



All Saints Parish Paper

7, MARGARET STREET, LONDON W1W 8JG

www.allsaintsmargaretstreet.co.uk

DECEMBER 2017

£1.00

VICAR'S LETTER

My annual unscientific study of Christmas advertising has got under way. Along with the heavyweights from John Lewis and Marks and Spencer, one which has caught my attention was from Currys PC World. This features parents telling their three underwhelmed offspring about the traditional Christmas they have planned for them: singing carols, telling stories and the like. This is only a wind-up, an out-of-season April Fool joke. It serves as a prelude to what these ideal consumers of electronic goods reveal as the centre of their family Christmas: a massive TV screen which fills most of one wall of their living room.

After I had recovered from the initial shock of this crass piece of commercialism, I then began to suspect that its creators had got something wrong about the market they are trying to sell in. Will these three children really want to sit down in front of this monster screen, this household idol, with mam and dad to watch the same “Christmas Specials”? Will they even agree with each other on their choice of Christmas viewing? I doubt it very much. They will want, or already have, screens of their own in order to watch their choice of programmes or play their favourite games. In our increasingly fragmented society, the family that watches together is no more likely than the one that prays or sings carols or even eats together.

At All Saints we are a family that sings and tells stories together. This month we



The Nativity scene from the All Saints' Reredos — (Photo: Andrew Prior)

Available as Christmas cards —

£5 per pack of six, sold in aid of All Saints.

will begin with hymns and anthems of Advent; with the words of the prophets and John the Baptist calling us back to allegiance to God and obedience to his law. Then in the last few days of Advent we will come to the stories of Zechariah, Elizabeth and John, of Mary, Joseph and Jesus; of Annunciations and Visitation. We will sing

Carols as we re-tell the Christmas story: that is the story of the Holy Family, of Angels and Shepherds and Wise Men who follow a star, of Caesar Augustus and Herod and the Holy Innocents, of ox and ass and camel, of gold and frankincense and myrrh – not the story of Santa or Snowman, Paddington Bear or Moz the Monster. We do this not as an exercise in nostalgia, although some who come to hear will think it that, but because we are celebrating the birth of the Saviour of the world, the hope of humankind. This may be the “old, old story of Jesus and his love,” but it is a story for ever new. We must not only hear it with our ears, see it with our eyes, take it on our lips in prayer and song, but with Mary we must ponder it in our hearts, so that this story becomes our story.

We tell and re-tell these stories, not to recapture some past golden age, to recreate a Victorian Christmas, to conjure up a fantasy realm in which we can for a brief space shut out the horrors of a world of abuse and violence, exploitation and poverty, of loneliness and despair. We do it that this present world, and the future towards which we move, might be transformed. We do it that we might be transformed.

A young man 'phoned recently to tell me that he and his girlfriend were coming to our Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. Would they need tickets? Was it traditional; would they be able to sing? I assured him that it would certainly be traditional, with choir and organ, candles and incense. There would be items sung by the choir but there would be opportunities for the congregation to sing too.

As our family of people drawn from all over the world gathers together round the altar and the Crib, we will welcome others who are occasional visitors, perhaps here only once, but our hope is that they and we

will all be captured by the true magic of Christmas, drawn deeper into the mystery of God's love shared with his creatures in the Christ child that we might all know what it is to be the children of God.

With blessings for a joyful Christmas,

Yours in Christ,

Alan Moses

PEOPLE

Colin Kerr — The PCC Standing Committee had the excellent idea of presenting a copy of the *Survey of London* volume on South East Marylebone, mentioned in the Vicar's Letter last month, to Colin as a mark of our appreciation for all that he has contributed to the restoration of All Saints. By happy coincidence, Colin was at High Mass on Festival Sunday just as the volume arrived — thanks to Judith Mather — and an impromptu presentation was made in the courtyard. Days later Colin was laid low by flu but was able to wile away the hours of enforced leisure by dipping into the volume to read about buildings he had always wanted to know more about.

Yvonne Craig — Yvonne is now home from hospital after the fall which resulted in a broken hip. Pastoral and sacramental care for her are being shared by All Saints and our neighbour, Fr Simon Buckley of St Anne's, Soho, Yvonne's "other church". Fr Simon was our preacher at Evensong on Festival Sunday.

Welcome to **Fr Philip Bevan, "Father Pip"**, who, having moved to live close to All Saints, has joined the team of retired clergy, who assist us on the rota for weekday Masses. He celebrated the evening Mass for the first time on 14 November assisted by Fr Michael.

RIP

The funeral service for **Rodney Bickerstaffe**, well-known as a Trade Union leader and, in retirement, the leading campaigner for the Minimum Wage, and a member of the Sunday 8am congregation, was held at All Saints on Thursday 26 October.

Our sympathy to **Christopher Swift** on the death of his mother Jane and to **Sir Stephen Bubb** on the death of his father John. Stephen's mother and members of the family were with us on Festival Sunday (which was also Stephen's birthday).

Also with us that day were members of the **Brackley** family, whose mother (and grandmother) Joskyl Brackley, had instructed them shortly before she died that they were to come to All Saints on Festival Sunday to remember her. The family has long standing ties with the parish, several members having been married here and one ancestor having provided a holiday location in Norfolk for the choir boys of the All Saints' Choir School. We had also just earlier that week remembered family members John, Herbert and David Brackley at our All Souls' Day Solemn Requiem on 2 November.

The Funeral Mass for **Dennis Graham Robinson** was held at All Saints on Wednesday 15 November. Dennis who lived in London was not a parishioner but his brother Nick, a Lay Clerk at Wakefield Cathedral, worships at All Saints when he is in London.

FESTIVAL 2017

The new church heating system was in action just in time, so we did not have a cold Festival. Our preachers all appeared in good time and more than rose to the occasion.

We are publishing their sermons on the website as soon as they become available and Bishop Stephen's appears in this edition on page 5. Unlike a century ago (see 100 Years Ago page 10), the organ behaved impeccably during this year's Festival and our musicians' contribution, more "traditional" in nature than in recent years, as Director of Music Tim Byram-Wigfield explained in last month's Parish Paper, was much appreciated.

A BIG thank you to everyone who generously contributed to the Festival Appeal 2017. Together we raised £6,900, just over 95% of the total achieved in 2016 at £7,250 that year. We will be able to disperse £2,300 to each of our three good causes: **Marylebone Project** (empowering homeless women into independent living); **USPG's UMOJA HIV Project in Zimbabwe** (enabling people with HIV and Aids to live positive lives) and for the **Diocese of the Gambia's rural community bakery and poultry business** to create employment, provide food security and improve the livelihood skills of women and young people. Your money will have a significant impact for each of these charities. *Thank you!*

THE LADY ALTAR

The new altar frontal and hangings, pictured last month on the front cover, have been much admired. They include Comper's original embroidery which has been remounted on new material. They are a memorial to our dear friend Bishop Ambrose Weekes. We are commissioning a gold festal frontal in memory of **Myrtle Hughes**, who left a generous bequest to the All Saints Foundation. Fr Alan is preaching at Myrtle's home church, St Nicholas, Harpenden, on its patronal festival this month (10 December).

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Our 2017 card, pictured on the front of this edition, has got off to such a successful start with big sales in the first few days that the first batch of the version with the Christmas greeting printed inside has temporarily run out! We still have good stocks of the blank inside version where you can write your own message. We were obviously too cautious in assessing how popular this image of the Virgin and Child would be and have now speedily ordered larger quantities of the greeting version. We expect them with us by the time you will be reading this. As the card sales generally help to raise funds for All Saints, this is good news, if briefly frustrating! We are victims of our own success but can report we are well on our way to covering card costs and fundraising for the church.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Once again we are looking forward to a season of festive music and traditional Carol Services and hoping that you may take the opportunity to introduce friends and visitors, who may not know All Saints, at this special time of year. First of our own activities is our *Advent Service of Music and Readings on Sunday 3 December at 6pm*. Our *Lunchtime Carol Service on Friday 15 December at 12.30pm*, sung by an All Saints' choir of eight and followed by mince pies and mulled wine, comes next and may be a useful opportunity to combine carols with Christmas shopping. Our very popular *Nine Lessons and Carols by candlelight* takes place on Monday 18 December at 6pm. All the music and readings for these services may be found from page 12 onwards.

We have two private Carol Services — **Magdalene College, Cambridge** are

bringing their own choir to sing on Friday 1 December, 7pm at the behest of Master Dr Rowan Williams and look set to welcome 300 alumni and friends to All Saints. This is a private event and there will be no Evening Mass that day.

Then for the third year **Freud Communications** is having its Carol Service sung by the All Saints Choir and they bring up to 250 of their staff for the occasion on Thursday 14 December, when there will also be no Evening Mass.

DECEMBER/JANUARY EVENTS — at ALL SAINTS

Vicar's Last Ten To One Talk

Sunday 3 December — the significance of the Confessional. *Please meet in Church.*

All Saints' Cell of Our Lady of

Walsingham — Saturday 9 December

11.30am Rosary and Walsingham Devotions
12 noon Low Mass of Our Lady
of Walsingham

Reformation & Music Talk

— **Sunday 10 December,
3.30pm Parish Room**

In the 500th anniversary year of the German Lutheran Reformation, Philip Norman — organist at St Marien mit St Georg Lutheran Church London — gives a lecture enlivened with audio illustrations.

Luther's Reformation radically altered (or did it?) the approach to church music. This talk looks firstly at Germany and the changes which took place from 1517 and over the next couple of centuries. Then, after a brief digression to look at developments within the Reformed Church in Switzerland and Holland, a closer account is given of the effects of the Reformation in England and

Scotland. This talk is richly illustrated both aurally and graphically, and pulls out of the hat some of the strange developments which took place as musicians and composers tried to reconcile new concepts with old habits. We also find out why being “a musitian” can be a life-saving occupation.

Refreshments afterwards with an opportunity for questions and discussions with the lecturer.

You may like to come to High Mass, enjoy Frances O’Neil’s Sunday lunch, and then stay on at All Saints for this talk ending with tea/coffee and biscuits or make it the pre-event before Evensong at 6pm.

All Saints’ Cell of Our Lady of Walsingham — Saturday 13 January 2018
11.30am Rosary and Walsingham Devotions
12 noon Low Mass of Our Lady of Walsingham

DECEMBER/JANUARY EVENTS — beyond ALL SAINTS

POETRY TEA at PAMELA’S, Saturday 2 December, 3pm — once again generous hostess Pamela Botsford invites all literature aficionados to join her for a Poetry Tea on the theme of Christmas — poetry or prose contributions welcomed. To attend, please speak to Pamela or Sandra in the courtyard, or ring Sandra on 020 7637 8456 leaving your name and ’phone number.

Charge £6 with proceeds to the All Saints’ Restoration Fund.

**Cell of Our Lady of Walsingham
Friday 8 December, 7pm High Mass
at St Mary’s, Bourne Street.**

All are welcome to join Cell members who will be attending this service.

SERMON PREACHED on ALL SOULS’ DAY BY RIGHT REVD STEPHEN CONWAY, BISHOP OF ELY

**Wisdom 3: 1 – 9; 1 Peter 1: 3 – 9;
John 6: 37 – 40**

“This is the will of him that sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.”

