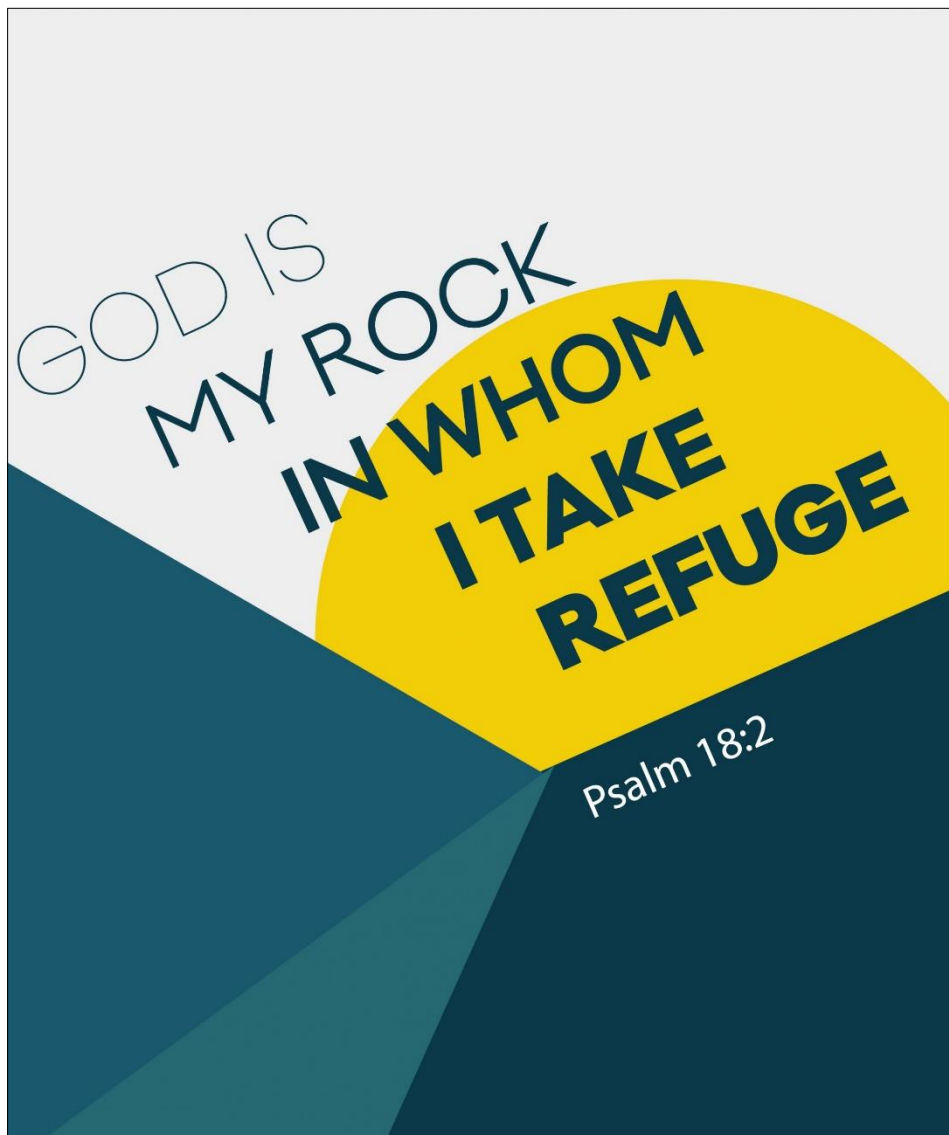


Saints Alive!

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



February 2021

£1

(suggested donation)

From the vicarage

Dear friends and neighbours,

After our initial wonder at how fast computers work, it's amazing how quickly we become impatient with them. When performing an apparently simple task, we wonder why it's blinking at us, responding too slowly. I know very little about them, but depend upon them like most people. I have always wondered, though, how they must have so much information hidden and ready to access. For instance, think of all those fonts you can choose from. To have the capacity to allow me to type this simple article, considerable memory needs to be available holding ready the fonts I am not using, just in case I decide to try them. Different sizes, different document formats, different graphics are all ready and waiting. While my little document may only occupy a few small bytes of memory, who knows what vast memory capacity is needed to process decisions as well as store the data?

Having created computers, they now offer back to us metaphors for life. I wonder how much hidden emotional capacity, akin to computer memory, is being used, processing in hidden places the countless signals we are constantly reading and absorbing from the world around us now. We may hardly notice the anxious eyes of someone fearful as they shop, peering out over their slipping mask, but the image of their vulnerability lodges somewhere in us and we have to process how we feel about their fear, managing sympathy or contempt or pity, then managing our own anxiety: should I be that worried? Maybe I am. On the same trip out, we may jerk back a little, surprised by how close someone has swung towards us. The nagging feeling that you have caught something by touching a cashpoint PIN pad lurks somewhere and it takes energy to manage it. Again, signals come in constantly. What does all that black and yellow and red tape everywhere make us feel? Some days, the whole country feels like a shouty exclamation mark. How much hidden capacity is being absorbed as we flick on the news and hear detailed regulations being applied in other countries, when we can't remember our own? I know I must be spending masses of energy absorbing and containing and processing political anger about the behaviours of previous years that have weakened us in time for the present crisis. It's not only spectacular things that have to be managed in our inner life. Of course some of us are sadly dealing with huge life stages and crises: exams, redundancy, bereavement, illness. It is, however, worth remembering that even managing the dreariness of lockdown, the ordinary little deprivations, the hardly-noticed flickers of worry or puzzlement, all absorb a huge amount of energy.

I say all this to emphasise that no-one should feel daft or weak for feeling inexplicably tired. We need to give ourselves space for recovery and restoration, a settling somewhere deep down inside of very difficult things: difficult because often indefinable. Think of Moses, in self-imposed exile, pausing by the burning bush; Abram sitting, just sitting pondering at the entrance to his tent; Hannah at prayer in the temple; Elijah, depressed and alone in his cave on the mountain; David mourning his son's illness; Anna and Simeon waiting, pondering, praising in the temple; Jesus withdrawing for prayer. We know Paul spent several years exploring his inner life, but do not know where or exactly how. Our reflective capacity is dependent on giving space for assimilation of the imponderable. That space will be different for each of us.

If this is so for individuals, it is so for a church, needing the reflective capacity of her religious houses, her retreat centres, her confidential prayer circles, her quiet parochial daily offices. Then again, it is so for a nation. Without making self-righteous or exclusive claims, one of our roles as Christian

neighbours may be the provision in prayer of reflective capacity for the nation, the invisible space where difficult things are assimilated, our prayer life whirring quietly like the mystical hard drive of a computer making the little symbols on the surface of the screen make sense.

With warm thanks for your fellowship – yours, tired but hopeful,

David

**As a continuation of our lockdown meals
delivery service.....**

Jojo's Lunches



Delicious lunches delivered to your door at the cost of £5 per meal.

Payment can be by cash, cheque or bank transfer.

**Deliveries will be on Mondays and Thursdays when you would receive
a hot meal, plus two chilled meals to store for the next two days.**

To order your meals or for more information phone Jo on:

07973 954990

0121 493 3632



As this period of lockdown continues, do keep an eye on the All Saints website – the order of service for each week, including sermon, intercessions, and links to listen to music and readings (plus more recipes!), is published on the homepage:

www.allsaintskingsheath.org.uk

Name that chorister...

A gentleman named Gordon Davies has been in touch with *Saints Alive!* with the following request:

While scanning and digitising various family photographs, I came across this photo of All Saints Church (Kings Heath) choir, taken in 1989.

The occasion was the 80th birthday of my paternal grandfather, Wyndham Haydn Davies (1909-2009), seated on the front row (left). W. H. Davies was a teacher (and later headmaster) in the Birmingham area. I have memories of him taking me to the church, where he played the organ.

Hopefully your parishioners may be able to identify the other persons in the photograph...?



We have spotted John Davies, Mary Cole and Tim Cuthbertson, but if those with longer memories are able to name other singers in this photo then please contact us as below – we would be very pleased to be able to pass more information on to Mr Davies.

We are always interested to hear about church life in years gone by, so if you come across a picture that sparks a memory, or find yourself thinking about an person or event that shaped your time here, then do let us know – it would be lovely to share your reminiscences with readers of the magazine.

What is the significance of 22 January 2021?

The United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons came into force on this day, as celebrated in tweets by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. It is now illegal in international law to develop, test, produce, acquire, possess, stockpile, use or threaten to use nuclear weapons. The treaty also commits to work towards reparations for the victims of the testing and use of nuclear weapons.

To the shame of this country, we have neither co-operated in the discussions leading up to the treaty, nor have we signed it. More than 30 bishops, including the two archbishops and the Bishop of Aston have put their names to a letter to the Government, asking it to reverse its position and sign the treaty. The full text of the bishops' letter can be found at the following link: <https://www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/news-and-statements/bishops-letter-un-nuclear-weapons-treaty>.

Notable by its absence is the signature of David Urquhart, our diocesan bishop. The Justice, Peace and Green Group sent him a letter enquiring why this was, and the text of that letter is below. For more information about the Christian campaign against nuclear weapons go to <https://christiancnd.org.uk/>.

Dear Bishop David

16 December 2020

UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons: Letter to HM government from senior clergy

The members of the Justice, Peace and Green Group of All Saints Church, Kings Heath feel that the archbishops and other senior clergy are speaking for us when they say they "warmly welcome and applaud the recent ratification, by the required number of member states, of the United Nations' Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons".

These archbishops and bishops have written a letter to HM Government regretting that the UK is not one of the signatory countries, and calling on the government to reverse its position on this. They say:

"For so many of the nations of the world to speak clearly of the need to ban these weapons of mass destruction is an encouraging and hopeful sign. We commit ourselves to pray and to work so that this ratification will indeed help to see an end to nuclear weapons in the future. We very much regret that the UK, together with other nuclear states, has not yet signed the accord. We call on the UK government to do so and thereby to give hope to all people of goodwill who seek a peaceful future."

We are very pleased to see that the Bishop of Aston is one of the 31 signatories to this letter, but we note that you are not, and wonder why this is.

We very much hope that your absence from the list of signatories is not a reflection of your thoughts on the Treaty, but is rather for another reason. We would be pleased to hear from you what your thoughts are, and whether you are intending to convey them to the government and the diocese in some other way in the near future.

Yours in the peace of Christ,

All Saints Justice, Peace and Green Group

Warden's musings

Back into lockdown... Sadly, the new strain of the virus, coupled with the inevitable increased mixing over Christmas, appears to have given COVID-19 a bit of a boost. The PCC had to take the sad decision early in January to close the church building for the time being. While we all felt that we had managed 'COVID-secure' services and opening for private prayer reasonably well, we had to consider the safety of the congregation and the message that we wish to send to the Kings Heath community about taking the lockdown seriously and reducing pressure on our oversubscribed hospitals and health services.

So we are back to online services, which does mean that Becky and I can do the New York City Ballet Workout together on Sunday morning before breakfast. Apologies if that is an image you really didn't want in your head. In my imagination I am faithfully replicating the routines that the super-fit young ballet dancers take us through in their daily workout, except perhaps for the added sound effects. And perhaps some mild blasphemy. We only manage the 'daily' workout once a week but feel deserving of our breakfast afterwards and it does make us feel better. If you're interested, it is on YouTube (the NYC Ballet Workout, not Becky and me lumbering round our living room, I hasten to add).

