

Saints Alive!

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



**December 2021
& January 2022**



£1
(suggested donation)



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Hall Green
Neighbourhood
Network Scheme

From the vicarage

Dear friends and neighbours,

It's the little things that get you through. I wonder what they've been for you. A message from a friend that came when you were feeling low and depressed on furlough; some little indulgence, hand cream or something for the bath that helped you mark one day of the week as a bit special when lockdown meant that days blurred into one; noticing someone step aside carefully so a hassled parent could get the pushchair by, keeping distance. It might have been the chance to volunteer that lifted you: drivers delivering meals to isolated people, cooks anonymously preparing them and a young student taking the calls and parcelling them up with calm, methodical kindness. The meals might have been the little gesture of connection and remembering that helped some to hold on, living alone through those months. For the helpers, not knowing how the meals were being enjoyed, it might be the appreciative 'thank you' call that one recipient took the trouble to make every now and then that kept their spirits up. In hospital, it's the nurse putting the phone on someone's pillow so they can hear a goodbye or a prayer.

For Mary and Joseph it was someone letting them use the animal shelter behind a house as the inn was full; who knows whether a local midwife came to help, maybe providing the swaddling cloths. Some small food parcel or bit of night-time fuel might have got them through. Mary, Joseph and Jesus did survive. We'll never know the names of people whose little gestures helped. We do know that the shepherds turned up. They had nothing valuable. They didn't bring food. They brought joy and praise and encouragement which, St Luke tells us, Mary treasured in her heart. Sometimes we cannot help financially or reach people practically, but it is attention that will lift someone up; a word of praise. Sometimes it's a timely word of encouragement that makes our day.

Just when home is where Mary and Joseph would want to be, big political forces well beyond their control displaced them from all that was familiar. Indeed after Jesus was born those forces would send them into exile seeking asylum in another land. We may feel helpless and depressed before the refugee crisis, before the Taliban, before dysfunctional government, before rising knife crime, before daunting climate change. But Jesus coming to be among us in this way enjoins us not to despair. Rather, he encourages us to feel the little things are noticed by God and are worth it. Indeed, they can make all the difference.

In Jesus, an infant who as yet could only receive from us, God comes to affirm and treasure every tiny act of kindness. With them he defies the powerful forces of destruction at work in the world. Our labyrinth, ten years old last month, shows several images of community, of visiting, of tending the sick: small acts of kindness captured in the tender naivety of cartoon-like mosaic. Whatever restrictions come and go, let us feel the affirmation of God, both in offering and receiving small acts of kindness. No detail of care is too small to catch God's eye.

I celebrate your kindness to one another and pray for all to know some tenderness this Christmas and New Year.

David

Warden's musings

It's the end of 1 December when I'm writing this and I haven't yet listened to Thea Gilmore's *Strange Communion* Christmas album and although I have bought the mixed fruit for the cake from Gill it has not yet been made... Advent seems to have caught me out a bit this year. On the other hand, we are well into Christmas ads on the TV, I am on my third box of mince pies, the tree is up in church and we have just held the Kings Heath Business Association Carol Service. At the service, which took place on Advent Sunday, we hosted around 200 people from the local community including 30 members of the wonderful Central England Concert Band. They played a selection of festive numbers including carols for everyone to sing along to. Our own Brian Miles played drums with the concert band and Clare Noakes, accompanied by Ben, sang a solo number. Soup created by the Masonic Lodge kitchen and heated up by Rourke's was offered, and wine and other drinks were served by local councillor candidates. Stan Hems and Dave Priday were responsible for making the event happen (and the lights being turned on at the right time!). Not sure if it was Stan or Dave who arranged for the snowfall but it all made it very festive...

I have to say a big thank you to Steve, Sarah and Daniel for helping me do a 'high-level' clean and putting up the Christmas tree. Many thanks also to the larger group who volunteered to help with the Saturday morning clean. The high-level clean involves Steve and Sarah using their V E R Y L O N G feather dusters (I am NOT joking) to reach the upper windowsills and other high stuff. Daniel and I (with help from Steve and Sarah) put the tree up. Sarah fulfilled a long-held ambition to remove the cobwebs from the sounding board above the pulpit. I polished the wood edge to the sounding board on Saturday, which gave me an opportunity to examine up close the craftsmanship. It hangs from a very large iron framework and is constructed to fit exactly around the profile of the column in the corner. Having tried to fit skirting boards and small cupboards, it is clear whoever built this was very talented! I tried to get my carpet shampooer working to clean the carpets in the children's area (it did work briefly before tripping the sockets: ho hum, another thing to dismantle and try to fix – but I can't complain as it was my mum's and is therefore 30 years old!). While I was fiddling around with an ancient vacuum cleaner, the rest of the cleaning gang tackled cleaning all the floors, hoovering, polishing pews, polishing the brass and metal plaques and fittings, cleaning the high altar and reredos screen behind it, disinfecting all the children's corner tables and chairs which have sat in storage due to lockdown, and finally putting the children's corner back together. It was lovely to see so many children sitting round the tables again on Sunday (both at 10am and at the KHBA Carol Service in the evening).



We have ordered candles for the Candlelight Carol Service (taking place at 6:30pm on Sunday 19 December) – let's all keep our fingers crossed that we don't have to change the arrangements due to COVID. This year will (probably) be the last for the existing nativity set which is culturally and physically aged. As an engineer, I will be sad to see it go, purely because I admire the repair that Tony Cocks made to the donkey last year when I discovered it kept face-planting due to a missing leg. Tony ingeniously used an old bike wheel spoke to reinforce the leg. He also

glued its ear back on and touched up the paint so it looks pretty healthy again. Perhaps there is a home for retired nativity set donkeys somewhere... The Crafters kindly offered to fund the

replacement of the nativity set before the whole COVID thing started and our Arts group, led by Viv will commission a set that is unique to All Saints and represents our values. I hope you took the opportunity to fill in the questionnaire about the kind of nativity figures we would like to replace them. I'm torn between the ABBA-themed '70s disco special version with accompanying glitter ball for the stable roof and the *Harry Potter* version which comes with dragons and hippogriffs instead of sheep and donkeys...

I will be getting the old crib down in a few weeks and setting it up and on the morning before the carol service; I'd appreciate a few helpers to set up and populate the candle holders. I'll also be putting together the Christmas rota – we need extra people to help out at Christmas services as there are additional jobs such as candle-lighting, fire-watch and candle-snuffing (no fire service uniform is provided I'm afraid). These services tend to be busier and particularly the carol service needs additional people to give out the congregation's candles. Please let me know if you're interested in helping.

You can't fail to have noticed the scaffold tower to give access to the damaged stonework. I accompanied Midland Conservation when they measured up and took profile sketches so they can get the replacement stonework ordered. It is a good view from up there if you don't mind heights and ladders... The stone comes from a quarry down near Bath and should take around six weeks to be cut. It will then be finished and brought to the church for installation. We are waiting for confirmation of any additional work – there are a few issues which should be addressed while the scaffolding is up including repairing the damage done by a tree that has been growing out of the spire for five to 10 years. Unsurprisingly, with so little in the way of soil and nourishment, the 'tree' is not a very healthy specimen. Probably just as well given where it is growing...

Chris Pearce
Churchwarden

The ASYP Big Christmas Word Quiz 2021

Back again by popular demand!

Our festive fundraising quiz was once again a winner last Christmas, so we have a new quiz this year! A fun activity which can be easily shared with friends and family while supporting the running costs of the All Saints Youth Project.

This year's quiz is now available electronically on the ASYP website allsaintsyouthproject.org.uk or direct by email from tedhammond74@gmail.com.

Last year we raised over £1,000 and this year our ambitious target is £1,500! We suggest a minimum donation of £3 but your added generosity would be greatly appreciated. Please share the quiz as widely as possible: the wider we share it, the more people will have an opportunity to support this wonderful work and raise funds for the charity.

Donations can be made through the ASYP website.

Once again there is a prize for the winner (£30) and the runner up (£20) plus all entries will be entered into a prize draw for one of three £10 M&S vouchers.

Lindsey & Ted Hammond

Queen Margaret: a point of view from a Dunfermlinian

I don't know if you are one of those people who read every page of our church magazine each month, or just glance at a few articles. I am one of the former, and I was particularly drawn to page 16 of November's edition and 'Know your saints'.

Coming from Dunfermline (therefore, I am a Dunfermlinian!), though not a history buff, I was drawn to the mention of Margaret of Scotland, as there is a big connection to my hometown.

Many a time I have visited St Margaret's Cave, going down 87 steps and reaching a small altar where Queen Margaret prayed. It has been well preserved and laid out by the local council, well lit, and

there is a wealth of information on the signage as you make your way down to the altar.



I well remember my mum and dad talking about the thousands of pilgrims who would make the annual pilgrimage to Dunfermline, who would process from her tomb, then to St Margaret's Catholic Church, and then for an open-air mass for 20,000 people at Dunfermline Football Ground. My sister recalls lots of girls dressed in white, and young boys dressed in their

school uniform, as many would wait for the event to receive their first communion on this day. Local pipe and drum bands and brass bands would also join the procession, and my sister recounts lots of banners being carried, with names of parishes from all over Scotland, the rest of the UK, and many from France. The pilgrimage processions stopped in 1974, but in 2015 the tradition was revived, albeit on a smaller scale (and held in June, when the weather is better than in November), and people are once more coming to pay their respects to St Margaret.

My friend, and local historian, Jack Pryde says: 'Margaret is Scotland's only female saint, and she was queen, but she is not as well known as she should be and had a huge influence on this country. She created the first Queensferry crossing over the River Forth, so that pilgrims could get to St Andrews. She had her own cave for private worship, as she didn't really get on with the monks! She changed the face of the church to make it more pious and looked after the poor and orphans. She introduced the use of cutlery in the court for the first time. She made beautiful clothes, she traded with Europe for goods and food, so Dunfermline was an early trader in the European market!'


When Margaret was canonised in 1225 her remains were interred in a shrine in Dunfermline Abbey, but after the Reformation they were dispersed across Europe and subsequently disappeared. The only relic left (part of her shoulder bone) was returned to Dunfermline in 2008 and is kept in a

convent. In 2019 a 3D scan was made of the bone, and that can be used for exhibitions by school groups etc and can be handled by visitors.

According to legend, Margaret died of a broken heart just a few days after her beloved husband Malcolm III died on the battlefield.

So if you ever find yourself in Dunfermline, Fife between May and September, do seek out Queen Margaret's Cave and find out more about this amazing saint.

Martha Ann Brookes



ALL SAINTS PLAYERS (hopefully) PRESENT...

The All Saints Theatrical Revue!

Saturday 19 February 2022

Whether you are a seasoned performer or have always dreamt of a moment in the spotlight, everyone is invited to contribute an act for the forthcoming Theatrical Revue!

Everyone is welcome, whether as a solo act or an ensemble - singing, dancing, poetry, magic, comedy sketches and anything else are all encouraged!

If you would like to join us to perform, please speak to Clare Noakes or Fiona Briggs and we would be delighted to give you more information and welcome you on board!

allsaintspantomime@gmail.com

On recalling the past

One of the delights of age is to find that the books reread after 50 years or so seem as fresh and stimulating as one found them in the confident vigour of youth.

Nowadays I return to the writing of the historian A J P Taylor (1906-90). In his talks and book reviews it is striking that he always begins with a brief, arresting sentence that rouses a wry grin. It also encourages one to read on, confident that the review won't turn into a quagmire of subordinate clauses. The review of a book on the socialist Harold Laski (1893-1950) begins: 'There are few of whom one can truthfully say that the world would have been a different place without them.' Both tone and content of the review are set by that one sentence.

Another review starts: 'In the summer of 1942 the Royal Air Force startled the world by winning the Battle of Britain,' a cluster of facts, intelligible when he penned them (1961), both to young and old, then, today and tomorrow. I read my first Taylor book the same year, the still-controversial *Origins of the Second World War*.

I recently recalled that in 1958 I unknowingly shared his views on nuclear disarmament, and still do. I was 16, at public school, and had started going to CND [the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament] meetings downtown, imbibed the ideas, bought and wore the badge, with 'attitude' of course. It was my first rebellion against what Taylor once called 'The Thing', a derisory but apt word for the Establishment.

Self-importantly, I began to wear the badge at school, even during Religious Education lessons.

But I had sinned.

The first, and only, rule of The Thing was 'Thou shalt not dissent'! I was told to remove the badge from my blazer lapel because it 'exceeded the acceptable size of badges that may be worn in school'.

In the later 1950s, Taylor was voicing a more important kind of dissent, having become a leading spokesman for the CND. In a lecture in 1981, he reiterated his earlier-held views, although the campaign itself soon lost momentum through infighting.

'I deplore the historians who, against all experience, declare that this time the deterrent in the shape of nuclear weapons will preserve peace for ever. The deterrent starts off only as a threat, but the record shows that there comes a time when its reality has to be demonstrated – which can only be done by using it.' The past, it seems, is still with us, and has not become irrelevant.*

However I do not want to conclude on a depressing, though realistic, note. I am conscious of writing for a parish magazine, and would not wish my biography to include further. (Nothing so tiresome as someone else's 'opinion'.)

I will conclude with an amusing, yet discussable, anecdote that fellow historian Lewis Namier once recounted to Taylor. It is included in an essay titled *Accident Prone, or What Happened Next?* (1977). Taylor himself advocated faith without religion!

A Galician priest was explaining to a peasant what miracles were.

'If I fell from that church tower and landed unhurt, what would you call it?'

'An accident.'

'And if I fell again and was unhurt, what would you call it?'

'Another accident.'



'And if I did it a third time?'

'A habit.'

Adrian Kozlowski

** irrelevant = what I don't want to think about just now.*

From the registers

	Baptism – we congratulate: Cara Eloise Jeffery, baptised at All Saints on Advent Sunday, 28 November
	Funerals – we remember: Josie Peace, whose funeral took place at Lodge Hill Crematorium on 22 November

We are always pleased to receive contributions for *Saints Alive!* – thanks to everyone who has supported the magazine during 2021.

There is no magazine in January, but if you have any comments, suggestions, ideas for articles or would like to submit something for inclusion in the February edition or beyond, please contact Ben & Clare Noakes:

E: saintsalivemagazine@gmail.com

T: 07967 730156 / 07929 593097

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Christmas Together

Community Christmas Lunch 2021

You are warmly invited to join us for Christmas lunch at the New Life Baptist Church, 80 High St, Kings Heath, B14 7JZ following the morning services at the different churches.

The programme for the day is:

12 noon Registration opens
12:15pm Drinks and nibbles with carol-singing, and decoration-making.
1:00 pm (approx.) Lunch.
4:00 pm (approx.) Finish.

All ages and backgrounds welcome! There is no booking deadline, but it is helpful to know in advance if you are coming. Please phone 07882555146 or email christmastgetherkh@gmail.com.

We will use the side entrance to the church which is accessed from the car park.

We ask for a minimum £5 contribution towards the cost of your meal, payable on registration.

Covid safety measures will be in place. We ask you to bring a face mask and wear it when you walk round the rooms. You will be allocated a place on a table, where we ask you to remain throughout the meal. Your meal will be brought to you.

We are not able to offer lifts in, but will deliver a meal to your home if you are unable to get to the church.

- Volunteer help is welcome!
- Gifts of non-alcoholic drinks, satsumas, chocolates or Christmas crackers are much appreciated, and may be left with the All Saints office staff between 10am – 3pm throughout Advent, or in church on Sundays.

christmastgetherkh@gmail.com

Christmas Together is a joint venture by the churches of Kings Heath

From the PCC

Could you be our next PCC Secretary?

Are you looking for a new volunteering opportunity and perhaps a new role?

Here is the chance to build your skills and experience (alongside existing & other PCC members)!

The role of PCC Secretary is interesting and varied, with the position giving an important insight into and stake in some of the things that are done by the PCC on behalf of the congregation 'behind the scenes'. The main tasks involve attending meetings, taking notes, the production of agendas and taking of minutes. There are normally six PCC meetings per year, four or five 'Standing Committee' meetings, plus the APCM – so approximately one per month, normally taking place on Tuesday evenings at church. The current secretary is planning to hand over to the new post-holder at the next APCM in April; so by starting to recruit to the role now, there is time for someone coming into the role to work alongside the current secretary and to benefit from an extended handover, with ongoing advice and support available as needed beyond next April.

What has really struck me since joining the PCC is just how much work is done by this group (and the many other groups and organisations within the All Saints family) on behalf of the whole community; and the fact that the relatively small congregation that we are part of is able to support and sustain such a diversity of ministries and groups; however as with many parishes without 'new blood' and fresh pairs of willing hands then some of the work and outreach that is currently being sustained by a number of small but very committed groups may not be able to survive and continue or to grow as it could...

We are all called to serve God in different ways in our daily lives, our work and our ministries: each and every one of us has different and unique gifts that we can bring and share within our community; being PCC secretary is one of my ways of contributing to the life of All Saints at this time, and perhaps there are others in our congregation who may also have gifts and talents, skills and experience that they would like to share and contribute but haven't yet found their 'niche' or calling? Perhaps you might want to talk to someone on the PCC about how you might contribute to the life of All Saints yourself in the future? Food for thought perhaps as we approach the season of advent and the chance to reflect on the wider meaning of gifts and giving.

Please feel free to contact me (the current PCC Secretary) for an informal chat or for more information about this role. Many thanks!

Chris Watts

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

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

Know your saints

13 December – Lucy

Lucy was a Christian girl who got caught up in the fierce and widespread Diocletian persecutions of 303-4. She refused to give up her Christian faith, and so was put to death. Her tomb can still be found in a catacomb in Syracuse (Sicily), and there are early 4th-century inscriptions bearing her name (Euskia). Lucy's full story has been lost in the mists of time, but a romantic legend of her martyrdom grew up after her death; it was written in the 5th century, and she was honoured in Rome from the 6th century. The name Lucy means 'light', and so in time she became the patron saint for those with eye diseases. Her feast day is close to the shortest day of the year, so it is celebrated in Sweden as a festival of light.

13 January – Hilary of Poitiers

Born into a wealthy pagan family in Poitiers in 315, Hilary lost confidence in paganism and by 350 had converted to Christianity, being made bishop only three years later. His oratorial skills in defence of Christianity were badly needed: it was a time when the Western Church was under severe attack. Hilary became the outspoken champion of Biblical orthodoxy, defending it at both the Synod of Bitterae in 356 and the Council of Seleucia in 359. When Hilary returned, from a brief exile, to Gaul, there was great rejoicing. He continued to write many doctrinal and historical works and also became the first known writer of hymns in the Western Church, stressing Trinitarian themes and the unique relationship of Christ to the Father. There are three churches dedicated to Hilary in England; his feast day begins the Hilary Term at the Law Courts and at the universities of Oxford and Dublin.

14 January – Felix of Nola

Felix had been born to a Syrian soldier who had retired to Nola, near Naples in Italy. When his father died, Felix gave his property and money away, and was ordained by St Maximus of Nola. Felix went to work with him, ministering to the people of Nola.

Then Decius, the Roman emperor, began another persecution of the Christians. Maximus escaped to the mountains, but Felix was arrested and badly beaten. Legend has it that he was rescued – and freed from captivity – by an angel. In any case, Felix followed Maximus and found him sick and in need. Felix hid him in an empty building, and prayed for God's protection. The soldiers were out looking for the two men, but then a spider arrived at the door of the building where they were hiding. The spider spun such a magnificent web across the door that it fooled the imperial soldiers into thinking the building was long abandoned. The spider saved Maximus and Felix that day, and the two men stayed on the run until Decius' death in 251.

After that, the people of Nola wanted Felix as their bishop. But Felix refused and returned to farming his lands, giving the poor most of the food that he managed to grow. Though Felix went on to die naturally, he was still thought of as a martyr or 'witness', because he had suffered torture, imprisonment and privations in the persecution. Felix did not mind: he served a King who was not of this world, and he looked forward to a better future life with that King in a new heaven and a new earth.

(adapted from www.parishpump.co.uk)

Music matters

Handel's Messiah: a bassoonist's reflection on a seasonal favourite.

On 6 November 2021, I made my way to St John's in the Square, Wolverhampton, to perform *Messiah* by George Frideric Handel. It is a work I have played several times a year for more than 30 years; I also sang in the chorus while a student at the Birmingham School of Music. During lockdown, several *Messiahs* were cancelled, so this was an even more poignant return to this masterpiece without which, for me, Christmastide can't really start.

In 1741, Charles Jennens gave Handel a powerful libretto drawn from the Old and New Testaments and the book of Psalms. Handel, obviously inspired, wrote Part 1 in six days, and completed the work in 16 days. The first performance took part in Dublin in 1742 and was a great success. It has been performed regularly ever since.

In Baroque music the bassoon is a member of the continuo section of the orchestra, i.e. playing in unison with the cello and double bass throughout. This means, as a player, I have to blend my sound and match my tuning with the string players, and Handel makes no concession that a bassoonist needs to breathe! Using a very pliant reed, and building up stamina beforehand, usually allows me to play this very long piece twice in a day – rehearsals being in the afternoon of the evening performance. It is a challenge I relish and hope to repeat many times in the future.

Part 1 tells of the prophesy of Christ's birth and the story of the actual nativity. Moving from the calm of the instrumental 'Pastoral Symphony' to the angels bursting forth in the chorus 'Glory to God', where the trumpets make their first dramatic entrance, Part 1 ends with the reassurance that 'His yoke is easy, and his burthen is light'.

Part 2 plunges into the depths of despair of Christ's Passion, with some amazing music reinforcing the text: 'He was despised and rejected', 'All they that see Him, laugh Him to scorn', and 'Thy rebuke hath broken His heart'. Handel and Jennens, however, quickly bring us the truth of Christ's resurrection: 'But Thou didst not leave His soul in hell'. The section ends with the 'Hallelujah' chorus, trumpets and drums acclaiming that 'He shall reign for ever and ever'.

The much shorter third section is a contemplation on the surety of Christ's, and our, resurrection. 'Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all die, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.' The work concludes with the great 'Amen', the only possible way to complete such an epic masterpiece.

I am sure that I am not alone in experiencing the jolt of recognition when words from *Messiah's* libretto appear in our readings. For me, these words have extra meaning and as Handel himself said on hearing the 'Hallelujah' chorus for the first time: 'I did think I did see all heaven before me, and the great God himself.'

Philip Brookes

We will be carol singing in the Village Square to raise money for a local charity between around 11:00 and 12:30 on Christmas Eve and would welcome anyone who would like to join us to sing – or to enthusiastically shake a bucket! Likewise do contact Ben & Clare Noakes (details at the back of the magazine) if you would like to sing in the choir for any of the Midnight Mass, Christmas Day or Boxing Day services.

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?

Lynn Busfield.

What is (or was) your day job?

I've been employed by University Hospitals Birmingham (UHB) as a chaplain for the past eight years in a multi-faith chaplaincy team, based mainly at Heartlands Hospital in East Birmingham.

How long have you been at All Saints?

I have been involved at All Saints for approximately three years.

What are you currently involved in at church?

I take the occasional service, share in the preaching and assist Jenny with the youth group.



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

A memorable service I've been involved in was when David was on sabbatical. At one stage a gentleman who had just walked in and who I didn't recognise stood up and said he had a notice to give – I turned to Simon Foster, who was deaconing, to check whether it was OK for this unknown (to me) chap to give a notice, and Simon gave me the OK. After the service, I found out that it was in fact Bishop Mark Santer.

At the end of the service when I was standing by the door shaking people's hands on the way out, someone said to me 'we're so looking forward to having David back from sabbatical'!

Do you have a favourite hymn/Bible passage?

One of my favourite hymns is *Christ's is the world in which we move* – words by John Bell, music by Graham Maule. I like it so much as it ties in with a theology of priesthood that sees the priest as the one who find others to work with, in creating the space for others to find healing, transformation and calling.

A favourite Bible passage is 1 Corinthians 13. I memorised *The Living Bible* version of it to read out loud at my mother's funeral in 1986 as I was anxious that if I cried I might not be able to read the words off the page.

What are you reading at the moment?

I am currently reading *Olive, Mabel and Me* by Andrew Cotter. Pre-COVID, Andrew was mainly known for his sports commentating, but during lockdown he started producing very funny short clips on Twitter commentating on the behaviour of his two Labradors.

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

I would love to strike up a correspondence with the Irish spiritual writer John O'Donohue (1956-2008). He writes as beautifully as I heard him speak at Greenbelt festival. His book *Anam Cara* remains centre stage and much used on one of my bookshelves.

Tell us a joke...

Two prawns were swimming around in the sea one day. One was called Justin and the other was called Kristian. They were continually being chased and threatened by the sharks that inhabited the area. Eventually Justin had had enough. He said to Kristian: 'I'm fed up with being a prawn. I wish I was a shark, and then I wouldn't have to worry about being eaten all the time.' As he said this, a large mysterious cod appeared and said: 'Your wish is granted!' And suddenly Justin turned into a fearsome shark. Kristian was horrified and swam away as he was scared of being eaten by his old friend.

As time went by, Justin found his new life as a shark to be boring and lonely. None of his old friends would let him get near them as they thought he would eat them and so they just swam away whenever he approached. It took a while, but eventually Justin realised that his new menacing appearance was the cause of his sad and lonely plight.

Then one day he was swimming all alone as usual when he saw the mysterious cod again. He thought it would be better if he could go back to his old life so he swam to the cod and begged to be changed back. The cod worked his magic and suddenly Justin was a prawn once more. With tears of joy streaming down his cheeks Justin swam straight to Kristian's home. As he opened the coral gate, the happy memories came flooding back. He banged on the door and shouted: 'Kristian, it's me, Justin, your old friend. Come out and see me again.'

Kristian replied: 'No way! You're a shark and you'll just eat me. I'm not being tricked into being your dinner.' Justin shouted back: 'No, I'm not a shark anymore. That was the old me. I've changed... I've found Cod. I'm a prawn again Kristian.'

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!

Lynn also kindly sent us some bonus one-liners, which we couldn't resist including as well...

Did you hear about the explosion in the French cheese factory? De-brie everywhere...

Why didn't the cheese want to get sliced? It had grater plans.

What did Mr Cheese say to the shop assistant when she selected the wrong size dress for his wife? That won't feta.

What did the cheese say to himself in the mirror? 'Hallou-mi!'

Have you heard the cheesy weather forecast? Rain with light bries.

A guy drove past me in his car and threw a lump of cheddar at me. I thought to myself: 'That's mature!'

What do you call a horse in disguise? Mascarpone.

Which type of music appeals to most cheeses? R'n'Brie.

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: _____	

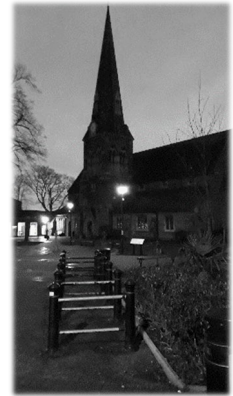
If you bank online, you will be able to use the details below to set up a standing order:

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.

All Saints: a church in ~~10~~ ~~11~~ 12+ 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 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.



Chris Pearce has been out photographing again and so we happily extend this feature into another issue...! Chris writes:

Here are some photos of the inside of the spire. They show an attempt at an artistic shot looking up the spire (bit tricky as you have to almost lie on the floor which is not pleasant as it is covered in dust and pigeon poo). The circular brickwork pattern is around the north face clock opening. I think the clock used to have a face on the north side as well. Notice how the spire is entirely brick inside. The stonework is only an outer skin.

The other photos show the back side (if you'll pardon the expression) of the clockface which Stan Hems had repainted and gilded and reinstalled in memory of his wife Val. The electric clock mechanism which Tony Cocks had repaired a few years is shown and on the floor below (where the big louvres are on the tower) the bell. The electrical strike mechanism also donated by Stan is in front of the bell. The tower has hatchways and openings in the floors between the levels (with guardrails around them) and big sandboxes beneath the holes which were needed when the clock mechanism was clockwork and used weights to drive it. Presumably the churchwarden duties then also included winding the weights back up to keep the clock working. Thank goodness for electricker (sic)...



Thanks to Des Workman for letting us know that All Saints will host a quiz to raise money for Christian Aid on Saturday 29 January, and a Pancake Beetle Drive on Saturday 5 February – keep an eye out at church for more information nearer the time!

Who's Who

Worship *(for clergy see back page)*

Children's Worship Co-ordinators	Becky Cuthbert	0121 244 7683
	Grace Storey	07813 322697
Youth Group (year 7 upwards)	Jenny Warbrick	0121 444 0260
Music Co-ordinators	Ben & Clare Noakes	07967 730156
		07929 593097

Church upkeep

Vergers	Liz Haskins	c/o 0121 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	Secretary	Treasurer
	Stuart Blissitt	vacant	Steve Brittle, 01905 772171
Members	Jim Andrew	Liz Fletcher	Chris Watts (Warden)
	Margaret Andrew	Marilyn Hull	Claire Wesley (Reader)
	Fiona Briggs	Brian Miles	Daniel Wilson
	Martha Ann Brookes	John Parkin (Reader)	Sarah Wilson
	Philip Brookes	Chris Pearce (Warden)	Des Workman
	Andy Cuthbert	Vivien Tilsley	
	Tim Cuthbertson	David Warbrick (Vicar)	

All Saints Community Development Company (ASCDC)

Chair	Andy Savage	c/o 0121 444 0760	andy@allsaints-cdc.co.uk
Facilities Manager	Dave Priday	07732 137772	david@allsaints-cdc.co.uk
Administrator	Angela McDermott	0121 444 0760	angela@allsaints-cdc.co.uk
Hall & Room Bookings	Jayne Fitzpatrick	0121 443 4579	jayne@allsaints-cdc.co.uk

(9:30am-1:30pm, Tuesdays & Thursdays)

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
Assistant Curate	Tariro Matsveru	c/o 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@allsaints-cdc.co.uk 0121 444 0260

Worship

***We have reopened for our 10am Sunday service
and for our 11:30am Wednesday service.***

***We will continue to provide an online order of service via the website
for those 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

Administrator: Angela McDermott

Parish Office: 0121 444 0760

angela@allsaints-cdc.co.uk

www.allsaintskingsheath.org.uk



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND