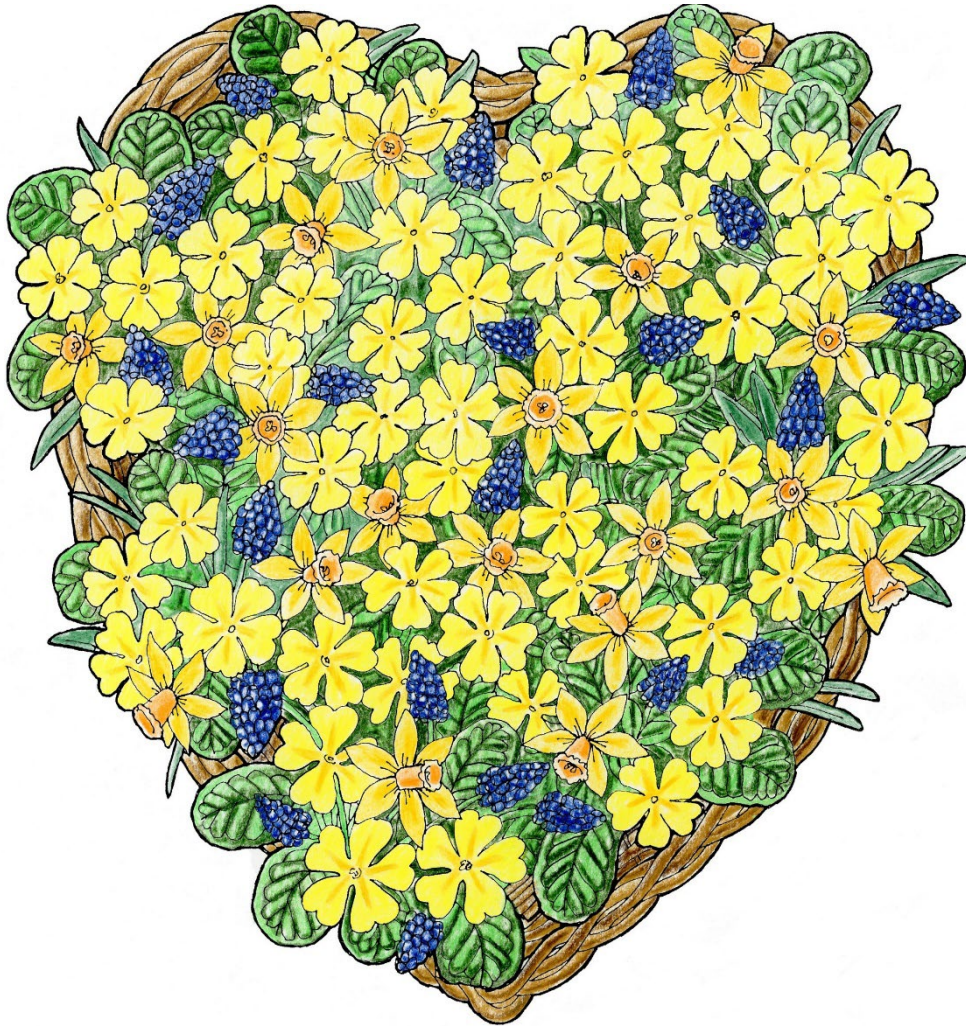


Saints Alive!

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



**March
2026**



£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 March and April – 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 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

Fridays in April

- 3rd** I'm Homeless,
'Get Me Out of Here'
(Brumside Community Radio Open Mic)
- 10th** Strings and Things
- 17th** Mad Moll
- 24th** Busketeers

From the vicarage

Dear friends and neighbours,

It was humbling to stand around Ruth Tetlow's coffin with a Sikh leader, an imam and a rabbi, each of us offering a commendation prayer as we said farewell to her. I hope you will forgive me taking a couple of pages below sharing the full text of the sermon that day which echoed with Amos 5:13-15a, 18-24 and Matthew 22:34-40. I've just come from a moving iftar here in our Garden Room, Christians and Muslims comparing Lent and Ramadan and hearing about the needs of West Bank Palestinians marking the season with uncertainty hanging over the future of their homes. How such interfaith understanding and collaboration as Ruth exemplified is needed now she has gone.

Salaam alaikum. Peace be with you. Shalom.

David

We can be sure that since humans first measured time, just about every single human who has ever breathed this world's delicate air has prayed. It may be as simple as 'Wow' or 'Sorry' or 'Thank you' or 'Help', but in some shape or pattern, we have instinctively reached out to an Other. There are a few humans who manage without prayer and they are to be admired, while anyone who prays is not to be patronised. Ruth knew that to overhear one another's prayers is both a privilege and a necessity. It is to hear the workings of our humanity, our emotional life, the formation of our ethics and virtues. For her the purpose of prayer and the nature of the Other to whom prayers are offered shifted and evolved until latterly she was sceptical of the personal interventionist god she might have been brought up to address, but the need to understand the place of spiritual life, expressed culturally and collectively through long-evolved religious practice, never dimmed. She knew we would never find peace unless we stay curious about each other's prayers.

Matthew's Gospel, from which we have just heard begins with a profoundly moving interfaith encounter. Zoroastrian astrologers bring precious gifts from Persia to one whom they acknowledge as a Jewish infant King. Their overwhelming of historic rivalries with generosity is astonishing, and Jesus, the recipient, hasn't said a word. The story is overshadowed by the violence of a desperate, jealous bully, Herod, who has too much power. The same Gospel ends with Jesus commissioning his ragged little group of doubting followers to take good news to the whole world; to all nations – surely a naive hope before the might of the Roman Empire that executed him.

But sure enough that little group did spread the subversive news of God's uncompetitive kingdom far and wide. It is unbearably tragic that after the conversion of the Emperor Constantine, the news was spread with the sword. It is ludicrous and tragic that from then on, violent antisemitism brewed and festered in Christendom.

So then and now, we have always needed people who can see when things have gone awry without prevailing culture noticing; when default settings go unquestioned; when suffering is normalised; when policy is prejudiced. Amos was angry. Spectacularly angry. Things assumed to be good were,

he saw, rotten. With poetic vision he tore down the religious establishment, imagining God loathing the solemn religiosity that everyone thought so respectable. That left a shocking silence. Then, in the great poetic tradition of turning to nature where humanity has failed, Amos imagines justice – so absent from the hearts of the elite, rolling down like water; and he sees righteousness, so missing from the self-serving powerful, appearing as an ever-flowing stream. The book of Amos will end with a vision of peace for God's people, once they have relearned the righteousness and justice that are meant to be the core and the sign of their faith.

Jewish poet Leonard Cohen, who also gladly drew on Buddhist and Christian insight, sang: 'Can't run no more with that lawless crowd; the killers in high places say their prayers out loud.' That's the kind of regime Amos critiqued. It's the kind of politics on the rise again here and around the world today. But like Leonard, who saw 'there is a crack in everything – that's how the light gets in', Amos can see a better way. Leonard died just after Donald Trump was first elected. Ruth could see a better way. The common sense of the Jubilee Debt Campaign appealed to her fierce practicality. Calling for peace, for disarmament, for economic structures to be transformed she could be angry, but always held a practical vision for a fairer world in view. Like Amos, criticism alone was not enough. Like Amos, Ruth pondered the natural world, cared for it, wanted to introduce children to it. It helped keep her hopeful.

Entwined with her prophetic and practical aspects, partnership was a key quality in Ruth. Collaboration, convening, connecting people was more an instinct than a discipline for her. Her work in helping develop the religious education curriculum in Birmingham was a good example, equipping educators to understand the dispositions that form healthy spiritual and religious life. It was typical that when Ruth and Richard found Sovereign Way and saw the potential of that hidden walled garden, they soon wanted to share it with a neighbouring school.

The key partnership, though, was of course with Richard. Since their first meeting, and their first soaking at their first demo, they have each been utterly reliable anchorage for the other. With enviable balance Ruth supported his ministry at St John's where they helped transform a weather-beaten inner-city church community; Richard supported Ruth's ever-evolving vocation as teacher and interfaith convener, a vocation that deepened and broadened its reach remarkably in the last 25 years, the Hubert Walter Award from the Archbishop of Canterbury in 2022 well deserved, but never brandished. Each was happy when the other was to the fore. Ruth being endlessly responsive to calls at the vicarage door was a symptom of her remarkable capacity for care. I wonder if her lack of sentimentality allowed her to keep giving. Paradoxically, her passion for justice, and expectation that the world could be made better, was energetic and tireless because it wasn't all about feelings. There was a matter-of-fact obviousness about equity that made Ruth just get on with it. No compassion fatigue for her.

Through these energetic years, their parenthood and grandparenthood evolved. While this involved plenty of fun, and we've heard there could be tears of laughter, perhaps that unsentimental capacity to care also made for a paradoxical closeness and distance at the same time. Those countless knocks at the vicarage door must have been costly for the children. It's enough for a child to learn to share their parents with a sister, brother, adopted sibling, without having to have them care for the whole neighbourhood. You'd forgive anyone for thinking Ruth's worldwide vision and local attentiveness might have been exhausting to live with at times. Without intruding, let us say publicly, thank you to Daniel and Rachel and Duncan for letting us all have so much of their Mum.

We may wonder what shaped Ruth's lively, alert social conscience. It was perhaps in part reaction to conservatism of parents and schooling, while at the same time, in part honouring of her parents' courage, achievement and resistance. Without over interpreting, we in Birmingham benefited from Ruth's ever-deepening, evolving vocation as teacher and interfaith activist, diplomat, convener, environmentalist. We give thanks for what Ruth forged from her experiences, her heritage and we give thanks for the way Ruth grasped the opportunities presented to her, intellectually, in faith, in her candid kind of love.

The Gospel of Matthew began with prayerful Persians giving gifts to a Jewish boy who would inaugurate a new way of thinking about humanity, and envisioned a new community where the peacemakers, the meek, the persecuted and the vulnerable are blessed (Matthew 5). The Gospel opens up a vision that should, **should**, bring us together in our diversity. If Ruth's voice of justice and hope is silent now, just as fearmongering voices of prejudice and ugly entitlement are raised, how then shall we raise ours? She's done so much of the hard work. She's dug open the ground, she's begun planting the bulbs and trees, she's opened the garden of faith for young and old to explore. Now we need to tend it, patiently to create the conditions in which such gracious gifts could be exchanged again.

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

A gift of grace

All Saints PCC is very moved and grateful to be able to say that a gift has been received from the estate of Elaine Apps, founder member of our Pastoral Team. She has bequeathed to All Saints £44,000. We are putting this gift in reserve while the PCC considers the best lasting legacy from Elaine that this gift may make possible.

Age and togetherness

On Sunday 1 February, the All Age Worship service at All Saints celebrated David Warbrick's 60th birthday and Rosie Miles and Nicola Slee's 25th anniversary together. As well as marking the feast of Candlemas, each in the congregation was invited to think about a child or younger person, a working-age adult or couple, and an older person who has inspired or moved us, or reset our thinking, and Nicola and Rosie included poems in the service reflecting these three stages of life:

The Baby

In the beginning everything
is given: breath, hunger, breast.
All potential.

 The child can do
not one thing, yet could grow
to be anything.

 He lies there
drinking it in: the milk, the gazing,
the endless pouring of love
and hopes pinned on him.

The Parents

In the unfolding everything
is taken from them. Together
they are learning
the strange ways of God
 who
needs them to raise a child
who will grow to be the man
people will spurn and splinter.

They would give anything
for it to be different, but
their yes is still yes.

The Elders

In the seeing everything
is understood. They saw all
in a moment
 the moment
they had waited their lives for.

He found fulfilment, now
ready for the release of death.
She was filled with new
energy, would not cease from
telling of this life
without end or beginning.

Nicola Slee & Rosie Miles
22-23/01/26

There were musical tributes along the way, and some wonderfully suitable hymns: *Let us build a house* (with its refrain 'All are welcome in this place'), *Brother, sister, let me serve you* and some words by June Boyce-Tillman set to the familiar tune **Woodlands**, 'We sing a love that sets all people free' – what more appropriate way to end than by singing 'come, radiant love, live in our hearts today'. Nicola and Rosie's friend Mike also led us in a beautiful unaccompanied chant from Iona, *Lo I am with you*, in which we reflected on the birthing, growing, labour, fullness, wholeness and ending of life.

Following prayers from adults for children and young people, from older people for younger adults and from children for older adults, there were conversations in which Rosie and Nicola reflected on 25 years together, and David reflected, at 60, on ageing. Each then led prayers for the other, which we are pleased to include below.

Rosie and Nicola, Nicola and Rosie

Echoing John 1

Presentation of Christ in the Temple, 1 February 2026, All Saints Kings Heath

From fruit preserved in vodka to poem chiselled in stone; from Strictly sequins to sorrow and reconciliation in Srebrenica; from lecture hall to coastal path; from garden to darkened Maundy Thursday Church; from swirling Ceilidh to tearful grief: we give thanks, O Word of Wisdom, for Nicola and Rosie in whose shared journey of extraordinary depth and breadth you show us what fullness of life might mean; whose being good together is such a good for all of us.

Divine Word through whom everything was made, we admire Rosie and Nicola's, emotionally intelligent words; challenging, rich words; words that release us in prayer; and their pleasure when others' words evoke something just so, eagerly passing on someone else's poem.

Word made flesh, dwelling among us, affirming all we are in body, mind and spirit, we celebrate Nicola's and Rosie's union of heart, body and mind and their articulation of human wholeness and integrity.

Creating Word, who came among us unrecognised, non-controlling, inviting: we give thanks for Rosie and Nicola's gifts for convening, for holding open safe space where others can find their poetic, literary or faithful voice.

Convening God, we honour the way they hold a safe space for each other, tuning each other's voice, refining poetic reflex; each lighting the way for the other at different times when shadows have closed in; turning institutional rejection into freedom of imagination; challenging wrong, but always with hope of redemption; building each other's confidence and, with that confidence, equipping and strengthening others.

Word of God, who calls us to accept we are your children, we thank you that even in the most serious frown, laughter is never far away with Nicola and Rosie.

On their 25th anniversary, as they discern their evolving vocations, reward their grace towards a sometimes unkind Church with the abundance your joy. Bless them each and together empowering them in your name:

God the Parent of All

God the Word made Flesh

God the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

David Warbrick

Thanksgiving for David Warbrick on his 60th Birthday

Candlemas / The Presentation in the Temple

We give you thanks, God of all life and time,
for our friend and priest David.

For the crafting and maturing of his gifts,
blessing us as like fine wine—rich, complex and satisfying—
carrying and speaking to our individual joys and sorrows,
our communal triumphs and woes.

We are grateful he has stayed with us long enough
for us to witness the coming to fruition
of a priestly ministry and of the person that he is:

Through the deepening of his marriage to Jenny
and his expansive love of Anna and Joe,
his rejoicing in their lives' mutual flourishing,
Through the loss of parents and his willingness
to embrace the sufferings and testing
of our local community, city and nation,
Through his commitment to grappling with
the nature of truth and witness
in a time of war, genocide and threat to life on every side.

You have honed in him the gift of words,
waited for and prayed, preached and proclaimed,
speaking to our depths, kindling our life and imagination,
fostering in us pity and compassion, anger and action.
You have given us a pastor of rare insight, a friend
who sits with us in grief, questioning and heartbreak,
who knows when to speak and when to keep silent.
You have given us a man with a big heart and a wide open table,
generous in hospitality and encouragement,
who feeds hearts and bellies with the finest food,
prepared and served with love, and who rejoices with us
in the many chapters of our lives' blessing.

Our hearts overflow, as we ask you
to bless him richly for all the years that have been
and all the years to come.

Amen.

Nicola Slee & Rosie Miles, February 2026

Rosie and Nicola write:

It was both humbling and an immense privilege to be part of the service on 1 February 2026. We had approached David a couple of months earlier in respect of our 25th anniversary and when we realised it was also his 60th birthday it became an opportunity to craft a celebratory service. We wanted to recognise and name the importance of All Saints as a community that takes inclusion seriously

alongside how in community people from different generations can inspire, help and encourage each other. Anna and Simeon, Mary and Joseph, and Jesus at the Presentation gave us a framework to think about all of this.




From being seated at the front it was possible literally to feel the assent and love powering through the singing of the hymns, from All are welcome onwards. We also didn't know we were going to be invited to kneel at the front until we actually got to church that morning and to have David pray for and over us as he did was not something we will ever forget. The wedding march from The Sound of Music which closed the service had partly been planned as a surprise for Nicola by Rosie, but neither of us expected the impromptu pop-up choir to join in with the lyrics at the appropriate moment! We are indebted to Ben and Clare and the All Saints brass section.

Many of our friends who were visiting for the weekend spoke movingly afterwards of the impact of the service on them. Numerous people told us they'd been in tears. Do not underestimate the impact that genuinely inclusive worship can have. It is not that common and it's needed more than ever and will only go on being even more needed. Thank you to David and everyone who made the service what it was.

After the service we repaired to the Garden Room for fizz and nibbles, including cake and a rendition of *Happy Birthday*, and some words from our churchwarden John Wallace-Howell, for David (thanks to Vivien Thickett for the photos below). What a special morning indeed.



From the registers

	<p>We congratulate: Reuben Matthew Guy, baptised at All Saints on 8 February</p>
	<p>We remember: Ruth Tetlow, whose funeral took place at All Saints on 13 February</p>
	<p>We remember: John Parkin, whose funeral took place at Waseley Hills Crematorium and whose memorial service and burial of ashes took place at All Saints on 28 February</p>

High days and holy days

26 March – Harriet Monsell: compassion and humour

The daughters of baronets don't usually choose to work with prostitutes and orphans, but Harriet Monsell was no ordinary woman. She was born in 1811 into one of Ireland's oldest families. Her father, Sir Edward O'Brien, was 4th Baronet of Dromoland, and represented his county Clare in Parliament. Harriet married Charles Monsell, an Anglican clergyman connected with the Oxford Movement, and they moved to Derry, where his father was archdeacon. But Charles developed tuberculosis, and soon he and Harriet were sent to the milder climate of Naples.

When Charles died in 1850, Harriet moved to England and continued her connection with the Oxford Movement. She also began working among former prostitutes and unwed mothers. Soon Harriet, along with two other women, decided to profess religious vows, and dedicate their lives to caring for the poor and needy. Inspired by John the Baptist's call to penitence, in 1852 they took the name of the Community of St John Baptist, of which Harriet became the Mother Superior. They were one of the first Anglican religious orders since the Reformation, and because much of their work was in the Berkshire town of Clewer, they were often called the Clewer Sisters.

Within five years their work had gone from caring for about 30 marginalised women to dedicating a building that would house around 80 such women. Mother Harriet guided the work with endless energy and extensive correspondence. The work grew to include 40 institutions, ranging from mission houses to orphanages, schools and hospitals. Mother Harriet was much loved for her 'strength of character, firmness of faith, an infectious sense of humour, a gift for listening, and a magnetism which none could resist', according to one admirer. She had to retire in 1875 for health reasons, but maintained an interest in the work until her death on Easter Sunday in March 1883.

24 April – St Mellitus, the Saxon pagans and St Paul's Cathedral

Mellitus was born into a noble family in Rome, and became abbot of a monastic community. Then in 601 Pope Gregory the Great sent him to help Augustine, who had arrived in Canterbury in 597. In 604/5 Augustine consecrated Mellitus to be first Bishop of the East Saxons. Mellitus settled in the capital, Londinium (London), and his wooden cathedral stood on the site of what is now St Paul's.

Mellitus began to evangelise but struggled to make any progress. The Anglo-Saxons were very attached to their pagan temples and celebrations. Then Pope Gregory had an inspiration: he told Mellitus not to destroy the pagan temples and banish the pagan feasts. Instead, he should *adapt* them. So, Mellitus simply cleansed the Saxon temples and removed the Saxon idols. He then rededicated the buildings to God and redirected the pagan Saxon feasts towards Christian feast days.

Bede reports that Pope Gregory had reasoned: 'If the people are allowed some worldly pleasures ... they will more readily come to desire the joys of the Spirit.' The Pope was right – the new approach certainly transformed and spread missionary endeavour throughout the Saxon kingdom. But then, in 616, Kent and the East Saxons had two new kings. These new rulers reverted to paganism but demanded that Mellitus still give them the Eucharist. Mellitus refused, was banished and then fled to Gaul for safety. When it was safe to return, he got as far as Canterbury, where in 619 he was chosen to be the third Archbishop of Canterbury.

(adapted from www.parishpump.co.uk)

From the archives: Nothing seems to change...

Margaret and Gillian spent a rainy afternoon in February delving into the archives to see what might have been some key issues of a hundred years ago in March 1926 – to discover that the parish magazines of that year were missing! Such is the disappointment sometimes experienced when exploring our material.

However, the copy of the March edition for 1976 did offer some interesting data, as part of the vicar's letter from the Revd W J Clark in 1916 was included in that edition.

In 1916 he wrote: 'Money is often spoken of as a material and dirty thing, but there is no truer test of our spiritual condition than in the use of our money, and especially in the duty of Almsgiving. I am not saying that our almsgiving is, or ought to be summed up in church subscriptions, but amongst, perhaps, many claims that the church has a chief place, if our membership has any value to us, and is going to do us any good at all.'

However, some things do change, and he continued: 'In 1916 the Church and Parochial Franchise has now been extended to women as well as men, ie those who are of 21 years of age, who are confirmed and have not disqualified themselves by any act of separation. The possession of this franchise entitles such qualified men and women to vote in the election of the Parochial Church council and in the election to the Ruri-decanal and Diocesan conferences.'

In this, the church was two years ahead of Parliament, who only gave partial franchise to women in 1918 and full franchise in 1928. This led us to wonder – could any of these people in 1916, or 1976, have imagined a time when we would have a female Archbishop of Canterbury?

What might be the issues of the church 50 years hence, in 2076?

We invite you to make your own guesses and offer prayers for those preparing the ground for whatever transpires. Some of our congregation will no doubt be there to experience hopefully many positive developments.

Margaret Andrew, Gillian Holmes & Vivien Thickett

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.

The next issue will be published in early April and will focus on the APCM – we look forward to receiving your ideas and submissions for future issues.

Ben & Clare Noakes, Editors

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Remembering Jean and Alma

Last year All Saints lost two people who had, between them and over many years, contributed widely to life, both musical and otherwise, at church and beyond: Jean Caswell and Alma Beattie. Members of the All Saints congregation were able to attend Jean and Alma's funerals, although as neither were held here we wanted to organise an event to remember them both. And so it was that on Saturday 7 February All Saints hosted a two-part evening of music and dance. We started in church with 'Beer and Hymns', invoking the informal spirit of the Greenbelt Festival with a bar kept busy at the back of church; David began the evening with the following prayer:

How wistful was Jean when speaking of Bill, and how she missed him, shadows sometimes closing in. But how she lit up when singing, or talking of music and proudly remembering occasions she'd sung for. How glad she was her musicality passed on to Paul. Her singsong speaking voice brightened the day at a rainy Wednesday communion, recommending some interesting place to visit in London, always with a musical connection, hinting at her more glamorous years.

How wistful was Alma, speaking of her solitude, of difficult childhood, of the ways she'd felt she'd failed somehow, but how she lit up, fiddle in hand, foot tapping, earnest in the candlelit carols choir, whether for Bach or lilting folk tunes, she played and sang and connected with so many people. Stewarding at folk festivals so she'd have the excuse to talk to people; friends might feel a bit crestfallen and puzzled when she said she didn't have many, but it was her self-effacing way. If only she'd seen how many packed into Robin Hood Crematorium for her funeral, and how diverse we were.

God, we thank you for Jean and Alma, for their elegance and their fun, their interest and their loyalty, their kindness and their vulnerability. We admire and learn from their strength they showed, pushing back the shadows. We are moved by their faithfulness towards you and church when they might sometimes have felt both had let them down.

As we sing in remembrance of their musicality, meet us in our wistfulness and send us friends and neighbours to make the heart sing. Help us to be the neighbours who help push back the shadows. We pray through Christ who entered the shadow of the tomb, to be with us in ours, and who rose again to show us there is a safe path to heaven. Amen.

Alma, Jean, you have gone forth from this world in the love of God the Father who created you; in the mercy of Jesus Christ who redeems you; in the power of the Holy Spirit who gave you breath. We trust the heavenly host sustains you; the company of heaven enfolds you; in communion with all who have gone before us, you now dwell in peace. Amen.

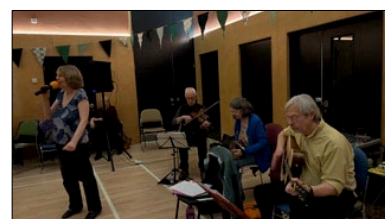
By this time there were almost a hundred people in church, who launched into a favourite hymn of Alma's, which she had had at her wedding and a recording of which had played us in to her funeral, *All people that on earth do dwell* (making us again feel, in Ralph Vaughan Williams' fabulously grand arrangement, that we might be in St Paul's Cathedral); this was then movingly contrasted with *Soul of my Saviour*, which Jean chose for and introduced at the 'songs of praise' request service that we held in 2010, marking All Saints' 150th anniversary.

All Saints' choir sang two anthems: Cecil Cope's *Thou visitest the earth*, which some socially-distanced singers had gathered to sing outside Tandy Court for Jean's 90th birthday in October 2021, and *Light in the darkness* by our own Sarah Baker, which Alma sang as part of the choir at the Carols by Candlelight service in 2018. In two slots we were also delighted to welcome guest performers: musicians from Black Diamond folk group (with which Alma had been involved) sang five songs, some

with accordion accompaniment and with each singer taking the lead in turn; and then Jean's son Paul Caswell made full use of the church's wonderful acoustic with his set of Renaissance and folk recorder music.

On arrival those attending were invited to request a hymn from our book, and to conclude this first part of the evening we picked some out to sing – having already sung *Joy to the world* to prove that seasonality was no object we had over 25 requests (some were asked for more than once) and had time to fit in six: *Let all the world in every corner sing, O Lord, my God (How great thou art)*, *For the beauty of the earth* (to **England's Lane**), *Will you come and follow me* and *And can it be* (which received three nominations); everything had been sung with great gusto before the roof was truly raised with the final pick, *Guide me, O thou great Redeemer*. Such was the enthusiasm, and number of suggestions, that we might have to have another request service before too long! In the meantime we'll try to include as many requests as possible in forthcoming Sunday services.

The hall and Garden Room then opened up for the second part of the evening, a ceilidh led by local favourites Mad Moll (thanks to Chris Pearce and Vivien Thickett for the photos). Tickets for this were sold out and, as with Beer and Hymns, it was lovely to see a mix of All Saints members, their friends, and other people from the community of all ages taking part. The band and caller expertly led us through a variety of dances ranging in complexity and energy required, and thanks to this – not to mention the excellent ploughman's supper, drinks service and organisation both in advance and on the day by Des, Jenny and the team of helpers – made for a truly memorable celebration.



David New

The Revd David New has died.

David retired in 2002 from St Agnes' in Moseley, which was when he came to All Saints, Worcester, where I then was a Reader, he serving with PTO. Later, David and Alex moved to St George's and St Mary Magdalene, Worcester, where he served continuing his ministry at the Eucharist until a few years ago when infirmity made that no longer possible.

David was anointed for his onward journey and Alex, his wife, and daughters, Hannah and Becca, were with him in hospital singing songs of worship as he was peacefully called home by the Lord.

The date for his Requiem Eucharist is yet to be set.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

David Warbrick



**Your Parish Church in the
Diocese of Birmingham**



Easter Services 2026

Palm Sunday - 29 March

Holy Communion at 10am

Holy Week

Monday 30 March Holy Communion at 7:30pm

Tuesday 31 March Holy Communion at 7:30pm

Wednesday 1 April Holy Communion at 7:30pm

Maundy Thursday - 2 April

Holy Communion at 7:30pm

Remembering the Last Supper and Jesus washing the disciples' feet, followed by The Watch, remembering Jesus' time in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Good Friday - 3 April

Walk of Witness at 11:15am

Churches Together Walk of Witness along the High Street, starting at 11:15am with a service at New Life Baptist Church and then walking to All Saints.

Two hours at the Cross, 1-3pm

Hymns, reflections, prayers, silent communion - stay for as much as you are able.

Tenebrae, 7:30pm

Remembering the closing of Christ's tomb.

Holy Saturday - 4 April

Vigil Service, 7:30pm

Easter Sunday - 5 April

6am Dawn Service

In the Village Square, followed by breakfast.

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion

All Welcome

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 catch up with the Ramblers.

All Saints Ramblers are still going (just not as far as we used to!). We arrange a four to six-mile walk every six or seven weeks. Our last walk was on 22 February: five miles near Hanbury Hall in Worcestershire, ending at the café at The Jinney Ring craft centre (*some of the ramblers are pictured right*). Our next walk will be on Saturday 18 April: if you are interested speak to me or call me on 0121 443 5292.

Des Workman



The oldest steam engine in the world

Come and hear Jim Andrew tell us how James Watt's 1769 Steam Engine was saved.

In 1769 the Birmingham Canal Company installed a James Watt engine to raise water to supply the canal locks at Smethwick. After working for 112 years the engine was preserved as the world's oldest working steam engine. Jim is an engineer who was responsible for the engine in Thinktank, the Birmingham Science Museum. He also led the excavation of the engine's original site in Smethwick in 1984 and is well placed to tell us all about this historic engine.

Saturday 28 March at 3pm in All Saints Church

**Just £5 (children £2.50)
including tea or coffee and cake**

Tickets on sale from church on Sunday mornings, All Saints Community Café, or on the door.



*James Watt's Smethwick Engine
being dismantled for preservation in 1898*

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

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

Music matters

We have written here before that one of the great joys of our role as music co-ordinators is the regular gathering to choose music for the forthcoming month, which we did for many years with our much-missed friend Gill Cole and, since 2018, with Chris Watts.

Chris is moving to Gloucestershire this month and we would like to thank him for his contribution to music at All Saints – as singer, guitarist and bringer of many new hymns and songs that we have added to our repertoire in recent years.

With Chris's departure, we thought that we would take this opportunity to invite interested members of the congregation to participate in the music-choosing discussions over the next few months. On the following dates there will be a chance for up to two people to come to our house and help to plan the following month's music over pizza and a glass of wine:

Monday 20 April

Tuesday 26 May

Thursday 25 June

Wednesday 22 July

There will be a sign-up sheet at the back of church, and you can also contact us as below for more information. All you need is an interest in the music that we sing in church – we look forward to welcoming you!

Ben & Clare Noakes
Music Co-ordinators

music@allsaintschurchkh.org
07967 730156 / 07929 593097

Welcome to Sam

All Saints has a new Centre manager, Sam Poursain, who introduces himself below.

I currently work part-time for Worcester Cathedral as Director for Events and Operations, leading a team responsible for a diverse slate of concerts and the biggest Christmas Tree Festival in the UK. Before that I worked for nearly 10 years with BMS World Mission, managing their residential training and conference centre in Selly Oak. I'm looking forward to applying my experience in facility management, income generation and general operations here at ASCDC.

Outside of work, I am an Elder at Weoley Castle Community Church (URC), where I am involved in a weekly Warm Welcome and Food Pantry ministry. I'm married to Katie, and we spend most of our time looking after our three young boys, Ezra (5), Lucas (3), and Orin (1), and one girl, cocker spaniel, Corrie (8). When we can find the time, we enjoy a good curry night, appreciate ales and single malts, and enjoy falling asleep to a wide variety of films.



From the PCC

Since the last edition of *Saints Alive!* there has been one Standing Committee meeting on 24 February. The following is a résumé of the points discussed at the meeting:

Finance:

Current financial situation: Our treasurer was not available for the meeting but provided in advance of the meeting a copy of the income and expenditure assessment, the balance sheet and the average planned giving assessment for the church accounts to the end of January 2026.

The following was noted:

Expenditure: In his assessment, he reported that expenditure to the end of January 2026 was circa £11.6K. This was generally in line with the budgeted amounts apart from utilities which were larger than expected. However, the church has recently changed providers via the Parish Buying scheme and some of the bills are still being based on estimated readings which are tending to be overestimated.

Income: His assessment indicated that income to the end of January 2026 was slightly less than expenditure at circa £11.1K giving a deficit of about £500. He commented in his report that regular giving is still lower than hoped, but he has received two sets of Gift Aid payments from the Parish Giving Scheme which has helped somewhat.

Giving to good causes: £6,000 has been allocated to good causes this year, a slight increase on what was previously being proposed. The money has not yet been distributed.

Overall net worth: The balance sheet provided by the treasurer reported that overall, at this time, the church balance net worth was circa £202.2K, but as reported previously did include the as yet unpaid long-term loan of circa £170K to the Development Company with no specific repayment date.

Regular giving: The treasurer's assessment indicated that the average monthly giving for the last 12 months compared with the average for the previous 12 months had improved slightly with about £40 more per month on average received. However, he did comment that this is only about half a percent increase on the total regular income whereas in January 2026 the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 3.4%; hence why it is important that the Stewardship campaign is a success.

Christmas charities: The three Christmas Charities, Safe Families, The Children's Society and the Disasters Emergency Committee, have now been paid a total of £2,760 (3 x £920), mostly donated at the Christmas services.

Bequest: David, our vicar, has received a very generous bequest from the estate of a former long-standing parishioner and member of the congregation, Elaine Apps.

As agreed in previous PCC meetings, for donations exceeding £1,000, which this is, 10% of the money would be given to the diocese to support our contribution to the Common Fund which is currently less than the diocese is asking.

David said that he was in the process of preparing a letter of thanks to the Apps family for this money. For the time being, the treasurer has invested the money in the church's CCLA account while it is decided how the money can be best used.

Finance campaign – Stewardship 2026: The presentation pamphlet as part of the campaign to encourage people to reconsider their current giving to the church has now been presented to the congregation. The success of the campaign has yet to be assessed.

Safeguarding:

Safeguarding training: Paul Collins, our parish safeguarding officer, has now completed safeguarding training.

DBS checks and safeguarding training status: Paul has substantially completed the list of persons associated with activities in the church and Centre comprising some 250 people. It is evident that a significant number of these persons have gone beyond the three-year threshold for renewal, and these now require attention. He has started notifying individuals accordingly.

Safeguarding Hub: This is a diocese-generated web-based tool to aid parishes to keep track of DBS checks and safeguarding training for individuals involved in church activities particularly where this involves vulnerable children and adults. Paul has commenced uploading details of the 250 or so employees and volunteers who contribute to the running of All Saints onto the Hub.

The Hub will send reminders to Paul where checks or training are out of date or where a person has had no checks or training following which he will contact the individual accordingly.

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.

Storage of safeguarding records: Specific safeguarding records need to be kept securely for 75 years under lock and key (physical records) or in a secure digital environment. They should only be accessible to those who are entitled to have access and, for physical records, kept on church premises, not private homes. They should comply with GDPR. Paul has now made appropriate arrangements to comply with these requirements.

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: John Wallace-Howell, our churchwarden, reported on specific activities that he has been involved with in the past month:

Christmas Tree, candles and decorations: He was particularly thankful for the assistance from others that he had had in achieving the removal of these items. There was some concern about the sturdiness of the extendable ladder used to remove the Christmas tree and felt that consideration should be given to buying a replacement.

David's birthday and Nicola & Rosie's celebrations: John said that it was a huge pleasure to be involved in the planning of the celebrations and that it was a privilege to join them. He particularly thanked those involved in helping with the arrangements for the day itself and for co-ordinating the donations towards David's birthday gift.

Duty warden & welcomer task lists: He has now finalised a list of tasks for duty wardens but is still in the process of preparing a list of welcomer tasks and hopes to have sorted this out soon.

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 has yet to be fixed for the next meeting to take place.

Diocesan Generosity Team Visit: David explained that the so-called Diocesan Generosity Team, with a grant availability of some £170K, is tasked to provide support and resources to help parishes and congregations grow in their giving practices.

Over the next five years, the Team is proposing to visit all the parishes in the diocese to identify how each church is planning to cover the costs of ministry in the future.

All Saints' Common Fund contribution was set by the diocese at £93.6K but because of the church's current financial situation, it is currently only able to offer £78.6K and is therefore not covering the required amount at the moment. The Team is to be invited to the PCC meeting scheduled for May to explain the proposals and discuss the matter in more detail.

Heating improvements: Some improvements and maintenance of the heating system in the church have been awarded to Hydro Mechanical Services based in Sutton Coldfield. The firm is scheduled to attend church in mid-March.

The work scheduled to be done is to install a new replacement and more efficient and effective pump on the low pressure system that circulates the water round the church.

They are also going to clean out the inline filter on the low pressure system which may have partly blocked when the system was emptied to undertake the repair of the leak recently. This should also hopefully improve the flow around the church.

There is also some maintenance required to the high pressure system incorporating the boiler.

There is also evidence that air is getting into the system again but there are no apparent leaks anywhere including where the original leaks were located. There is a theory that it could be just due to trapped air in the system ejecting surplus water from an overflow near the boiler room in certain situations. The situation is being monitored.

Next Meetings: These are scheduled as follows:

APCM: 19 Apr, after the 10am service in the church.

SC: 21 April, 23 June, 20 October, 8 December 2026; 16 February 2027.

PCC: 17 March, 19 May, 15 September, 17 November 2026; 19 January 2027. *(NB: No July 2026 meeting as David is not available)*

Tony Cocks
PCC Secretary

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.

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	Secretary	Treasurer
	Martha Ann Brookes 0121 444 5655	Tony Cocks 0121 441 2945	Steve Brittle 01905 772171
Members	Jim Andrew	Roger Drew	Claire Wesley (Reader)
	Margaret Andrew	Margaret Healey-Pollett (Reader)	Daniel Wilson
	Sarah Baker	Vivien Thickett	Sarah Wilson
	Philip Brookes	John Wallace-Howell (Warden)	Des Workman
	Tim Cuthbertson	David Warbrick (Vicar)	Sheila Workman

All Saints Community Development Company (ASCDC)

Chair	Sarah Wilson	c/o 0121 443 4579	office@allsaints-cdc.co.uk
Centre Manager	Sam Poursain	0121 443 4579	
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	07801 067362
All Saints Youth Project	Vicki Willinger	0121 443 1842

The Robin Centre for Older People

Centre Manager	Paula McGrath	0121 444 8111
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Ministry Team

Vicar	David Warbrick	vicar@allsaintschurchkh.org 0121 444 0260
Churchwardens	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