We are lucky to be able to do the online service together and generally take it in turns to read paragraphs. This week, Becky and I were on the rota for readings and intercessions, so Becky had had plenty of practice at the various tricky names that cropped up. I always used to go and check with Mike Cheesbrough if I was reading and had spotted a name I didn't know as he always knows how to pronounce them. Well, he at least knows the Yorkshire pronunciation, and as Yorkshire is 'God's Own Country', that must be pretty close to the original? I digress, however... Becky had already added an additional consonant to "forgiveness" making it "forgiVERness", which made us giggle. She managed to navigate the second paragraph of the sermon with impressive aptitude, reeling off the various names and David's beautifully poetic prose. Becky stumbled on "ecumenism" midway through the sentence: "In this turbulent time, Melchizedek and Abram show touching and instinctive ecumenism..." Understandable, with so many unfamiliar names and long words. In the next sentence, for "tit for tat", Becky substituted "tat for tit", and it was all over. Five minutes later, we had wiped away the last of the tears, and stomachs aching from laughing, we resumed the service. It'll be my turn to create the howler next week.

I have been back into church to check on things every now and then. The rats are enjoying our enforced absence. They had started investigating the crib as a possible residence, creating little tracks through the straw. Unfortunately I had left a spare bag of straw under the pew near the crib and the rats had decided to redistribute it around church. While I was dismantling the crib and sweeping up and hoovering up the straw, I pondered the judiciousness of crafting some 'Warden's Top Tips' for future churchwardens:



Tip #28: Never leave a bag of unattended straw under the crib.

Tip #29: If the hoover stops working, check whether the in-pipe is blocked with bits of straw.

If you're wondering why I've started at Tip #28, it's just that I feel there are some more fundamental ones to come first:

Tip #1: Always have an excuse.

Tip #2: If it's useful, hide it somewhere the vicar can't find it.

Tip #3: If the vicar gets grumpy because you've hidden the wedding kneelers, remind them who controls the PA.

Tip #4: And the lights.

Perhaps I'll draw up a full list during the rest of lockdown...

Chris Pearce
Churchwarden

The ASYP Big Christmas Word Quiz 2020

We would like to thank the All Saints community for their wonderful support with the second of this hopefully annual fundraising venture.

We are delighted to report that the Word Quiz raised close to £1,000 for the All Saints Youth Project. From conversations over the Christmas period we know that many of you engaged with the quiz.

It was designed as a fun quiz, but the main purpose was to provide the community with an additional opportunity to support the wonderful work of, and raise funds for, the Project. We are confident that both aims were realised and we plan to run a third quiz for Christmas 2021!

There were many more submitted entries this year and from the large number of the equal highest scorers (99/100) we are delighted to report that Alison Noakes won the first prize of £30 and Sarah Wilson the second prize of £20.

If you enjoyed the quiz but have not yet seen the answers these are available at www.allsaintsyouthproject.org.uk , or email tedhammond74@gmail.com.

Donations can of course still be made via the website.

With our thanks and best wishes,

Lindsey & Ted Hammond

Campus focus

Normally there is so much going on around the church campus each day of every week, and in previous issues it has been interesting to find out a bit more about the different activities that make up part of life at All Saints. This month we report an update from Traidcraft.

Thank you to all those who have continued to support Traidcraft through the last difficult year, whether by buying from the stalls (when we have been able to have them), putting in an order from the Christmas catalogue, or getting in touch when you have run out of your usual Traidcraft supplies! Thanks to your support, at the end of 2020 I was able to send a cheque for £100 towards Traidcraft Exchange's Christmas Appeal. For two years Traidcraft Exchange has helped people to break the chains of modern-day slavery in Bangladesh. In its response below, you can read about the effect of coronavirus on the groups that it has worked with, and the ways in which Traidcraft Exchange is supporting them.

Gill Parkin

Traidcraft Co-ordinator



Dear Gillian – All Saints Church, Kings Heath.

Thank you so much for your amazing donation of £ 100.00 to Traidcraft Exchange's Christmas appeal.

You're making a real and tangible difference to the lives of vulnerable people impacted by the coronavirus crisis – helping those at risk of falling back into slavery to build a brighter, fairer future, free from exploitation and bondage. Together, we can ensure that people get through this crisis – and back on their feet for good.

For people like Anjoli and her community, your support will make the difference between a bright future, and falling back into debt. She told us

“Before the pandemic, I had already started tailoring work and I was earning money just after getting the training and sewing machine from the Muktee Project. My work and income were increasing day after day.

“The Muktee Project gave us so much knowledge and understanding about our lives and our human and civil rights. We don't want to hold out our hands for begging. We have hands and we can work. We want to live our lives with honour and dignity.”

We can't thank you enough for your kindness and generosity. This Christmas, thanks to your support, Traidcraft Exchange will be able to bring people together so they can negotiate their debts, challenge illegal practices like crippling interest rates, and get basic supplies like food and soap to help them through the next few months.

Together, we can get training programmes up and running again, and reach more communities enslaved by debt bondage, providing them with the skills they need to earn a decent income - and leave slavery behind for good.

With warmest wishes this Christmas,

Shahed Ferdous

Traidcraft Exchange, Bangladesh

Music matters

“Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!” Gratitude for a welcome Christmas present: the chance to sing together.

In these pages in November, reflecting on Lockdown 1 (and in the looming shadow of Lockdown 2), Clare wrote simply: “I did miss the singing.” We know that this has been the case for many at All Saints, whether regulars in our choir or those who normally enjoy joining in from the congregation, but in December, during the short window between the second lockdown and the current one, we proved – albeit only temporarily for now – Clare’s concluding words that “we will sing again in church and when that day comes we will prove that nothing can keep us from singing for long”.

On Sunday 6 December, then, in lieu of our usual pattern of rehearsals that culminates in a live Candlelight Carol Service, we were able to gather together with more than 20 singers – some who join us every year, some who are usually unable to commit to the full schedule – for a three-hour session in which we recorded a trio of choir items for the online carol service and a further nine for use in other services over Christmas.

In advance, it didn’t feel as if it would be anything approaching a ‘normal’ rehearsal: a strict seating layout was devised to ensure that each singer would be positioned at least two metres from any other (it’s a very strange feeling to sing with such gaps); individual copies were prepared and books quarantined before (and after) use; entering (and leaving) church needed to be strictly timed and choreographed to ensure social distancing; COVID-19 screening questionnaires were filled in; masks had to be mandatory except when singing – the emails with instructions to participants were, I think, the longest ever sent from the music Gmail account! But any concerns disappeared the moment we started warming up with the first carol: what a wonderful sound! We were immensely grateful to, and proud of, all the singers who prepared so well, adhered to every rule and regulation, and rose to the occasion so magnificently; thanks too are due to David and to everyone who cleaned, set up and decorated the church and enabled the rehearsal to happen.

All worshippers then had a chance to sing together later in the month, with David’s excellent idea that the Midnight Mass and Christmas Day services should each finish with two congregational items. Again, governmental and diocesan rules were strictly followed, with everyone maintaining social distancing while moving from church to the Village Square and standing at least two metres apart before launching into the chosen well-loved carols. Members of the congregation had also had the chance to submit recordings to Sarah Baker for the massed *Hark, the herald-angels sing* used across Christmas; and to contribute readings for the online Candlelight and Children’s carol services.

David noted wryly after *O come, O come, Emmanuel*, the glorious piece that concluded the service on the fourth Sunday of Advent, that “some hymns are harder not to sing along to than others” – sitting in church, experiencing listening to it with other people, made the hairs on the back of my neck stand up. After the joy of being able to sing together in person, however briefly, in December, the return to recorded services, and the absence now of any live worship at all let alone through music, can feel like another cruel step backwards. But as Clare wrote, “bringing choirs back to church is challenging” but not impossible, and we will be monitoring developments closely to reintroduce each element of live music-making in church as soon as we can safely do so; hopefully it will not be too long before we can again join with all the world in every corner singing: “My God and King!”

Ben Noakes

Music Co-ordinator

Getting to know you

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

What is your name?

Rob & Helen Hingley.

What is (or was) your day job?

Rob: I've been a priest for 46 years and was vicar in Balsall Heath and at St Luke's, Bristol Street. For the last 20 years or more, my main ministry has been spiritual direction and retreat-giving. After marrying Helen in 2002, I assisted in her parishes in Wolverhampton and Birmingham, until we retired from parish work.

Helen: I was a social worker in London for many years, working with people in prison and their families. I then went on to train for ordained ministry (ordained deacon in 1996, priest in 1997 in Birmingham Cathedral) and have served in parishes in Birmingham and Wolverhampton. Since leaving full-time ministry in 2014 I am now involved in spiritual accompaniment and other ministries – including leading services at churches where there is no vicar, or when clergy are away on holiday.



How long have you been at All Saints?

Since about March 2014.

What are you currently involved in at church?

We occasionally lead worship at 8am or 10am.

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

The annual carol services.

Do you have a favourite hymn/Bible passage?

Funnily enough, without collusion both of us chose the same passage, but with different emphases!

Rob: John 21 – Christ's final resurrection appearance to his core disciples.

Helen: Far too many! ... but one of them is from the end of St John's Gospel, the encounter between Jesus and Peter (Chapter 21); Jesus asking Peter if he loves him, and telling him: "Feed my sheep"; and then where Peter asks Jesus about the disciple John: "What about him?" Jesus basically tells Peter not to worry about John, but to focus on his own ministry, and follow Jesus. It's about being open to what God is calling me to do in ministry, and not comparing myself, or worrying about what other people's ministry is – we each have our own calling and gifts.

What are you reading at the moment?

Rob: *Sensible Shoes Series* by Sharon Garlough Brown (Ignatian spirituality in novel form); *The Age of Chivalry* by Arthur Bryant; and *The Apostolic Age* by George Caird.

Helen: *Another Christ: Re-envisioning Ministry* by Andrew D Mayes; *The Sealwoman's Gift* by Sally Magnusson.

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

Rob: John Wesley. To discover what motivated him in his ministry.

Helen: I grew up in South Africa, so Desmond Tutu would be the person I'd like to have a deep discussion/correspondence with – to find out how he maintains his bubbling positivity and joy, despite him having grown up during the oppressive apartheid regime.

Tell us a joke...

The preacher's five-year-old daughter noticed that her father always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day, she asked him why.

"Well, honey," he began, proud that his daughter was so observant of his messages. "I'm asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon."

"How come he doesn't answer it?" she asked.

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

New definitions & late arrivals

Via Radio 4's I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue, thanks again to Gill Cole for some more redefined words...

Announce: 28 grams

Bigamist: denser than usual fog

Cocoa bean: an ex-clown

Descant: an office-bound insect

Egocentric: the yolk

Expense: old money

Fondue: affectionate sheep

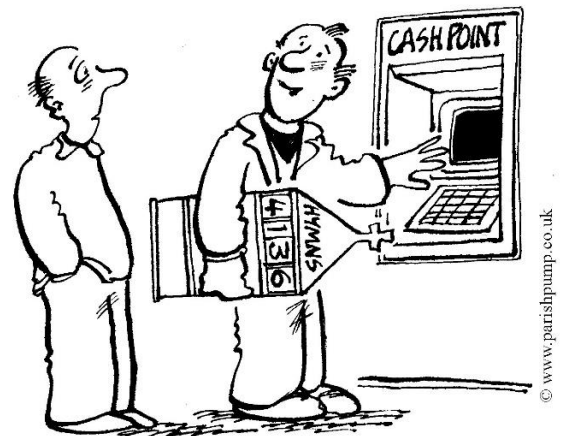
Gripes: what Australians use to make wine

Hedgerow: hedgehog eggs

Platitude: the opposite of plongetude

Porcupine: a reluctant vegetarian

Vanilla: a large white ape



...and a few unusual families – would you please welcome the following:

Mr & Mrs Dictus and their son Benny

Mr & Mrs O'Sease and their son Dai

Mr & Mrs Glican-Church and their daughter Ann

Mr & Mrs Ayshon-of-the-Magi and their son Theodore

Mr & Mrs Tonic and their daughter Jean-Ann

Mr & Mrs Notherone and their son Oliver

From the PCC

Thanks to our recently-elected churchwarden Chris Watts for the following updates – and, underneath these, three new members of the PCC introduce themselves.

