



# All Saints Parish Paper

7, MARGARET STREET, LONDON W1W 8JG

[www.allsaintsmargaretstreet.co.uk](http://www.allsaintsmargaretstreet.co.uk)

SEPTEMBER 2018

£1.00

## VICAR'S LETTER — GIVING FOR LIFE

The response to our appeal for more volunteers to help with the work of All Saints has been very encouraging\*. **“Generous giving of our Labour”** and of **“Our Expertise”** are two of the themes highlighted in a Church of England leaflet called **“Giving for Life: Living a Generous Life”**. This was distributed to the morning and evening congregations on Sunday 12 August. If you were not there, copies are available in church. The leaflet also speaks of being **“Generous in our Interactions,”** and **“Generous with our Finances”**.

Being generous in our interactions with others, whether in church, home, community or workplace, is part and parcel of loving our neighbour; something we all need to pay attention to at all times. Our parish provides us with a school in which to learn and practice this everyday holiness. We find here both living examples to imitate and also, those who give us opportunities to put what we have learned into practice.

Having taken action to address our need for more volunteers, the time has come to attend to the finances of All Saints. As our Treasurer Patrick Hartley pointed out at the Annual Meeting, we are running close to the wire in financial terms and we must address this issue if we are to continue to operate at our present level.

If we were to opt for what is known in



*Processing Our Lady of Walsingham  
around the Parish for  
the Feast of the Assumption, All Saints 2018  
(Photo: Andrew Prior)*

the world of government and economics as an austerity programme, there are some very simple ways in which we could save a lot of money. We might reduce our staff by having only one stipendiary priest. That would necessitate a reduction in the number of services. We could reduce our music budget, about a third of our expenditure, by either abandoning Choral Evensong & Benediction on Sundays or by not having the choir during the summer holidays.

That's probably enough already to make the point that it would be a very different All Saints if we were to go down this path.

The plain truth is that if we were only able to rely on "*live giving*," we could not sustain the work of the parish as it is at present. It only constitutes a third of our income.

That we are able to continue as we have been is due to several factors:

- **The establishment of the All Saints Foundation**, after a crisis with the church building in Fr Sparrow's time, and the **All Saints Choir and Music Trust** in Fr Hutt's, have led to us having endowments which have assisted both the restoration of the building and a growing contribution to the cost of our music.
- **The PCC's Legacy Policy**, encouraging people to remember the Trusts in their wills, as a way of assisting the future mission of the parish, has promoted a commendable level of generosity — one envied by a number of my fellow parish priests.
- **Individual generosity** by many devoted to All Saints has also played a major rôle in the restoration programme which has transformed the state of our Church building in the last twenty years.
- **We have rental income from our five flats** but All Saints does not have a large parish hall which can be let out during the week and we have so many services that our church building cannot be hired out very often to generate income. The church is first and foremost a space for worship and prayer. Activities which intrude on this have to be limited, but we still have to look at imaginative opportunities to increase income from

this source. In spite of the constraints, we have done our best to increase income from the space we have, and seen an increase from a very low base in 2015 — the annual total now grown to £25,000. A significant part of this sum comes from the fee for the telephony mast in the Church steeple, but we have also found other imaginative uses for the Parish Room outside service times. This achievement comes at a cost in time and effort, mostly on the part of our Parish Administrator and, to a lesser extent, the clergy and lay volunteers.

So that brings me to the question of our individual giving. One of the facts of life for all city-centre churches is the high level of turnover in population. To remain where we are, both in numbers and in giving, we have to run to stand still. It only needs a small number of generous supporters to move away or die to have a significant impact on our income from giving. That giving has been pretty much static for a few years and declining as a proportion of our overall income.

Unlike the rail companies, we cannot increase our charges to match inflation. Unlike theatres and cinemas, concert halls and football clubs, shops and restaurants, we cannot put up our prices. We can only appeal to the generosity of those who worship here.

In a sermon a few weeks ago, I spoke about St Paul's collection for the poor of the Church in Jerusalem and how Paul used the willing and sacrificial generosity of the churches in Macedonia to encourage a similar response from the Corinthians. He rooted that in the generosity of God and of Christ who "**...though he was rich, yet for**

**your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich”.**

As an incentive, he reminded them of the gifts they had received in the life of the Church. That surely is something we can echo at All Saints. These gifts are ones we would wish to share with others. That can only happen if we give generously in gratitude for what we have received.

Paul also spoke in practical terms, because he knew that spontaneity needs to be complemented by organization, urging them to put money aside each week for the collection. The world of money is changing at speed which my generation struggles to keep up with. In responding to an offer from a young couple recently to make a donation to the parish, I innocently asked them to make the cheque payable to the PCC, only to be told that neither of them possessed a cheque book. When I mentioned this to my daughter, she laughed out loud and said, “None of my generation has a cheque book”. When I thought about it, I realized that while I have one, I hardly ever use it and most of the parish’s payments are made electronically, so I hardly ever sign a cheque. Younger people in the congregation tell me they never carry cash these days, paying for everything with their cards. So, presented with a low-tech device like a collection plate, visitors can be at a complete loss; and so is the parish! As some of you may read in the press, this year the Church of England up and down the land has been experimenting with **contactless methods of payment**. We are looking at how this might work for one-off donations and payments here at All Saints.

More relevant perhaps to most of us is the **Parish Giving Scheme** launched some years ago by the Diocese of Gloucester and

now adopted by the Diocese of London. This free service claims back the Gift Aid on our regular giving to the parish. It saves parishes money and administrative time. The scheme has an option to have one’s giving raised each year by the rise in the cost of living. This overcomes the tendency of inertia to reduce the value of our giving over the years. People need not fear being locked into something. If their circumstances change, they can cancel. We will start by encouraging all **new** regular givers at All Saints to do this via the Parish Giving Scheme.

As well as the leaflet “**Giving for Life: Living a Generous Life**”, we will also be distributing a companion leaflet: “**Giving for Life: Five Daily Reflections on Generosity**”. Based on five scriptural passages, the themes are:

- God’s amazing grace
- God’s abundant provision
- Who owns my possessions?
- Avoiding the love of money
- Generous stewards.

We hope this will reinforce the message that we are talking, praying and thinking about something which is an integral part of our Christian lives.

During September, each member of the parish’s Electoral Roll will be contacted by email or post with material about giving to support the life and mission of All Saints. We hope that people will return their responses in time for them to be presented at the altar at High Mass on Sunday 7 October, our Feast of Dedication; the day on which we give thanks for our parish church and the blessings we receive here.

Yours in Christ,

*Alan Moses*

*\* Volunteers have recently come forward to do Church Watch; to donate and arrange flowers; to help with catering and provide a welcome to special events and services and to serve coffee after Mass on Sundays — we would also be delighted to have some new people to join the Bar and Sunday lunch teams — see the photo of our occasional American Lunch team on page 5. Please identify particular team leaders you might want to speak to from their photograph on our new Who's Who at All Saints photo board inside the Church door.*

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## PARISH NOTES and ALL SAINTS' PEOPLE

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**HOLY BAPTISM:** **William Francis John Kennedy** was baptised at High Mass on Sunday 29 July. He behaved admirably throughout, until he decided to try on the Vicar's glasses. They were rescued by William's mother; who popped them deftly back onto Fr Alan's face.

**HOLY MATRIMONY:** **Graham Burns** and **Elizabeth Stanley** were married at All Saints on Saturday 28 July. Graham was back in Church on the Sunday morning at High Mass and said that they had enjoyed the day so much, they rather liked the idea of doing it all again! We wish the couple a wonderful honeymoon in Indonesia.

**FUNERAL:** **Patricia Searle** and her late husband Ian, were members of All Saints, Margaret Street in the 1960s and had continued to be members of the Friends of All Saints and occasional worshippers until ill health made this impossible.

A number of Patricia's Margaret Street friends and Fr Alan were present at her funeral service in All Saints, Hampton, on 26 July. One of the tributes was given by

another friend from those Margaret Street days, Margaret Adolphus and Fr Alan read one of the lessons.

### MOVING INTO THE DEANERY:

**Fr Jack Noble**, formerly the curate at St Martin's, Ruislip, was licensed by Bishop Sarah as the new Chaplain of St Marylebone School and Assistant Priest of St Marylebone Parish Church. Fr Alan acted as stand-in for the Archdeacon of London.

**...AND MOVING OUT:** our own **Fr Jeremy Tayler** is leaving St Johns Wood Church, where he has served his title to become the Rector of Henley on Thames. He will be instituted on the evening of Monday 24 September. There will be a farewell party for him, Maura and the children after Evensong at St John's Wood Church on Sunday 9 September. We wish Fr Jeremy and the family all the best for moving to their new home and parish.

**“Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.”**

Foxes are a familiar sight and sound in many parts of our city; being among our most successful immigrant communities. However, only occasionally do they find their way to Margaret Street. One Monday morning recently John Stables, our electrician, spotted one in the moat. As it looked cold and distressed, the Vicar phoned the RSPCA, who promised to send an inspector to rescue it.

When he looked out of his study window to check on the fox, it had disappeared. He discovered that it had taken refuge in one of the old coal holes under the street. It made no attempt to move. However, when the RSCPA inspector arrived and John and

he went down, it sprang up, trotted up the stairs to the street and disappeared. Its rest on holy ground must have been restorative.

We can only hope that it made its way safely back through the traffic to the safer territory of Regents Park.

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## OUR VISITING AMERICAN SUNDAY LUNCH TEAM



*Alan Kimborough, Ruth Bennett and John Eglin (Photo: Robin Clutterham)*

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## FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

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Thank you Fr Nicholas Wheeler, Rector Holy Trinity, Sloane Square, for your neat tweet summing up a marvellous evening of devotion to Our Lady:

*Nicholas Wheeler (@SloaneRector)*

*15/08/2018, 22:03*

*A glorious celebration of the Assumption @ asmsW1 with impressive Christian witness, fabulous Marian hymns and a compelling sermon.*

*@frsimoncuff.pic.twitter.com/.*

This year, we were glad the hottest part of the summer was temporarily blessed with a cooler evening — not the sunshine that had been promised, but a mild, dry evening saw a very large congregation assembled for

High Mass at 6.30pm. When the final tally was reckoned up, it was confirmed that 200 people had come to All Saints, with 172 communicants. With the largest number of priests and people from a wide variety of parishes included this was an increase of 25% on 2017 figures, itself a record year. Once again we were able to demonstrate that we mount such a special occasion that it attracts and inspires many beyond our regular congregation. Fr Stephen Cuff's sermon appears on page 11 of this edition.

The second part of our celebration was our outdoor procession from Church and along Oxford Street, which was certainly the best supported we have yet achieved.

Fr Michael had, once again, arranged to borrow a portable statue of Our Lady from St Magnus the Martyr in the City. A team of stalwart clergy and other supporters worked shifts — due to the distance and weight — to carry the statue. This is no easy matter when you have to negotiate uneven pavements, a lot of scaffolding on buildings undergoing restoration and other obstacles on the streets of the West End of London.

The travelling Our Lady was beautifully decorated with white lilies and yellow roses by Shawn Welby-Cooke, who had also arranged a similarly themed vase in front of Our Lady in Church. The procession was marshalled safely around the route by Cedric Stephens and his team of stewards drawn from both the regular All Saints' congregation plus friends and family happily attracted to a Feast Day that has become a highlight of our annual calendar. Robust singing led by the choir was supported by a brass band and drum, helping to keep the extended procession together. Members of the congregation handed out leaflets explaining who we were and what we were doing. Andrew Prior took lots of photographs, a selection of which can be found on the All Saints facebook page/website <https://www.facebook.com/AllSaintsMargaretStreet/>. At every corner and stopping point (and sometimes on video as it moved along) the procession was photographed on hundreds of mobile phones by passers-by! And a small group kept the devotions going in Church by saying the Rosary with Fr Philip Bevan.

The courtyard party — given an added festive element by the singing of Happy Birthday to Jeremiah Stephenson, whose birthday falls on the Feast of the Assumption, brought the evening to a splendid close.

Thanks to the bar and catering teams the many people who stayed on were able to enjoy both wine, cake, sandwiches and other savoury snacks. This was a happy conclusion to the evening celebration and a demonstration of our tradition's capacity to mix devotion with good fun.

It was delightful to welcome to All Saints on such a special occasion friends, old and new, from as far away as San Diego, which fielded a group of twenty students from the University there. Amongst the many assisting the home team in carrying Our Lady were priests from Italy and Spain alongside Canon Dipo Adesoye from the Diocese of Lagos West, Nigeria. On the front cover of this edition of the Parish Paper we see Fr Paul Thomas Acting Archdeacon from the Diocese of London with his Assistant Priest Fr Owen Dobson from St James's, Sussex Gardens, and Fr Diego Galanzino, Parish Priest of All Saints, Houghton Regis, Luton.

Two regular summer visitors from Ohio, Alan Kimborough and John Eglin read the lessons. Thanks be to God and to everyone who made it altogether a wonderful evening.

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## FACEBOOK COMMENTS ABOUT ALL SAINTS

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We regularly post information about upcoming Feast Days or other special services and events on the All Saints Facebook page. Increasingly this is an important way of letting people know about what we are doing and inviting them to join us. Please encourage anyone you know who is on Facebook to enhance our profile by sharing our posts or liking them — if they do! At the time of writing our latest colourful Assumption procession images

had reached 2,480 people, with 23 shares, within a few days of being out on Oxford Street with Our Lady.

People who visit us can now express their views about All Saints both in the physical visitor book in Church and — more immediately and with a wider reach — through this kind of social media. We know that people in the United States and Australia keep up with what we are up to through the medium of Facebook. A selection of comments from those who have

visited and posted on Facebook recently:

A beautiful service and procession! Thank you to all involved with making this evening a wonderful act of witness in London.

It's a pearl in the middle of shopping hell! One of the most beautiful churches in London! Amazing choir.

All Saints is the living embodiment of The Beauty of Holiness.

Most enjoyable and effective liturgy and preaching.

**— ALL SAINTS —**

**Margaret Street**

**Sunday 9 September at 7.15pm**

**Four-manual Harrison & Harrison (1910)**

**Organ Recital (following Benediction)**

**JEREMIAH STEPHENSON**

**Assistant Director of Music, All Saints**

**Programme**

*Choral no 3 in A minor, Prélude, Fugue & Variation*  
**César Franck (1822 – 1890)**

*Elevation, Communion and Paraphrase — Carillon*  
*from L'Orgue Mystique Suite 35*  
**Charles Tournemire (1870 – 1939)**

**CDs of the organ and choir of All Saints are available to buy after the recital.**

*Retiring collection to support the Choir and Music*  
*at All Saints (recommended donation £5)*

**The next recital is by Peter King at the earlier time of 3.30pm on Sunday 28 October**

*Please find more organ recitals at [www.organrecitals.com](http://www.organrecitals.com).*

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## AUTUMN EVENTS

### at ALL SAINTS

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**JOHN LEWIS (SABEEMA) ARTS & CRAFTS CLUB AUTUMN EXHIBITION** will be shown at All Saints once again from **Tuesday 11 until Sunday 23 September 12 – 6 daily** in the Parish Room. *Do come and visit — an early opportunity to purchase gifts (art, craft and jewellery) and cards for Christmas.*

**CHILD OF WAR — An Art Exhibition by Syrian Children** presented by the charity Aid to the Church in Need (which provides art therapy to children of all faiths and none in Syria) follows on in the Parish Room from **Tuesday 25 September to Sunday 30 September 12 – 6.** *This special exhibition has been made possible by the support of John Lewis and Waitrose Art Club.*

**DEDICATION FESTIVAL, Sunday 7 October.** Our preacher at High Mass will be **The Revd Professor William Whyte**, Professor of Social and Architectural History in the University of Oxford and Vice-President of St John's College.

Professor Whyte is the author of *“Unlocking the Church: The Lost Secrets of Victorian Sacred Space”*. Its dust cover has a photograph of All Saints, Margaret Street, and the church features prominently in the book. Those interested in the links between architecture, theology and education might like to watch his short film on Keble College at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XA17PF58zeQ>.

**PARISH DINNER** — Following the success of the first of these gatherings in June, we are repeating this popular event on

**Friday 19 October** at local neighbourhood Italian restaurant *Conchiglia* (125 Great Titchfield Street W1W 6RZ). **Tickets will be available after Mass and Evensong & Benediction on Sundays in mid-September.** Tickets **£30**: menu choices recorded when you buy your ticket.

A card with your name and choices will be available for you on the evening to put at your place at table: this will help Giovanni and his team at the restaurant to give you the right meal.

*The price includes two glasses of wine; if more wine is wanted it can be purchased on the night.*

## INTRODUCING ST LUKE'S GOSPEL — Saturday 24 November

A Study Day led by **Canon Michael Gudgeon**, starting at 10am, including the midday Mass. Sandwich lunch, tea and coffee will be provided — **£5/head**.

From Advent Sunday 2018 the Gospel Readings at the Sunday Mass will usually come from the third of the New Testament Gospels. It is the only one of the four which has a 'second volume' — the Acts of the Apostles. Both are traditionally attributed to Luke, the doctor companion of Paul on some of his missionary journeys.

Uniquely among New Testament writers, Luke begins each of his books with a preface or prologue. At the beginning of the Gospel he says: *It seemed good to me... to write an orderly account... that you may know the truth concerning the things of which you have been informed.*

The same intention lies behind the decision to hold a study day in preparation for our hearing of these readings. We shall study some distinctively Lukan passages,

and explore themes which stand out as important to the third evangelist in his presentation of the life and teaching of our Lord and his apostles.

Those who sign up for this study day are asked to prepare in these ways:

**First:** read through the whole Gospel as you would any short story — if possible using a translation different from the one you usually hear in church. Don't worry about things that puzzle you — just try to see the shape of the whole Gospel.

**Secondly:** Make a note of one example from the Gospel under each of these headings:

- The thing that has struck you most in your reading

- Something that you don't understand or find difficult
- Something that you could turn into prayer.

When you come to the Study Day bring a Bible and a note book.

**ADVENT QUIET AFTERNOON — Saturday 8 December, commencing with 11.30am Rosary and Walsingham Devotions, followed at 12 noon by Mass of Our Lady of Walsingham. A sandwich lunch, tea and coffee will be provided — £5/head.**

Canon Michael Gudgeon will lead us with reflections on the Canticles in St Luke's Gospel: the Benedictus, Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis.

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## NEW MUSIC SERIES ENABLED BY FUNDRAISING AT ALL SAINTS

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Following on from the success of the fundraising concert (held at All Saints in late July) the inaugural concert of MusicFor's first series, *Music for an Autumn Evening: Celebrating 20th century British choral music*, takes place on **Thursday 20 September at 8pm**, at

**Holy Trinity, Stroud Green, London N4 4EL.** Daniel Collins conducts a programme of British choral music, sacred and secular, sung by eight fantastic professional singers. At the heart of the concert is C.H.H. Parry's own valedictory work, the *'Songs of Farewell'*, in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of his death. The concert will



last for one hour, with no interval, and there will be a bar selling wine and soft drinks. Tickets (**£10/£5 students/accompanied under 16s free**) are now available at <https://bit.ly/2NWuQa8>, and are also available for purchase on the door. Details of other concerts in the series can be found at <http://www.musicfor.co.uk>

### Full programme:

Charles WOOD — *Hail, Gladdening Light!*  
James MACMILLAN — *Dominus Dabit*  
Ralph VAUGHAN WILLIAMS — *Rest*  
William HARRIS — *Faire is the Heaven*  
Arthur SULLIVAN — *The Long Day Closes*  
Herbert MURRILL — *O Mistress Mine*  
Gerald FINZI — *My Spirit Sang All Day*  
Hubert PARRY — *Songs of Farewell*

Future concerts — free entry with a *Pay What You Want* retiring collection:

**Thursday 27 September** — Soprano **Charlotte La Thrope** (RAM 2018) and the **Comalli Consort** (viol, lute and violin) perform music from the Renaissance period.

**Thursday 4 October** — Talented baroque violinist **Dominika Fehér** performs music for solo violin, including J.S. Bach's *Chaconne*.

**Thursday 11 October** — The up-and-coming string quartet **Bloomsbury Quartet** perform a programme of Beethoven, Schubert and Britten.

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## POETRY TEA at PAMELA'S, Saturday 28 July

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*Gillian Dare writes:*

We explored the themes of *travel, adventure and holidays*, through a diverse range of poetry and prose. Many chose to focus on memories of holidays by the seaside, recalling the happy, carefree days of childhood, simple pleasures and innocent or not so innocent activities. Malcolm Howe read *Albert and the Lion*, recalling a trip to the zoo in Blackpool that was to prove rather fatal. Jane Butler read us one of her own poems about happy holidays, we heard Dylan Thomas's holiday memories relating the festivities and delights of a sunny August Bank Holiday in Swansea but

hints at a sense of time slipping away, and we were reminded that not every memory was pleasurable as we listened to John Updike's *Mosquito*. We were introduced to two wonderful pieces by Arthur Ransome on preparing for holidays and going home reminding us of the chores associated with going on holidays. But seaside holidays are part of our popular culture with which we can all identify, as Daphne Watts reminded us through the popular song "*I do like to be beside the seaside*" and Malcolm's contribution of the song *We're all going on a summer holiday* popularised by Cliff Richard in his film *Summer Holiday*, about four London Transport mechanics trying to run a European travel service with a double-decker bus.

The theme of the sea came up in other ways too, such as in John Masefield's *Sea Fever* which so evocatively portrays the call of the sea. As we heard the lines of this poem read by Ian Wilson, about the beauty of sailing the ocean, we could imagine the smell of the salt air, the wind in our faces and the movement of the waves as we sail towards our destiny. Charles Thomson read James Elroy Flecker's evocative *Old Ships* which conjures up dreams of fabled destinations as did Coleridge's *Kubla Khan*. The destination was important in many of the pieces we heard such as Betjeman's poems about Cornwall and Marvell's description of the character of Holland and Gertrude Bell's strange experiences in the desert amongst the warlike Druze. Christine Levy introduced us to Christopher Matthew's *Now we are Sixty* collection, including a vivid retelling of Ulysses' journey home after the Trojan Wars. But holidays and destination are not the end of all travel. Auden in his rhythmic *Night Mail* and de Saint-Exupéry give us an insight into what it means to carry our

mail around the world by train and plane. In *Wind Sand and Stars* the pilot recalls vividly and with great poetry what it means to be up alone among the stars by night. We are reminded through travel, that we are pilgrims on the path of life and must learn from the experiences gained through travelling. Cavafy's great poem *Ithaca* captured this brilliantly, with the lines:

*As you set out on the way to Ithaca  
hope that the road is a long one,  
filled with adventures, filled with  
understanding...*

*Always keep Ithaca in your mind;  
to reach her is your destiny.*

*But do not rush your journey in the least.*

*Better that it last for many years;  
that you drop anchor at the island an old man,  
rich with all you've gotten on the way,  
not expecting Ithaca to make you rich.*

*Ithaca gave to you the beautiful journey;  
without her you'd not have set upon the road.  
But she has nothing left to give you any more.*

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*This was the last poetry tea hosted by Pamela Botsford as she leaves us to move permanently to Worcester. We have enjoyed Pamela's gracious hospitality over the years and owe her deep gratitude for bringing us together to share poems and prose which have meant a lot to us and have helped illuminate the many important themes we have explored. Over the years, the afternoons have contributed significant funds to the All Saints' Restoration Appeal.*

*This session raised another £125 including Gift Aid. Many thanks, Pamela. You will be much missed not only by the poetry circle but by your friends at All Saints. Our warmest wishes go with you.*

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## THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

### SERMON PREACHED BY FR STEPHEN CUFF,

### COLLEGE OF ST MELLITUS

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**'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed.' Words from the Gospel according to St Luke, the first chapter, beginning to read at the 46<sup>th</sup> verse. May I speak in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

When I was a student, I once met a rabbi keen to talk to me about the Dogma of Our Lady's Assumption. He remembered discussing the same with a Catholic colleague the day before the dogma was promulgated in 1950.

The rabbi and the priest were walking through New York's Central Park. Honestly,

Potential for a joke aside, the rabbi recalled how they talked about the rumours circulating that the Pope was about to declare the bodily Assumption of Mary as Catholic dogma. 'Do you think the rumours are true?' asked the rabbi. 'Possibly,' responded the priest, 'it's no different from Enoch or Elijah being taken up to heaven'. 'Yes', said the rabbi, after some time, 'but that really happened'.

For the first three quarters of the history of the Church, few doubted the Assumption we celebrate today really happened. Few doubted that Mary was in heaven. Few doubted that she had not been given a special place not only on earth, but in heaven at her life's end.

Like all the Saints, she was in heaven. Like all the Saints, her work was not yet

done. She remained an active member of the body of the Christ. She stood at the centre of the Church triumphant, willing the Church militant and expectant ever on toward their goal. She did what she has always done, pointed away from herself and toward her son.

Passages like those in our first reading, a pregnant woman in heaven crowned with stars, simply confirmed what everyone believed. Mary was in heaven, crowned with glory. Christians until the middle ages and beyond had no reason to believe, like our Lady herself in our Gospel, that future generations would regard her as anything other than 'blessed', both in her life and at it's end.

The Reformation challenged this consensus. The Reformers narrowed the horizons of the Church militant here on earth. Mary and her fellow saints were no longer present actors in the drama of salvation, but past victors 'who from their labours rest'.

The Reformation cut the ties of solidarity we experience as brothers and sisters in Christ with those before us and those yet to come. Mary's heavenly rôle in the life of faith could no longer be assumed as common to all Christians.

The Reformation rightly challenged the Church to articulate afresh the faith delivered to the Apostles. But both the Reformers in their challenge and the Church in her response failed to live up to the inheritance entrusted to us. As a Church we all know the theological diversity, good and bad, that the Reformation, and responses to it, continue to produce.

In many of these theologies, Mary has little rôle to play. At best her work is done, and

only her example remains. Pope Emeritus Benedict comments on this theological state of play: 'If Mary no longer finds a place in many theologies and ecclesiologies, the reason is obvious: they have reduced the faith to an abstraction. And an abstraction does not need a Mother.'

Our belief in the Assumption is the means by which we show to the Church and to the world the rôle of God's Mother. It flows from our belief that God has a Mother at all. It flows from the fact that God did not become an abstraction. God became a human being.

The Word became flesh: God incarnate, with a human mother. 'When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman' as our second reading put it. Our flesh becomes his. Or rather, her flesh becomes his. God is born of a woman, and takes our flesh from her. If the Assumption teaches us that Mary is uniquely body and soul in heaven, it is because that body is none other than Christ's. Her flesh was that through which God was born, and by which all humanity is made alive in Christ.

None of this is easy to understand. The Assumption is as mysterious as the Incarnation or the Resurrection. Not a doctrine to be understood, but a dogma by which to live the Christian life.

We here know that this life includes a rôle for Mary and the Saints even now, even if this rôle isn't easy to understand.

At a first Mass recently, the newly ordained priest introduced the congregation to the tradition of giving a bouquet of flowers to our Lady by reminding us that it's 'hard to explain the rôle of Mary in your life'.

We here have all felt the effect of the prayers of the Saints. We've gained some insight into what the Book of Revelation

refers to when it describes the prayer of the Saints rising up from beneath the heavenly altar.

We've found, at least in my experience, that when we do things which are too selfish or shameful or stupid for our own good; when we wrongly convince ourselves that Christ will have nothing to do with us whatsoever, we open our eyes in prayer, we wipe away our tears, and feel Mary or a particular Saint or the whole company of heaven willing us back to the one who created us, became flesh for us, and calls us even now in the midst of our sinful lives.

We've felt the effect of their prayer willing us on, only for Christ to meet us as he always does, with that same quizzical embrace, "I was here all along, what's been keeping you?"

Part of our Christian duty, as those who have felt the effect of the prayers of the Saints and of our Lady, is to find ways of sharing that encounter with our brothers and sisters in Christ. This is why we process today. To show to the Church and to the world, the importance of cultivating the awareness of the work of the Saints and of Mary as fellow and active members of the body of Christ.

Not in ways that tear down, or cement our tribal boundaries, or try to compensate for the lack of devotion in others in ways that alienate or are over the top. But patiently and clearly to demonstrate what the Saints and our Lady do day in and day out, by doing just what they do, simply to point, to point to the one who is their, and our, salvation.

As we point to them, and to Mary today in our procession, we only ever point to Christ, as they only point to Christ — the only one, as we say at each and every Mass, through whom, with whom and in whom, we are

saved.

The Assumption answers the question 'where is Mary today?'. It reminds us that we believe in a God who took Mary as his earthly Mother, even as she is our mother now in heaven. And whilst this might be hard to understand, it's easy to point, even if it's not so easy to follow.

As we struggle to follow the one who calls us, the prayers of Mary and of all the Saints, help us toward our goal. As they follow him to where he has lead them, they point us ever back to him.

Their prayer helps us to discern the call of the one who has saved us, the one we hope we will one day see face-to-face in our heavenly home, in the presence not of an abstraction, but of our Saviour, his mother, and, we pray, countless more besides.

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## 100 YEARS AGO

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*We have been appealing for volunteers at All Saints recently, so it was interesting to find Fr Mackay doing the same; although for a particular wartime cause.*

"A Hut for the convenience of the Munitions Workers in Regent's Park is to be opened in October, one of the large houses on the edge of the Park having been secured for the purpose. It is proposed that the congregations of the churches in the neighbourhood should supply workers, and also give what financial assistance they can to the enterprise. At the request of the Revd E.N. Sharpe, Vicar of Holy Trinity, the Vicar has undertaken to try to find ten ladies of the All Saints congregation who will give up two or three hours every Friday to work at the Hut. October 4<sup>th</sup> is the day on which they will be required to begin.

*The War had also brought one of the more*

*unusual appeals for help to be found in a parish magazine; even in time of war.*

“There has been a generous response to the Vicar’s appeal for Acid Drops and Eau de Cologne. Father Leonard Strong has written from Salonica begging that these alleviatives might be sent out to him for the relief of men suffering from fever in the extreme heat, and greatly distressed by the large quantities of quinine they are obliged to take. The Sister Superior of All

Saints’ Home is kindly undertaking to pack the parcels and send them out. The Vicar asked for money towards this expense, and some has been kindly sent; but it is found that the War Office will send the packages free of charge; the money is consequently being spent on more Eau de Cologne. The Sister Superior will be glad to receive and dispatch any further contributions of Eau de Cologne and Acid Drops which this notice may bring.”

**COMMUNICATIONS to and from ALL SAINTS**

**NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES at ALL SAINTS**

We have a project underway renewing our IT, please note new emails for immediate use:

**Vicar:** vicar@allsaintsmargaretstreet.org.uk  
**Fr Michael:** assistantpriest@allsaintsmargaretstreet.org.uk  
**Parish Administrator:** office@allsaintsmargaretstreet.org.uk

**ALL SAINTS CONTACTING YOU (GDPR)**

New data protection laws introduced in May of this year mean that we *need your consent* to communicate with you by email/phone/SMS/post.

*If you have NOT already responded to an email from us in May 2018* and wish us to **continue or start to send you weekly e-newsletters**, please go to our website [www.allsaintsmargaretstreet.org.uk/about/contact](http://www.allsaintsmargaretstreet.org.uk/about/contact) and click on the ‘Sign up here’ link to give us your consent. **View All Saints’ Privacy Notice at:** <https://bit.ly/2n6OC7z>.

If you wish/also wish to continue to receive communications *by post*, please complete the details requested here, handing in to a Sidesperson/Churchwarden/Priest when you next visit All Saints or posting to us at Parish Office, 7 Margaret Street, London W1W 8JG. If we do not have your explicit permission to communicate with you, we will not be able to send you further Church information.

**Name & Address (please print)** .....  
.....  
..... **Postcode** .....

**Ok to communicate by post — YES/NO**      **Ok to communicate by phone — YES/NO**

**If yes, please give preferred Telephone No** .....

**Ok to communicate by SMS — YES/NO** (provide mobile number)

*If you are happy to be emailed & snail mailed, please complete both processes. Thank you!*

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## ORGAN SCHOLAR EXAM SUCCESS

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**Marko Sever, the 2017/18 Dr John Birch Organ Scholar**, about to take his leave of All Saints to move on to St Albans Cathedral, has had tremendous success in his examinations for the Fellowship of the Royal College of Organists (FRCO) — achieving the highest marks of the candidates this summer in his paperwork and being awarded the Harding & Durrant Prize. We congratulate Marko on his achievement and wish him well as he begins the next stage of his career as an organist.

**Jordan Wong ARCO**, Marko's successor as Dr John Birch Organ Scholar, joins All Saints on Sunday 2 September.

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## SUNDAYS & SOLEMNITIES MUSIC & READINGS

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### ✠ SUNDAY 2 SEPTEMBER THE 14<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

#### HIGH MASS at 11am

*Entrance Hymn:* 285 (i) For the beauty  
of the earth

*Entrance Chant:* *Miserere mihi, Domine*

*Setting:* Missa ad imitationem vinum  
bonum — Lassus

*Psalm:* 15

*Readings:* Deuteronomy 4: 1 – 2, 6 – 9  
James 1: 17 – end

*Gradual Hymn:* 232 Awake, my soul,  
and with the sun

*Gospel:* Mark 7: 1 – 8, 14 – 15, 21 – 23

*Preacher:* Fr Michael Bowie

*Creed:* Merbecke

*Offertory Motet:* Ave Maria à 8 — Victoria

*Hymns:* 306 Strengthen for service, Lord,  
the hands  
318 My God, accept my heart  
this day  
456 Teach me, my God and King  
*Voluntary:* Præludium in C, BuxWV 139  
— Buxtehude

### EVENSONG and BENEDICTION at 6pm

*Psalm:* 119: 1 – 16

*Lessons:* Exodus 12: 21 – 27  
Matthew 4: 23 – 5: 20

*Office Hymn:* 150 (S) O blest Creator of  
the light

*Canticles:* Watson in E

*Anthem:* Te lucis ante terminum  
— Gardiner

*Preacher:* Fr Julian Browning

*Hymn:* 104 At the Lamb's high feast  
we sing

*O Salutaris:* Byrd

*Hymn:* 341 Blest are the pure in heart

*Tantum ergo:* Byrd

*Voluntary:* Psalm Prelude, Set 1, No 1  
— Howells

### ✠ SUNDAY 9 SEPTEMBER THE 15<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

#### HIGH MASS at 11am

*Entrance Hymn:* 415 (T 346) O for a  
thousand tongues to sing

*Entrance Chant:* *Iustus es, Domine*

*Setting:* Missa Brevis in D, K194  
— Mozart

*Psalm:* 146

*Readings:* Isaiah 35: 4 – 7a  
James 2: 1 – 10, 14 – 17

*Gradual Hymn:* 360 Firmly I believe and  
truly

*Gospel:* Mark 7: 24 – end

*Preacher:* Fr Julian Browning



*Setting:* Missa simile est regnum  
cælorum — Lobo

*Psalm:* 54

*Readings:* Wisdom 1: 16 – 2: 1, 12 – 22  
James 3: 13 – 4: 3, 7 – 8a

*Gradual Hymn:* 442 (T 257) Prayer is the  
soul's sincere desire

*Gospel:* Mark 9: 30 – 37

*Preacher:* The Vicar, Fr Alan Moses

*Creed:* Credo III

*Offertory Motet:* Jesu, dulcis memoria  
— Victoria

*Hymns:* 273 (T 302) And now, O  
Father, mindful of the love  
385 Jesu, the very thought of  
thee  
420 O Jesus, I have promised

*Voluntary:* Præludium in D BuxWV 139  
— Buxtehude

## **EVENSONG AND BENEDICTION at 6pm**

*Psalm:* 119: 137 – 152

*Lessons:* Exodus 19: 10 – end  
Matthew 8: 23 – end

*Office Hymn:* 150 (R) O blest Creator of  
the light

*Canticles:* Canticles in F — Wood

*Anthem:* Hail, gladdening light — Wood

*Preacher:* Fr Michael Bowie

*Hymn:* 354 Eternal Father, strong  
to save

*O Salutaris:* Victoria à 5

*Hymn:* 307 Sweet sacrament divine

*Tantum ergo:* Victoria (1<sup>st</sup> setting)

*Voluntary:* Voluntary — Tomkins

## **✠ SUNDAY 30 SEPTEMBER THE 18<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

### **HIGH MASS at 11am**

*Entrance Hymn:* 498 Son of God, eternal  
Saviour

*Entrance Chant:* Omnia, quæ fecisti nobis

*Setting:* Mass in G minor  
— Vaughan Williams

*Psalm:* 19: 7 – end

*Readings:* Numbers 11: 4 – 6, 10 – 16,  
24 – 29  
James 5: 13 – end

*Gradual Hymn:* 238 New every morning  
is the love

*Gospel:* Mark 9: 38 – end

*Preacher:* The Vicar, Fr Alan Moses

*Creed:* Merbecke

*Offertory Motet:* For he shall give his angels  
charge over thee — Mendelssohn

*Hymns:* 312 (T 235) Where the appointed  
sacrifice  
472 When all thy mercies,  
O my God  
353 Dear Lord and Father  
of mankind

*Voluntary:* Toccata — Gigout

## **EVENSONG AND BENEDICTION at 6pm**

*Psalms:* 120, 121

*Lessons:* Exodus 24  
Matthew 9: 1 – 8

*Office Hymn:* 150 (S) O blest Creator of  
the light

*Canticles:* Canticles in F minor — Gray

*Anthem:* Faire is the heaven — Harris

*Preacher:* Fr Michael Bowie

*Hymn:* 487 (T 447) You, living Christ,  
our eyes behold  
(Caplin descendant)

*O Salutaris:* Bortniansky, arr Caplin

*Hymn:* 70 (i) Lord Jesus, think on me

*Tantum ergo:* Harwood, arr Caplin

*Voluntary:* Prelude in B minor (Sonata  
No 10) — Rheinberger

***Information correct at the time of going  
to press***

## 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](http://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.

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### **Vicar:**

Prebendary Alan Moses

020 7636 1788

Mobile: 07973 878040

Email: [vicar@allsaintsmargaretstreet.org.uk](mailto:vicar@allsaintsmargaretstreet.org.uk)

### **Assistant Priest:**

The Revd Dr Michael Bowie

07581 180963

Email: [assistantpriest@allsaintsmargaretstreet.org.uk](mailto:assistantpriest@allsaintsmargaretstreet.org.uk)

### **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: [office@allsaintsmargaretstreet.org.uk](mailto:office@allsaintsmargaretstreet.org.uk)

## **Parish Officials**

### **Churchwardens:**

John Forde 020 7592 9855

Chris Self 020 7723 2938

### **Hon PCC Secretary:**

John McWhinney

[asms.pccsecretary@outlook.com](mailto: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**

## CALENDAR AND INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2018

1	<i>Giles, hermit, 710</i>	Rough sleepers
2	✠ <b>TRINITY 14</b>	<b>Our Parish and People</b>
3	Gregory the Great, bishop, teacher of the faith, 604	The Anglican Centre in Rome
4		Those who work in the parish
5		The Metropolitan Police
6		Unity
7		Those in need
8	<b>Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>	Thanksgiving for Our Lady
9	✠ <b>TRINITY 15</b>	<b>Our Parish and People</b>
10		Students
11		Schools
12		Friends of All Saints
13	John Chrysostom, bishop, teacher of the faith, 407	Patriarch Bartholomew
14	<b>Holy Cross Day</b>	Those who suffer for the faith
15	Cyprian, bishop, martyr, 258	St Cyprian's, Clarence Gate
16	✠ <b>TRINITY 16</b>	<b>Our parish and people</b>
17	Hildegard, abbess, 1179	Monastic communities
18		Gift of Catholic Mission Conference
19	<i>Theodore, archbishop of Canterbury, 690</i>	Archbishop of Canterbury
20	John Coleridge Patteson, bishop and comps, martyrs, 1871	Church in South Pacific
21	<b>Matthew, Apostle &amp; Evangelist</b>	Thanksgiving for the Gospel
22		USPG
23	✠ <b>TRINITY 17</b>	<b>Our Parish and People</b>
24		Syrian Child Refugees' Art Exhibition
25	Lancelot Andrewes, bishop, 1626	Preachers
26	Ember Day, <i>Wilson Carlile, Church Army, founder, 1942</i>	Marylebone Project
27	Vincent de Paul, priest, founder of the Lazarists, 1660	Vocations
28	Ember Day	Theological Colleges
29	<b>Michael and All Angels</b> (Ember Day)	Thanksgiving for the Angels
30	✠ <b>TRINITY 18</b>	<b>Our Parish and People</b>



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S Alban's Church Litho Unit  
Birmingham B12 0XB



Churches  
Together in  
Westminster

Churches Working Together  
in Central London

Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East (FRRME)

**Rebuilding Lives and Restoring Hope**

**VOICES FROM IRAQ:**  
**STORIES OF TRAUMA, SURVIVAL AND HOPE**  
**All Saints Church, Margaret Street,**  
**Tuesday 11 September 7.30pm**

Continuing All Saints leading rôle in the Deanery of St Marylebone and the Diocese of London, in promoting the cause of persecuted Christians in the Middle East, *we will be hosting a joint **Churches Together in Westminster** and **Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East** evening on the plight of Christians in Iraq and those who fled to Jordan, and the challenges facing those returning to their ancestral homes in the Nineveh Plains and Mosul.* The evening will begin with a showing of the FRRME specially commissioned film **“Voices from Iraq”** which enables Christians from Northern Iraq to talk about what happened to them when ISIL came to the area, and also their hopes for the future. The film is a moving tribute to a brave and resilient people.

After the film there will be an opportunity to hear from Father Faiz, Anglican Vicar of St George's, Baghdad\* about the situation for Christians in a post ISIL Iraq and the pastoral, educational and medical work St George's is undertaking. Both Fr Faiz and the St George's clinic, the only free medical centre in Baghdad, are supported by FRRME. Following a recent visit to northern Iraq, **Mike Simpson of FRRME** will give an account of the initiatives being undertaken by the Christians returning to Nineveh to rebuild their lives and communities and the extensive humanitarian work we are still needing to provide. **Helena Scott, FRRME's Jordan Project Officer**, will share her experiences of working with the Iraqi Christian refugees in Jordan and the Trauma and Healing Centre she runs in Amman. ***There will be an opportunity to ask questions of all the speakers at the end.***

**Please come and support this event.** Our Christian brothers and sisters in Iraq urgently need the prayers and support of Christians and churches in the United Kingdom. They receive no international or government support and are dependent on the generosity of Christians around the world.

*\*Father Faiz's participation is dependent on the British Government granting him a visa. Please pray that he is successful. FRRME is a small inter-denominational Christian charity funded by churches and individual Christians throughout the UK dedicated to supporting Christians in the region and to building reconciliation.*