interviews, 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

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
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.

Getting to know you

We see so many people at church each week, but often we know very little about them. In this regular article a person from the congregation is interviewed and we get to know each other a bit better.

What is your name?

My name is Abi Hastings – yes, like the Battle.

What is (or was) your day job?

I work for Barnardo's, the children's charity, doing community work for a family support service in the east of Birmingham.

How long have you been at All Saints?

I joined All Saints in March 2025, after being at another church for 5+ years and doing some church-searching!

What are you currently involved in at church?

I am part of the youth and coffee teams, am joining the kids' team and am really interested in the environmental and justice work! I also love the Wednesday badminton, although I rarely ever win.

What has been your most memorable service/event/activity since you've been here?

I don't know if I currently have a most memorable service or event – I found the Red Line for Gaza demonstration very moving, and I am regularly encouraged and surprised that the sermons are reactive to what's happening in daily life, locally and globally. This feels unusual to me, and a real privilege. I also love the Iona services, and am really enjoying learning about the rhythm of the church calendar as that's completely new to me!

Do you have a favourite hymn/Bible passage?

I love Ephesians; it has brought me to tears many times.

What are you reading at the moment?

I'm currently reading a book called *Silent Earth* about the climate crisis, capitalism and its impact on our insect life (which is actually really important for our existence!).

Who from history/literature/film would you like strike up a correspondence with and why?

I love Marilynne Robinson, and am really interested in how she's able to create such beloved characters.

If you would like to feature on our 'Getting to know you' page, or to suggest people whom we could interview for this, please do get in touch!



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

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

Who's Who

Worship (for clergy see back page)

Children's Worship Co-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.

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 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	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	John Wallace-Howell Vacant	c/o 0121 443 4579
Licensed Readers	Margaret Healey-Pollett Claire Wesley	c/o 0121 443 4579 0121 444 2778
Pastoral Care Team	Juliet Bick, Becky Frall, Margaret Healey-Pollett, Wendy Ross, David Warbrick Jenny Warbrick, Des Workman	c/o 0121 444 0260
Safeguarding Officer	Paul Collins	safeguarding@allsaintschurchkh.org 07497 781681
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