As part of our work to develop communications, the PCC have agreed that we will publish the dates of our planned meetings and share these via our parish website: www.allsaintskingsheath.org.uk. We will also be publishing the agenda for the next PCC meeting and minutes of the most recent PCC meeting via the website, with the plan to create an 'electronic archive' of meeting minutes which can be accessed for reference; this may be a work in progress for a while as we also move over to a new website in the next few months.

We currently have a vacancy for PCC Secretary; please consider if you might be willing and able to take on this role (you don't have to be a PCC member in order to become secretary). If you are, or might be, interested and wish to find out more then please speak to David, or mention your interest to any member of the PCC who will be able to direct you to a previous postholder who can give you an overview of the role and answer any questions that you might have.

The planned dates of PCC and Standing Committee meetings are also listed below:

Proposed dates for SC & PCC meetings for early 2021, starting at 7:30pm

(NB: meetings will continue online via Zoom until further notice)

PCC meetings: (Tuesday 19 January), Tuesday 16 March

Standing Committee meetings: Tuesday 16 February, Tuesday 20 April

APCM (proposed date): Sunday 25 April *(after morning service)*

Jim arrived in Kings Heath from University with two engineering degrees, a fiancée in London and a 30-year-old car. Jim and Margaret married in 1967 and settled at All Saints, rapidly becoming drawn into parish life. Jim served on the PCC for six years before they moved to St Agnes Road in Moseley. Becoming more involved with St Agnes, they officially joined that congregation in 1976 with similar active involvement. Jim worked in industry and then pollution control before joining the Birmingham Science Museum, which was a real coming together of work, hobby interest and research activity. Jim retired in 2003 but continues as a part-time adviser to the museum.

It's 70 years since Jim became active in church life, starting as a small altar boy, with the need to understand what such commitments really mean. After six years on All Saints PCC and 40 years on St Agnes PCC, plus many years as a Deanery representative, Jim is pretty familiar with how the Church works. For twenty years Jim was Planned Giving Recorder at St Agnes, recovering tax on gifts to the church and helping members understand how planned giving works. The tax recovered was of the order of £250,000, including surviving an Inland Revenue audit. Jim has brought practical skill and engineering knowledge to the needs of the Church to facilitate Christian activity and fellowship.

Jim Andrew

I was born in St Helens, Lancashire, grew up in Wetherby in West Yorkshire, went to school in Leeds and studied English at London University (Westfield College, now subsumed into Queen Mary College) where I met my husband, Jim (q.v. – Engineering , Imperial College). After working in the civil service in central London for two years, I came to Birmingham when we got married and spent some time as a 'stay-at-home mum' with our children, Edward and Rachel – both, incidentally, baptised at All Saints! When they were both at school, I started working in education, teaching English and Communication Skills at Bournville College, initially part-time and then gradually moving up the post-16 system, eventually moving to Halesowen College as head of the English department. The didactic gene won out: I'd resisted going in that direction because there were too many teachers in the family! At Halesowen I moved out of running the English department and took over the setting-up and operation of the college's central advice, guidance and admissions system, a really interesting job which gave me quite an insight into secondary schools across the Black Country and south Birmingham. Since retiring, gradually, I've been involved as a volunteer at the QE Hospital and increasingly with church schools in Birmingham, sitting on appeals panels for places at church schools and particularly as Chair of Governors at one of the Birmingham Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust schools. In terms of previous church involvement I served as a Deanery Synod rep for St Agnes, Moseley for many years and also as churchwarden, which involved picking up all kinds of varied jobs (some of which one would not necessarily have chosen!) from managing the church hall to cleaning the loo, as well as the statutory duties as warden....

In terms of how I might contribute to life at All Saints I look forward to picking up the Deanery Synod rep role again. I have been invited to join the Communications Group which is beavering away to improve church communication and this has been a really good opportunity to get to know more people and to engage with a subject which is so important in any organisation. I suppose the story of my life is that I haven't really planned anything as such: things have been put in my way for me to pick up and run with so I'll continue to be open to what the Lord asks of me and try to act accordingly!

Helen Andrew

Helloooo church family: I have been told I am currently the youngest and most excited member of the PCC. Thank you for having faith in me to carry out this position with grace, love and a little bit of wild!

Some of you will know that I am relatively new to All Saints, first attending four-and-a-bit years ago. In fact, the first service I attended was at 11am and involved group discussion, which I thought was fab! I still can't quite get used to a 10am start – most of you will have seen me sneaking in the back 15 minutes late each Sunday. Being part of an inclusive church was top of my list when church-hopping and I am so glad I didn't have to go far to find you!



Bringing the All Saints Players back to life, alongside Clare, has been a privilege and being part of the Communications group is inspiring for me to see the new ways in which we can continue to open our church to new members across Kings Heath and Birmingham.

I hope I can bring fresh eyes, a questioning heart and a passion for our wonderful church. I feel truly blessed to have been welcomed into the All Saints family and look forward to serving you all.

Blessings (with a sprinkling of glitter),

Fiona Briggs

Cookery corner

David is continuing his lockdown habit of including a recipe or two at the end of each weekly order of service, and we are pleased to reprint those from some recent Sundays below.

Sunday 6 December: Comforting food after a long journey

Holidays, I find, are the most essential times in which I can properly apprehend mortality. It is then, not answering messages, not being there, not being productive, not doing praiseworthy things, that I accept my dispensability and the brevity of my ministry. The walks give time and space enough to reach the confessional prayers that need to be uncovered under layers of responsibility and the tiredness we mistake for devotion.

The drive to our favourite place in the Alps is long. The preoccupation of driving on the right deepens the tiredness. My stiff fingers uncurl from the steering wheel and we go into the little stone cottage, 6,500 metres up in the mountains. Our first meal is always a pot-roast chicken.



In a large, heavy pot, large enough to hold the chicken and more, with a lid, sear the outside of the chicken in olive oil until golden all over. Remove and set aside while sliced onion and sliced celery are thrown in and softened. With a serrated knife, slice off the top of a bulb of garlic and put the bulb in the pot. Return the chicken and add a quartered lemon and some sage, thyme or rosemary, salt, and pepper. Pour in a couple of glasses of white wine and put the lid on. Simmer on a low heat for about 45 minutes, then add some new potatoes. By the time they are done, the chicken should be falling apart. Set the bird on a board to carve, then add some soured cream or cream to the lavish juices in the pot. Remove the lemon pieces, any herbs, and the garlic bulb, although I do squeeze the soft cloves out of the papery skin back into the pot. Serve in bowls with your first baguette of the holiday.



The cottage is full of sweetness. The tension is already uncoiling. The carcass will be back on the stove to make stock in the morning for the sausage and Puy lentils the following evening. The only task of the evening is to choose which walk tomorrow will open up for you the hilarious, giddy feeling of mortality and vitality among the mountain flowers.

Sunday 13 December: Celebrating baptism

John the Baptist might have his head in his hands, exasperated at me sharing luxurious recipes like this. I should be eating locusts like him, devoting myself to prayer. You wouldn't want to see me in nothing but camel skin, mind you. On the other hand, what is more deserving of celebration than our baptism? I am challenged by John's asceticism, but also notice Jesus' love of a good meal as a chance to work on theology. (Phew.)

Our son was baptised in summer, so we cooked Perugian roast pork on a BBQ. I've shared that recipe elsewhere. Our daughter was baptised in winter and we served a venison sausage casserole. It isn't easy to replace the sulphurous bacon and iron-rich venison for a vegetarian alternative, but if you allow anchovies, they can be melted in with the garlic and onion; some dried porcini mushrooms would add smokiness, and chestnuts are good with this kind of red wine/juniper sauce.

For six, carefully brown a dozen venison sausages all over in a wide, deep pan with a lid. Remove from the pan and add some more oil and brown lardons of smoked, streaky bacon. Set aside with the sausages. In the same pan, with more oil if needed, sauté two good handfuls of quartered button mushrooms. Set aside. Soften two or three diced onions and a similar pile of sliced celery. When translucent, add a couple of chopped garlic cloves, six crushed juniper berries, a bunch of thyme and two bay leaves. Return the meat to the pan. Pour in half a bottle of red wine, stir well and bring to a simmer. When reduced by half, add chicken stock just covering the meat. Simmer very gently for an hour. Check seasoning. If you want to thicken the sauce use corn flour, or *beurre manié*.

(Mix an equal weight of plain flour and unsalted butter. Make into little balls and freeze in a container. You can use from frozen, dropping them one by one into any sauce over the heat and whisking well until thickened to your liking.)

A handful of finely-chopped parsley finishes the dish nicely. Peas and lettuce braised in butter is a wonderful accompaniment. Homemade bread, or a pile of new potatoes, would be delicious. If you are doing larger quantities for a big gathering, for a colourful one-pot dish, frozen peas can be poured into the casserole near the end of the cooking.

Sunday 20 December: Why *do* communion wafers seem to taste of garlic at Midnight Mass?

I'm sorry. It's probably because we often have a Thai curry on Christmas Eve. We've come to love the cleanness of flavour, the cleansing chilli, the exotic eastern flavours before the different richness of Christmas Day celebratory fayre. It helps us enjoy the fact that Christmas is not merely a Victorian English affair.

Whizz together into a paste: 10 seeded dried red chillies, 5cm chunk of peeled ginger, a stick of fresh lemongrass, juice of a lime, three cloves of garlic, four bunches of coriander, a small chopped onion, four brown anchovies, 2tsp paprika, a couple of Kaffir leaves, 1tsp ground coriander, 1tsp ground cumin, 1tsp turmeric, 12tsp ground cinnamon, ½tsp cardamom seeds (scrape them out of the husk), ½tsp salt, 1tsp dark brown sugar.

Freeze half for next time. When ready to cook, pour the paste into a wide pan, pour in a can of coconut milk and stir. Place pieces of any firm white fish around the pan, spooning sauce over to cover it. Bring to a simmer, putting a lid over it but leaving a bit of a gap. Every now and then, spoon the sauce from around the edges over the fish. It should be cooked in about 20 minutes, when the fish flakes apart easily.

This sauce is just as good with chicken, and with vegetables (such as carrot, kohlrabi, baby corn and cashew nuts). In fact I often add veg and nuts to the fish dish. If using root vegetables, they might have a few minutes' cooking before the fish goes in.

Scatter with shredded basil or mint leaves.

Sunday 27 December: The afterglow

Having ordered a large bird, then not had the guests you hoped for, you may have plenty of meat left. Here is a coronation sauce I made last year with the Youth Fellowship. I think it is excellent with hard-boiled eggs instead of turkey as a vegetarian choice

Take a pile of leftover meat from the bird and cut into sandwich-friendly chunks.

Mix four large tablespoons of mayonnaise, a dessertspoon of tomato puree, a dessertspoon of mango chutney, a small handful of flaked almonds, some chopped dried apricots or some sultanas, and a good pinch of curry powder. Add pepper (but not salt as your meat will have been seasoned when cooked, and there's some in the mayo).

Stir the meat (or quartered hard-boiled eggs) into the mixture and serve in warm pitta bread, perhaps with some shredded lettuce or a few spinach leaves.

Here, too, is an easy mushroom pâté, the porcini giving a touch of interesting smokiness.

Put a small palmful of dried porcini mushrooms into a bowl and pour over enough boiling water to cover them. Leave for 20 minutes and drain.

Melt 25g butter in a saucepan and put in the porcini with small tray of mushrooms, chopped roughly, one onion, chopped, one clove of garlic, crushed, a good pinch of dried tarragon or a sprig of fresh, half a glass of white wine, a pinch of nutmeg and some salt and pepper. Simmer with the lid on for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally. Tear up half a slice of white bread and stir it in.

Allow to cool a bit, stir in a large dollop of soured cream and a squeeze of lemon, then liquidise with a hand whizzer till fairly smooth. Put in a serving dish and scatter with finely-chopped chives. Use either still slightly warm or chilled and firmer. Will keep a couple of days.

Sunday 3 January: Unexpected guests

Unexpected guests arrive, needing a heartwarming something after a cold journey. I don't know their dietary restrictions. What might I serve? Rummaging in the fridge and vegetable rack today I'd find a parsnip, a couple of carrots, a chunk of celeriac, some celery, a leek and onions. The thyme in the garden is holding on so I could pick a good sprig.

Chop a couple of onions, quarter and slice the leek and chop the celery, then soften them in oil with some garlic. Peel and grate the root veg. Add to the pot. When combined and shiny, stir in a couple of handfuls of Puy lentils, the thyme, and a bay leaf. Stir well. Pour in as much white wine as you can spare. Reduce until the sharpness has gone. If it were just for me, or I'd established the guests were all right with chicken stock, I'd take some from the freezer, defrost and add to the soup. Otherwise, just water is surprisingly good though in which case the more wine the better. (Of course you can use a veg stock powder if you like, but taste before seasoning. It's usually salty.) The liquid should cover the veg and lentils well.

Simmer for half an hour or so until the lentils are soft enough. Taste and season. A squeeze of lemon sometimes gives a little lift if needed.

Sprinkle in some parsley if you have any.

It should be ready before the travellers know you weren't expecting them.

Know your saints

18 February – Fra Angelico

If you enjoy drawing or painting then Fra Angelico is the patron saint for you. This devout Dominican priest of the Early Renaissance used his superlative talent to the glory of God to such an extent that even six centuries later we are inspired and blessed by his art.

For while you may not be familiar with his name, you will know his work: Fra Angelico's *The Annunciation* and *Adoration of the Magi* have adorned many classical Christmas cards. He is reckoned to be one of the greatest Italian painters of the 15th century.

Fra Angelico was born at Vicchio near Florence, and as a young friar worked at illuminating manuscripts such as the *Dominican Diurnal*. Ordained priest at Fiesole in 1418, he continued painting, spending the 1430s decorating the interior of the friary of San Marco, Florence with his masterpieces. Work at the Vatican followed, especially his paintings of Stephen and Laurence in the chapel of the artistic pope Nicholas V.

Fra Angelico's work is sublime, revealing a marvellous command of colour, light and perspective. It radiates spiritual serenity, and a dedication to God that is matched by few others. He has been

described by experts as having "a rare and perfect talent", and that "it is impossible to bestow too much praise on this holy father, who was so humble and modest in all that he did and said, and whose pictures were painted with such facility and piety".

From 1449 to 1452 Fra Angelico was prior of Fiesole. Then he moved to Rome, where three years later he died. He was beatified in 1960 and declared patron of artists in 1984. Pope John Paul II described his paintings as "miracles".



The Adoration of the Magi, originally attributed to Fra Angelico – this tondo, or circular painting, is now housed in the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.



Fra Angelico's fresco The Annunciation, from the Convent of San Marco in Florence

(text from www.parishpump.co.uk)

Accessing and paying for the magazine

The *Saints Alive!* magazine is available in digital form on the All Saints website at www.allsaintskingsheath.org.uk/the-magazine/, with hard copies available to pick up from the back of church each month (when it is open). 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 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. Finally, if you or someone you know would like a copy of the magazine posting out each month then please contact us as below to arrange this.

Ben & Clare Noakes
Editors

saintsalivemagazine@gmail.com
07967 730156 / 07929 593097

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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.

All Saints Church newsletter

We are pleased, on behalf of the Communications group, to pass on this reminder about the new church newsletter.



Many of you will have received an email with a new format newsletter. (Remember to check your spam folder.) If you haven't received it and would like to, please sign up at this link: <https://landing.mailerlite.com/webforms/landing/o7a2q4>. In particular, perhaps some of the young people would like their own copy?

For those who subscribe, you will receive an email including past news and future events. There will soon be links to PCC minutes, the latest magazine and other resources. Of course you can unsubscribe at any time. This means you have the notices to hand even if you worship at home on any Sunday. Better still, we can keep in touch with those of you physically unable to come to church at all. We can reduce our printing, even for those coming to church (when this is possible again), though paper copies will still be available.

Please send news or notices (photos welcome) to parishoffice@allsaintscentreh.co.uk and we will endeavour to include them. We trust you will be patient as we familiarise ourselves with new software.

Get involved...!

We are keeping *Saints Alive!* going during this period of lockdown, published digitally for now and available via the church's website at www.allsaintskinsheath.org.uk/the-magazine/, with hard copies available and posted out as requested (see left).

Although it will clearly be a while before 'normal' levels of activity resume on the All Saints campus, we would love to receive contributions for future issues.

The next issue will be published in early March – we look forward to hearing from you!

Ben & Clare Noakes, Editors

E: saintsalivemagazine@gmail.com T: 07967 730156 / 07929 593097

From the registers



We remember:

Eileen Pearson, whose funeral took place at All Saints on Epiphany, 6 January

Residential Silent Retreats 2021

In the Ignatian Tradition

Bookings are now being taken for these residential Retreats in the expectation that the Retreat Houses will be open this summer.

The retreats are conducted in silence with experienced guides to work alongside you as you pray with scripture and other aids.

Weekend Retreat ***'Receiving the Father's Love'***

at Shallowford House, Stone, Staffordshire

6pm Friday - 4.00pm Sunday, 11th -13th June

with guided Gospel meditations and optional individual interview,
exploration of the labyrinth and art facilities

Guides: Rob Hingley, Juliet Fletcher and Enid Thomas

£190

Individually-Guided Silent Retreat

at Nicholaston House, Gower Peninsular, Swansea, S. Wales

Beside the Sea

Monday pm – Sunday am, 6th -12th September
with daily individual guidance to suit your need and temperament

Guides: Rob Hingley and Anna O'Connor

£608

Book direct with Nicholaston House

contactus@nicholastonhouse.org,

01792 371317

<https://www.nicholastonhouse.org/>

For further information contact Rev Rob Hingley
4 Adrian Croft, Moseley, Birmingham B13 9YF
(0121) 777 2171 rob.hingley@btinternet.com

All Saints: a church in 10 pictures

Following on from our series of photographs marking 12 – as it turned out, quite unusual – months in the life of our church, in the current year we will celebrate All Saints through 10 pictures taken from various places across the campus, helping us to see our building from a few different angles in the process.



This month we move into the chancel – specifically, to look behind the high altar, and under the east window of 1881 with its depiction of the Ascension, at the reredos: this term refers to “a screen or wall decoration at the back of an altar, in the form of a hanging, tapestry, painting, or piece of metalwork or sculpture” (*Collins Dictionary*).

The reredos, designed by Charles E. Bateman, was installed in 1889 in memory of John Cartland, who had been churchwarden; in discussion of the image of the pulpit in the last issue we remembered the importance of the Cartland family in the early history of All Saints. In his record of the church’s first hundred years Stan Budd describes the reredos’s “mosaic centrepiece representing the taking down of Christ from the Cross, and on either side, carved in oak are the law, represented by Moses, and the prophets, represented by Elijah. Carved figures of the four greater prophets are on the one side of the mosaic, and of the four evangelists on the other.”



On the subject of last month’s photograph, having read the accompanying article John Parkin got in touch to add that the pulpit “has a built-in trap for the unwary: all the stone steps are the same size, but the top step is a couple of inches higher in total because of the wooden pulpit floor. So the unwary person who has assumed that all steps are the same may have a nasty surprise on finding that the top one is significantly higher.” You have been warned!

Who's Who

Worship *(for clergy see back page)*

Children's Worship Co-ordinator	Becky Cuthbert	0121 244 7683
Pre-school Praise (under 5s)	Grace Storey	07813 322697
Little Aztec (reception-year 2)	Martha Ann Brookes	0121 444 5655
Big Aztec (year 3-year 6)	Sue Cockcroft	0121 458 2527
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 444 0760
	Paul Smart	c/o 0121 444 0760
Sacristan	Bernice Mattis	c/o 0121 444 0760
Altar Linen	Wendy Ross	0121 444 1423
Head Server	Tony Price	01564 824420
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	John Watling	c/o 0121 444 0760
Insurance & Investments	Tony Cocks	0121 441 5655
Gift Aid	Philip & Martha Ann Brookes	0121 444 5655
Envelope Giving Scheme	Tony Price	01564 824420

Groups, clubs and organisations

All Saints Ramblers	Pam Coley	0121 572 3553
	Gill Parkin	0121 604 6127
Badminton Club	Des Workman	0121 443 5292
	Steve Brittle	01905 772171
Bible Reading Fellowship	Des Workman	0121 443 5292
Lunch Club	Elizabeth Turner	0121 604 6086
Meditation Group	Daniel Wilson	0121 449 9869
Safeguarding & Child Protection	Mary Miles	0121 449 0851
Traidcraft	Gill Parkin	0121 604 6127

Planned giving: All are invited to join the planned giving scheme, contributing by weekly envelope or banker's order/standing order. 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.

Parish Office: For enquiries about baptisms, baby naming services, banns and marriages, please contact the Parish Office to arrange an appointment at a vestry hour – 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month, 10:00-10:30.

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 09:15 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 Stuart Blissitt	Secretary vacant	Treasurer Steve Brittle, 01905 772171
Members	Jim Andrew Margaret Andrew Fiona Briggs Martha Ann Brookes Philip Brookes Andy Cuthbert Tim Cuthbertson	Liz Fletcher Marilyn Hull Brian Miles John Parkin (Reader) Chris Pearce (Warden) Vivien Thickett David Warbrick (Vicar)	Chris Watts (Warden) Claire Wesley (Reader) Daniel Wilson Sarah Wilson Des Workman

All Saints Community Development Company (ASCDC)

Chair	Andy Savage	c/o 0121 444 4579
Facilities Manager	Dave Priday	07732 137772
Centre Co-ordinator & Bookings		0121 443 4579
		ascenquiries@allsaintscentrekh.co.uk

All Saints Community Projects (ASCP)

Chair	Mary Miles	0121 449 0851
All Saints' Youth Project	Vicki Willinger	0121 443 1842

The Robin Centre for Older People

Centre Manager	Paula McGrath	0121 483 4400
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Ministry Team

Vicar	David Warbrick	4 Vicarage Road, 0121 444 0260
Churchwardens	Chris Pearce	07891 924149
	Chris Watts	07980 639856
Licensed Readers	John Parkin	0121 604 6127
	Claire Wesley	0121 444 2778
Readers Emeritus	Mike Cheesbrough	0121 444 5620
	Gill Cole	0121 444 3827
Pastoral Team	Juliet Bick, Stuart Blissitt, Becky Frall, Wendy Ross, David Warbrick, Jenny Warbrick	0121 444 0260
Prayer Circle	(for confidential prayer requests)	parishoffice@allsaintscentrehk.co.uk 0121 444 0260

Worship

All services are currently suspended.

Details of how and when we will be able to worship in person again at All Saints will be made available via the website, newsletter and other channels of communication when they are known.

All Saints Church, Kings Heath

2 Vicarage Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham B14 7RA

Parish Office: 0121 444 0760

parishoffice@allsaintscentrehk.co.uk

www.allsaintskingsheath.org.uk



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND