

Saints Alive!

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



June 2021

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Hall Green
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Network Scheme

From the vicarage

Dear friends and neighbours,

I am very much looking forward to introducing Tariro Matsveru to All Saints and All Saints to Tariro. She will be ordained deacon at the end of this month. That she has been studying at Cranmer Hall, Durham warms my heart. That is where I trained. The ancient thickset cathedral stones, the tomb of St Bede, our little Norman college chapel, the oxbow cutting of the River Wear spanned by three old bridges and overhung by magnificent trees, ablaze in the wistful season of autumn, the library in an old monks' dormitory, all set the tone for deep reflection and engaging study. It was a place that both humbled and welcomed you.

I think of you at All Saints together making a place that humbles and welcomes priests and deacons who come to serve here. There is something about your shared long view, a slowly-evolved vision of community engagement, rooted in prayer, that outlives any single ministry. There is an attentiveness and imagination to tasks, projects, ideas among you that inspires, not least because, if I may generalise, you don't do things for self-publicity. It's about the common good.

So I am excited that another talented young ordinand can learn among you and form her distinct ministry in such an engaged and engaging church. Of course, I am only just getting to know Tariro. With every meeting, though, I am more and more thrilled for you to meet her. Let's spend this month praying for her as she prepares to join us and dons a dog collar for the first time on Saturday 26 June. I bear some responsibility as her training incumbent, but I know it is you who will shape and inspire her most of all.

David

Get involved...!

We are always pleased to receive contributions for the magazine – including reviews, and suggestions for future *Getting to know you* interviews.

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

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Pray for the peace of Jerusalem and the Holy Land

Thank you to the Justice, Peace and Green Group for sending us the below following their recent meeting.

An extract from the Sabeel-Kairos Wave of Prayer for 27th May:

After 11 days of fighting, Israel and Hamas have agreed to a ceasefire negotiated by Egypt. The death toll in Gaza reached 232, including 65 children, and 1,760 injured due to Israeli airstrikes; 50,000 families have been displaced. On the Israeli side, 12 people including two children died as a result of Hamas rocket fire from Gaza. It is hoped that the ceasefire will hold and that no more lives will be lost.

- ***Lord, we thank you for all the people involved in the negotiations to bring about the ceasefire and to deescalate the mounting violence. Lord, in your mercy... hear our prayers.***

Al Ahli Hospital, supported by the Amos Trust, is in the centre of Gaza City and treats over 45,000 patients each year. It is a haven of peace and hope in the middle of one of the world's most troubled areas.

Despite the extreme adversity, the hospital staff and volunteers are committed to serving the community through out-patient and in-patient care, including emergency and ambulance services - and its doors are open to everyone in need.

If you would like to make a donation to the work of the hospital in these distressing times, please go to:

<https://www.amostrust.org/palestine-justice/partners/al-ahli-hospital-gaza/>



LORD hear our prayer

Sabeel, Wave of Prayer.

Easter Day on the Village Square

Although it's fair to say that things are not yet back to normal (whatever 'normal' will end up looking like in the weeks, months and years to come) it has been lovely to



see members of All Saints back in church in recent weeks for Sunday morning services or personal prayer – while we also continue to keep in touch via the

recorded service, newsletter and other means with those unable yet to return.



One first important step on the road to returning, after the latest lockdown, was taken on Easter



Day when a service was held at 8am in the Village Square. Distancing still had to be carefully maintained (easily manageable thanks to Chris Watts's markers placed two metres apart across the Square!) but this outdoor setting enabled us to gather in number, and to sing – how joyful it was to hear a congregation spread across the Square joining together in *Jesus Christ is risen today, Thine be the glory* and others, and to enjoy the blue skies...!

We hope it won't be too long until we can sing together again inside, and welcome back more of our friends and neighbours into church, but in the meantime

(along with the one on the front cover of this issue of the magazine) on

this page are a few photos from that Easter Day service – with grateful thanks to Fiona Briggs, Lewis Coley and Chris Pearce for the images, and to all who made that service possible and who are continuing to work hard in managing the reopening of All Saints.



The Bike Project

On the first Saturday of May the Justice, Peace and Green group at the church organized a bicycle collection for the Bike Project (<https://thebikeproject.co.uk/>) at the monthly Farmers' Market. We also gave out information on the project to those at the market. This charity collects second-hand bikes, fixes them up



in their workshops and gives them to refugees, and since 2013 they have given away over 6,000 bikes to refugees. They also run cycle training and a bike buddy scheme partnering volunteers with refugees.

Through the magic of social media and advertising in the church newsletter, we collected over 20 bikes. These were collected at the end of the Farmers' Market and taken back to the Birmingham base of the Bike Project at the Old Print Works in Balsall Heath.

Anybody who wishes to donate directly can find full details about the local drop-off points at <https://thebikeproject.co.uk/pages/donate-bike>.

Thanks to everyone who helped and to those who brought along bikes.

Daniel Wilson

on behalf of the Justice, Peace and Green Group

Music Matters

Quoted as having “consummate craftsmanship” but also being “hard to take seriously”, we look at “the most celebrated and successful composer of carols alive today” – and then provide the answers to last month’s quizzes.

Over the last few months, we have recorded for services three popular anthems by surely one of the most performed and well-known composers currently active, John Rutter. The anthems in question, recently programmed at All Saints, are *A Gaelic Blessing*, *The Lord bless you and keep you* and the much-loved *For the beauty of the earth*, but there is plenty more in Rutter’s output to explore – particularly at Christmas, and we have included some in Candlelight Carol Services in recent years, such as the *Angels’ Carol*, his arrangement of *Joy to the world*, the rhythmic *Donkey Carol* and the joyful *Star Carol*. Indeed at that time of year it can feel that the composer’s presence is ubiquitous, which gave rise to the widely-shared cartoon of one festive chorister holding some music and saying to another: “I can’t believe it’s not Rutter.”

How, then, has John Rutter achieved this position of prominence and what is it that makes his music so appealing to musicians and audiences? As usual, the second of these questions in particular is not easy to answer or express in words, but looking at the first and again regarding music for Christmas in particular, the huge contribution Rutter has made in terms of editing, composing and arranging for the popular *Carols for Choirs* series is surely a huge factor here. He has a very distinctive, melodic style, and while in general his music could be described as easy on the ear or accessible (these are either complimentary or damning phrases, depending on your point of view) it would be a mistake to dismiss it as simple or simplistic: even in the most straightforward-looking of his pieces there will be a key change or a shift of time signature or rhythm to catch out the unwary – witness, for instance, the penultimate “This our joyful hymn of praise” in *For the beauty of the earth*, which suddenly moves from 4/4 time to 3/8 to the surprise of all performers... His piano accompaniments, too, are flowing, precise and not always easy – it might sound like an odd or unexpected comparison but in this respect they are a little like playing Bach in that a single note missed or out of place can be extremely obvious to the audience and throw the player completely off course. One related memory: Clare and I were involved in a performance of Rutter’s Magnificat at university in which the organist (thankfully not me) got lost in the last movement and finished, loudly, one beat after everyone else – if you’re going to make a mistake, why not let it be a big one...!

Most of John Rutter’s output is choral and a lot of it is religious; although Rutter has described himself as “not a particularly religious man yet still deeply spiritual and inspired by the spirituality of sacred verses and prayers”. In addition to the many sacred texts that he has set to music – including the Gloria, hymns such as *All things bright and beautiful*, and Bible passages (*I will sing with the spirit* or *The Lord is my shepherd*), he has also provided English translations or words for pieces he has written or arranged (the carol *Noël nouvelet*, for example) and written a number of his own lyrics, such as for his Christmas song *All bells in paradise* or anthem *Look to the day*.

Another reason for Rutter’s popularity is surely the versatility of his music – many of his pieces are available in unison, upper voice and SATB versions, for instance, and with accompaniment for piano, organ or a variety of instrumental line-ups; and this accessibility is mirrored by the fact that, while as mentioned not without its challenges, his vocal output is within the reach of amateur ensembles – indeed the composer is very generous in the time he spends and the way in which he interacts with such groups. I have worked with him on a couple of occasions and found him to be modest and welcoming, while also working performers hard and – rightly – expecting a high standard of preparation and etiquette onstage.

Inevitably with such a prolific output and recognisable style, some pieces are going to appeal more to each individual than others, and in my experience a programme works best when Rutter’s music is mixed with that from others who write in contrasting fashions. That said, while we have mentioned his trademark style he is certainly not a one-trick pony – listen to his setting of the carol *Down in yon forest*, for instance, or *Out of the deep* from the Requiem to hear a different side to him – and even the most churlish could surely not fail to be touched by the soaring soprano solo (“I heard a voice from heaven”) that begins the Requiem’s final movement, or to click their fingers along to *The heavenly aeroplane* (a constant favourite for youth choirs of my generation). And if you’re going to sing that cheesiest and most Marmite-like of Christmas pieces, Adolphe Adam’s *O Holy Night*, it might as well be in Rutter’s lush arrangement!

A final thought, and a common rejoinder to all who denigrate those who create art of any kind which is popular or which appears (to some) to be facile or basic: if it really is easy to write music like John Rutter’s, and become immensely popular, everyone would be doing it...

Now time to put you out of your misery/give you a chance to congratulate yourself following the couple of short quizzes in last month's issue – firstly, we gave you the initial letters of each word from the titles of some familiar hymns and songs from our book. Here are the full titles:

A H T P O J N	<i>All hail the power of Jesus' name</i>
B T M V	<i>Be thou my vision</i>
C O A C	<i>Come on and celebrate</i>
D L A F O M	<i>Dear Lord and Father of mankind</i>
E F, S T S	<i>Eternal Father, strong to save</i>
F A T S	<i>For all the saints</i>
G M, O T G R	<i>Guide me, O thou great Redeemer</i>
H L O T M	<i>How lovely on the mountains</i>
I C U T M C	<i>It came upon the midnight clear</i>
J, L O M S	<i>Jesu, lover of my soul</i>
K O G, K O P	<i>King of glory, King of peace</i>
L A T W I E C S	<i>Let all the world in every corner sing</i>
M M A C O Y P	<i>Make me a channel of your peace</i>
N T W A O G	<i>Now thank we all our God</i>
O M S A T W I G	<i>One more step along the world I go</i>
P T T L, T A	<i>Praise to the Lord, the Almighty</i>
R O, R O I M	<i>Ride on, ride on in majesty</i>
S O T A P	<i>Songs of thankfulness and praise</i>
T I A R	<i>There is a Redeemer</i>
U U A B I B	<i>Unto us a boy is born</i>
W I S T W C	<i>When I survey the wondrous cross</i>
Y C O N J	<i>Ye choirs of new Jerusalem</i>

Moving on to second stanzas, you then had to work out which item from *Complete Anglican Hymns Old & New* has these opening lines to their second verses – again, answers are in bold below:

"Fear not," said he, (for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind)

While shepherds watched

From the east to the utmost west wherever foot has trod

God is working his purpose out

Go through the park, on into the town

Colours of day

He came from his blest throne, salvation to bestow

My song is love unknown

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art

Come, thou long-expected Jesus

I want you more than gold or silver, only you can satisfy

As the deer pants for the water

Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness: high on his heart he will bear it for thee

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness

Not for ever in green pastures do we ask our way to be

Father, hear the prayer we offer

Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright

The day of resurrection

Shelter for fragile lives, cure for their ills

Beauty for brokenness

Sunbeams scorching all the day, chilly dew-drops nightly shed

Forty days and forty nights

Tell of his birth at Bethlehem, not in a royal house or hall

We have a gospel to proclaim

The Lord, ye know, is God indeed, without our aid he did us make

All people that on earth do dwell

There in the garden of tears, my heavy load he chose to bear

From heaven you came (The Servant King)

To this temple, where we call you, come, O Lord of hosts, today

Christ is made the sure foundation

Ben Noakes

Music Co-ordinator

No Virtuoso

Thanks to Martha Ann Brookes who came across this – the author, John Martin, was a brigadier in the Salvation Army.

In matters spiritual, Lord,
I'm no *virtuoso*.
In Thy great orchestra,
Never a soloist,
Never a violinist
Soaring to the heavens
On music's wings.
I feel I'm nothing, Lord –
Only like the beggar
Standing by the roadside,
In battered hat receiving pennies:
A violinist, too,
But scraping the catgut,
Unmelodious his tune.

Yet I am thine, Lord,
And thou, too, art mine.
In prayer, 'tis true, as others did,
I persevered, but
Never advanced far in the art.
Tongue-tied I seem to be
When talking to thee,
Mind goes a-blank

When with thee I'd commune.
Yet, Lord, I love thee –
Thou knowest this –
For thou knowest all things
Be it Peter or me.

The beggar on kerbstone
Thou dost understand
And my faulty love-offering –
My listening and caring,
My speaking to others
And trying to see thee in them –
Perhaps this thou'll accept.
Virtuoso?

No, Lord, I know,
My music is worthless
For thy heavenly chords,
Yet thou couldst transmute it
And deign to receive it
As one humble part
Of that glorious symphony
We one day shall hear.

Warden's musings

The request for the magazine article seems to come earlier and earlier – it feels like only days since I last wrote something... I don't know whether time is speeding up – it certainly seems like it! Maybe it is another sign of ageing, alongside having to hold things further away to read them and thinking that Wagon Wheels were MUCH bigger when I was young?

I recently celebrated my birthday (well, 'celebrated' is probably an exaggeration as we were still in lockdown so it was rather muted but very lovely – particularly the videos from people). Anyway, I was bought a turntable. Anyone too young to know what a 'turntable' is or who thinks 'vinyl' is just a floor covering, ask your parents (who am I kidding that this is read by anyone THAT young...). I had given away my vinyl collection when we moved to Highbury Road nearly 20 years ago – having not had anything to play it on for years I just thought I may as well pass it on rather than it take up space in the house.

I gave it to a good friend, John, who helped us move house. Back in our younger days, Becky and I used to go climbing with John. He organised the three-week trekking holiday in Nepal where Becky and I got engaged (I blame altitude sickness – I'll leave it you to ponder whether I mean for me asking or for Becky saying yes). John was about 50 when we went climbing with him and he was 'wiry', I think the phrase is – not obviously muscle-bound and he would be wearing an old thermal top and usually very colourful trousers, not skintight exercise/gymwear that a lot of the climbers wore. He would wander round the Rock Face climbing wall pretending to not know much about climbing and, picking someone who obviously fancied themselves a bit and had just done a harder route, would ask which route he had just climbed (it was always men...). When he was told it was an E2 or E3 (in the old system!), he would say: "Oh – is that hard?" which would elicit a sort of "too hard for you old man" look from the over-confident victim. John would then scamper up it, to the amusement of his friends and the astonishment of his victim.

He is one of these chaps who seemed to be able to turn his hand to anything. He had an HGV licence (acquired in the Army) but specialised in collecting cargoes that had been impounded by the Inland Revenue. He also did bits of building and decorating (or demolition in the case of the kitchen wall in our old flat in Moseley) and he made our wedding cake. We have always wondered whether he used some of his decorating and plastering tools to mix the industrial quantities of cake needed for a three-tier fruit cake. It tasted very good and we are still here and, as far as we know, so are most of the people who ate it. So – an interesting character whom Becky and I owed a lot to from that part of our life, and a deserving home for my neglected vinyl.

When Becky was casting around for a big birthday present (yes – it was a big birthday this year...) she decided that a record player would be a good gift. Knowing that I had given away my vinyl, she sneakily got me and Sophia into a conversation weeks before my birthday. She implied that Jenny Warbrick was planning an activity which required church members to give their *Desert Island Discs*, but albums not single tracks, so I duly listed 10 albums I'd want with me. Completely unsuspecting. Becky passed these out to family so I had something to play on my birthday. It took me a while after opening my presents to make the connection. I was a little disappointed that there isn't, in fact, an idea for church members' desert island discs – maybe this can be a future magazine article... [noted – Ed]

After setting it up, I chose David Bowie's *Legacy* (which is a re-pressing of an album of some of his best hits) to christen my new turntable. Handling vinyl again brought so many memories flooding back. The weight feels tangible in your hands. I found the muscle memories were still intact – of how

to hold a 12-inch record without getting fingerprints on the grooves, delicately flipping it in your hands to switch from the 'A' to 'B' side, balancing it on fingers and thumb of one hand to place it back in the sleeve. The artwork on a 12" record is much more deserving of the phrase 'artwork' than the little booklets in CD cases. I recalled going into Birmingham by train with my friends on a Saturday (Lichfield didn't have a record store for years and Woolworths only stocked records that were in the charts). We would spend the day browsing Virgin Megastore on Corporation Street (now sadly a charity shop) and HMV, returning substantially poorer but with several of those pleasingly snug-fitting carrier bags designed for 12" records. It was a wonderful gift and of course means Becky will have no problems thinking of presents ever again. I have a whole collection to rebuild...

One of the things I had completely forgotten about was the satisfying 'thunk' sound as you carefully place the needle on the record and (if you've aimed well) there is a moment of silence before the track starts. It made me ponder how silence can be so different: the silence before your chosen track starts and similarly that hushed silence in a concert hall when the conductor raises their baton – anticipation and possibility – anything could follow. Then there is the silence when a small child or baby has hurt themselves – that moment when they are just winding up to a massive wail with their face all screwed up and red, eyes shut, mouth open: a similar sense of anticipation but very different emotions. There is the silence when the hymn should have started and I realise I haven't unmuted the channel, and the silence of contemplation or prayer. If you Google the definition of silence it says it is "the complete absence of sound". I think Simon and Garfunkel were closer with their song *The Sound of Silence* – another album to add to my shopping list...

Chris Pearce
Churchwarden

Know your saints

9 June – Ephrem the Syriac

Ephrem the Syriac was born 306 in Nisibis, Turkey. It was soon obvious that he had an outstanding gift for writing both music and lyrics. Ephrem would have agreed with St Paul about the value of using music to express our faith in God – in an age of widespread illiteracy, he saw that hymns could be powerful carriers of orthodox Christianity. And so Ephrem wrote – and wrote. His poetry was so powerful, and his melodies so evocative, that soon his hymns were spreading far and wide across the Roman Empire. And wherever they went, his hymns took the Christian Gospel along with them. Some of Ephrem's hymns were written to refute heretical ideas, while others praised the beauty of the life of Christ. To Ephrem, everything around us could become a reminder of the presence of God, and thus an aid to worship.

Ephrem's hundreds of hymns influenced the later development of hymn-writing in both Syriac and Greek Christianity. Ephrem was also a well-respected Christian theologian and writer, always keen to defend orthodoxy from the widespread heresies of the time. Ephrem stressed that Christ's perfect unity of humanity and divinity represented peace, perfection and salvation. After Nisibis fell to the Turks in 363, Ephrem fled to Edessa, where he continued to work. But plague struck the city in 373, and while nursing others with the plague Ephrem finally died of it himself on 9 June. But his music lives on – more than 500 of his hymns still survive today.

(information adapted from www.parishpump.co.uk)

Cookery corner

On Palm Sunday David completed a year of including a recipe or two at the end of each weekly order of service, and we are pleased to reprint the last of these below.

Sunday 14 March: A creamy celebratory treat

Whether you are able to give it to someone you honour and thank, or alone wish to remember someone you miss and celebrate them, take a cup of double or whipping cream and begin to beat it. As it starts to thicken and become stiff, but before it is too shiny, add a small handful of raspberries, a dash of lemon and a teaspoon or so of icing sugar. Whisk a little more so the raspberries start to break up and colour the cream. Check sweetness and adjust with either lemon or sugar. Put the fluffy pink mixture into a cocktail glass or other elegant vessel and serve.

You can serve with a little shortbread or langue du chat biscuit.

It works equally well replacing the raspberries with a generous spoon of rhubarb previously cooked with ginger and lemon.

Sunday 21 March: East-West relations

East Asia isn't east if you live there. So many places are named in relation to Europe.

In our Gospel reading today we witness the good news of Jesus spilling over to reach another community, another ethnic group, people of another language, Greek, that would eventually bear the Gospel to countless other cultures including ours. Thank God it did.

One of the ugliest expressions of casual racism, I find, is in the contradiction of someone finding kudos in knowing what to order in, say, a Vietnamese or Lebanese restaurant, perhaps from their gap year travels, but then over that same meal asserting dislike at the thought of someone from Vietnam or Lebanon living in their street. When COVID-19 began to spread, Birmingham's Chinese restaurants found bookings dramatically down. Some All Saints friends responded by booking a table at their favourite Chinese restaurant. The murder of East Asian women in America, followed by dreadful excuses for the man who killed them, is a stark reminder of how unpresidential rhetoric from a previous president has underwritten deadly prejudice. We may struggle to hold together our indignant rejection of racism with our suspicion and anger at the Chinese government's attitude to human rights. It's feeble, but I couldn't resist sharing some simple East Asian treasures we've enjoyed in lockdown, to keep hearts open to a region so very different from ours.

Anglicised Chinese:

Chop an onion, half a red and half a green pepper and finely chop a clove of garlic, a thumb of ginger and a chilli. Dice two chicken breasts into bitesized pieces. Chop two tablespoons of dried salted black beans and have some chicken stock to hand.

Fry the ginger and garlic, then add the onion, peppers and chicken, stirring quickly over a high heat. When the chicken is nearly cooked, add the black beans and two tablespoons of wine or rice wine vinegar. Stir until the sharpness has gone. Pour in the stock and boil to reduce a little. Add just a spoon of soy sauce to finish, as there is plenty of salt and soy in the beans.

Serve with rice.

From Hong Kong:

Peel a couple of carrots and use a peeler to turn them into thin ribbons. Cut a stick of celery into fine julienne strips. Drop them into a pan of boiling water for 30-40 seconds and drain, running cold water over them. Drain well and put in a serving bowl. Add half a cucumber cut into long thin sticks.

Mix a dressing of one tablespoon each of soy sauce, white vinegar and sesame oil. Add a pinch of sugar and pour over the salad.

From Japan:

Remove the stalks from some green beans and cut them into 3 or 4cm lengths. Drop into boiling water for three minutes and drain, cooling under running water. Drain and pour over them a cup of chicken stock that you have simmered for a few minutes then allowed to cool to room temperature. Leave for half an hour. Lightly toast three tablespoons of sesame seeds in a dry frying pan. Keep a few to sprinkle, and grind the rest in clean coffee grinder (unless of course you have a dedicated spice grinder). Mix the ground sesame with a tablespoon of the stock, a teaspoon of sugar, and 1½ tablespoons of soy sauce (Japanese if you have it). Drain the beans (the stock can be used again for something else), put them in a serving dish and pour over the dressing and sprinkle the remaining sesame seeds on top.

Sunday 28 March: Lettuce Pray


It's a downside of shopping once a week that, among our household's food waste, things forgotten in the salad drawer of the fridge are too often found too late. Being apparently cheap, we throw leaves away easily but they are often produced with significant food miles and water usage, perhaps from southern Spain. If we are to transport such things, they should be honoured. I take delight in making stock from chicken carcasses. Again, if we are going to eat animals, we should honour them by wasting nothing. This soup uses ingredients that we may discover only just in time, and makes the very most of them, but it is delightfully delicate and I love its hopeful brightness in spring. Raymond Blanc shares it in his Cooking for Friends. He'd say use the freshest produce, of course, for the best flavour. He is pictured in the magnificent vegetable garden of his Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons. The menu there has the name of the head chef and the head gardener side by side. Well, we can't all manage that, but we could say a prayer for producers in every land as we handle vegetables with love.

Finely chop a clove of garlic, a small potato and a large onion. Thinly slice two courgettes and chop a large lettuce, romaine or cos, or a couple of gems. Chop a couple of tablespoons of fresh chervil or tarragon. Have ready some good chicken or vegetable stock.

Soften the garlic, onion and potato in butter or oil until the potato is cooked. Add the courgette and stir for a couple of minutes, then add stock just to cover and simmer for five more minutes. Add the herbs and liquidise. Season with salt, pepper and a squeeze of lemon. Add a dash of cream if you wish.

Delicious hot or chilled.

From the registers

	<p>Funerals – we remember:</p> <p>Claudesse Ford, whose funeral took place at All Saints on 10 May</p>
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Name that churchwarden...

Following the picture of the choir at All Saints from 1989 that we featured in a recent issue of the magazine, we dip into more recent archives thanks to this photo from Des Workman of the people who served as churchwarden during John Wilkinson's time as vicar here (1995-2008) – a number of whom are still at All Saints.

How many can you name? Answers can be found underneath the *Traidcraft news* article slightly later in this issue.



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 a 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.

Ben & Clare Noakes
Editors

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

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

From the PCC

The PCC met last week for the first time following the APCM in April; it has been agreed that whilst the church has reopened for services, our meetings will continue online via Zoom until September at the earliest, when we hope to resume in-person meetings (which seem like a very distant memory now!).

I have briefly summarised the areas of discussion from our latest PCC meeting; however there is a full set of minutes on the (newly updated and revamped) noticeboards; the PCC section is to the left of the south porch entrance doors. Copies of latest agendas and minutes will soon also be available on the All Saints website.

Summary of agenda items & discussions at PCC meeting held on 18 May 2021:

- (a) progress re appointment of new All Saints administrator (joint post with ASCDC)
- (b) Communications Group and latest developments in this area
- (c) stonework repairs to tower and options for reopening south porch while repairs are done
- (d) housing provision for our new curate, Tariro, who will be starting with us in June
- (e) cross-site policy adoption
- (f) safeguarding and completion of diocesan training by all PCC members
- (g) finance update
- (h) churchwarden's report including 'Articles of Enquiry' for 2021 from the diocese
- (i) risk assessments for Stage 3 of reopening and one-off concert held on Friday 21 May
- (j) Oversight Group report and updates from other All Saints organisations
- (k) 'Green Journey' energy audit
- (l) progression of proposed Vision Day with All Saints partners

There has been some other practical work done over recent months, led by Vivien Thickett and members of Communications Group (and others) who have helped to revamp noticeboards, with new All Saints logos and a smarter, more professional image. We have also ordered some new barrier and entrance mats for the south porch area ready for reopening of this main entrance.

There is much for us to do in the coming weeks and months; we will need to discuss and agree the priorities and reasonable timescales for some of the new, ongoing and outstanding areas of work that are on the 'to do' list; but hoping the we can all find the time, energy and resources to meet the challenges and opportunities of the parish year ahead...

Dates for PCC and Standing Committee meetings for 2021 are as follows (Tuesdays, starting at 7:30pm):

PCC meetings: 20 July, 21 September, 16 November

SC meetings: (15 or) 22 June (tbc), (17 Aug – if needed), 19 October, 14 December

Chris Watts

PCC Secretary / Assistant Churchwarden

christian
aid

**Stand together against
the climate crisis**



ALL SAINTS
KINGS HEATH

All Saints Christian Aid Quiz

FRIDAY June 25th

INTHE CHURCH HALL

**With Fish and Chip Supper (or sausage and
chips or Vegetable "Non Fish Cake" and Chips)**

Just £7.50 per person

7.15 pm start Doors open 7pm

Teams of up to 6 (do not worry if you are on your own we can put you in a team)

Prize for the winners, runners up and best team name

Let's Have some fun and raise some money for Christian Aid - Its
one of the first times we can all meet up socially distant but
more than 30.

Tickets from Des Workman, Daniel Wilson, and Chris Pearce

Traidcraft news

Thanks to Gill Parkin for sending us this response she received from Traidcraft Exchange acknowledging the cheque for £500 to the Regenerators' Appeal from All Saints Traidcraft. The Appeal aims to help those living in poverty fight back against climate change.



08 April 2021

Dear Mrs Parkin,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of £500.00, on behalf of All Saints Church, to Traidcraft Exchange's Regenerators' Appeal - we hope you are as delighted as we are that thanks to the UK government, it will be doubled! Your support this Spring means that twice as many Regenerators like Issa and Mwanaidi will be able to get the skills they need to fight back against climate change, and earn a decent income in new, earth-friendly ways.

For communities across the world, your donation will help them learn new skills and knowledge, and change how they farm. Regenerators like Issa and Mwanaidi can then increase their profits and turn their work into businesses - drastically increasing their incomes, and allowing them to save collectively in case of future disasters.

With basic climate friendly technology, and knowledge and skills about how to adapt to erratic weather patterns through things like growing new crops, investing in beehives or fisheries, communities will be able to earn more from the hard work they already do. These changes mean that whatever the climate crisis throws at them, they'll be able to feed their families and earn a decent income.

Not only this, but by switching to green technology, reducing use of pesticides and planting trees, they can regenerate their land - and protect the earth for generations to come.

Thanks to your generosity and the UK government, your donations will reach twice as many communities across the world.

Thank you for helping to build a fairer, greener future.

Charlotte Timson

CEO, Traidcraft Exchange



From *Name that churchwarden...* earlier in the magazine, here are the people who appear in Des's photograph, from left to right:

Back row: Cyril Dyer, Andrew Langley, Daniel Wilson, Brian Miles, Des Workman, Ron Dainter.
Front row: Gill Parkin, Tony Cocks, The Revd John Wilkinson, Paul Smart, Vivien Thickett.

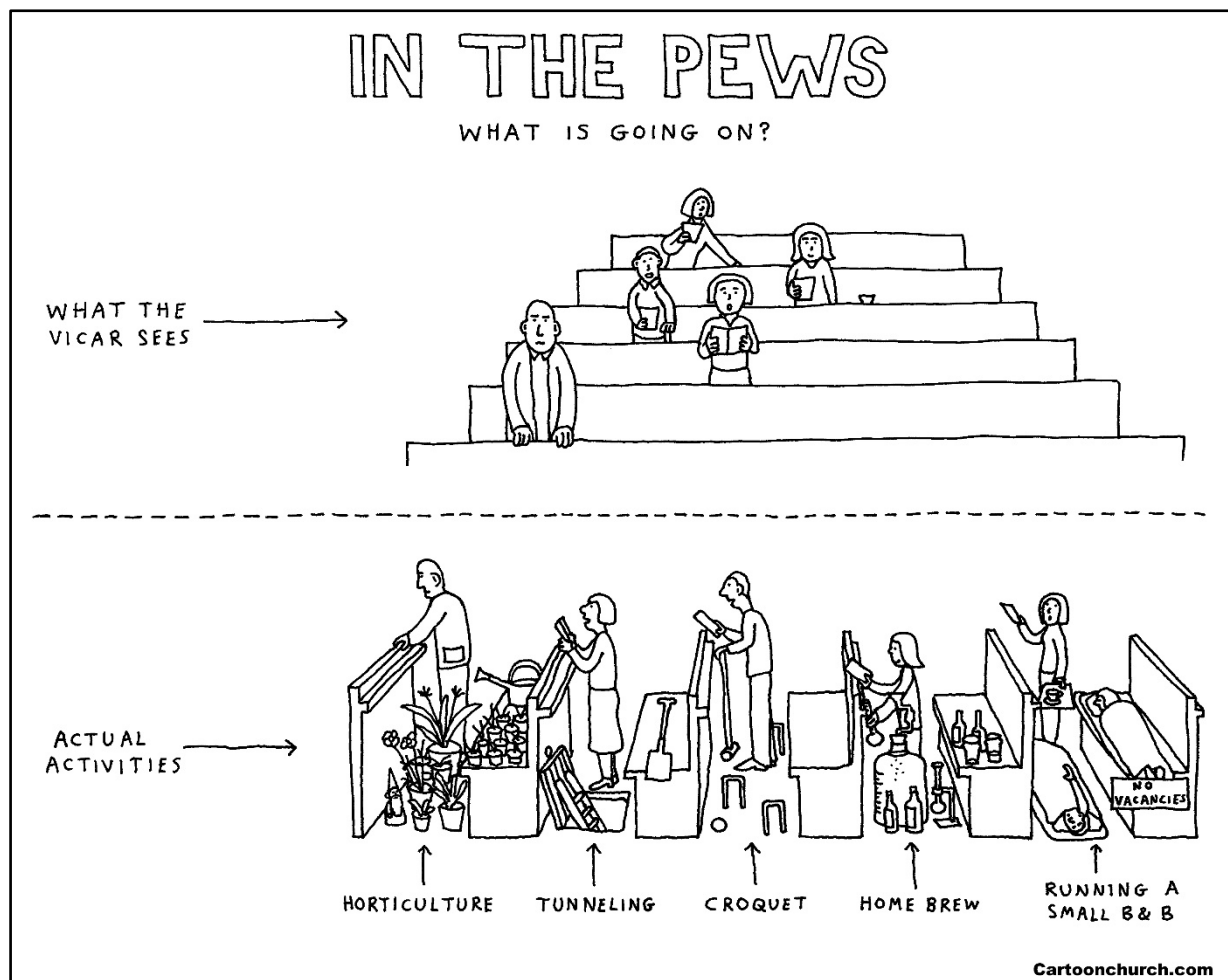
Around the campus

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 include a brief update from Des Workman regarding The Robin Centre.



The Robin Centre has reopened after nearly a year of being closed. Members have been kept in touch with, activity packs supplied, and families supported during this difficult year. We now have places available for older people with dementia.

If you know of someone who would benefit from attending an excellent day centre with fully-trained staff please telephone Paula or Sally on 0121 444 8111.



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 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. 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

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

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

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

If you have any problems or questions about setting this up, or the church's finances in general, please contact Steve Brittle, Treasurer on 01905 772171 or zena_steveb@btinternet.com.

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's photo shows the war memorial, which now stands outside the east end of All Saints, on the path that runs from the Village Square to the High Street.



The memorial is Grade II listed, according to Historic England's website, for its "historic interest: as an eloquent witness to the tragic impact of world events on this local community" and its "architectural interest: a simple yet eloquent Calvary cross by a noted company of monumental masons [Messrs J White & Sons, also responsible for several other war memorials in the West Midlands]".

The cross was originally in the churchyard and was unveiled on 12 November 1921, with references to World War II added in 1947. Under the figure of Christ crucified it reads "He saved others not himself", and the inscription notes the grateful memory in which the men of the parish who fell in the great wars are held, before ending: "Their lives laid down for love of God, of country and of King. A victor's crown, gained, as on Calvary through suffering."

Inside the church, on a pillar above the pews on the south side and towards the back, can be found a World War I memorial plaque which lists more than 150 men of Kings Heath who fell in that conflict: "Awake Remembrance of the Valiant Dead." The leaflet guide to All Saints Church notes that there is no such memorial in church for World War II as the vicar at that time, Father Michael Parker,

was a pacifist; names of those who died in that conflict are instead recorded outside the British Legion on Station Road.

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
Reader Emeritus	Mike Cheesbrough	0121 444 5620
Pastoral Team	Juliet Bick, Stuart Blissitt, Becky Frall, Wendy Ross, David Warbrick, Jenny Warbrick	0121 444 0260
Prayer Circle	(for confidential prayer requests)	parishoffice@allsaintscentreh.co.uk 0121 444 0260

Worship

***We have reopened for our 10am Sunday service,
and church is also open 10:00-12:00 on Thursdays for personal prayer.***

***We will continue to provide the service online via the website and newsletter
for those required to stay at home.***

***Up-to-date information can be found at www.allsaintskingsheath.org.uk
and we look forward to seeing you again soon.***

All Saints Church, Kings Heath

2 Vicarage Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham B14 7RA

Parish Office: 0121 444 0760

parishoffice@allsaintscentreh.co.uk

www.allsaintskingsheath.org.uk



**THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**