

Saints Alive!

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



**April
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 April and May – 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 April

3rd *Closed for Good Friday*

10th Strings and Things

17th Mad Moll

24th Busketeers

Fridays in May

1st Songs of Solidarity
for May Day

8th Voices

15th Slow Train / Café Quattro

22nd tbc

29th Fifth Friday Blues
with Harmonica Bob
& Big Boss Man Oz

From the vicarage

Dear friends and neighbours,

Although it's my 16th annual meeting at All Saints this year, I am no less in awe of the creativity, activity, reflection and commitment represented in these pages. We call them 'reports', but they seem to me more to be celebrations of community.

The achievements of everyone from the Youth Project to The Robin Centre, the Archive Group to the Crafters, to the PCC and the Development Company, there are signs of life and generous commitment everywhere. At our Annual Parochial Church Meeting we will take time to thank many people.

Weaving in and out of all of this has been a thread of sadness this last year. It is not bad, or unhealthy. It is the natural sadness of losing friends.

Graham Bleakman, Adrian Koslowski, Gill Parkin, Jean Caswell, Alma Beattie, Phil Alden, Kathy Farbrother, Margaret Guy, Andy Gudge, Irene Mountford and, early this year, John Parkin and Ruth Tetlow. Many of you have navigated other bereavements in your family. I have sometimes wondered this year how many goodbyes we are made for. But, as ever, as a group, you seem to bear all this with grace, patience and wistful dignity, quickly finding things to give thanks for and ways to remember people fondly. So many have also taken up roles and responsibilities that, once upon a time, the likes of John and Gill might have done.

Newer faces step up (like John, our handsome churchwarden who's been so encouraging and quickly adapted to the role); like the more recent voices we've heard reading or praying; the growing coffee and archive teams; a brilliant safeguarding co-ordinator, Paul, raising our game. New people arrive. Emily Ann is born among us.

Others continue to serve faithfully. It is invidious to pick anyone out, but I want to celebrate some examples of the people whose constant hidden presence and attentiveness keep us alive: Bernice, caring for the vessels and cloths for communion; Steve our superb treasurer and Tony who keeps the PCC ticking smoothly with excellent administration. Meanwhile, all our musicians keep our worship alive and vibrant, song bearing our prayers heavenward. Ben, Clare, you restore our souls every week. These are a few examples.

So thanks to the generosity and grace circulating among you I ponder that thread of sadness and realise that in such a context it has a beauty about it. We do not want to lose anyone, but if we do, we can live with loss beautifully if we help bear one another's burdens. We also sometimes have losses to celebrate: for example, we let Tariro and Brian go, but that is a blessing to Ascension and Cotteridge.

Thank you all for sharing in these rhythms and cycles of church life. Enlivened by gratitude, we look forward with humility and hope to what God has in store for us as 2026 unfolds.

With love,

David

APCM agenda – Sunday 19 April 2026

Meeting held in church after the 10am service. Before the meeting a ‘Vestry Meeting’ will take place to elect churchwardens for the coming year.

1. Welcome and opening prayers
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the previous meeting – 11 May 2025 *to be displayed on church noticeboard*
4. Church electoral roll *page 6*
5. Report on the proceedings of the PCC *pages 6-11*
6. Elections to the PCC
7. Report on the proceedings of Deanery Synod *pages 11-12*
8. Elections to Deanery Synod
9. Reports on the financial affairs of the church:
 - a. Church Accounts – Balance Sheet 2025 *page 13*
 - b. Church accounts – Expenditure 2025 *page 14*
 - c. Church accounts – Income 2025 *page 15*
10. Election of auditor
11. Churchwarden’s report *pages 16-17*
12. Election of sidespersons
13. Vicar’s report *to be given at meeting*
14. Report from the Pastoral Care Team *page 17*
15. Reports from the committees of the PCC:
 - a. Children’s Worship *pages 17-18*
 - b. Justice, Peace and Green Group *page 18*
 - c. Reordering Group *page 19*
 - d. Social and Fundraising Group *page 19*
 - e. Youth Management Committee *pages 19-20*
16. Reports from the companies:
 - a. All Saints Community Arts *pages 21-22*
 - b. All Saints Community Catering Limited *page 22*
 - c. All Saints Community Development Company *pages 22-23*
 - d. All Saints Community Projects *pages 23-34*
 - e. The Robin Centre *page 34*
17. All Saints Players report *pages 35-36*
18. Coffee Team report *pages 36-37*
19. Crafters report *page 37*
20. Lunch Club report *page 37*
21. Magazine report *page 38*
22. Meditation Group report *page 40*
23. Music report *pages 40-41*
24. Ramblers report *page 41*
25. Safeguarding and Child Protection report *to be given at meeting*
26. 20s and 30s Small Group report *to be given at meeting if available*
27. Village Square Gardeners report *page 41*
28. Open discussion
29. Closing prayers

Church electoral roll

As per the diocesan requirements for maintaining a church electoral roll on an annual basis, the April 2025 version of the roll is being reviewed and revised as appropriate.

The following summarises the current status of the new roll at the time of writing:

- Number of persons on April 2025 version of the roll: 182
- Number of persons who have died in the period: 6
- Number of persons who have left the parish: 0
- Number of persons entered on the roll in the period: 3
- Number of persons on the revised roll: 179

In summary to date, there has been a small decrease in the number of persons on the roll since the previous APCM. Sadly, this is partly due to a number of deaths of well-known and respected persons in the congregation during the past year.

Please note that, at the time of writing, the roll is still active, and the numbers may change before the APCM. Final numbers will be reported at the meeting.

Tony Cocks
Electoral Roll Officer

PCC

Introduction

The PCC continues to be a thoughtful, enthusiastic, and active group of mainly volunteers who help to guide the life of All Saints. The PCC is very appreciative of all those others who also contribute their time, effort and skills to keep everything running at All Saints. There are many organisations and projects that share the All Saints campus, and everyone's hard work helps to support and deliver the vision for All Saints.

Structure of the PCC

At the moment, the PCC comprises the vicar (David Warbrick) and 16 others. Martha Ann Brookes continues as lay vice chair, Steve Brittle continues as treasurer, John Wallace-Howell is churchwarden and Anthony Cocks (Tony) continues in the role of PCC secretary.

There are two readers who are automatically co-opted on to the PCC, Claire Wesley and Margaret Healey-Pollett.

Jim and Margaret Andrew (lay members) and Claire Wesley continue to be our Deanery Synod representatives and are automatically co-opted on to the PCC. Based on the number of persons on the electoral roll the church is permitted a total of four lay members to the Deanery Synod, so at present there are two vacancies.

New members are always welcome to the PCC. If there are readers of this article considering joining they would be welcome as they bring in new ideas. Younger members in particular provide a balance of age and experience within the membership to keep the church a vibrant place for all. There is a form on the noticeboard by the south door if you wish to apply, or just come to the APCM and make your decision known at the appropriate time.

The other members are Sarah Baker, Philip Brookes, Roger Drew, Vivien Thickett, Daniel Wilson, Sarah Wilson, Des Workman and Sheila Workman.

This year several members have completed three years since previously being elected as lay members in 2023. They are Jim and Margaret Andrew regarding the Deanery Synod and Des and Sheila Workman for the PCC. All have agreed to continue and are seeking re-election.

Based on the number of persons on the electoral roll the church is permitted a total of 11 lay members, so at the time of the APCM there will be two vacancies.

Proceedings of the PCC

Since the last APCM, the PCC has held six meetings, usually the third Tuesday of the month apart from August. The Standing Committee also met on five occasions.

The following summarises the main matters that were reported on by members and discussed over the period since the last APCM. Most matters covered by other reports are not included although there may be some overlap:

Finance:

General: As ever, our treasurer has given the PCC a comprehensive update on the financial position of the church on a monthly basis providing in advance of meetings information on expenditure and income and then explaining the salient points at the meeting.

The treasurer has also given the PCC details of for instance regular giving, overall net worth and any special and significant financial matters.

Expenditure and income: More detail of this is given in the church account documents on pages 13-15. In summary, the total expenditure for 2025 was £140.4K and the income was circa £140.9K giving a small credit of about £500 overall. However, this was on the basis that the giving to good causes was reduced as indicated below.

Overall net worth: Overall, at the end of 2025, the church balance net worth was circa £203K, but this did include the as yet unpaid long-term loan of circa £170K to the Development Company with no specific repayment date.

Budget for 2026: The treasurer presented an estimate of the 2026 budget based on extrapolating from the actual expenditure for the previous year.

Common Fund: The Common Fund is money paid by churches in the diocese to the diocese to cover the cost of stipendiary ministry (the vicar), training and developing current and future clergy, curates, and parish missions infrastructure across the city and region. The Bishop's Council has changed the method by which the amount of the Common Fund to be paid by each church is determined.

However, the Bishop's Council recognises that parishes may not have the means to pay the amount allocated to them and is allowing an aspect of free will to PCCs to determine their contribution to the Fund as a balance between their mission and ministry and their operating costs.

The amount that each parish is asked to pay for the year is based on an assessment by the so-called Generosity Team in the diocese that aims to agree a long-term growth plan for a parish which sets the Common Fund contribution of that parish in the context of the plan. However, the actual amount to be paid by a parish is flexible depending on the parish's actual ability to pay it and the amount actually to be paid is decided by the PCC.

Usually, All Saints pays all the amount and sometimes more to support less wealthy parishes. In 2025 All Saints was asked to pay circa £77K, equivalent to £6,400 per month, which it managed to pay in full; however, the amount for 2026 has been determined by the diocese at circa £93.6K which is a substantial increase.

The PCC decided that in view of the church's current financial situation this is not really affordable, and considers that a monthly amount of £6,550 would be appropriate for the time being, a total for the year of £78.6K; however this will be reviewed as the year progresses.

Diocesan Generosity Team visit: It is understood that the Diocesan Generosity Team has a £170K grant available 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.

The Common Fund is also considered as social justice and the Team wishes to explain the diocese's current situation and offer appropriate advice to parishes by meeting their PCCs. The team is to be invited to attend the All Saints PCC meeting scheduled for 19 May.

Giving to good causes: Until 2025, the amount given to good causes was circa £10K per year. However, since the beginning of 2025, due to limitations on the amount of income that the church has been receiving, the amount allocated to this has been temporarily reduced to circa £6,000. The list of charities that receive this money is currently being disseminated amongst the various charities.

Blue Envelopes: Due to the small number of people using this method of giving as standing order, Direct Debit, Parish Giving or using the card reader or QR codes in the church are the current predominant method for making regular donations, it was decided to phase out the use of the Blue Envelopes. This arrangement finished at the end of April 2025. Monies donated on the plate either in an envelope or as cash after this date are now considered as 'plate collection' and treated accordingly for Gift Aid purposes.

Parish Giving Scheme: A significant number of people have changed their method of giving to the Parish Giving Scheme (via Direct Debit) which is very encouraging. This helps very much to reduce the work necessary by the finance team as far as claiming back tax is concerned, as this is done directly by Parish Giving on behalf of the church.

Digital card reader: The digital card reader and QR Code for donating online continue to be additional means of donating to the church funds. It is noticeable that they are particularly popular for special occasions such as weddings.

Donations to Christmas charities: The three charities chosen this year to receive donations from the Christmas service were a local charity, Safe Families, The Children's Society, and the Disasters Emergency Committee. The treasurer reported that £2,735 had been collected from these Christmas services although a single donation of £1,500 had enhanced the amount. The overall amount was increased by a small amount from church funds to £2,760 and this enabled £920 to be allocated to each charity.

Regular giving: An assessment is made every month of the average monthly giving for the last 12 months compared with the average for the previous 12 months. At the beginning of 2025 this was more than £100 but in the middle of the year dropped to minus £176. Since then, there has been a recovery and at the beginning of 2026 it was circa plus £40. It has since increased to circa £180 which is a good sign, although our treasurer would like it to be more to keep up with inflation.

Finance campaign: The situation outlined in the previous item highlighted a downward negative trend in the amount being received by regular giving despite there being a number of methods for giving available.

It was evident that there was a need for a finance campaign in order to keep the church account in the black. The amount of giving received has not recovered to pre-Covid levels yet. A presentation pamphlet was prepared and approved by the PCC as part of the campaign to encourage people to reconsider their current giving to the church. There are a lot of new people in the church who may not be aware of these costs, and the pamphlet gives an insight into this. Also, it is a means of giving transparency to how the church spends the money donated.

Following approval by the PCC, the presentation pamphlet was presented to the congregation in January 2026. The success of the campaign has yet to be fully assessed although the status of current regular giving as described in the previous paragraph is a promising sign.

Surprise bequests and donations: There has been discussion regarding surprise unrestricted bequests or donation received by the church. It has been agreed that, for any over £1,000, 10 percent is split between the diocese and good causes; the split to be decided by the PCC on a case-by-case basis depending on the amount of the bequest or donation. Where given to the diocese, the money should ideally be used to benefit those parishes that might be struggling and they should be given a higher priority than, for instance, funding the latest diocesan/national church initiative.

David was recently notified of a very generous bequest from the estate of a former long-standing parishioner and member of the congregation, Elaine Apps, who many will have known, in the sum of £44,700.

For the time being, our treasurer has invested most of the money in the church's CCLA account where it should accrue interest until a decision is made on how to spend the money. Reordering is considered to be high on the list.

Charging rates for the Garden Room etc: Charge rates for hire of ASCDC managed spaces such as the Garden Room have been reviewed as there have been some inconsistencies where some people have been charged and others not.

Rates have now been agreed with the PCC. It is proposed that church services, Sunday School and Church Youth Group should be free, and all other bookings are paid for (even if it is at a special church rate). All spaces must be booked in advance whether paid or unpaid. There is one exception and that is the Archive Group which will be permitted free access for use for archiving as it does not have an income.

Statutory meetings such as Standing Committee and PCC would also be free. In all cases, the spaces should be booked.

For church activities not covered by the above, the rate would be the charity rate, ie full rate less 10%.

On Sundays the policy is that no rooms would be available for hire before midday.

Safeguarding:

Safeguarding co-ordinator: Safeguarding has a regular slot on the Standing Committee and PCC agendas being a very important aspect of church activities. In July 2025 our new safeguarding co-ordinator, Paul Collins, was appointed to take over from Eira Jones. Paul has since become familiar with all aspects of this essential role. He has made significant inroads into implementing and managing the processes required, particularly to keep track of the status of the DBS checks and safeguarding training renewal of all the persons involved in the church and Centre activities and storage of DBS and safeguarding records.

Church policies: Over the years, almost 40 policies have been prepared, some with respect to safeguarding, such as Safeguarding and Child Protection, Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults, Creating a Safe Environment, and others relating to other matters such as Health and Safety, Data Protection, IT, Mobile Phones, Smart TV Devices, Photography, Filming and Social Media, Alcohol and Drugs, Equal Opportunities and Diversity, Recruitment and Selection, Home Visit Guidelines to name but a few.

These procedures are periodically reviewed by the various organisations in the church to ensure that they are up to date and fit for purpose. The policy review lead works in conjunction with the PCC to liaise with the various organisations to implement the review of a policy when the time arises and manage the review process on behalf of the PCC.

Reordering the church: Reordering of the church is now back on the agenda and is an exciting development. David feels that now is the time to continue with this project which was probably the origin of the idea to redevelop the site in the first place. Since it is some time since the original concept was conceived and things have changed like different service patterns, availability of space and the nature of the congregation, a fresh approach is necessary.

A core group has been assembled, which has had an initial meeting. The core group has a variety of skills such as architectural, technical, liturgical, musical and children's activities, although is looking for a person for raising funds. The process will involve concept design, costing, faculty approval, detailed design and implementation. The proposals will require PCC approval.

Business Association carol service: The Business Association carol service held at the end of November in conjunction with switching on the Christmas lights in the Village Square was attended by some 250 people. Credit to Stan Hems and the Business Association for organising a very successful event.

Carols by Candlelight service: There had been some concern regarding the large number of people who attended the 2024 Carols by Candlelight service, with many standing. This was considered problematic particularly from a safety point of view.

During the year, a review was instigated to consider how improvements could be made to the forthcoming service in December 2025 to avoid overcrowding and to reduce associated risks with this.

It was decided to have two services, one at 4pm and the second at 6:30pm, both on Sunday 21 December as a trial experiment. Seated persons only would be allowed who could be accommodated in the church at any one time including extra chairs where space is available.

The arrangement proved to be a great success, and it was decided that a similar format would be adopted for 2026. There were more people at both services than could have been accommodated in a single service even allowing some standing. There is obviously a demand from the local community for these services at Christmastime.

New churchwarden: In the middle of 2025, John Howell expressed an interest in undertaking the role of churchwarden. John was subsequently appointed at an extraordinary meeting of the PCC. John's report can be found on pages 16-17.

Lunch Club: The numbers at Lunch Club have now dwindled and it has been felt that something should be done to re-establish Lunch Club as going concern for the more elderly people in the local community.

There were one or two points raised which 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:** Several members have expressed a keenness for Lunch Club to continue and have had discussions with the All Saints Café team. It is understood that there are residual funds available.

One suggestion was that perhaps it should be reinstated in conjunction with other local churches and representatives attended the recent Churches Together in Kings Heath meeting where the matter was raised.

However, it would appear that currently there is nothing happening that is similar in the other churches compatible with the Lunch Club format. The New Life Baptist Church runs a 'Kitchen' and the Methodist Church a 'Warm Welcome' afternoon.

The Lunch Club format should reflect what is needed rather than what has been provided to date. Further consideration is being given to this matter as an ongoing activity.

North porch refurbishment: Following the identification of some defects on the north porch in the last quinquennial inspection, it has been decided to refurbish the North Porch stonework.

Names of suitable stonework conservation construction companies have been obtained from the diocese, and two quotations have been received to undertake the repair work.

However, as winter was approaching when the quotes were received and conditions becoming less favourable with likely frosts and shorter daylight hours, the work has been deferred until the spring when weather conditions will be better suited to this type of repair work.

Improvements to the heating system: Repairs of the leaks in the system that were sealed appear to have been successful so far. To help with making the system more effective and efficient, the circulation pump on the low pressure system that circulates the water round the church has been replaced with a new and more efficient pump.

In addition, the inline filter on the low pressure system has also been cleaned which was badly blocked with debris, probably arising from when the system was emptied to undertake the repair of the leaks.

Next meetings

These are scheduled as follows:

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

PCC: 19 May, 15 September, 17 November 2026; 19 January, 16 March 2027. (NB: No July 2026 meeting.)

Tony Cocks
Secretary

Deanery Synod

The Kings Norton, Moseley and Shirley Deanery Synod has continued to meet during the past year in various locations across the deanery and a variety of subjects have been covered by a number of different speakers.

Meetings have taken place as follows:

- In June 2025 at Lickey, which unfortunately none of us were able to attend.
- In October 2025 at Balsall Heath where Bishop Michael gave details about the very welcome generous grant that the diocese had recently received from the Church Commissioners which will help resource ministry and mission.
- In February 2026 we met at Hawkesley for a presentation from the diocesan deputy director of education about the CofE Schools in the diocese.

All Saints Synod representatives currently are Margaret Andrew, Jim Andrew and Claire Wesley but this is the year when all synod representatives' periods of office have come to an end, hence the need for elections to be held at the APCM this year. The number of representatives each parish may have depends on the size of the electoral roll and All Saints is entitled to send five representatives. The Synod is an interesting way to find out about what is going on in other parts of the Church beyond All Saints and to meet people from different churches in our general area with the associated opportunities for learning from each other and generally strengthening our fellowship as Christians. Deanery Synods send representatives to the Diocesan Synod which in turn sends representatives to the General Synod so they offer the opportunity to be in touch with issues concerning the church at a national level as well.

Some new faces would be good – do have a think about whether this might be for you and have a word with Jim, Claire or me for more information.

Margaret Andrew

Music-choosing opportunities

Following the 'Music matters' article in last month's magazine, there is still one slot available on **Tuesday 23 June** and one on **Wednesday 22 July** for interested members of the congregation to participate in the music-choosing discussions. On each date up to two people are invited to come to our house and help to plan the following month's music over pizza and a glass of wine.

There is 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 and Clare Noakes
Music Co-ordinators

music@allsaintschurchkh.org
07967 730156 / 07929 593097

From the registers



We remember:

Daphne King, whose funeral took place at All Saints on 3 March

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

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

Church Accounts – Balance Sheet 2025

ALL SAINTS CHURCH BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DEC 2025 AUDITED

Charity Commission No. 1145723

| Previous Period | FIXED ASSETS | | Current Period |
|-----------------|-----------------------|--|------------------|
| | 27500.00 | Investments at Purchase Cost | 22500.00 |
| | 0.00 | Capital Property | 0.00 |
| 27500.00 | | Total Fixed Assets | 22500.00 |
| | | | Purchase Cost |
| | | | 22500.00 |
| | CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| | 0.00 | Cash | 0.00 |
| | 4593.95 | Current Account ****1163 | 15766.92 |
| | 0.00 | Savings Account ****1181 | 0.00 |
| | 2375.00 | Current Account ****635 | 2375.00 |
| | 0.00 | | 0.00 |
| | 0.00 | | 0.00 |
| | 0.00 | | 0.00 |
| | 0.00 | T & C (Transfers and Contras) | 0.00 |
| | 170500.00 | Long Term Int Free Loan to Dev Co from Beg | 170500.00 |
| | 0.00 | | 0.00 |
| 177468.95 | | Total Current Assets | 188641.92 |
| 204968.95 | | Total Assets | 211141.92 |
| | LIABILITIES | | |
| | 235.60 | Creditors | 6513.83 |
| | 2075.60 | Creditors (VDF) | 1543.92 |
| | 414.56 | Memorial Garden | 323.76 |
| | 0.00 | | 0.00 |
| | 0.00 | | 0.00 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | T & C (Transfers and Contras) | 0.00 |
| 2725.76 | | Total Liabilities | 8381.51 |
| 202243.19 | | TOTAL ASSETS MINUS LIABILITIES | 202760.41 |

| GENERAL PUPOSE FUND | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|---|------------------|
| | 219980.59 | Balance as per last Balance Sheet | 202243.19 |
| | 160493.41 | TOTAL Income | 169572.48 |
| | 178230.81 | Deduct TOTAL Expenditure | 169055.26 |
| 202243.19 | | Accumulated General Purpose Fund | 202760.41 |

Notes to Accounts:

Note A. Investments

The details of the Investments held are:

| | Cost | Market Value |
|---|-----------|--------------|
| CCLA CBF Church of England Investment Fund (Income) | | |
| Investment Fund 2066.14 Shares as at 31 December 2025 | 22,500.00 | 45,864.89 |

Note B. Church Hall Lease

A lease from the Diocese for seventy five years from 24 June 1967, at an annual rent of £100, is held on the Church Hall. This annual rent is now paid by the Development Company.

Note C. Creditors

The balance on Creditors (VDF) is the money due to the Vicar for his Discretionary Fund.
The balance on Creditors is the money received for Christmas Collections & Charities but not yet paid.

Note D. All Saints Community Catering Ltd

The Church holds a Share Certificate for £10,000 one pound shares in ASCC Ltd, following the closure of the Cafe in 2020. The shares are currently assessed to have a Nil monetary value, although we have received a donation from them of £1543.21 in Nov 23, as a gesture towards repayment and interest.

Church Accounts – Expenditure 2025

| EXPENDITURE TO | | 31-Dec-25 | |
|----------------|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| 2024 | | 2025 | 2025 |
| £ | | Budget | Actual |
| | | £ | £ |
| 3628 | Worship: | 4,000.00 | 5,877.23 |
| | supplies, gifts/expenses for visiting clergy | | 3,799.23 |
| | Music: inc. Resources, copyright and organist fees | | 2,078.00 |
| 11571 | Ministry Costs | | 9,530.12 |
| | Vicar and Curate Expenses: inc chapter retreat, hospitality, telephone, mileage | 4,000.00 | 2,701.66 |
| | Vicarage water rates, minor repairs | 1,500.00 | 1,566.73 |
| | Curate Housing Expenses | 3,500.00 | 952.44 |
| | Training / Education | 300.00 | 489.48 |
| | Youth Project - Part Room Rental | 3,600.00 | 3,431.71 |
| | Children | 300.00 | 298.10 |
| | Arts | | 0.00 |
| | SJAG | 350.00 | 90.00 |
| | Lunch Club | | 0.00 |
| 34871 | Church Building: | | 22,250.44 |
| | minor repairs, refuse collection, sundries and equipment | 7,000.00 | 4,615.81 |
| | Utilities | 14,000.00 | 10,671.15 |
| | Insurance, £10.6M new cover 2015 | 7,100.00 | 6,963.48 |
| | Church Centre facility fee | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 8625 | Communication and Administration: | | 7,437.39 |
| | Parish Office (inc telephone, stationery and expenses) | 3,000.00 | 1,465.33 |
| | Printing and Publicity/Website | 6,000.00 | 5,972.06 |
| 12448 | Admin Salary | 13,200.00 | 38,805.91 |
| | Salary Share received | | 26,382.03 |
| 75600 | Common Fund | 76,800.00 | 76,800.00 |
| 4936 | Supporting Other Causes (not including earmarked collections) | 9,800.00 | 6,036.00 |
| 60 | Miscellaneous | 500.00 | 40.00 |
| | Major Repairs to Church/PCC Property | | 0.00 |
| 151739 | TOTAL | 154,950.00 | 140,395.06 |

| Summary | Budget | Actual |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| TOTAL OUTGOINGS | 154,950.00 | 140,395.06 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 155,500.00 | 140,912.28 |
| DEFICIT/SURPLUS | £550.00 | £517.22 |
| Memorial Garden - Restricted Fund | | 250.80 |

Church Accounts – Income 2025

| 2024 | | INCOME TO | | 31-Dec-25 | |
|--------|--|------------------|----------|------------------|--|
| £ | | 2025 Budget £ | | 2025 Actual £ | |
| 121707 | REGULAR GIVING | | | 119079.95 | |
| | Giving | 115000.00 | 97767.93 | | |
| | Tax refund | 24000.00 | 21312.02 | | |
| 20 | Magazine Surplus/Deficit | 100.00 | | -102.17 | |
| | Magazine Income | | 80.00 | | |
| | Magazine Expenditure | | 182.17 | | |
| 1136 | Fees | 3000.00 | | 5280.00 | |
| | Total Fee Income | | 7376.00 | | |
| | Diocesan Fees paid to Diocese | | 2096.00 | | |
| 1710 | Dividends/Interest | 1800.00 | | 1361.38 | |
| 0 | Insurance Claim | 0.00 | | 2120.00 | |
| 1387 | Fund Raising | 2000.00 | | 2077.85 | |
| 130 | Refunds/Recycling/Utility Grant | 200.00 | | 0.00 | |
| 16246 | Sundries/Photocopier | 2000.00 | | 1995.53 | |
| 1895 | Church Rental | 2400.00 | | 2328.70 | |
| 2770 | Donations | 5000.00 | | 5771.04 | |
| 1000 | Bequest | | | 1000.00 | |
| 0 | Appeal | | | 0.00 | |
| 148001 | TOTAL | 155,500.00 | | 140,912.28 | |

Memorial Garden - Restricted Fund

160.00

Churchwarden

When I reflect on my first six months as churchwarden, I am struck by the wonderful level of advice and support I have received. Having so many former wardens around who are still willing to help has made the role much easier, and I am very grateful for their support.

I did not put myself forward to be warden with any particular agenda or ideas on specific improvements. My general approach has been to respond to issues as they have arisen, though I have been proactive in a couple of areas.

Christmas services

The Christmas services were a great success with over 600 people attending across both services. A big reason for this success was the hard work of David, Ben and Clare. There were understandable concerns around doing two back-to-back, but I think both services maintained strong faith and spiritual elements, without feeling rehearsed or performative. A huge thank you to everyone who helped with any of the services around Christmas.

The 4pm service was full, with only a very small amount of room at the 6:30pm. With the layout of chairs that we used, around 300-315 is our cap for a single service, while having sufficient space and access for fire exits etc. It was tricky getting enough volunteers for welcoming over the various Christmas services.

I would like to offer particular thanks to Chris Pearce, Daniel and Sarah Wilson, Ben Noakes and Paul Smart for helping with the decorating and un-decorating of the church for Christmastide.

The church building

There have not been any major building works for me to deal with. Some repairs have been arranged for when the weather is better, and these should be happening in the coming weeks.

There was recently some repair and maintenance work carried out on the heating system (thanks to Daniel Wilson and Tony Cocks for their help with this).

Security review

Following a couple of security issues at church, I conducted a review with Vivien and implemented a few changes to how things are done on a Sunday morning. Other than Sunday mornings, security has been increased around keys to help make the church and the items within it more secure, while not being too impractical or onerous on our volunteers.

There are still some occasional issues around doors/areas not being properly secured. Please reach out if you have any particular concerns and remember to lock/close the appropriate doors and cupboards after you have used them.

List of tasks for welcomers and duty wardens

In an effort to make things easier for both new and existing welcomers and duty wardens, I have agreed a list of tasks for the roles. Having consulted with the current volunteers, laminated task lists are available for both roles and are available in church.

Please let me know if you are interested in joining the rota as either a welcomer or duty warden.

Final thoughts

It was a huge pleasure to be involved in the planning of the celebrations for David's birthday and Nicola & Rosie's anniversary. The celebrations were great and showcased a lot of what makes All Saints special, namely the community that we share.

It is my intention to stand to be churchwarden again at the APCM, but life away from church has been particularly busy these last few months and I am still contemplating my final decision.

John Wallace-Howell
Churchwarden

Pastoral Care Team

Licensed Pastoral Team members Becky Frall, Juliet Bick and Jenny Warbrick, and also home communion visitor Des Workman and Reader Margaret Healey-Pollett, met three times last year to co-ordinate visits and to consider the pastoral needs of the congregation. Wendy Ross also rejoined the group early this year.

Regular contact with those increasingly confined to home is always a challenge but a combination of visits, phone calls and home communions have kept people in touch. We have done our best to respond to people's changing circumstances, for instance visiting as someone has settled into residential care. We have been grateful to be able to share confidential prayer requests with the Prayer Circle whose intercession helps the team feel that we do not carry a burden alone.

We have recognised the emotional cost to our All Saints community as a whole bearing a considerable number of bereavements this past year.

David is deeply grateful for the group's insight, compassion, time and prayerfulness.

David Warbrick

Children's Worship

During 2025, we have continued to run a children's group for primary school-age children alongside the 10am Sunday service. We usually have around six to eight children in each session. Special thanks must go to our wonderful team of volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to providing such fun and nurturing sessions each week: Jake Bateson, Gail Collins and Becky Cuthbert. We are also delighted to have welcomed two new volunteers to the team – Abi Hastings and Josh Bateson – and we are extremely grateful to have them on board.

The other key change is that children have started to join the main service before heading out to the hall or the Garden Room for their session. We are putting new safeguarding measures in place to support this, with invaluable help and advice from our safeguarding lead, Paul Collins.

It feels important to note that we are seeing very few new young families. This is clearly a matter of concern as we see children age out of the group and very few new children joining. We would suggest that this is viewed as a whole church issue, rather than a concern just in terms of children's provision.

In relation to this point, we are keen to grow our community outreach, including (but not necessarily limited to) a baby and toddler group and activities aimed at school-age children at weekends and in school holidays.

This goes beyond the time commitment that our current volunteer base is able to offer – but could make all the difference in terms of connecting with new families, which is vital for All Saints' growth and longer-term sustainability.

We would like to seek support from the wider congregation with this, in terms of expertise in identifying or accessing potential funding streams or bid-writing – or indeed offering practical help to run or co-ordinate such provision.

Sarah Jeffery and Grace Storey
Children's Worship Co-ordinators

Justice, Peace and Green Group

The Justice, Peace and Green group has had a busy year.

The main focus of the year has been action towards achieving the Eco Church Silver Award. Groups have been formed around all five themes for the award – Buildings and Energy, Worship and Teaching, Land and Nature, Community and Global, and Lifestyle. Each group is looking at ways in which All Saints might progress to the Silver Award status. If anyone is interested in joining one of these groups, the information may be found in the weekly church e-newsletter.

Championed by Des Workman, we raised enough money to twin all six of the toilets in the church and All Saints Centre. A formal service blessing the twinned toilets will be held in the next few months.

We marked the congregation's stand against the genocide in Gaza by an event in All Saints Square in September encouraging 'drawing a red line for Gaza'. We mourned the brutal destruction of young life in the morning service on the Feast of the Holy Innocents in which we read out a few of the names of the thousands of children murdered during the ongoing onslaught on Gaza. The display created in this service may still be seen in the lady chapel.

As usual, we advised the PCC on our charitable giving this year. As Kinmos no longer exists, we recommended that their donation was paid to the new Community Kitchen that operates from New Life Baptist Church.

Christian Aid Week happened in May, including a car wash, and we helped at a later Christian Aid quiz in June at which £640 was raised.

Magdalen Gorringe, Margaret Healey-Pollett and Daniel Wilson

Reordering Group

The inaugural meeting for the reordering of the church took place back in November; the Reordering Group consists of members of the church community representing the many different roles and groups within the church.

We discussed the background to the reordering, which had started many years ago, and how the project will now provide an opportunity to focus on making the church more sustainable, flexible and accessible to the congregation and the wider community. The aim is to reach net zero carbon by 2030, in line with the wider aspirations of the Church of England.

A draft brief has been written and we are looking to meet shortly to review this, before taking the next steps with the project. We will be visiting similar completed projects in 2026 to gain some valuable insights.

Mary Gaskell
Chair

Social and Fundraising Group

This has become a 'very loose friends and supporters of All Saints Group'; no longer a committee. It continues to support other events at All Saints such as the Christian Aid quiz and occasional talks in church (thanks to Jim Andrew for his willingness to do some). Our big fundraiser was the silent movie night in November. The item in the accounts under fundraising for 2025 includes a donation from the successful All Saints pantomime. If anyone has any ideas for fundraising please speak to Des Workman, Tony Cocks or Daniel Wilson.

Des Workman

Youth Management Committee

Members

Brian Miles (fundraising – *left September 2025*), Jenny Warbrick (Church Youth Group), Lindsey Hammond (*left September 2025*), Alasdair McCarrick, Sandra Fortnum, Jane Morel, Brenda Inman (chair), Ann Durham (minute-taker), Romana Kelly (staff – *left September 2025*), Ian Barber (staff), Vicki Willinger (staff), Jo Burrows (staff).

In 2025 the Youth Management Committee continued to:

- Support the work of the Church Youth Group and church-related activities currently run by Jenny Warbrick and her team.

- Support the work of ASCP by managing the Youth Project, including:
 - the day-to-day running of the Project;
 - ensuring that we follow a young people-centred approach;
 - supervising and supporting staff;
 - agreeing the programme;
 - reviewing staff reports and addressing issues raised;
 - resources;
 - managing the budget;
 - ensuring that policies are followed;
 - contributing to fundraising; and
 - recruitment and selection of staff.

The Youth Management Committee is a sub-committee of ASCP and also reports to the PCC.

Church Youth Group report

Our leadership group has expanded and we are delighted to welcome John Wallace-Howell and Abi Hastings to the team. They bring wide experience of working with young people, lots of energy and new ideas. Despite another successful car wash for Christian Aid in May, we decided that Sunday mornings were no longer working for tired teenagers and a fresh approach was needed. In September we relaunched Youth Group with a consistent pattern of two evenings per month (second and fourth Sundays), each with a different focus. One is a small group discussion at Heather and Jake Bateson's house on faith-related issues; the other is a social activity to which friends are welcome. We have had a core group of five to eight who attend regularly and bring friends along. We have had discussions on AI and Christian Aid's work in Columbia, played board games, been to Laser Quest, had Christmas and pancake parties, and been to see *Animal Farm* at the theatre. We were delighted when three of our young people were confirmed by Bishop Michael at St Francis Church, Bournville in January. Thank you to all our leaders who give their time so generously to run these sessions. And thank you to all our young people who energise us, inspire us, make us laugh, challenge us, and share their joys and sorrows with us. You are a treasured part of the All Saints family.

Youth Group team: Heather Bateson, Jake Bateson, Juliet Bick, Peter Champneys, Becky Frall, Abi Hastings, John Wallace-Howell, David Warbrick, Jenny Warbrick.

Jenny Warbrick

For the **Youth Project report** please see the All Saints Community Projects report, which starts on page 23.

Thanks for the continuing support, interest and actions from the Youth Management Committee members. It would be good to grow the membership of the group so if you have an interest in and heart for young people please join us.

Mary Miles

Chair of the Board

All Saints Community Arts

The main role of ASCA continues to be addressing the organisation, preservation, and cataloguing of the growing volume of archive material in our care. The team of enthusiastic volunteers have designed three free exhibitions in church during the year, all of which have been well received by public and congregation alike.

As part of the Artsfest grand opening of the completed All Saints Centre buildings on 3 and 4 May, the church was opened to welcome visitors to an exhibition entitled 'All Saints Campus – Past and Present – from 1860-2025'. This illustrated how the scope of the All Saints site, at the heart of Kings Heath, has continually grown over 165 years. Informative displays showed the many activities offered over the decades to assist and enrich the residents of Kings Heath, in responding to local and national needs.

Hot on the heels of this, All Saints joined the Diocesan VE Day commemorations on 8 May, which included an exhibition entitled 'Kings Heath Community Life During and After WWII'. The church bell was rung 80 times at 6:30pm, and the beacon lit at 9pm in the Square – In the interim, visitors were invited to view the exhibition which was also open on Saturday all day, and Sunday afternoon. Ian Binnie kindly gave a fascinating illustrated talk entitled 'Kings Heath, All Saints Church and the end of WWII'. We are very grateful for the wonderful oral histories that we had recorded with some of our parishioners and whose verbal accounts were aired in the church throughout. Their memories of living through the hostilities were extremely inspiring and thought-provoking.

Our third exhibition was our second venture for Birmingham Heritage Week, on 19 September, where the focus was on 'Friendship, Families and Fun'. This explored the many groups and activities which had involved families, and provided recreation for parishioners over the decades.

Exploring material for all the exhibitions exposes so much more than the facts – it entices our imaginations to construct for ourselves what lifestyles over the decades show us about human love, care and creativity. Attendance is often weather-dependent, and it helps if a Farmers' Market is also on the Square, as this increases footfall.

To assist us in the continuing task of sifting, listing and storing our material, two first-year history students from the University of Birmingham joined us on placement in May to July, to complete 70 hours each of tasks with this objective. Eleanor and Tabitha amazed in their ability to design and create a spreadsheet from scratch! Not a skill any of our group could demonstrate – they were a great team and moved us forward significantly with cataloguing our items.

We also had two students from Aston University in September; they did some transcribing of oral interviews which are ongoing.

Marion continued to delve into the archives and compose interesting monthly articles for *Saints Alive!*. We are immensely grateful also to the generous donor whose generosity enabled us to purchase a new laptop – put to very good use by our UoB students! We are as always very grateful for the support of the Crafters, catering team, volunteer stewards, Kath for her guided church tours, and the many generous donors to our small funds. Not least, my thanks go to our small but energetic team without whom none of this valuable work could happen.

We welcome interest from anyone who has a keenness for history and in particular who could help us with fundraising – please contact any of the group: Margaret Andrew, Liz Haskins, Marion Wilson, Mary Harding, Gillian Holmes, Pam Coley, Ian Binnie and Gill Binnie.

Vivien Thickett
Chair

All Saints Community Catering Limited

This Society still exists, despite what was said in our last year's report that it was to be dissolved. This is still the intention unless there is any group with similar aims that would like to take it over. It takes time, and, in our case, money, to set societies up. The money was for legal advice on becoming a suitable social enterprise. Having gone to this trouble and expense, we want to be sure that closing it down is the right course of action. Closing down would mean that the PCC's community share in the Society will have to be devalued by roughly half, which we would prefer to avoid, if possible.

If Lunch Club is to be revived, ASCC could act as the governing body to manage the finances, if a team of volunteers emerged to run the Club.

This is your Society, a Community Benefit Society, owned and controlled by its members, which are currently down to about eight, including the PCC. Please come and have a chat with me if you would like to discuss the Society's potential, or to see its accounts, which are all up to date. If anyone has any ideas about how the structure might be used it would be good to hear from you, otherwise it will be dissolved before too long.

Margaret Healey-Pollett
Chair

All Saints Community Development Company

2025 was a remarkable and memorable year in the life of the All Saints Community Development Company. We at last realised a major original objective of our charity which was an entirely new set of premises for the long-standing and highly successful All Saints Youth Project. This was coupled with new facilities for The Robin Centre (our day centre for older people), extended accommodation for our tenant CircusMASH which trains people in circus skills, and the release of much-needed space for other ASCDC purposes. This was funded by a Youth Investment Fund grant.

Work on the new build began in April 2024 with a target to be completed by mid-December 2024. The stakeholders moved into their new locations in January 2025. The Garden Room has already proved to be a popular lettable space for small events and has capacity for larger events when the partition is opened to the hall. The Garden Room toilets are now available for church use on a Sunday morning and for other events held in church. Kings Heath Artsfest saw the grand opening of the revitalised Centre which took place over the May Day weekend, 3 and 4 May 2025, and showcased the All Saints Church campus bringing together music, art, performance and people.

Notwithstanding this achievement it has been another financially challenging year for ASCDC, with costs exceeding income for the fifth successive year. This has been caused partly by cost inflation but mainly by high interest rates on our mortgages.

Ewa Bogusz continued to run the Café under the management of ASCDC. Angela McDermott continued as administrator for the Centre and the church. Nick Pearson joined the team in March 2025 as facilities manager supported by Dave Priday who continued as caretaker and his engagement with tenants, users of the Centre and general public have been much appreciated.

We are constantly seeking ways in which we can boost revenue and contain expenditure, but interest rate movements will remain the key factor. Against that background, we strive to continue to serve the local community as best we can, in collaboration with our All Saints partners. In the long term, eventual repayment of the mortgages will make an enormous difference to the finances and enable us to invest more effectively in our community goals.

Sarah Wilson
Chair

All Saints Community Projects



This year ASCP has continued to:

- Manage, fund and develop the **All Saints Youth Project**.
- Produce 10 issues of **Outlook** in the year, which is funded by the PCC. Thanks to Pat Rowland and her proofreading team.

ASCP works with and/or is a member of:

- The Children's Quarter
- Safe Spaces
- All Saints Community Catering Limited
- Hall Green Neighbourhood Network
- Umbrella
- BCU



ASCP would be happy to support any groups or individuals that would like to be involved with or start a community group. If you are interested please contact the chair, Mary Miles, through the Youth Project office on 0121 443 1842.

All Saints Youth Project

All Saints Youth Project has been here for young people and their families for 28 years.

Youth opportunities and social provision for any and all young people are still few and far between. We have seen a small growth in support for young people and also some pockets of money available. But these remain very specific to work with particular groups or on defined issues.

Support for families and parents is increasing but is still mainly for babies and young children. Teenagers have always been the Cinderella service.

1. Our Aims

- 1. To help and support all young people in their transition from adolescence to adulthood through the provision of an integrated and holistic programme that strives to be accessible and inclusive particularly to those with disabilities and special needs.*
- 2. To deliver and develop our service where all young people have the right to be safe, be healthy, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and to achieve economic wellbeing.*

2. Our Objectives

- 1. To provide a safe place for socialising, enjoyment and positive activity.*
- 2. To raise young people's self-esteem and confidence by developing new skills and providing a sense of achievement.*
- 3. To promote positive behaviour and personal responsibility for the benefit of themselves and the community.*
- 4. To encourage young people to take personal responsibility for their future.*
- 5. To provide an opportunity for young people to talk to supportive/caring adults in a non-threatening environment.*
- 6. To ensure that activities are accessible for young people with additional needs.*
- 7. To support young people by supporting their families.*
- 8. To provide information and guidance on health, legal, careers and other appropriate issues for young people.*
- 9. To provide opportunities for staff, young people and volunteers for personal development and their future careers.*

We have been networking with, and receiving referrals from, organisations to support young people and their families. These have included:



- Adult and Social Care BCC
- S.E.N.D
- Fircroft College
- Parent & Carers Forum
- Thrive
- West Midlands Police
- Birmingham Carers Service teenage parents support
- Autism West Midlands
- Autism 360
- Umbrella
- Positive Pathways
- Stage 2
- CircusMASH
- Midland Operatic
- Aquarius
- Birmingham Careers Service
- Local schools
- Autism Awareness
- Forward Thinking Birmingham
- Birmingham Children's Trust

- The Brandwood Centre
- Forward Carers
- Local police and community officers
- Local foodbanks
- The Wellbeing Project
- Christians Against Poverty (CAP)
- Sudden Productions
- Birmingham City Mission
- Citizens 4U
- Jericho
- Sure Trust
- Early Help

Safeguarding

Our safeguarding policies for children and vulnerable adults have been reviewed. Our designated safeguarding leads are:

- ASCP board lead: Mary Miles
- The Youth Project: Ian Barber and Jo Burrows

A safeguarding review with staff and volunteers took place in October/November and the results were reported in January 2026.

All Saints Youth Project staff team

- Ian Barber – family support co-ordinator and Inclusion+ co-ordinator
- Vicki Willinger – office co-ordinator
- Romana Kelly – youth work co-ordinator (*left September 2025*)
- Pat Buckley – Inclusion+ worker (*left September 2025*)
- Sophia Shaheen – youth worker
- Chelsea Moorhouse – youth worker
- Louise Wood – Inclusion+ and youth worker
- Debbie Nixon – family support worker
- Dawn McKeever – counselling lead
- Dillan McKeever – Inclusion+ and youth worker (*left August 2025*)
- Oscar Harvey – MOSAIC (Making Our Sexualities And Identities Count) lead worker
- Rebecca Cox – youth worker (bank)
- Jo Burrows – youth work co-ordinator
- Fyfe Irwin – youth worker, lead youth worker (*September 2025*)
- Grace Stirk – MOSAIC youth worker
- Dulcie Flowers – youth worker



We welcomed back Jo Burrows as our youth work co-ordinator. She worked with us in the early days of the project. She has brought with her knowledge and skills, not only working with young people but helping to create a strong staff team.

We have a creative and diverse staff team and group of volunteers who put young people first. We also have students and school pupils on placement in all areas of the project.

We were very sorry to lose one of our long-term members of staff in September due to health issues. Pat Buckley had worked for us for over 20 years as our youth work co-ordinator responsible for youth sessions and holiday schemes. She also ran Inclusion+ from its start. She was particularly skilled in accessing our project to young people with additional needs, supporting their parents and also relating to and supporting those young people with difficult behaviour. We held a thank-you party with past and present members and staff and she is still missed.

We moved into our new building the week beginning 27 January 2025. Thanks to all the staff team and young people who managed to move into the new space within a week so sessions could restart. We have extra space for activities, three new and much-needed counselling rooms, a kitchen, time-out rooms, a bigger shared office and some limited outdoor space. With creativity, imagination and some begging we have managed to furnish the spaces. Over the year the walls have been decorated with young people's work and resources.

Our activities

All Saints Youth Project provides recreational and informal educational opportunities and support for young people aged 10 to 19 years old (up to 25 for those with disabilities) to enhance their lives and grow their social/personal development. Our work with young people includes fun, friendship and care. While much of our work is aimed at the young people themselves, we look to promote family wellbeing and to help parents/carers in dealing with issues that their young person is facing. Issues facing the family may be about the parent's drug or alcohol abuse, poverty, domestic violence

or just improving the communication between the young person and parents/carers.



During 2025 the project has had contact with over 600 individual young people and over 362 families. A team of staff and volunteers deliver support/services: four open-access youth club sessions, special groups including our LGBT+ support group and three sessions for adult members with learning disabilities every week, counselling and one-to-one support, special projects and workshops, holiday schemes, residential, events in the local community, family support through individual family interventions, support groups (eg ADHD) and courses (eg Teen Triple P). We are an inclusive project with young people with disabilities and neurodiversity. In addition, we have a very high proportion of young people who are vulnerable through family circumstance (eg on the edge of crime, domestic abuse, poverty) and some of these are referred to us by GPs, social services and police.

Staff visit local schools to talk to young people and staff about our offer.

*Youth worker to young person: 'How's life?'
Response: 'Life is good. I have so much to look forward to, like coming here.'*

For young people

Open youth club sessions: Four sessions run every week during term time supplemented by holiday programmes during school holidays. Young people who attend include those with a range of learning disabilities, behavioural issues, neurodiversity and additional needs and our activities are planned for inclusivity.



Two of these sessions are in the evenings and two are after-school drop-ins. Young people participate in a range of recreational activities, staff support, forming friendships, building and having fun, in a safe environment with caring adults.

A range of activities, selected in consultation with the young people, took place in three of these sessions. These included:

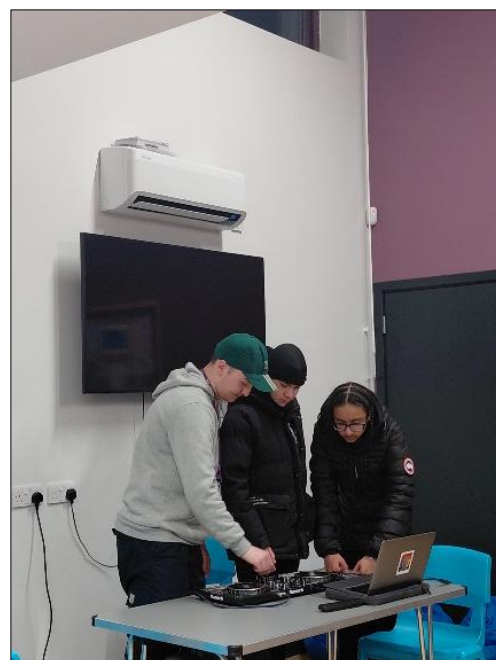
- General activities: table tennis, pool, basketball, card games (UNO etc), chess, draughts, board games, PS4 and Switch, jigsaws, Lego.
- Craft activities: jewellery, pottery, stained glass, masks.
- Projects and workshops: knife crime creating a knife tree, Youth Voice for SEND young people, consultation with BCC around their new youth strategy, What it means to be a Brummie?, Your Rights with the police, sexual health with Umbrella.
- Games – to explore issues important to young people: boundaries in friendship and online, encouraging young people to get to know each other, exploring feelings, sexual health, love and healthy relationships.

The fourth session is project-based where young people spend time focusing on particular skills over several weeks. These have included:

- Singing and karaoke
- DJing, production and MCing
- Percussion, guitar basics and group drumming
- Chess

Weekly attendance during 2025 has been between 20 and 30 people per session.

We held a Christmas party for young people, parents, staff and young people.



I have had a talk with two of our older members who are 19 and 20 about moving on. For them to get used to the idea, I have given them until Christmas and then they have taken it well although obviously upset.

One of them who has been coming to the Project for years said that was like a dagger in the heart Jo; hard to hear but I did remind him that we are not going anywhere. I also discussed the idea of them volunteering but at this time it's not for them.



Residential: Our residential ran at Easter with 20 young people attending an activity weekend at Oaker Wood Centre.

Holiday schemes: We ran holiday schemes in February, May, July/August and October 2025. The summer scheme ran for three weeks, four days a week. Between 30 and 50 young people attended the schemes where lunch was provided. Activities during the schemes included workshops on sexual health and positive relationships, circus skills, T-shirt printing, cooking, singing, a trip to Drayton Manor Park and rock climbing.

Case study

A young person who had been working with our family support worker Debbie took part in the October half-term programme. At first Mom was having a lot of problems with him at home and at first had trouble getting him out of bed and through our doors; however after his first day he then arrived every day before opening time.

Once the holiday programme had finished the parent met with Debbie again and shared something.

She asked, what we had done to her son? She went on to say that they have been having so much trouble with him and can't believe that after one day he was like a changed kid. He was getting himself up and getting dressed; he couldn't wait to come to the Youth Project.

His parents were in total disbelief; they said they'd had the best week.

We are trying to encourage him to come to termtime sessions.

Looked-after children: We have received some funding to support looked-after children. We have been networking, consulting and researching the best way forward and hope to initiate a programme, called Echo, in the new year.

Every Girl Can: This has a small membership at the moment. We will be looking at how we may develop this in the new year.

MOSAIC: Average attendance at our weekly session on a Monday is 13-15 members

At the start of each term, we had a planning session with the young people where they put forward the activities they would like to run. The group has a preference for arts-based activities, which we prioritise. We tend to have an art-based group activity for one hour, then free time for the following hour for the young people to use the facilities available in the space, such as the pool table and sharing their music tastes with each other. They also have the use of the sports hall which they enjoy.

Activities we have run included bracelet- and charm-making, old-school party, games nights, movie nights, gaming nights, tote bag tie-dyeing, stained glass-making, quiz nights, painting activities, a spa night, mocktail making and Pokémon battles. We have also done themed nights to commemorate LGBT+ history month.

We have run several trips including picnics in Kings Heath Park and meals out at Loco Lounge, which has offered us discounts and free drinks. Over the summer, we also did an escape room and visited the aquarium. We also walked in the Parade at Birmingham Pride (we will be doing this again in 2026) and helped run Queens Heath Pride. This year at this event, the group marched in the parade and then helped run the Community Centre café (raising money for All Saints Youth Project) by selling cakes and running activities such as a positivity wall and temporary tattoo stall.

The group at the moment is majority younger people (average 11-14 years old) and we need to build a space that meets both 11-year-olds' and 18-year-olds' needs. As well as being a vital group for younger members, MOSAIC is equally important for members 16+ facing issues with their identity, transitioning, relationships and preparing for university and work and this needs to be addressed for the future.

Website

Alongside social media, the All Saints Youth Project website has been maintained with up-to-date timetables, news posts and information.

Counselling

With our counselling lead we have continued to build a team on a sessional, freelance or volunteer basis and currently we have a team of six. During the year 74 young people and 42 adults have received counselling support ranging from a single contact through to a series of sessions. The main concerns were anger issues, family issues, low moods, social anxieties and bullying. There are 18 young people and two adults on our current waiting list.

In March I began sessions with a young person with additional needs using visual and art resources. The young person in question suffers from frequent seizures, and the sessions are being made possible by other members of staff who have undergone specialist seizure training being on hand to support me during the sessions. These sessions are progressing well.

Inclusion+

We run three sessions each week for adults aged 19+ with learning disabilities or vulnerabilities. Over 50 members have taken part in our activities this year. Some of them have been with us since we started the group and were initially members of our youth sessions.

With a growth in confidence and experience some of our members individually or together have been involved in local community events including performing at CoCoMad with CircusMASH, joining Barbara Nice (local comedian) in a play in the community, and organising and hosting a charitable fundraising open mic event at a local pub.

Session one – the afternoon wellbeing group included: involvement in church pantomime *Snow White*, team-building, yoga, arts/crafts, music/dance, understanding therapy and meditation; average attendance 20.

Session two – the evening social group included: films, games, bingo, disco/karaoke nights in the Centre and outside visits to local pubs, meals at local restaurants, the city museum and library, picnics in local parks and bowling; average attendance 26.



Some members also went to various events outside their Wednesday sessions including the pantomime at the Hippodrome theatre (26), bowling (20), church pantomime (18), open mic charity evening at the Station pub (20).

During the holiday periods the group went on a city centre mystery tour, attended the Summer of Music and Laughter, and the Freefall dance anniversary performance at the Hippodrome.

24 members enjoyed three nights in August at Knockerdown Cottages in Ashbourne planned by themselves with swimming, country walks, games and music, and pub meal evenings.

Session three – employability session: this programme on a Friday covered topics such as interviewing techniques, confidence building, assertiveness, research, teamwork, CV writing, and many others. We helped all members to build a portfolio of evidence of the work they had undertaken.

We built relationships with other local organisations and community groups, as we realised very quickly that we were not employment experts and needed help and guidance with connections in the field of work. This session is now finished.

Family support

The Carers' Space at All Saints: This has had 76 drop-ins and over 362 families have received support this year.

Issues we are supporting parents with include:

- Stress
- Poverty
- Poor or breakdown of family relationships
- Domestic abuse
- Lack of trust in statutory agencies and schools
- Violence and anger by young people
- Lack of confidence and self-esteem

- Lack of knowledge and understanding of positive parenting
- Harmful behaviours: drugs, alcohol abuse, gambling

Parenting programmes:

- 3 x Autism 360 (10 weeks) – 28 participants
- Individual Teen Triple P (eight weeks) – 12 participants
- 3 x Non-Violent Resistance (10 weeks) – 28 participants

Parent/carer support groups (four of these groups are run by parent volunteers):

- Parents' Wellbeing
- Autism/ADHD
- Adoptive Parents
- Transgender Support
- Male Carers
- Home Education

Family fun days: During the year we ran eight family fun days in school holidays with activities including arts and crafts, games, circus skills, disco, karaoke, sensory space, sports day and food. Attendees included parents, young people and siblings in family groups, with an attendance of 275 over the eight days.



2025 summer fun days feedback

- *We loved the disco. What a wonderful couple of hours. The staff were so lovely, friendly and fun. The music and food were lovely. My son had a smashing time dancing and playing party games.*
- *The disco was a lovely few hours for all three of my boys to enjoy. All the organisers were lovely and friendly and made us feel welcome. Thank you for a wonderful event.*
- *I didn't know what to expect but my daughter who is in a wheelchair really enjoyed dancing and joining in with games. She does not settle easily in new places but seemed to settle and enjoyed being with other young people. Thank you to staff for organising this.*
- *What a great atmosphere. My kids loved running round and enjoyed playing games. They also liked the buffet which I understand was donated by a local catering firm. Well done everyone involved.*
- *It's good to find a place where our SEN children can feel safe and relaxed with no judgement from other people who don't understand. My children even joined in the disco and ate some food, even if it was just cake. Thank you.*
- *We can't wait for the next one in October. I wish there were more groups like this.*
- *As a parent I felt relaxed knowing my children could be themselves.*
- *Thank you everyone for making me and my children feel so welcome. I was anxious but after meeting the staff felt more relaxed and will definitely be coming back to enjoy more activities.*
- *It was nice meeting other parents with children who have autism.*

Parents' Wellbeing group speakers and workshops have included:

- SENDIASS Birmingham
- Talking SENSE/EHC plans
- Birmingham Parents Forum
- Mindfulness
- Yoga
- Christmas arts and crafts
- Autism West Midlands
- Healthy Minds
- Group walks
- Thrive
- Mental health discussions
- Menopause support
- Self-care

Our team has referred 52 families to food banks and 48 families to the local Household Fund. We received 10 food parcels from Moseley and Kings Heath Lions, 19 families received toys from Birmingham City Mission, and 80 selection boxes from various businesses and members of the community which enabled us to give every young person and parents a selection box for Christmas.

Challenges

A big challenge is still the recruitment of staff. However, over the year, and with Jo's invaluable input, we have built a strong staff team, a combination of qualified/trained and in-training and new but enthusiastic and keen to learn.

We have had some challenges from young people around alcohol.

We have also had to say goodbye to some of our members who have grown too old for the project. Some had been with us for several years but didn't feel they wanted to stay as volunteers.

The building has offered challenges in itself as the access to the back of the building has caused vulnerability for young people and staff. This is being resolved by ASCDC and YMC. Extra sound-reducing materials have had to be added to one of the activity rooms so the two rooms could be used by separate groups.

We have managed to increase membership of the board of trustees, and the Youth Management Committee has lost some members. It remains a challenge to find people who are willing to sit on one of these two groups and give their time, thoughts and encouragement in order to maintain our values and resources. We are looking to increase our diversity including those who have had fewer birthdays! We need to secure our future.

Future developments

We already have plans in 2026 as follows:

- A support group for parents and young people with life-threatening and chronic illness.
- A film project with young people.
- A new development in work with girls and young women.

- Regular sexual health advice programme with Umbrella.
- An accredited programme of informal learning for young people.
- A new Inclusion+ session for 19- to 30-year-olds with additional needs.
- A new youth development worker.
- For our counselling lead to become our counselling co-ordinator.
- Offering grief support and counselling for adopted young people and adoptive parents.
- To action the results of our safeguarding review.



Fundraising

Fundraising continues to be a priority but the YIF funding from ASCDC and the new build provided financial support for staff employment 2024 and

this has helped us with our budget in 2025. We also achieved a three-year lottery bid in 2024; we continue our monthly appeal mailings. Our Henry Smith grant comes to an end in 2026 which we have had for nine years. This has funded our family support work so we will need to find ways of continuing to fund Ian and Debbie's invaluable work. We are hoping some money may become available through the local authority for specific projects. We are always happy to receive donations from individuals or groups of any size: every penny helps. Thank you to Denis and the fundraising group Brian Miles (left September 2025), Claire Slater, Jane Morel and Steve Hayes.

We would like to thank Ted and Lindsey Hammond for the Christmas quiz which was again very successful and raised over £1,000. We are always looking for new ideas or kind businesses or millionaires!

Thanks to all our regular givers. Please get in touch if you wish to join this group of generous donors.

Current trustees on the All Saints Community Projects board

June McDonaldson (company secretary – *left at AGM October 2025*), Katherine Cunnuffee (company secretary – *appointed November 2025*), Mary Miles (chair), Alison Wall (treasurer), Daniel Wilson, David Warbrick (vicar, ex officio), Denis Murphy (assistant treasurer (hons)), Claire Slater, Eira Jones (*left at AGM October 2025*), Gill Davies (*elected at AGM October 2025*). Minutes secretary was Liz Haskins (*left at AGM October 2025*) and is now Marion Wilson (*appointed December 2025*).

Youth Management Committee

A list of committee members can be found at the start of the Youth Management Committee report on page 19.

Thank you to the board and Youth Management Committee members for their continued hard work, creativity and their shared skills and abilities.

The trustees and Youth Management Committee members would like to thank our staff and volunteers for their resourcefulness, flexibility, creativity and positivity and the care they show for young people and their families.

Thanks to the PCC for its continued support. We continue to recognise the importance and benefits of being part of the 'family' of All Saints, and the support of people thinking about us.

We are also extremely grateful for the support of all the grant-making organisations, trusts and individuals, including our regular givers, without whom we would not be able to deliver and develop the services and activities that we provide with the local community.

Find out more about us:

- Website: <https://www.allsaintsyouthproject.org.uk/>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/allsaintsyouthproject/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/allsaintsyp>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsyouthproject>

Mary Miles
Chair of the Board of Trustees

The Robin Centre



The main event in the life of the Robin Centre in 2025 was of course our move into new premises early in the year. The fact that we owed this attractive, spacious and well-appointed accommodation to the Youth Investment Fund is something which has required a good deal of explanation, and caused a lot of amusement. However, the release of our old centre, now the Garden Room, to general use not least for young people's activities provides the justification.

We are certainly very pleased to have a larger, air conditioned, space with a better kitchen, staff room and more satisfactory office. Members and staff alike are delighted with the outcome.

We have struggled to maintain our numbers and income this year. The reasons are not clear, and we have certainly put a lot of effort into promoting the Centre, using social media, more traditional advertising and an excellent video now on our website. Birmingham City Council required us, and all other day centres, to tender to be on a list of approved service suppliers. After a lot of hard work, wading through a complex bureaucratic process, we were successful. However the number of member referrals from the council has not increased and self-referrals remain the mainstay.

A day at the Centre remains full of lively activity, good food and camaraderie thanks to the hard work of our staff and volunteers. A highlight, just before Christmas, was a performance put on by our next-door neighbours, CircusMASH, focused on reminiscence. This involved our members in the preparation and the performance, though not on the ropes or trapezes. We were very pleased to have been included in this way and it was a memorable experience.

Going forward, hard decisions on reducing costs and increasing our charges await.

David Ritchie
Chair

All Saints Players

2025 was a 'panto year', so All Saints Players were called into action, with rehearsals starting back in October 2024 ready for two sold-out performances of *Snow White* on Saturday 8 February last year. We were fortunate once more to have a seasoned arts critic in the audience, who summed up proceedings pretty well...

It all started locally back in 2018 with Cinderella, followed by Jack and the Beanstalk in 2020. With Dick Whittington then helping to bring back the 'feelgood factor' post-Covid in 2023, this year it was the turn of Snow White to get the All Saints panto treatment.

Scholarly research tells us that pantomime as we know it today stretches back almost 200 years, though Snow White itself was a later 20th-century addition to the genre. Providing a first live theatrical experience for most children, then and now, early devotees of pantomime included Charles Dickens, William Gladstone, Lewis Carroll and Queen Victoria.

Always combining slapstick, spectacle and subversion, it has however constantly evolved to act as a cultural barometer of its time, reflecting current attitudes, beliefs and preoccupations. So, in continuing this glorious tradition of cross-dressing, terrible jokes, hissing the baddies and the triumph of young love over evil (this time with Prince Neville of Northfield eventually winning the fair hand of Snow White), what did we get in Panto 2025, All Saints-style?

Playing again to two sellout audiences and with the largest ever cast including partygoers, villagers, trees and woodland creatures, the first and most obvious mirror on today's PC world (and that's not the electrical retailer) was the inclusion of seven 'people of below average height'. Yet before this all got too serious and worthy, all were of course of much greater stature than Snow White herself, the tallest being six feet five!

Once again, David Warbrick forsook his day job as vicar at All Saints to take on the plum role of Dame Victoria Sponge, with all the over-the-top sartorial elegance and outrageous double entendres we have come to love and expect.

Snow White was played with innocence and poise by 12-year-old Lucy Groves. She finally triumphs – of course – over the evil Queen Beryl, magnificently played and sung by Charlotte Champneys who was fully deserving of the audience's constant vocal disapproval. (Special mention here too of her increasingly frustrating conversations with her 'mirror', played in elegantly urbane style by David Harvey.)

As ever, there were regular allusions to other pantos and folktales, with running gags aplenty keeping us royally entertained. Nigel and Christopher Pietroni in particular were hysterically funny as Nifty and Shifty, with their inspired take on the roles of The Fast Show's camp tailors Ken and Kenneth. In measuring King Cornelius (played with suitable gullibility by Damian Hursey) for his wedding suit of magic – in other words invisible – cloth, their constant catchphrase, 'Ooh! Suits you, sir!', carried on throughout the interval, as Nifty and Shifty moved throughout the audience to measure us up for our own wedding attire.

Much of the plot – such as it ever is – involved the Queen's efforts to get Snow White to eat a poisoned apple. So far, so traditional. More unexpected was that every time an apple was produced, a Minion (played with energy and panache by eight-year-old Jake Groves) unexpectedly rushed across the

stage brandishing an alternative yellow fruit shouting: 'Apple? – no, banana!' Any non-aficionados among the cast of the Despicable Me series of films were inevitably perplexed. You too? You had to be there!

Reflecting the importance of the All Saints Youth Project, a number of young adults from its Inclusion+ group began the second half of the afternoon in the forest cottage, leading the audience in a rousing rendition of 'Heigh-Ho, Heigh-Ho, it's off to work we go'.

As ever, too many participants to mention all individually, but the excellence of the production clearly reflected months of hard work by all the cast and skilled backroom team. The highly entertaining show had atmospheric sets and lighting, with musical backing by one-man band Ben Noakes keeping the show on the road. And everything benefited hugely from the combined flair and imagination of producer Clare Noakes and director Kevin Groves.

Once again, a fantastic effort by everyone, which also happened to raise over £1,100. Did we all have a good time? Oh yes we did! And will we come again next time? Oh yes we will!

My enormous thanks to all who contributed to the pantomime – the backstage and technical crews, the children's chaperones, the front of house team, the hair and make-up team, the 'orchestra' (Ben Noakes) and especially to Kevin Groves who stepped into Fiona Briggs' shoes to take on the role of theatrical director. As I have said in previous reports, membership of the Players is simply by virtue of turning up to a rehearsal or expressing interest in being part of our next performance! While we audition (in the loosest sense) for the panto speaking roles – mainly to try to ensure that everyone gets a turn to share the limelight – there is nothing more than enthusiasm and the willingness to get stuck in required to be part of our merry band. We will probably be putting on our next pantomime in February 2027, so do keep a look out after the summer for details of how you can be involved!

Clare Noakes
Producer

Coffee Team

Each Sunday after the 10am service about 80 people enjoy a cuppa and a chat in the baptistry over which news is exchanged, connections are made, friendships grow and all manner of plans are hatched! The aroma of coffee wafts through church during the service beckoning all to stay and linger for a while – strengthening our sense of community.

The hundreds of cups of coffee, tea and biscuits have been served over the past year by a team of 23 wonderful volunteers working in teams of four allocated to two or three coffee sessions per quarter. The team spans a range of ages and years belonging to the All Saints community. The routine involves setting up the coffee corner from around 9:15am, serving coffee from around 11am, then clearing up and putting away usually by midday. The hard work, cheerfulness and reliability of the coffee team members is greatly appreciated.

The team communicates through a dedicated WhatsApp group which enables efficient communications and facilitates swapping shifts as needed. Once a year the team gathers for a bring and share lunch to enjoy being altogether in a social setting.

Fairly-traded tea and ground coffee are offered with provision of herbal teas, biscuits and squash. Dietary needs are catered for (eg gluten-free biscuits and oat milk). Donations cover the cost of refreshments and replacement of the 'hardware' required. Team members often generously donate milk and biscuits when they are serving but this is not an expectation and they can be reimbursed. The coffee team monies are accounted for week by week and returns made to the PCC treasurer.

In addition to the weekly Sunday coffee there are occasional services and special occasions when coffee is also provided (sometimes in the Garden Room). In the last year these have included the annual Memorial Service, the funeral teas for both Gill and John Parkin, and the combined anniversary and special birthday celebrations in February. Special thanks to the All Saints Café manager Ewa for her help with these events.

The coffee team misses Alma Beattie (who died last year) who gave herself the title of 'chief washer-upper'. We all enjoyed conversation with Alma at the kitchen sink about her musical adventures threaded with her wisdom of her long life.

New volunteers are always welcome and training is provided.

Lindsey and Ted Hammond
Organisers

Crafters

The All Saints Crafters sell preserves, jams and other items every Sunday morning in church. Last year a mini Christmas Fair was held in December in the Garden Room and was very successful. All profits go to the church for little 'extras' such as purchasing cupboards for the archives.

Sheila Workman and Pam Coley

Lunch Club

All Saints is very grateful to Liz Turner and her volunteers who generously hosted Lunch Club until July 2025, breaking up for summer. Each week in the Chapel room, a warm atmosphere was created, about a dozen members finding fellowship and rich conversation. Trouble was taken to decorate the table for special festivals and occasions. Members thanked Liz warmly for her years of kind hospitality.

With a combination of falling numbers, a lack of new volunteers and uncertainty over the future of the Café, we were not able to recommence Lunch Club at Christmas as we had hoped. In consultation with other denominations the PCC hopes that in time a proper sense of the need and demand for a fellowship meal for older people will be discerned, perhaps building on the contacts that the community lunches have established. It is thought that the need is more about overcoming isolation rather than economic need. Any suggestions about how to achieve this would be much appreciated.

David Warbrick

Magazine

In 2025, as usual 10 issues of the All Saints parish magazine *Saints Alive!* were published. New editions are available from the first Sunday of each month, with the exception of January and August: hard copies can be picked up from the back of church, and the magazine is also published online in the 'Publications' section of the All Saints website. We continue to build up a list of people to whom a hard copy is sent by post.

The price per issue remains at £1, but this is very much a suggested donation and cost should not be a barrier to anyone in the church reading the magazine in either online or printed form – it continued in 2025 to bring in a modest income but more importantly to be another way of keeping us all in contact with each other and the wider Kings Heath community. Information about the ways in which payment can be made for the magazine can be found on the opposite page.

A mixture of items was included in the magazine over the past year, as follows:

- A letter from David or the editors at the start of each issue, and updates from the PCC.
- Articles submitted by people from within the congregation and beyond: these may be about particular areas of interest or experience; thoughts on church, local or worldwide matters, or remembering Kings Heath friends and places; accounts of something that the writer has recently done, whether at All Saints or elsewhere; or humorous creations. Demonstrating the diverse nature and interests of our congregation, topics covered in 2025 included, among others, a pilgrimage of solidarity to Jerusalem and the West Bank and lifting the effective ban on asylum seekers working; Inclusive Church and Christian Aid; Tariro's farewell and the blessing of the newly-extended All Saints Centre; and the Memorial Garden and a comparison between aspects of life in the USA and the UK.
- Publicity for and a look forward to forthcoming All Saints-related plans, and reports on recent activity.
- Regular features include a delve into matters musical; 'High days and holy days' marking significant dates in the church calendar – for these and some other items, such as front covers, cartoons, jokes, and the 'Mouse Makes' or 'Bible Bite' pieces for younger people, we subscribe to a very useful website called Parish Pump; and updates on groups based on the All Saints site in 'Campus focus'. The newer 'From the archives' column continued to give us fascinating glimpses into All Saints' past.
- Advertisements for endeavours related to the church, its members and the All Saints campus.
- 'From the registers', recording recent baptisms, weddings, funerals and any other ceremonies that have taken place in the preceding month(s).

We are grateful to everyone who has submitted something to or agreed to write for the magazine during 2025 – the broader the range of contributors and of topics covered, the more interesting the publication will be, and we are very keen to include more 'Getting to know you' interviews with members of the congregation. Do please continue to contact us in 2026 if you have something you think might be of interest, and spread the word – we'd love to see *Saints Alive!* read ever more widely!

Ben and Clare Noakes
Editors

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 and 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> | |
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| Address: _____ _____ | |
| Postcode: _____ | |
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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.

Meditation Group

The Meditation Group has met monthly on a Thursday evening in 2025. Various of the group hosted and led, and thanks to them and all who attended.

Those who lead the evening choose a passage from the Bible or a book to meditate upon, and lead the meditation on this item. A session usually lasts about an hour or so including coffee. New prospective members are always welcome to attend.

It was sad to lose both Gill and John Parkin in June 2025 and January 2026 respectively. They were long-standing and faithful members of the Meditation Group.

There are other meditation or discussion groups or occasional day events run by other groups connected with the church. Please see Daniel Wilson if you would like further information.

Daniel Wilson
Co-ordinator

Music

During 2025 we provided music for regular Sunday morning and occasional evening services, including significant musical input to services throughout Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Advent and Christmas, and on other festival days; some activity from across the year is picked out below:

- Preparing and singing introits and anthems including a plainchant 'Hosanna' to begin the Palm Sunday service; the introit *This joyful Eastertide* and anthem *Lord of the dance* on Easter Day; and a setting of The Choristers' Prayer to mark the Royal School of Church Music's annual Music Sunday in June.
- A few singers from All Saints joined others from church choirs across Birmingham to take part in a come and sing performance of John Stainer's *The Crucifixion* at St Peter's, Harborne on Good Friday; and in a Festival of Parish Choirs at St Chad's Cathedral in November.
- Two Carols by Candlelight services, which involved a record number of singers and instrumentalists from church and the wider community; on the afternoon of Christmas Eve music was as usual led by the Village Band assembled and directed by Martha Ann Brookes.
- Singing carols on the Village Square, which raised £110 for Birmingham Christmas Shelter.

We retained our customary inclusion of sung psalm settings from various traditions during Lent and Advent, with occasional other Anglican chants for Candlemas and Music Sunday; and the pattern of 6:30pm Sunday services has continued to involve All Saints members, including Jake Bateson, Charlotte Champneys and others, providing music in different styles. Jake and friends also led the music for two All Age Worship services.

We are extremely fortunate in having a diverse group of singers and instrumentalists who join us to take part in services. We would like to thank everyone who has contributed this year, and welcome anyone who wishes to join in leading the music, whether regularly or occasionally. We are also grateful for the excellent digital organ and baby grand piano and access to other instruments, and to those who help to maintain them. The continued support from musically-sympathetic clergy, all who help to lead music, and the wider congregation is also very welcome!

As always we are very appreciative of the talents of those who played the organ or piano for Sunday services and practices in 2025, including Martha Ann Brookes and Sarah Baker, and gratitude is also due to Kathy Ward for providing music at Wednesday morning services. Finally, following his recent move to Gloucestershire we would like to express our thanks to Chris Watts for his friendship, valuable input into the regular hymn-choosing sessions and the many interesting new songs that he has introduced us to over the last eight years.

Ben and Clare Noakes
Music Co-ordinators

Ramblers

All Saints Ramblers meet occasionally to have fun and friendship in rambling around the local countryside. Unfortunately many of our members have got more 'ancient' and are not up to walking the distances that they used to. We have shortened the distances to an average five-mile ramble. We would like to remember Gill and John Parkin who were great ramblers – indeed Gill started the All Saints Ramblers 25 years ago with Pam Coley. Anyone who is interested in coming out with us, please speak to Des Workman.

Des Workman

Village Square Gardeners

The Village Square gardeners continue to meet on a Wednesday morning, generally between 10am and 1pm, weather permitting, to maintain the various flowerbeds and shrubs in the Village Square, and when necessary clear fallen leaves and dead branches from the various trees in the Square.

Additionally, a small group headed by Don Stacey also maintains the remodelled Remembrance Garden on the north side of the church.

Some time has also been spent tidying the garden area opposite the Garden Room which has not been attended to for some time as this is visible from the Garden Room and also adjacent to the main route from the car park to the church.

The gardeners are always looking for additional help and anyone with a small amount of gardening experience is welcome to come along for an hour or two. Tools are available although your own gloves are recommended. A drinks break is usually held mid-morning.

Tony Cocks

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 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 |
| 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 |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|

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