In Hilary Mantel’s novel *Wolf Hall*, Thomas Cromwell sits alone at his desk late one night. The royal supremacy has been declared and he worries about how to persuade the nation to accept his religious and political revolution. His problem is the pull of the past:

“[B]eneath Cornwall, beyond and beneath this whole realm of England, beneath the sodden marches of Wales and the rough territory of the Scots border, there is another landscape;

there is a buried empire where he fears his commissioners cannot reach. Who will swear the hobs and boggarts who live in the hedges and hollow trees, and the wild men who hide in the woods? Who will swear the saints in their niches, and the spirits that cluster at holy wells rustling like fallen leaves, and the miscarried infants dug into unconsecrated ground: all the unseen dead who hover in winter around forges and village hearths, trying to warm their bare bones? For they too are his countrymen: the generations of the uncounted dead...”

Mantel’s Cromwell evokes an enchanted world, where spirits are real, and where the dead are close — still our

country-men and -women, still gathered with us around our hearths or kitchen tables, walking with us even as we feel their absence. All Saints' and All Souls' Days speak of the reality of that world of mutual belonging: we are part of the communion of saints, God's church in every time and place, the faithful men and women through the ages.

This evening we reflect that in a more personal way. There is another landscape to all our lives; our unseen dead — both those whose loss we still feel keenly and painfully, and those who hover somewhere in the edges of our memories. As in this requiem we remember them before God, we recognise that the ties that bind us in this life, still hold. As we pray for our dead, commending them to God's loving arms and safe keeping, we do so not to deny the reality of death, of loss, or to pretend that the searing emptiness of grief is unimportant, it is to acknowledge that reality. It is to know that we are but mortal, of dust and will return to it. Today, with its notes of sorrow and lament, grief and lost-ness, is ultimately hopeful, witnessing to the promise that with God nothing is lost.

The Gospel reading we heard comes from John chapter 6, in which Jesus has fed the five thousand from the small offering of five barley loaves and two fish. After everyone has eaten their fill, Jesus tells his disciples:

'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.' So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets.

None of the bread is lost; the fragments are worth keeping. The next day Jesus teaches the crowd, telling them 'I am the bread of life', and whoever eats of him will never be hungry, that they will have eternal life and be raised up on the last day. The Father's will is that the Son should lose nothing of all that he has been given, that he will raise it up at the last day. Nothing should be lost; the fragments are worth keeping. What seems lost to us will — we trust — in Christ be gathered in, raised up at the last day.

And that is why, weeping at any grave we can still sing 'Alleluia', the Church's Easter song of praise and protest: praise to God who created us and in Christ has redeemed us; and protest that, even in the face of death, we can dare to hope that because God raised Christ from the dead, death is not the end. We can dare to hope even in the midst of our loss and lostness, that ultimately, nothing is lost — all is gathered up, every lamb safely gathered into the fold.

Fauré's setting of the requiem, sung for the Mass this evening, is in part lament, the outpouring of grief and love, but it does not leave us weeping at a graveside.

Rather, with Lazarus, once poor, we are carried home to Jerusalem on flights of angels. It is ultimately hopeful in the face of our grief for those we have lost, and of our own mortality. It trusts, as the reading from Wisdom had it, that the souls of the righteous are held safely in the hand of God. Nothing is lost, and all the fragments of our lives are gathered up, gathered in, and made whole.

And for the here and now, it is hopeful that with another Lazarus, once three days' dead, we are called to step out into

daylight, forsake the graveclothes, alive to the possibilities of new beginnings held out to us in Christ. Many of us have had unfinished business with those whom we love but see no longer. We can experience terrible guilt or even anger on top of our loss. We might seek counsel from a priest, or a Cruse bereavement counsellor. Both will tell us, I hope, that we need to pray continually. The faithful — and the not so faithful — departed are prayed for at every Mass. We ourselves shall rejoice in these prayers beyond our own death.

The great Anglican theologian, Austin Farrer, once preached at All Souls' in Oxford, some of which we heard read at Evening Prayer earlier this evening. He said that we must remember that we are members of one another in the mystical body of Christ. Just as we embraced by the thought of God beyond all number and all imagining, so each soul must embrace the other souls. Without this mutual embracing beyond space, time and death itself, Farrer wonders what the point of prayer for the living let alone the dead would be. "God is not content to care for each severally unless He can

also, by His Holy Spirit in each one of us, care through us for all the rest."

I recently preached at the memorial service for Bishop Geoffrey Rowell in another glorious Butterfield church. I alluded to Cardinal Newman's *Dream of Gerontius*. This is, obviously, a work which evokes the life of heaven and the goal of every holy soul. It is also an ageing man's reflection on his own mortality and how to be set free. Even when we feel blind and bound as though we were wrapped in our grave clothes like the emerging Lazarus, we are free to range in our praying and hoping across the whole mystical body of Christ, remembering the whole Church both militant here in earth and triumphant in heaven and invoking angels, archangels and all the heavenly host. We perceive God's glory even here in this vale of tears. The journey to the perfect light of glory has begun. The angel says to Gerontius at the end of the poem:

"...Swiftly shall pass thy night of trial here, And I will come and wake thee on the morrow." Amen.

SERMON PREACHED BY FR MICHAEL BOWIE ON THE THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT (Remembrance)

All three of our readings this morning are about 'the day of the Lord', the day when our prayer is answered and his Kingdom comes. All three readings also emphasise that we should live now in the light of what will happen then. What will be must shape what we are. Christianity is a waiting game. What matters is *how* we wait.

T.S. Eliot's light verse is best known from Lloyd-Webber Junior's musical *Cats*. But, like Flanders and Swann, his

bestiary was catholic in sympathy; he beat them by some decades to consideration of their most famous animal subject:

*The broad-backed hippopotamus
Rests on his belly in the mud;
Although he seems so firm to us
He is merely flesh and blood.*

*Flesh-and-blood is weak and frail,
Susceptible to nervous shock;
While the True Church can never fail
For it is based upon a rock.*

*The hippo's feeble steps may err
In compassing material ends,
While the True Church need never stir
To gather in its dividends.*

*The 'potamus can never reach
The mango on the mango-tree;
But fruits of pomegranate and peach
Refresh the Church from over sea.*

*At mating time the hippo's voice
Betrays inflexions hoarse and odd,
But every week we hear rejoice
The Church, at being one with God.*

*The hippopotamus's day
Is passed in sleep; at night he hunts;
God works in a mysterious way —
The Church can sleep and feed at once.*

That, of course is a parable, though not quite the same one we've just heard in the Gospel. It predates Eliot's active Christian and Anglo-Catholic period, but it demonstrates his already well-developed and uncomfortably penetrating interest in the ways of religion. There are various points of connection we could make, but my obvious link today is with sleepy bridesmaids.

Eliot's jibe alerted me to something in today's story from Jesus. The end of this Gospel looks as though it has been added inattentively:

*'Keep awake therefore, for you know
neither the day nor the hour.'*

'Stay awake' was clearly one of Jesus' mottos, and we are used to hearing it in Advent. But it doesn't really make sense here. For both wise and foolish have been sleeping, like Eliot's true Church: the *parable* is saying, with Hamlet, 'the readiness is all'.

We may be sleepily ready, or sleepily

unprepared. Our eternal salvation does not depend upon us happening to be in the right frame of mind or even, precisely, in what used to be called a state of grace, at the moment of death. You will be tired of hearing me saying this, but it is true and it is the Gospel, so I'll say it again: our faith is a familial relationship. Like all relationships it may grow and develop or wither and even seem to die, but like all familial relationships, it can never be entirely removed once established.

Within that relationship, Jesus urges us, 'the readiness is all'. Those disowned at the end of the story are refused entry because they are *unknown*: there is no existing relationship. Making and then nourishing that relationship is the work of our lives, a work which involves necessary relationships with others to whom we are ecclesial siblings. That is hard work.

Today's parable is in the classical form, a single point of comparison, and that point, readiness, is its message. We may, though, notice the setting, which, as often, is festal. This is meant to be a party worth joining, worth preparing for. Which leads me back to Eliot and also on to Amos, from whom we heard first.

Amos has, it seems at first, a different point to make about the appearance of God in our midst, or 'the day of the Lord' as he describes it. Writing 27 centuries ago he notices his co-religionists earnestly praying for the day of the Lord, and suggests that they should be careful what they pray for. His contemporaries expected a day of the Lord which would involve military defeat for their enemies. Their way of awaiting this glorious outcome was to participate in ever more

frequent and extravagant festivals, to slaughter more and more sacrificial beasts, to sing still more 'worship songs', and to indulge in any and every form of observance that, they hoped, would confirm the Almighty's good opinion of them and encourage him to intervene decisively on their behalf. In a word, they resorted to religion, in industrial quantities.

Amos cuts through all that religious complacency to announce that the judgement which will come on the day of the Lord will be 'darkness, not light'; that Yahweh doesn't actually enjoy what they are doing to worship him. Beneath this is not an anti-liturgical prejudice but a distrust of religion without morality, or as he would put it, religion without righteousness. Unready religion.

This is a live debate in our day and we are somewhat on the back foot in it: all religious institutions are facing, quite properly, harsh scrutiny and often being found wanting; the biggest discouragement of church membership (though not necessarily of faith) in our day, is the perceived lack of integrity of institutional Christians.

Some of this is unjust. Some of it is what we call, in my country of origin, a 'media beat-up'. Meanwhile, we can't avoid noticing that the world's inequities are still with us. The poor are still trampled in the dust; the afflicted are still bundled out of the way, as Amos complained 27 centuries ago (2: 7). The deaths in war we remember today have not ceased and our remembrance of them seems to have little impact on those who have the power to make more wars. We might uncomfortably

remember that during the First World War, which we're busily commemorating, God was enlisted by clergy on both sides with a similar enthusiasm to those religious contemporaries of Amos. Remembrance should lead to change, precisely to readiness, not nostalgia, or it is worse than useless. That is the parable of Remembrance Sunday. Remembrance at the heart of the Mass is a daily reminder of that.

We too 'desire the day of the Lord'. We say we do every time we pray 'thy kingdom come'. We too hope that the day we desire will be all sweetness and light. At our Festival we sang 'But lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day'. It shall. But by the light of that day we shall know what we have done and, perhaps more pertinently, what we have left undone. We may wonder then whether our Sundays were entirely well spent. This one, especially.

Eliot's hippo is a parable of all those we consider outside the redeemed, those we instinctively place on the other side of everything, but who may be closer to God than we.

Eliot's poem ends slightly chillingly:

*Blood of the lamb shall wash him clean
And him shall heavenly arms enfold,
Among the saints he shall be seen
Performing on a harp of gold.*

*He shall be washed as white as snow,
By all the martyred virgins kist,
While the True Church remains below
Wrapped in the old miasmal mist.*

Our gospel is a call to attentiveness in our daily lives, a reminder that Sunday, and the eucharistic Remembrance at the

heart of it, is nourishment for the whole week, not the religious bit dealt with and laid aside. Pray God his first words to us will not be, ‘sorry, I don’t think we’ve met’?

REMEMBERING ALL SAINTS

Next year brings the 50th anniversary of the closure of the choir school at All Saints. The passage of time and the nature of a central London parish means that we now have very few people left who remember the Choir School — although three former choristers are members of the congregation.

There were those who thought the demise of the school would soon be followed by that of the parish. Finances were precarious and morale low. However, the Lord was not finished with All Saints yet. Fr Michael Marshall and his colleagues brought a new energy to the life of All Saints.

In Fr David Sparrow’s time another crisis arose; this time with the building. From that emerged the All Saints Foundation which assists the PCC with the restoration and maintenance of our unique building.

Fr David Hope brought some Yorkshire financial realism to a congregation which he said expected “champagne religion at beer prices”.

Fr David Hutt’s contribution was to see that if our new musical establishment was to continue, it would need to have a firmer financial basis. So, the Choir and Music Trust was established. In those days of high interest rates, it was thought that £500k would provide enough income

to pay for the choir each year. In today’s economic climate three times that sum funds just over half of our music budget.

Both funds — the All Saints Choir & Music Trust and the All Saints’ Foundation — have grown thanks largely to the generosity of parishioners who have left bequests to one or other Trust.

November is the month of All Saints and All Souls. Our feast day reminds us of the blessings we receive here. All Souls is a remembrance not just of our dead but of our own death. So, it should prompt us to put our affairs in order by making a will and planning our funeral. I am available to discuss this with parishioners.

When you are making a bequest to All Saints to ensure that the ministry you have received will be able to continue in good heart for future generations, the PCC’s Legacy Policy (see page 18) encourages people to direct legacies to one or other or both of our Trusts and assures us that their donations will not be spent on day-to-day running costs.

As we face an uncertain economic future, your legacy will help sustain and even expand the work of All Saints through what may prove to be some lean years.

Alan Moses

100 YEARS AGO

Fr Mackay wrote:

“We had a very happy Festival and it was very well kept. The average attendance at the afternoon sermons was the largest since I have been Vicar here. I have heard many expressions of gratitude to the preachers, who certainly all gave us of their best...

“There was only one defaulter at the Festival, the organ. The naughty creature began to misbehave a few days before the end of October, some leakage in the hydraulic mechanism flooded the pipes. It could not be used on All Saints’ Eve or morning, and it will be some time before it can be used fully again. However, this only gave Mr Vale one more opportunity of rising superior to fate, and we have rarely appreciated anything more than the music on All Saints’ morning, with his beautiful piano and the string quartet.

“Father Shedden as Precentor was very successful in filling up the places of the depleted choir, and the boys all worked like Trojans, so no wonder all went well. And I must offer a special word of thanks to the servers... they carried out all the ceremonial of the Festival, and in the midst of their busy lives this was hard work indeed. In normal times we have four times as many assistants, and most faithfully do the small remnant take the place of all our absent brothers...”

(A century later, we too had a happy festival and are grateful to our guest preachers who more than rose to the occasion. We are publishing their sermons on the website as soon as they become available. The organ behaved impeccably during this year's Festival and our musicians' contribution was much appreciated.)

“I have already tried to express to the congregation my gratitude for the splendid response to the Churchwardens’ appeal. The Churchwardens asked for £1,300. They got a few pounds over £1,200 at the Festival. Then Miss Rivington most kindly undertook to be

treasurer of a special fund to raise the last £100 which is wanted for the new boiler of the heating apparatus. At the time of writing these Notes, Miss Rivington has got nearly £70, so we are well within reach of the sum required and the relief of our anxious minds can be imagined.” *(We have just replaced our heating system. It cost rather more, even when inflation is taken into account — but it does seem to be working.)*

“But it is curious how troubles come together. The heating apparatus gave out, the organ went wrong, and now the Church weathercock has been blown off its stem by a gale and hanging mid-air suspended by the cable of the lightning conductor. And the repair of all these things costs money.” *(The weathercock seems not to have survived the fall and been replaced by a cross).*

“It is impossible to look forward to 1918 with an easy mind. Things are going to get harder, not easier — I will not anticipate difficulties, but I will say that a substantial increase in subscriptions sent in in January to the various funds would enable us to look forward to the Festival of 1918 with a greater equanimity.”

(It is also difficult to look forward to 2018 with an easy mind as we face political and economic uncertainty. However, the need for financial commitment to sustain the work of All Saints, whatever the circumstances, remains the same and your contributions are always much appreciated.)

“The first arrivals at All Saints’ on All Saints’ morning were the Gothas*. One seemed to drone so exactly over our

heads that the sound came through the middle of the ceiling. This was about 1.45 am, when the Archdeacon of Stow, Father Heald and I were all sitting in the kitchen surrounded by the choristers, who were vested in pyjamas, dressing gowns and red blankets — looking in fact rather like the redskins in Peter Pan. The Archdeacon had been telling a series of enchanting stories for an hour while the guns of London roared. He was in the middle of a story when the Gotha started overhead and our eyes went up for an instant to the ceiling. “That”, said the imperturbable Archdeacon, with shameless effrontery, “is an English machine, I know the note”, and he proceeded with his tale. We got to bed in high spirits at 2.15 and the whole party appeared in church for Mass and Communion at eight o’clock as fresh as daisies.

“A member of the All Saints’ Guild writes from the trenches: ‘I get a bit homesick at times, especially felt this way during the Festival. I thought of the good times I had spent at All Saints’, and then remembered that a good number of our men would be feeling very much the same as myself, and so I just tried to unite myself with you all at 8 o’clock each morning, and this helped me a great deal.’”

** The Gotha was a German long-range bomber which carried out night raids on London. The present vicar was an ardent aircraft enthusiast as a schoolboy and accumulated a store of knowledge which very occasionally comes in useful. Nowadays we face not the perils of aerial bombardment and world war but of terrorist attack.*

SUNDAYS AND SOLEMNITIES MUSIC AND READINGS

FRIDAY 1 DECEMBER

**Doors open 6.30pm for 7pm start
Magdalene College, Cambridge,
Carol Concert**

Private ticketed event so no Evening Mass

● SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER ADVENT 1

HIGH MASS at 11am

Litany: Tallis

Entrance Chant: *Ad te levavi*

Setting: Missa Iste Confessor — Palestrina

Psalm: 80: 1 – 6, 16 – 17

Readings: Isaiah 64: 1 – 9

1 Corinthians 1: 3 – 9

Gradual Hymn: 14 The advent of our God

Gospel: Mark 13: 24 – 37

Preacher: The Vicar

Creed: Merbecke

Offertory Motet: People look east — anon,
arr Backhouse

Hymns: 501 Drop down, ye heavens,
from above

3 (i) Come, thou long expected
Jesus

451 Songs of praise the angels
sang

ADVENT SERVICE OF READINGS AND MUSIC BY CANDLELIGHT at 6pm

Chorale Prelude: ‘Nun komm, der Heiden
Heiland’ BWV 659 — Bach

Entrance Hymn: 11 O come, O come,
Emmanuel

1st Reading: Zechariah 9: 9 – 10

Anthem: An Advent Prose

— Richard Lloyd

2nd Reading: Jeremiah 23: 5 – 6

Anthem: A tender shoot — Goldschmidt

3rd Reading: Isaiah 9: 2, 6 – 7

Anthem: Lætentur cœli — Byrd

Hymn: 500 Thy kingdom come!

on bended knee

4th Reading: Isaiah 7: 10 – 15

Anthem: Ave Maria à 5 — Philips

Hymn: 3 (ii) Come, thou long-expected

Jesus

5th Reading: Romans 12: 1 – 2, 13: 11 – 14

Anthem: Virga Jesse — Bruckner

Hymn: 16 Wake, O wake! With tidings
thrilling

Gospel: Luke 21: 25 – 28

Organ Commentary: ‘Nun komm, der
Heiden Heiland’ BWV 599

— Bach

Magnificat: Primi Toni — Palestrina

Hymn: 9 Lo! He comes with clouds
descending

Voluntary: ‘Nun komm, der Heiden

Heiland’ BWV 661 — Bach

● SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER ADVENT 2

HIGH MASS at 11am

Entrance Hymn: 9 Lo! He comes with
clouds descending

Entrance Chant: *Populus Sion*

Setting: Missa Brevis — Palestrina

Psalms: 85: 1 – 2, 8 – 13

Readings: Isaiah 40: 1 – 11

2 Peter 3: 8 – 15a

Gradual Hymn: 12 On Jordan’s bank the
Baptist’s cry

Gospel: Mark 1: 1 – 8

Preacher: Fr Michael Bowie

Creed: Credo II

Offertory Motet: How beautiful upon the
mountains — Stainer

Hymns: 501 Drop down, ye heavens,
from above

3 (i) Come thou long-expected
Jesus

7 Hills of the North, rejoice

EVENSONG AND BENEDICTION at 6pm

Psalms: 40

Lessons: 1 Kings 22: 1 – 28

Romans 15: 4 – 13

Office Hymn: 1 Creator of the stars of night

Canticles: Short Service — Weelkes

Anthem: Remember, O thou man
— Ravenscroft

Preacher: The Vicar

Hymn: 438 Praise to God whose word
was spoken

O Salutaris: NEH 61

Hymn: 6 Hark the glad sound!
The Saviour comes

Tantum ergo: NEH 268

THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER

Carol Service for Freud Communications at 6.30pm

Private event so no Evening Mass

FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER

LUNCHTIME CAROL SERVICE at 12.30pm

**Sung by an All Saints’ Choir of eight.
Followed by mince pies
and mulled wine.**

***Do bring a friend to visit this beautiful
Church before Christmas.***

Before the service: Von Himmel hoch
BWV 700 — Bach
In dulci jubilo BuxWV 167
— Buxtehude

Hymn: 26 Hark! The herald angels
sing (vv 1 – 3)

Reading: Luke 1: 26 – 38

Anthem: Sussex Carol — trad,
arr Willcocks

Hymn: 32 O little town of Bethlehem
(v 3 choir, omit v 4)

Reading: Luke 2: 1 – 7

Anthem: O Little One Sweet — Bach

Hymn: 22 Away in a manger

Reading: Luke 2: 8 – 16

Anthem: Quem pastores laudavere
— trad, arr John Rutter

Hymn: 42 While shepherds watched
their flocks by night

Reading: Christmas — Betjeman

Anthem: Infant holy, infant lowly

Gospel: John 1: 1 – 14

Hymn: 30 O come, all ye faithful
(vv 1, 2, 5, & 6)

Voluntary: Fantasia in G, BWV 572
— Bach

● SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER ADVENT 3 (Gaudete)

HIGH MASS at 11am

Entrance Hymn: 443 Rejoice, the Lord is
King

Entrance Chant: Gaudete in Domino

Setting: Missa Brevis in B flat K 275
— Mozart

Psalm: 126

Readings: Isaiah 61: 1 – 4, 8 – 11
1 Thessalonians 5: 16 – 24

Gradual Hymn: 169 Hail, harbinger of morn

Gospel: John 1: 6 – 8, 19 – 28

Preacher: The Vicar

Creed: Mozart

Offertory Motet: A Hymn to the Virgin
— Britten

Hymns: 501 Drop down, ye heavens,
from above

57 The race that long in
darkness pined

499 Thy kingdom come, O God

Voluntary: Marche du Velleur de Nuit —
Widor, after Bach's Chorale
Prelude on 'Wachet auf!'

EVENSONG AND BENEDICTION at 6pm

Psalm: 68: 1 – 20

Lessons: Malachi 3: 1 – 4: 4
Philippians 4: 4 – 7

Office Hymn: 1 Creator of the stars of night

Canticles: Stanford in C

Antiphon: O Sapientia

Anthem: This is the record of John
— Gibbons

Preacher: Fr Michael Bowie

Hymn: 11 O come, O come,
Emmanuel!

O Salutaris: Fauré

Hymn: 295 Let all mortal flesh keep
silence

Tantum ergo: Fauré

Voluntary: Cantabile from Symphonie
No 6 — Widor

MONDAY 18 DECEMBER

FESTIVAL of NINE LESSONS & CAROLS by candlelight at 6pm

Organ: Wachet auf, ruft die Stimme
BWV 645 — Bach

Entrance Hymn: Once in royal David's city
(choir 1 – 2, all 3 – 6)

Anthem: All my heart this night rejoices
— Ebeling

1st Lesson: Genesis 3: 8 – 14

Anthem: Adam lay ybounden — Ord

2nd Lesson: Genesis 22: 15 – 18

Anthem: E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly
come — Manz

Hymn: O come, O come, Emmanuel

3rd Lesson: Isaiah 9: 2, 6 – 7

Hymn: God rest you merry, gentlemen
(choir vv 2, 3)

4th Lesson: Isaiah 11: 1 – 9

Anthem: The blessed son of God
— Vaughan Williams

5th Lesson: Luke 1: 26 – 38

Anthem: Quelle est cette odeur agréable
— trad, arr Willcocks

6th Lesson: Matthew 1: 18 – 23

Anthem: Sans Day Carol — trad,
arr John Rutter

7th Lesson: Luke 2: 8 – 16

Anthem: In dulci jubilo, trad, arr Pearsall

8th Lesson: Matthew 2: 1 – 11

Hymn: A great and mighty wonder

9th Lesson: John 1: 1 – 14

Offertory hymn: O come, all ye faithful
(descant — Willcocks)

Hymn: Hark! The herald angels sing
(descant — Ledger)

Voluntary: Cantata 29 “Sinfonia” — Bach,
arr Dupré

● SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER ADVENT 4

HIGH MASS at 11am

Entrance Hymn: 10 Long ago, prophets
knew

Entrance Chant: *Rorate cæli desuper*

Setting: Missa Ave Maria — Palestrina

Psalm: 89: 1 – 4, 19 – 26

Readings: 2 Samuel 7: 1 – 11, 16
Romans 16: 25 – 38

Gradual Hymn: 17 When came in flesh the
incarnate Word

Gospel: Luke 1: 26 – 38

Preacher: Fr Julian Browning

Credo: Credo III

Offertory Motet: Ecce concipies — Handl

Hymns: 501 Drop down, ye heavens,
from above

4 Gabriel’s message does away
186 Tell out, my soul, the
greatness of the Lord

SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS EVE

MIDNIGHT MASS and Blessing of the Crib at 11pm

Entrance Hymn: 24 Christians awake!
Salute the happy morn

Entrance Chant: *Gaudeamus omnes*

Setting: Missa Sancti Nicolai — Haydn

Psalm: 96

Readings: Isaiah 9: 2 – 7

Titus 2: 11 – 14

Gradual Hymn: 32 O little town of
Bethlehem

Gospel: Luke 2: 1 – 14 [15 – 20]

Preacher: Fr Michael Bowie

Credo: Haydn

Offertory Motet: In dulci jubilo
— trad, arr Pearsall

Hymns: 28 In the bleak midwinter
35 Silent night! Holy night!

Processional Hymn: 30 O come, all ye
faithful (descant v 6
— Willcocks)

At the blessing of the crib:

Away in a manger

— Kirkpatrick, arr Sidwell

Voluntary: Final from Symphonie No 6
— Widor

MONDAY 25 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DAY

Low Mass at 9am

HIGH MASS at 11am

Entrance Hymn: 30 O come all ye faithful
(descant v 7 — Fleming)

Entrance Chant: *Puer natus est nobis*

Setting: Missa Sancti Joannis de Deo
— Haydn

Psalm: 98
Readings: Isaiah 52: 7 – 10
 Hebrews: 1 – 4
Gradual Hymn: 21 A great and mighty wonder
Gospel: John 1: 1 – 14
Preacher: The Vicar
Creed: Haydn
Offertory Motet: O Magnum Mysterium
 — Victoria
Hymns: 37 The great God of heaven is
 come down to earth
 31 O Little One sweet, O Little
 One mild
 26 Hark! The herald angels sing
 (omit v 4; descant — Ledger)
Voluntary: Valse des fleurs (Nutmacker
 suite, Op 71) — Tchaikovsky
NO EVENSONG

● SUNDAY 31 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS 1

HIGH MASS at 11am

Entrance Hymn: See amid the winter snow
 (NEP 604)
Entrance Chant: *Venerunt pastores*
festinantes
Setting: Messe Basse — Fauré
 Gloria (from Messe en Fa pour
 voix des soprani) — Lemmens
Psalm: 148: 7 – 14
Readings: Isaiah 61: 10 – 62: 3
 Galatians 4: 4 – 7
Gradual Hymn: 19 (ii) Come, thou Redeemer
 of the earth (omit *)
Gospel: Luke 2: 15 – 21
Preacher: Fr Michael Bowie
Creed: Credo III
Offertory Motet: I sing of a maiden
 — Hadley

Hymns: 40 What child is this, who,
 laid to rest
 41 Where is this stupendous
 stranger
 27 How brightly shines the
 Morning Star
Voluntary: Fantaisie in E flat — Saint-Saens

NO EVENSONG

*Information correct at the time of going
to press*



**Best Wishes
 for Christmas
 and the
 New Year 2018**
*from the
 Clergy and Churchwardens
 of All Saints*

The Vicar, Fr Alan Moses
Fr Michael Bowie
Fr Gerald Beauchamp
Fr Julian Browning
Fr Barry Orford
John Forde
Chris Self

KEEPING IN TOUCH

As well as the monthly **Parish Paper**, you can keep in touch with life at All Saints through:

The All Saints Website

www.allsaintsmargaretstreet.org.uk

The Weekly Parish E-mail

This gives weekly news of events, people to pray for, and a short letter from the Vicar or Assistant Priest. You can subscribe through the All Saints website — see News and Events/Weekly Newsletter for directions about signing up to receive regular up-dates.

The Weekly Notices — available as a small booklet to pick up from the Church table and which worshippers are encouraged to take away with them.

Vicar:

Prebendary Alan Moses

020 7636 1788

Mobile: 07973 878040

Email: alanmoses111@gmail.com.

Assistant Priest:

The Revd Dr Michael Bowie

020 3632 4309

Email: mnrbowie@gmail.com.

Honorary Assistant Priests:

The Revd Gerald Beauchamp

020 7258 0724

The Revd Julian Browning

020 7286 6034

Parish Administrator:

Dee Prior

020 7636 1788

Email: astsmgtst@aol.com

Parish Officials

Churchwardens:

John Forde 020 7592 9855

Chris Self 020 7723 2938

Hon PCC Secretary:

John McWhinney

asms.pccsecretary@outlook.com.

Phone messages to the Parish Office

Hon Treasurer:

Patrick Hartley 020 7607 0060

Director of Music:

Timothy Byram-Wigfield

c/o 020 7636 1788

Assistant Director of Music:

Jeremiah Stephenson

Electoral Roll Officer:

Catherine Burling c/o 020 7636 1788

Service Times

Sundays:

Low Mass at 6.30pm (Sat)

8am and 5.15pm

Morning Prayer 10.20am

HIGH MASS and SERMON at 11am

CHORAL EVENSONG, SERMON and
BENEDICTION at 6pm.

Monday to Friday:

Church open 7am

Morning Prayer at 7.30am

Low Mass at 8am, 1.10pm and 6.30pm

Confessions 12.30 - 1pm and 5.30pm

Evening Prayer at 6pm

(Except bank holidays — 12 noon Mass only)

Saturdays:

Church open 11am

Low Mass at **12 noon** and 6.30pm*

(* First Mass of Sunday)

Confessions 5.30pm.

Evening Prayer 6pm.

On major weekday feasts, High Mass is sung at 6.30pm

– ALL SAINTS MARGARET STREET –

(Registered Charity Number: 1132895)

Parish Legacy Policy

At All Saints Church, we welcome all gifts in Wills, however large or small, and we promise to use your gift to make a difference in our parish.

Our PCC legacy policy is to encourage people to leave bequests specifically to one of our two related charities:

All Saints Choir & Music Trust (Charity Number: 802994)

which supports the choral tradition at All Saints. The capital of the Choir & Music Trust cannot be spent, only the income.

or

All Saints Foundation (Charity Number: 273390)

which assists the PCC in the care of our Grade 1 listed heritage buildings.

The capital of the All Saints Foundation can be spent.

Non Designated Bequests

When bequests which have not been designated for any specific purpose are received, the PCC's policy is to direct these to one or other of the two All Saints Trusts, or to some specific piece of restoration work or capital expenditure.

You can be confident that your gift will have a long-lasting effect rather than being used to pay day-to-day expenses.

Remembering Donors

The names of donors will be entered in our Chantry Book and they will be remembered in prayer each year on the anniversary of their death.

Contacting Us about Bequests

If you would like to discuss making a bequest to All Saints, please contact:
The Vicar/Honorary Treasurer/The All Saints Choir and Music Trust Administrator/
The All Saints Foundation Administrator
c/o The Vicarage, 7 Margaret Street, London W1W 8JG.

The Parish Administrator can put you in touch with these individuals by email.
Please email in confidence: astsmgtst@aol.com or telephone 020 7636 1788.

Mission Projects

All Saints year-round fundraising efforts support:

The Church Army hostels and programmes empowering homeless women into independent living in Marylebone

The USPG-led UMOJA, HIV Project in Zimbabwe,

enabling people living with HIV and Aids to live positive lives, and

The Soup Kitchen (American International Church, Tottenham Court Road)
feeding up to 80 vulnerable people daily

CALENDAR AND INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER 2017

1	<i>Charles de Foucauld, Hermit, 1916</i>	Those in need
2		of the BVM
3	✠ ADVENT 1	Our Parish and People
4	Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon	Christian communities
5		Shopworkers
6	Nicholas, Bp of Myra, 326	Mission to Seafarers
7	Ambrose, Bp of Milan, Teacher of the Faith, 397	Unity
8	The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Thanksgiving for Our Lady
9		of the BVM
10	✠ ADVENT 2	Our Parish and People
11		Church musicians
12		The homeless
13	Lucy, Martyr, 304	Friends of All Saints
14	John of the Cross, Religious and Teacher of the Faith, 1591	Unity
15		of the BVM
17	✠ ADVENT 3	Our Parish and People
18		Schools
19		USPG
20	Ember Day	Vocations
21		Unity
22	Ember Day	Theological Colleges
		and Courses
23	Ember Day	Those preparing for ordination
24	✠ ADVENT 4	Our parish and People
25	CHRISTMAS DAY	Thanksgiving for the
		Incarnation
26	Stephen, First Martyr	Those who suffer for the faith
27	John the Evangelist	Thanksgiving for the Gospel
28	The Holy Innocents	Children at risk
29	Thomas Becket, Abp and Martyr	Those in need
30		Thanksgiving for the
		Incarnation
31	✠ CHRISTMAS 1	Our Parish and People



Set and Printed by
S Alban's Church Litho Unit
Birmingham B12 0XB

CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2017

Friday 15 December, 12.30pm
LUNCHTIME CAROL SERVICE

Monday 18 December, 6pm
NINE LESSONS & CAROLS by CANDLELIGHT
Both followed by mince pies & mulled wine.



Sunday 24 December, 11pm
MIDNIGHT MASS & BLESSING of the CRIB
Haydn Missa Sancti Nicolai

CHRISTMAS DAY HIGH MASS, 11am
Haydn Missa Sancti Joannis de Deo

Saturday 6 January, 12 noon
EPIPHANY HIGH MASS
Mozart Missa Brevis in F

Sunday 7 January, 6pm
EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE

*Celebrate with us and bring your friends
to see this beautiful Church!*