

Saints Alive!

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



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KINGS HEATH

May 2021

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From the vicarage

Sunday by Sunday this season we watch the Church in Acts extend her reach, gain her confidence and discover her gifts. Chapter 8 is an astonishing sequence leaving us breathless with fear and joy. With fear and joy the women had run from the empty tomb. Now, the men having caught their wonder, in Chapter 7 we see Stephen, murdered with Saul's approval from the sidelines. While devout friends bury him with loud lamentation, this event energises Saul to persecute the Church. Philip meanwhile preaches in Samaria, while Peter and John ministered in Jerusalem. Somewhat surprised to hear of the positive response to Philip's adventurous ministry, they go and pray for the new followers of Jesus. They preach to crowds, they pray for little groups and they minister to individuals with careful attention. Then Philip finds himself alongside a high-ranking official from northeast Africa and reflects with him, who is eager to be baptised. This is followed by the conversion of Saul and the Church's brave welcome to her chief persecutor.

The apostles are learning on their feet, opportunistic in a good way, generous and clearly expectant of enormous diversity. They address the authorities, a national leader, a religious fanatic, a disabled person, a man troubled in mental health, and groups of ordinary citizens from Jerusalem to Samaria with the same accent, the same kind of attention, the same expectation that they can enjoy knowing Jesus of Nazareth and through him, find their place at ease in the company of God.

The Gospels and Acts show us that the women and men of Jesus' fellowship each find their own pace of learning and shape their own ministry, some travelling around, some staying put. As we emerge from lockdown with fear and joy, each at our own pace, the Church is emerging humbled by the sharing of the imposed fast of worldwide pandemic, her confidence curiously renewed. We are set up, in the Church of England, to stay put in every neighbourhood, and institutionally placed to address national leaders as well as to attend to individual needs in hidden corners of forgotten neighbourhoods. Although tempted to be preoccupied with straining resources, we knew before we had to reshape our ministry somewhat. But now we face a remarkable opportunity to refresh our service and preaching. It is a moment to open our hearts afresh to the Spirit's prompting to stay and to move, to be generously opportunistic in serving all kinds of people with the same accent of love. There is plenty to speak boldly about to the powers that be, but with renewed expectation that people of power have vulnerabilities and *could* be faithful. We are good at staying put, but maybe can also find ourselves renewed in more agile, fluid ministries that can react impulsively to need.

There will be grief and loss along the way. As with those burying Stephen, we offer our communities language for lament as well as Easter joy. But the Church's expectation is of heaven's peace. If you want to catch the early Church's vivacity, settle down with Acts, a glass of wine, perhaps by an open door where you can feel the spring breeze, and read with an open heart. As you are caught up in its energy, notice that not a single weapon is carried by one of Jesus' followers. Every impulse, every movement, every word is for the healing of others. Could we live so in 2021?

David

All systems are logo!

What else is there to do during seemingly endless lockdowns than to build a new website for the church? The Communications Group was set up initially to oversee the creation of this new website, a project funded by a generous donor.

Involving John Morse-Brown, himself and his family being members of our congregation, was a major advantage to us in the design work for this website, since he has personal knowledge and understanding of our style of worship and motivation to practise our faith. He also he has an excellent track record of working with us in a professional capacity, in that he was commissioned to create the All Saints Centre website which was a vital part of publicising events and facilities at the new centre, and of providing information about activities being held there and in the Village Square.

The Group soon realised that this website was only a part of a raft of other means of communication which needed to be considered, and so volunteers from other areas of expertise, alongside members of All Saints, were gathered together (virtually, via Zoom of course!) to formulate a communications strategy to benefit and promote both the church and all its various activities.

It became apparent that, in line with most other church websites, a uniquely identifying symbol was needed; a means by which we presented ourselves and our culture and practices, which is recognisable to both to our members and to the wider community. A logo was a possible answer in the tapestry of elements which were being formulated within the overall strategy.

John was then invited to respond to a brief composed by the group to create such a logo, and drafts were circulated and discussed – an emotive issue which brought to the fore many views of what kind of church we are, and how best this could be expressed in a simple symbol and text. Who are we? What's our identity? What and how do we represent our vision? How do we know that the message we think we are sending out is actually received and interpreted? Does our building define, enhance or constrain us? These and other questions arose and were considered and debated, and the process itself was both energising and contemplative.

A logo is, as you can see anywhere you look nowadays, a vital and easily-recognised sign which identifies the function, culture and commercial standing of an organisation or group. Logos are not new – the early Christians used the simple fish symbol to identify themselves and their houses to each other, a secret 'sign' which has become widely recognised today and throughout history. Take



a few moments to consider the meaning encompassed in the 'fish' symbol [left] and you'll begin to understand the power and simplicity such an image can convey.

Our High Street is crammed full of such symbols, though these are now definitely not secret! – WHSmith, the Post Office, Costa Coffee, Lloyds Bank, Barclays, Shoe Zone and Greggs are a tiny few. TV and other media promote products and companies and a strong logo helps build a reputation and 'brand'. Most churches have such a logo now – check out their websites – and John has been involved with the creation of some of these.

Our logo, then, was to be a symbol which is clear, distinctive, stylish, eye-catching, memorable and encapsulates the essence of our 'brand' of Christian witness. It will be used across all our social media platforms and on printed and promotional publications of all types. This is an extract from the brief John was given:

"Our congregation lives out our values statement in many ways; our principles are welcome, hospitality and inclusivity; we are intergenerational and intercommunity-led; spiritual guidance and regular worship services accommodate for all.

The unique logo should represent the mystery of our Christian faith in a way which shows how we worship and how we relate to our church and local community. It must be simple in design and yet encapsulate our uniqueness.

The labyrinth symbol includes many of our attributes and aspirations – it is timeless; worshipful; mysterious; playful; reflective; healthy; Trinitarian; nondenominational and multifaith. It connects with everything which is human in us and lifts us beyond; it communicates deeply and effectively and yet follows one clear path.

The labyrinth symbol can be used as part of the logo in some form but we are open to other ideas which serve to communicate these elements."

A tall order by any standard! The final logo, agreed by the PCC, is shown on the front cover and reproduced left. Hopefully you will get used to seeing it and become proud of what it represents – we hope you recognise the All Saints you know in the symbolism. We choose warm strong colours as we believe these encapsulate the welcome we profess to extend to all. It will be used on all publications pertaining to any church activities and its business – on banners, social media, letterheads etc.



The work of the Communications Group is continuing in that the website is nearing completion – the logo was a vital part in creating the basic structure of such – and other social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter) are being worked on. The weekly newsletter is a product of the Group and the Ministry Team, as is the creation of a formal network of communicators for the housebound. Current projects are the revamp of the noticeboards, both inside and out; refreshing the church interior in anticipation of general reopening; working to create better links with the All Saints family (The Robin Centre, ASYP, ASC, ASCDC); redesign of the welcome leaflet – all are under way too.

I'd like to offer my personal thanks to all the members of the Communications Group, and to Roslyn Clare for her able and insightful leadership; and also to John for his gifts in steering us gently in the best direction and for his sensitive creative abilities.

Vivien Thickett

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

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

Gill Cole – a tribute

Under the current restrictions only a small number of people were able to attend Gill's funeral last month, although thankfully others were able to watch via a live stream. As part of the service John Parkin compiled and read memories of Gill from members of the congregation, which we are very pleased to be able to reprint here.

It is hard to know where to begin or indeed where to stop with Gill. As memories have arrived from members of the congregation it has become clear that there were few areas of life here at All Saints that she was not involved with in some way.

It was clear that family was especially important to her, and this extended to the All Saints family as well.

Mention has been made of her quiet faith and wisdom, which has been inspiring to others in their own ministry and development.

People have spoken of her involvement in music at All Saints and her appearance in church pantomimes, which included getting someone to take on a role they might not otherwise have considered. She was a member of the book group and could be relied on for an honest opinion on a text.

Her production of such a great variety of crocheted animals must by now be immense, as must her output of cross-stich needlework. They will be a lasting memory to many people.

She was one of those people you turned to when you needed to identify an unusual plant or animal, or indeed had any other problems you wanted to chew over in confidence.

What seems to be a common theme is the warmth of her welcome, for several people from different backgrounds have remarked on how she was good at making them feel at home and warmly welcomed as soon as they arrived. She was a great supporter of new and newly-returned preachers, and one thing which stands out from former days were her appreciative remarks at the Peace in a Sunday morning Eucharist if she had approved of the sermon.

Her travels were legendary, and she occasionally remarked that some people felt that she only went away to replenish her stock of sermon illustrations!

She was a regular team member at Lunch Club and over the years must have portioned desserts and cakes more times than can be easily counted.

Gill was a committed supporter of the Café in its different forms, seeing it as a welcoming space and an essential part of the All Saints outreach to our community.

Organising the Welcome Desk volunteers, as well as being on the desk herself, brought her into contact with the wider community and was the opportunity for many valuable conversations.

As a real Yorkshire woman, she could sometimes 'tell it how she saw it' which could be a little disconcerting if you were not a Yorkshire person yourself (at one point people from Yorkshire were in the majority on the Ministry Team).

She was involved in many other ways, and we all have our own memories of her.

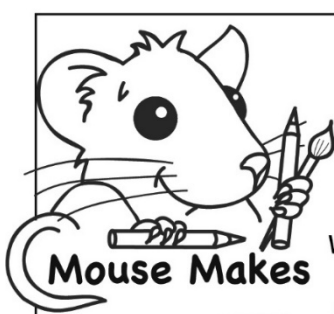
David then concluded his address at the funeral by saying: "When Gill retired as Reader after more than thirty years' ministry, this is the prayer we prayed:

God, your servant St Paul said we should be 'knit together in love' (Col 2:2). We thank you for those, like Gill who help us hold together: from Welcome Desk to deacon's guidance; from Café to crafts; from minute-taking to Ministry Team reflection; from reading rota to hymnbook repairs; preaching and singing, Gill is knitting a pattern of fellowship. We thank you for her taking us on worldwide travels, showing us the humanity in the landscape of German vineyards, painted Romanian churches and slowly-healing Balkan countries. We thank you for her attentiveness to nature; and her attentiveness to pastoral need. We thank you that, if bringing a criticism, she brings a solution, too.

In a long tradition since [the book of] Acts of craftswomen funding and energising the church, we give thanks for countless knitted animals. By their pathos remind us all of the child within; in the music woven through, lift our hearts in praise; in the evolution of her Reader vocation, through teaching, retirement, bereavement and travels, enliven our vocations.

Bless Gill as we bless you for her.

Today we add: 'Welcome her as she welcomed so many of us.'"



Mouse Makes

Re arrange the scrambled letters to find the missing words.

The Holy Spirit
V S E I L
with us and in us.

The Holy Spirit
helps us to
W K N O
we belong to God.

The Holy Spirit
H C T S E E A
us about God.

The Holy Spirit
K P E S S A
God's word to us.

The Holy Spirit
P H L S E
us to tell others
about Jesus.

The Holy Spirit
helps us when we
A Y P R

On the day of **PENTECOST**
the disciples were gathered
together in one place...

What sound did they hear?
Acts 2:2

What did they see?
Acts 2:3

What filled them?
Acts 2:4

How did they speak?
Acts 2:4

What did the crowd hear?
Acts 2:6

Which countries
had they come from?
Acts 2:9

What was
their reaction?
Acts 2:12-13

Who explained
what was
happening?
What did he say?
Acts 2:14-36

How many
people were
baptised
that day?
Acts 2:41

Change each letter to the
letter before it in the
alphabet and see what
the **Holy Spirit**
produces in us:

KPZ
IVNJMJUZ
TFMG DPOUSPM
GBJUIGVMOFTT
LJOEOFTT
QBUJFODF
QFBDF
MPWF
HPPEOFTT

Galatians 5:22

What is the work of the
Holy Spirit? What does He do?
Fill in the missing letters.

TEAC _ ES
COMF _ RTS
REVEA _ S
IN _ OU
TRAN _ FORMS
HEL _ S
GU _ DES
GENEWS
CONV _ CTS
SANC _ IFIES

Lockdown – what did you do?

Many thanks to Des and Sheila Workman, who sent us this reflection in March 2021 marking a year since the start of the first lockdown.

What did you do during the year of COVID-19? Were you doing things the same but differently?

No bowls, no playing five-a-side, not so many holidays, no Sheila on the Welcome Desk, the closure of the Café, church open with restrictions, church closed, masks in church, no singing, The Robin Centre closed, organised rambles on, organised rambles off... Social and fundraising events cancelled, but we did manage a socially distant craft fair in December. Did not get to see the grandchildren in the USA. Delivering meals to vulnerable people, wearing masks, keeping our distance, being checked for a temperature when going out for a meal (when allowed), not being able to go out for a meal. Eat out for a tenner, don't eat out it spreads COVID, keeping in touch with friends and members of church by telephone, Skype, Zoom and Duo. Des followed Joe Wicks' fitness programme at least three times a week. Our two streets where we live started a neighbourhood support group with foodbank collections. It's been confusing, challenging, annoying; it's made us appreciate some people and despise or look down on others. The Government got some things right (the vaccination programme springs to mind); it got others wrong (the supply of PPI). How did 2020 make you feel?

During the weeks of lockdown we made our garden look the best it ever has – it really has had a makeover. We have had some work done on the house, we cleared the loft and had it superinsulated. In the summer when weather was kind we ate outside – even breakfast.

We did manage in between lockdowns to grab a week in a cottage in Northumberland and a week in a house in Devon and to lead the All Saints Ramblers for a couple of days away in the Peak District. We realise that we were lucky; many people did not go anywhere and some have been shielding for a year.

We became 'supermarket butterflies' using Lidl, Sainsbury's, Morrisons and Waitrose. (Sainsbury's good for cheese, Morrisons best beer selection, Lidl good for fresh veg and Waitrose for £10 meal deals and you get a free *Times* newspaper)

We tried to have a good ramble every week (when allowed, with friends from Redditch) – we now have a portfolio of over 24 walks we have done, some of which we will use with the All Saints Ramblers. We have never rambled so much in the winter.

To break the week up we did things differently but the same at weekends. Before COVID we often took my cousin for breakfast at an unusual café that did marvellous bacon sandwiches on crusty bread. When we could no longer do that we started having a bacon sandwich at home or bagels and cream cheese – something we got introduced to in the USA with our son. (Our normal breakfast is porridge or muesli/granola.)

On Sunday we always try to listen and take part in the online service at 10am. We take the laptop into the kitchen for the affirmation of faith so we can see the church steeple (it peeps above the Cricket Club trees).

We try to have a Sunday lunch either at lunchtime or early evening – something more traditional than spaghetti bolognese or curry. We always watch *Songs of Praise*.

We will Skype our son and grandchildren in the USA every other Sunday. Des listens on the radio or pays £10 to watch Birmingham City online on Saturdays. The Farmers' Market is an essential monthly visit and we often see other members of All Saints on the Village Square. On Saturday evenings Des has a Zoom call with some of the people he worked with at Birmingham Libraries – three of whom live alone. So our weekends are different from our normal week.

So – a big thank you to all those who produce the online service which has been excellent; a big thank you to David for his leadership; a big thank you to Margaret and all those who cooked and delivered meals to vulnerable older people last year.

So many people have helped others get through this year of COVID. The NHS as we know has done a great job, but there have been lots of little acts of support and kindness, from the occasional shopping trip for someone isolated to supplying some books to children who had nothing to read. Support for the foodbanks, offers of kindness and support – delivering food parcels to those struggling to offering help with gardening and decorating; more people volunteering and assisting their neighbours.

As we hopefully see a dawning of a new normal, let's thank God for people's generosity and good spirit during a very strange and different year.

Soon we may be back in church singing and thanking the Lord. *[Thankfully, since this article was written, we have been able to start moving forward in this direction! – Ed]*

One world

Adrian Kozlowski writes: *This came to me years ago – the idea that the omnipresence of God, the thanks and praise we give, transcends the experience of 'being abroad'.*

About the faded leaves
and roses
disturbed only by time
there is
Nothing to be said...

Except the praise of God,
as the night closes;
that we did not stop in vain,
Or pass
Old stones unread.

About this desert space,
no longer
far from home,
We tend
Our thanks to God.



After months of lockdown, the Sunday procession probably needed some practise.

Warden's musings

It was lovely to be able to welcome people back to church for the regular Sunday service; the continued closure of the South Door led to some reorganisation in church but it does at least mean everyone has a little walk round the building and a look at the Memorial Garden on the way in. An unforeseen positive from the stonework problem is that we all get to appreciate the hard work of the gardeners and of Don Stacey in nurturing the Memorial Garden. Usually it is locked up, so maybe we should open it up more often when the church is open so that more people get to enjoy it?

We had a beautiful funeral service for Gill Cole which I was privileged to be able to attend in my role as churchwarden. Thanks to Zoom, we were able to share the service with friends and family of Gill who could not attend. We were also able to record the service and John Parkin kindly uploaded it to the All Saints website so anyone can share the funeral. It was a very moving occasion with beautiful tributes from John Parkin on our behalf [*printed elsewhere in this issue*] and David. The four-part harmony singing from Clare, Ben, Martha Ann and Phil was wonderful and I'm sure Gill would have approved.

The APCM was held on Sunday 25 April, again with Zoom interaction. As with funerals, sound to the Zoom participants comes from the PA, so it was important that all questions and answers were spoken via the PA. I was ably assisted by Becky who ran around church with a microphone on a stick to maintain physical distance and hopefully enable anyone online to hear any questions. I don't think I have a future in film or sound production, but hopefully those joining online managed to catch some of the meeting. The APCM, as well as electing wardens and PCC members (sorry – you're stuck with me and Chris W as wardens for another year), receives reports from the many activities in church and the All Saints Centre and is a chance for people to raise questions. It was, like Gill's funeral, an opportunity for thanksgiving for the riches in our community.

With the end of lockdown hopefully in sight, there are exciting opportunities for All Saints. The lockdown caused many activities to cease, which effectively gives us the chance to consider which of those things we've missed to welcome back and what to renew or improve. We started by reorganising the lady chapel to create a better space for Morning Prayer or smaller services, once everything re-starts. Vivien and helpers have made big improvements to the many noticeboards around church (I hadn't realised how many there were, which just shows, you don't need to be Harry Potter to make things become invisible...) and Grace has cleaned and reinstalled the Children's Corner banner. The children's area will be reinstated once COVID-19 restrictions allow and it will be great to welcome children back to a revitalised area. I know Des and Margaret were planning to start tackling the Marjorie Allen Room which has been used as a storeroom for The Robin Centre and Café furniture and equipment. The church has resembled a furniture store at points...

There is much to look forward to apart beyond just 'getting back to normal' (which is exciting enough!) and many opportunities to get involved. The Norton Funding bid award will be determined later this year, which may enable the final phase of the Youth Project to be built, which would require the old church hall to be demolished. This has prompted considering how Circus Mash could use the church, which tantalisingly could help secure funding for reordering the main part of the church eventually; the development of the organ space and reorganisation/renovation of the north vestry and boiler room and storage areas and considering if or how we bring back a café to the site. The

way that All Saints Centre was funded, built and is managed separately from the PCC means that we as a church are in a better financial position than many churches that rely on rental income from their halls and rooms. The problem of lack of bookings fell on ASCDC, which survived financially thanks to the Midlands Medical Partnership and other tenants and to Rourke's taking on the café space. This has meant changes to the way the Centre is used and accessed, but has helped save the whole Centre from financial oblivion and brings the possibility of a new café in the Welcome Space.

As for warden's matters, I need to find a scaffolder to enable repairs to the stonework so we can reopen the south door (they are all very busy at the moment!) and I need to stop the pigeons getting into the tower before dealing with the mess up there. Anyone with a head for heights is welcome to come and help... unfortunately there isn't much of a view from up there.

Chris Pearce
Churchwarden

Know your saints

20 May – Alcuin of York

Here is a saint for anyone with a passion to help children learn to read and write.

Alcuin was born near York in about 735. His family were of noble stock, and they sent him to York Cathedral School, which had the best teachers in the land. They soon realised that Alcuin had a genius for learning, and within a few years he had become master of the school himself. Under his guidance, the fame of the school grew, with more pupils and an ever-increasing library.

In 781 Alcuin visited Rome, where he met Charlemagne, then King of the Franks, who persuaded him to move to Aachen and become master of the palace school – in effect, his minister of education.

Alcuin did a magnificent job – he went on to establish a primary school in every town and village, and because the teachers were the clergy, he saw to it that their own literacy and education were improved. But Alcuin did much more: he set up scriptoria for the copying and preservation of ancient manuscripts, for which we owe him the survival of many classical authors. He is also credited with inventing cursive script – or as we know it, 'joined-up writing' – as an aid to speedier copying.

Alcuin also revised the Latin liturgy, wrote nine Biblical commentaries, revised the Vulgate Bible, and supported the orthodox doctrine of the procession of the Holy Spirit from the Father and the Son.

By 796, Alcuin was over 60 and ready to retire. Charlemagne appointed him Abbot of St Martin's at Tours, and here, in his declining years, he built up a model monastic school as he had done at York and Aachen. He died in May 804, but his influence lives on today, and affects hundreds of millions of us – all of us, in fact, who use joined-up writing!

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

From the PCC

The work of the PCC has continued via email and Zoom meetings during 2021; the PCC has met twice so far this year, with the Standing Committee having also met online a couple of times during this period.

It has of course been strange for all of us during the recent period of lockdown, with our priorities having to change and adapt quickly as the pandemic situation has evolved over the last few months; it was a difficult (but necessary) decision for All Saints to have to close for prayer and worship in church and move again to online worship and meetings between January and April, but one that was made in support of and in alignment with local groups and organisations, services and businesses that were also required to close their doors during this time.

Hence it was with great joy that we were able to celebrate Easter Day together with an 8am service outdoors, as well as continuing to offer weekly services online. We were also able to open the church to the local community for personal prayer, reflection and thanksgiving following the death of the Duke of Edinburgh in the week after Easter, which was much appreciated by those who came into church during the opening times ahead of his funeral service.

We reopened for Sunday morning services on 18 April (following the further easing of restrictions from the 12th), and have enjoyed meeting each other face to face again in church, while maintaining the necessary routines of distancing, mask wearing and cleaning to minimise risks. We have also now held our APCM for 2021 (bringing us back into the usual annual cycle for these meetings following the postponed 2020 APCM which we were eventually able to hold in October last year!) The first meeting for the PCC in this 'new year' will, we hope, be held on Tuesday 18 May.

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 that we can all find the time, energy and resources to meet the challenges and opportunities of the parish year ahead...

Chris Watts

PCC Secretary / Assistant Churchwarden

Get involved...!

We are always pleased to receive contributions for the magazine – including 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 edition, please contact Ben & Clare Noakes, Editors:

E: saintsalivemagazine@gmail.com

T: 07967 730156 / 07929 593097

Christian Aid Week: 10-16 May 2021

Every Last Drop

The climate crisis hurts us all. But people living in poverty fight the worst every day.

From drought to flooding, climate change robs people of control over their lives.

Your gift could help a community build an earth dam, so when the rains come they will have the water they need to live. A reliable source of water will help families withstand long drought or relentless rainstorms.

Every envelope. Every gift. Every challenge can change lives.

Together we stop this climate crisis.



*Rose Katanu
Jonathan sitting
on the dry land
caused by
extreme drought
in Dili Village,
Kitui
(photograph:
Tom Pilston
from the
Christian Aid
website, where
Rose's story can
be read)*

Here at All Saints we have a proud tradition of collecting for Christian Aid Week. But it has become harder to recruit and encourage people to collect door-to-door. We cannot have a Big Breakfast or indoor quiz yet due to lockdown restrictions.

So what we are asking is for people, between them, to deliver 2,500 envelopes – these will be delivery-only, so rather than being collected. They can be dropped off in the sealed bucket at Rourke's Pie Shop and Deli in the All Saints complex Tuesday to Saturday 9am to 4pm, or posted to Christian Aid. We will have envelopes in church for those attending on 16 and 23 May.

We will also hold a quiz in the church hall on Saturday 26 June (by that date we should be out of lockdown).

Can you deliver some envelopes in your road? Can you come to the quiz (we may try to Zoom it also)? Please encourage people to donate online and take part in the online quiz.

For more information see <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week> – let's keep supporting Christian Aid.

Des Workman

Cookery corner

David continued into Lent 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 21 February

Entering Lent reminds me of *Friday* by Walter Dendy Sadler (1854-1923) in the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool:



Without buying into cheap anticlericalism, I do love this ironic swipe at supposed monastic discipline. Every Friday echoes Good Friday, so this was a fast day, meaning no meat. Far from disappointed, the rotund monks are delighted at the banquet of fish, perhaps the most lavish of the week. I recognise myself in their self-indulgence.

(We also have the Benedictines to thank for the popularity of chicken in Britain. They were not allowed meat from four-footed animals on many fast days so... now we have Nando's.)

Here are two recent fishy favourites, fresh bread ideal to mop up at the end of both.

Scallops:

From the Venetian-style POLPO in Covent Garden, this was a delightful surprise. It all started because I had some mint I wanted to use. The packets of herbs and salads that have travelled considerable food miles are among the more environmentally costly sludgy wastes from that bottom drawer in the fridge.

Put the juice of 1½ lemons, four tablespoons of olive oil, a finely-chopped clove of garlic and a small handful of mint leaves in a frying pan with a lid. Bring to a simmer and scatter in some sustainably-sourced scallops. Put the lid on and simmer for four or five minutes, depending on their size. Scatter some salad leaves on a serving plate and put the scallops on them. Reduce the sauce rapidly for a few seconds and pour over the plate. Season with salt and plenty of pepper.

Bass with saffron potatoes and mussels (Raymond Blanc):

I cooked this in the week of the rainbows, eating it looking over the Fowey Estuary.

In a wide pan with a lid, sweat a finely-sliced large onion in olive oil with plenty of sliced garlic, some thyme, a bay leaf and a generous pinch of saffron until the onion is translucent. Add a pile of peeled,

diced King Edward, Maris Piper or Desiree potatoes. Stir well to combine the flavours. Add just enough water to cover the potatoes and simmer them gently for 10 or 15 minutes until just soft. Scatter over a large handful of well-scrubbed live mussels and cover with a lid. Simmer rapidly for two minutes until the mussels open. (Discard any that don't). Season with pepper as many fillets of bass as you have diners. (There should be enough salt in the dish from the mussels.) Lay the fish over the potatoes and mussels. Cover the pan again and simmer gently for about three minutes until the fish is cooked.

It's also good with bream or red mullet.

Sunday 28 February: Frugal?

At 16, visiting my sister and her partner at university, I was mesmerised by the spicy fragrance of their tiny kitchen where they explored the world on a student budget. When I moved into a house, eager to be self-catering in my second year at college, she sent me a little paperback, Indian Vegetarian Cookery by Rafi Fernandez, knowing what student budgets are like; 30-odd years later, it is falling to bits, but still a favourite. We had a version of this last night.

Tuvar dal (Red gram curry):

Cook two cups of red lentils in four cups of water until soft and mushy. Mash with a spoon or potato masher until it's a thick, smooth soup. In a frying pan, heat four tablespoons of oil and cook three or four green chillies, slit down the side, a few curry leaves, a tablespoon of cumin seeds and one of fenugreek seeds, and cook until the chillies whiten. Add a tablespoon of turmeric, one of ground coriander and half a teaspoon chilli powder (omit if you think the green ones enough). Add a good handful of chopped green beans and/or okra or any other green veg. Stir for about five minutes. Add the dal and a little more water if need be, then simmer gently until the vegetables are cooked. Add a teaspoon of tamarind paste or the juice of a lemon. Rafi adds a spoon of sugar, though I generally don't, but taste and see what you think. Season with salt. Serve scattered with coriander leaves.

I can congratulate myself on the Lenten frugality of such a dish, impressed with myself for not having meat, glad it costs so little, self-righteous that it be so healthy. But then I am fortunate to have a cupboard full of spices. Their journeys, geographically and historically, are remarkable. Their fragrance is exotic and tremors with centuries of exploration and wisdom, recipes evolving as miraculously as species. It is hardly frugal at all.

Sunday 7 March: Surely not going to waste

When Jesus drove the sheep, cattle and doves out of the temple, no longer destined for the altar, I wonder where they ended up? I like the thought that some poor families had an unexpected feast at the expense of the temple authorities.

Devilled lamb's kidneys:

Peel off the outer membrane, then finely dice four kidneys, quickly simmering the tough inside bit for the cat.

Chop two rashers of smoked streaky bacon into fine lardons. Finely dice a small onion; red or brown is fine. Chop three or four small mushrooms to the same size dice as the kidneys. Finely chop a clove of garlic and some herbs of choice. Have ready some chilli flakes, white or red wine and some soured cream.

In a frying pan, colour the lardons in olive oil, then add the onions and soften until translucent. Push to the side of the pan and quickly sear the kidneys. When coloured, add a spoon of Dijon mustard to the pan and stir in the kidneys as the sharp smell reduces. Stir together with the onions and add the garlic and herbs and a generous pinch of chilli flakes. Pour in a splash of white wine and reduce. Stir in a tablespoon of soured cream. Finish with a sprinkle of parsley if you have some.

Delicious with toast for a lunch or starter. You can omit the mushrooms and instead put the cooked kidney mixture in a large portobello mushroom, top with breadcrumbs and bake either as a starter or a lavish accompaniment to roast lamb.

Beef cooked with stout:

For large quantities, but easy preparation, put diced stewing beef, loads of chopped onion, diced carrots and parsnips and some chopped celery in a pot. Slice the top of a bulb of garlic and put the whole thing in. Add a bouquet of bay, parsley, thyme and sage and pour in enough stout just to cover the ingredients. Bring to a simmer and cook very slowly for 2½ hours. When ready to serve, remove the garlic and herbs. Season with salt and pepper. Thicken with cornflour or beurre manié if you like. As you serve, stir in some freshly-chopped parsley, thyme and sage, and lemon zest.

Roast pigeon breast:

Remove the breasts from a pigeon (one bird per person). Marinade for 24 hours in red wine with a bay leaf, thyme, peppercorns, a couple of crushed juniper berries, some sliced onion, celery and carrot. Chop the bones.

Have ready some good chicken stock.

Ahead of time, remove the meat from the marinade and pat dry. Strain wine and reserve. Transfer the vegetables and herbs from the marinade to a frying pan, heated with some oil or butter. Add the chopped bones. Cook, stirring until they all take colour. Add the wine and reduce until nearly evaporated. Pour in the stock. Simmer for 20 minutes or so and then strain into a saucepan. Reduce until it is a good light sauce. Season with salt and pepper. If it needs sweetening, add a spoon of redcurrant, blackcurrant or damson preserve, preferably made by the All Saints Crafters. This can all be done at leisure in advance.

When you are happy with the sauce, and have some vegetables and creamy mashed potatoes nearly ready, heat the oven to 180.

Heat a frying pan and add oil or butter. When good and hot, sear the breasts one minute each side, skin side first and transfer to a baking sheet. Season with salt and pepper on both sides. Roast skin side up for three minutes, then rest somewhere warm under foil for five minutes. (That's the pigeon, not you.) Slice through horizontally so you have four slices per person. Fan beside, or slightly on the mash, spoon over the sauce and serve.

Delicious with buttery peas and lettuce with lardons, or with cavolo nero. A mixture of celeriac and potato mash is also a good alternative.

If you buy ready-filleted pigeon breasts as sold at our Farmers' Market, simply omit the stage with the bones. The sauce will be as good as the stock.

Music matters

This issue we test your brainpower with a couple of short quizzes – answers next month!

Firstly, below are the initial letters of each word from the titles of some familiar hymns and songs from our book – what are the full titles?

A H T P O J N

B T M V

C O A C

D L A F O M

E F, S T S

F A T S

G M, O T G R

H L O T M

I C U T M C

J, L O M S

K O G, K O P

L A T W I E C S

M M A C O Y P

N T W A O G

O M S A T W I G

P T T L, T A

R O, R O I M

S O T A P

T I A R

U U A B I B

W I S T W C

Y C O N J

And now, moving on to second stanzas, the following lines begin verse 2 of which item from *Complete Anglican Hymns Old & New*?

“Fear not,” said he, (for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind)
From the east to the utmost west wherever foot has trod
Go through the park, on into the town
He came from his blest throne, salvation to bestow
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art
I want you more than gold or silver, only you can satisfy
Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness: high on his heart he will bear it for thee
Not for ever in green pastures do we ask our way to be
Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
Shelter for fragile lives, cure for their ills
Sunbeams scorching all the day, chilly dew-drops nightly shed
Tell of his birth at Bethlehem, not in a royal house or hall
The Lord, ye know, is God indeed, without our aid he did us make
There in the garden of tears, my heavy load he chose to bear
To this temple, where we call you, come, O Lord of hosts, today

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 share details of the Youth Project's Tech-Know programme, which starts up again shortly.



STARTING MONDAY JUNE 7th 2021

MONDAYS 4:15PM - 6PM

TECH-KNOW

A free service delivered by All Saints Youth Project

- 1 USE EMAIL
- 2 SET UP AND USE ZOOM
- 3 SYNC YOUR DEVICES
- 4 STAY SAFE ON SOCIAL MEDIA
- 5 UNDERSTAND HOW YOUNG PEOPLE USE TECHNOLOGY

**Helping adults, parents and carers
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T: 0121 4431842

M: 07930341212

E: info@asyp.org.uk

www.allsaintsyouthproject.org.uk

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.



We have noted before the important role played by the Cartland family in the establishment and early years of All Saints Church, and this month's photo shows another area of church where they are remembered. The wrought iron screen, in Renaissance and Gothic style, is behind where the altar table now sits and at the entrance to the sanctuary and was erected in 1893, in memory of Ann Cartland following her death the previous year and her husband John who had died in 1888.

An alabaster mural tablet on the north wall between the choir seats and the high altar was also installed at the same time and reads: "In pious memory of John Cartland of the Priory Kings Heath. For nearly 50 years a resident in this parish and a Justice of the Peace for the county ... And also of Ann his wife ... This tablet together with the reredos [see photo in the 2021 issue] and chancel screen have been placed in this church by their children."

The screen has also been put to various practical uses – from being covered with knitted poppies as part of ASCA's project to commemorate the end of World War I, to holding up the fabric that screened off the stage and provided a backstage area in the pantomimes of recent years.

Ben Noakes

From the registers



Funerals – we remember:

Derrick Latty, whose funeral took place at All Saints on 9 April
Gill Cole, whose funeral took place at All Saints on 22 April

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*

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	
<i>(Please detach and send to your bank)</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 Parochial Church Council of 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 <i>please delete the ones that do not apply</i>	
<i>Please cancel any previous mandates to this beneficiary on this account number.</i>	
Name: _____	
My Sort Code: _____ My Account Number: _____	
Signature: _____ Date: _____	

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

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

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

Who's Who

Worship *(for clergy see back page)*

Children's Worship Co-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@allsaintscentrehk.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@allsaintscentrehk.co.uk

www.allsaintskingsheath.org.uk



**THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**