



PARISHIONERS' NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2025



Arabia variegata and hellebores, All Saints Road – Brigid

www.allsaintsheadington.org.uk

Who's Who at All Saints

<p>Minister Rev. Paul Niemiec minister@allsaintsheadington.org.uk</p>	<p>Director of Music and Organist Stuart Donaldson organist@allsaintsheadington.org.uk</p>
<p>Churchwardens James Larminie churchwarden2@allsaintsheadington.org.uk Janet Marx churchwarden1@allsaintsheadington.org.uk</p>	<p>Assistant Organist Keith Waters</p>
<p>Licensed Lay Ministers James Larminie churchwarden2@allsaintsheadington.org.uk Christine Tucker llm1@allsaintsheadington.org.uk Michael Oberuohwo</p>	<p>Choir Administrator Vivienne Larminie</p>
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<p>Hon. Secretary PCC Vivienne Larminie pcc.secretary@allsaintsheadington.org.uk</p>	<p>Social Committee Chair Susan Newey</p>
<p>Hon. Sacristan and Flower Coordinator Valerie Boulter</p>	<p>Children's Team Catherine Donaldson Andrew Steane Emma Steane</p>
<p>Garden Brigid Crofton Valerie Boulter John Macaulay</p>	<p>Welcome Team Valerie Boulter Veronica John Susan Newey Lucy Whitworth John Whitworth Alison Kempson William Marx</p>

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A Message from Paul – Bigger Picture

One of the many joys of having four Gospels is that we all see a “Bigger Picture” of Jesus; who he was; what he did and said; the lives he changed both then and now. By seeing through a variety of eyes we all have the opportunity to learn more of God’s time on earth.

I’m hoping to replicate this “variety” approach during this year by inviting a range of people to speak to us at our Sunday services. Already, since Christmas, we’ve heard from James, Bishop Steven and Christine and a diversity of others will speak during Lent.

I’m delighted to tell you that as a Church we will be facilitating the coming generation of leaders by enabling Ordinands for Wycliffe Hall to come and speak. I do hope we’ll all be keen to support them in their new ministries.

Also, I hope you will take up other chances to see and learn more through small groups. Our Lent groups will be happening morning and evening where we can learn and share more together.

After Easter I’m hoping to launch “The Bible Course”, it’s an excellent way to learn much more of God’s “Big Picture”. Helen and I have used it before and we, and many others, have been greatly blessed. Look out for a sign-up sheet.

Special services will also enable us to all see the “Bigger Picture” of Easter and what it means to us today here in Church and as we live our lives in the 21st century.

My hope, for each of us, is that this Lent and Easter we will see, experience and go deeper into God’s “Bigger Picture” and, in doing so, come close to him and each other and want to share those experiences by reaching out further.

This may be through the Diocesan Lent course online, as individuals, our small groups, listening to our guest preachers or through simply be more open to hear, experience and respond to God.

One of my very favourite songs says it all [well not quite all, but it’s great]!

God bless,

Paul

Our God is a great big God
Our God is a great big God
Our God is a great big God
And He holds us in His hand

He's higher than a skyscraper
He's deeper than a submarine
He's wider than the universe
And beyond my wildest dreams
He's known me and He's loved me
Since before the world began
How wonderful to be a part of
God's amazing plan

Our God is a great big God
Our God is a great big God
Our God is a great big God
And He holds us in His hand

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Our God is a great big God
And He holds us in His hand

[Maybe I should teach you all the song and the actions!?!]

Our Worship in March

March sees the beginning of Lent, with two services of Holy Communion on Ash Wednesday, 5 March. The morning service at 10am will be a simple said service, with no hymns. At 7:30 pm we will have a service like we have done for a few years now, with hymns and a short sermon.

We also have a series of guest preachers through Lent.

As far as I can tell, All Saints has had a strong link with the Church Missionary Society (CMS) since it's very earliest days. Our dear friend Eve Vause served as a midwife for many years in Africa with them. Our last 'link missionary', in the sense of a member of the church who went out with them was Penny Sweet, who grew up in the church. Penny helped with agricultural projects, and is also Eve's niece. She now lives in France. It

will be very good to have visitors from the CMS on the first Sunday of Lent. They are Miranda and Tim Heathcote who are missionaries with CMS, back home for a spell.

On 23 March we will have another guest preacher – Laura Biron-Scott, who used to be the vicar of Holy Trinity, and visited us on a number of occasions. It will be good to have her back.

We hope many will support an experiment we are trying on the evening of 23 March, the fourth Sunday. This would normally be Choral Evensong. Instead, we are having a choral service, with music, hymns and a few Bible readings on the theme of “The Good Shepherd”. We hope this will be useful and appreciated.

In addition to the services in the table below, the All Saints team will be taking services in McMaster House, St Luke’s Hospital, and The Headington Care Home as normal. There is also the funeral of Carol Aris, formerly of Stile Road, in church on 18 March at 11:00 am.

James

Summary of Services in March

Time	Date	Occasion	Service
10:00 am	2 Mar.	Last Sunday before Lent	Holy Communion – Rev. Paul Niemiec
10:00 am	5 Mar.	Ash Wednesday	Holy Communion, said – Rev Paul Niemiec
7:30 pm	5 Mar.	Ash Wednesday	Holy Communion with hymns – Rev. Paul Niemiec
10:00 am	9 Mar.	1 st Sunday in Lent	Holy Communion – Rev. Paul Niemiec with Miranda and Tim Heathcote from the CMS.
10:00 am	16 Mar.	2 nd Sunday in Lent	Holy Communion – Rev. Paul Niemiec and Michael Oberuohwo
10:00 a.m	23 Mar.	3 rd Sunday in Lent	Holy Communion – Revs Paul Niemiec and Laura Biron-Scott
5:30 p.m.	23 Mar.	3 rd Sunday in Lent	Choral service on the theme of “The Good Shepherd”
10:00 am	30 Mar.	Mothering Sunday	Holy Communion – Rev. Paul Niemiec

Mothering Sunday Posies



Are you able to help prepare the Posies on Saturday 29th March at 10.00am inside The Church? Please bring some greenery. Daffodils will be supplied

If you can come, please see Valerie. A list will be at the back of the Church for you to add your name.

Thank you

Valerie

Social Committee



The next Britannia Lunch will be on Wednesday 2 April 12.15pm. All are welcome.

Visit of Bishop Steven

On Sunday 2 February (the feast of Candlemas) All Saints was delighted to welcome Bishop Steven to preach and celebrate. The bishop has visited the church for two licensing services (Leon in June 2021 and Paul in July 2023) but this was his first visit to a service since 2017. There was a good congregation to welcome him and there was some hearty singing – for which thanks to Stuart and the choir. Bishop Steven preached on Luke 2:22–40, the story of Joseph and Mary taking the infant Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to make the customary offering of ‘a pair of doves or two young pigeons’. Here they encountered Simeon, who had been promised that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah, and the elderly widow Anna.

The bishop drew attention to several themes that he felt were significant. First, he pointed out that there was no mention in the account of the ‘important people’ – no record of any of the priests who were officiating, nor of the Temple officials. No, this was about people who were probably perceived as marginal, even invisible: two elderly people, and a man with his young wife and their child who would have not attracted any attention at all. Simeon and Anna were nearing the end of their lives and had devoted themselves to God. Simeon is described as ‘righteous and devout’ and Anna has spent all her many years of widowhood: ‘She never left the Temple, but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying’. Unlike many people drawing towards the end of their lives they did not look back, but forward, forward to the coming of the Messiah and the redemption of Jerusalem.

The bishop also spoke about how the joy of Simeon and Anna was tempered by their knowledge that what lay ahead would not be easy, with Simeon foretelling that Jesus would bring disruption and dissent (verse 34: ‘... destined to cause the rising and falling of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against’), and that Mary too would suffer (verse 35: ‘And a sword will pierce your own soul too’). This recalls for all Christians, the bishop reminded us, that the Christian way is not always easy or straightforward.

Bringing the strands of his sermon together, Bishop Steven urged us to remember the story, and to ponder the significance of the need to welcome those on the margins of society, the need to find time in our lives for prayer and worship, and the need to accept what life has in store for us.

During communion the choir sang the Nunc Dimittis to a beautiful setting.

Bishop Steven was able to stay and chat to members of the congregation after the service, and Paul tells us that in a letter to him the bishop was very complimentary about the warm welcome he had received.

Janet

Lenten Prayers - Tolkien Stations of the Cross



Tolkien Stations

The Tolkien Stations of the Cross are 14 bronzes by sculptor Faith Tolkien, showing the Easter story from the entry into Jerusalem to the road to Emmaus. Readings and prayers are said at each one: you are very welcome at these Lenten prayers.

Fridays March 14th + 28th, and April 11th.
Time: 6pm.

Corpus Christi Church

Margaret Road

Headington OX3 8AJ

World Day of Prayer



**World Day of Prayer
for the Cook Islands.**

Friday 7th March 12-1pm

**The Society of Friends at
The Quaker Meeting House**

43 St. Giles

Oxford OX1 3LW



How it Feels to be Free – Concert

HIGHFIELD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION presents...

HOW IT FEELS TO BE FREE



All Saints Church House,
New High Street,
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Friday March 14th 7.30pm (doors open 7pm)

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Information: 07941210429

OXUS Concert

On **Saturday 15 March** there will be another of the lovely afternoon concerts that our local string quartet provide for us. Entitled “An hour of music to take you around the world”. It starts at **4:30 pm**. Tickets £15, or £2 for under-18s.

Tickets bought ‘on the door’ or at www.bookthatin.com/book/oxus



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TICKETS £15 (UNDER-18s £2)
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OR ON THE DOOR

Recycle your Textiles

One of the advantages of being ‘board monitor’ for the Highfield Residents’ Association – that is looking after the noticeboard in All Saints Road – is that we get to read the notices before we put them up. One caught our eye a couple of weeks ago:

Recycle your Textiles

**A free kerbside textiles recycling collection service
is now available in Oxford**

For various reasons, this was very timely, so we decided to try it out. We went on the website on Monday 17 February and were invited to book a slot. We heard back an hour later and were asked to put our bags out on Thursday 20 February. We are pleased to say that the recycling was collected as promised. This is a service offered by the council working with ‘Recycling Solutions’, who work with charities and local authorities across the UK to collect unwanted clothing, shoes and textiles. In Oxford, ‘Recycling Solutions’ partners with Thames Valley Air Ambulance. They collect clothing and shoes, sheets, linen, curtains, duvets, pillows, cushions, blankets, towels, handbags, sleeping bags, soft bags and Wellington boots.

If you are interested go to:

www.oxford.gov.uk/goes-bin/recycling-textiles

Janet and William

From the Editors

Dear Friends,

As ever we must record our thanks to everyone who has contributed to this issue. Lent has just started; it is a period of reflection for us all but it now seems a doubly sombre time as we absorb the depth of the crisis in the Ukraine and potentially in wider Europe. So along with the prayers we ask for those of our fellow parishioners who are no longer well enough to attend church: Eve Vause, Joan Turner and Audrey and Derek Woodcock, I am sure we will all be praying for peace.

On a happier note, we record that Margaret Belfrage celebrated her 90th birthday on 24th February. We send her warmest congratulations and best wishes. Margaret has had a recent stay in hospital but is now home and we hope she continues to recover well.

Bishop Steven was clearly pleased by his recent visit to All Saints', so we thought it appropriate to record some of his comments in his subsequent letter to Paul:

' I came away encouraged in every way. There is a sense of life and growth and it was a particular delight to see and hear the children and to note the diversity of the congregation in age, gender and ethnicity'.

He concluded by saying 'Well done' and thanking Paul.

Finally, a couple of Housekeeping matters. Work is underway to revise the Church Electoral Roll. If you wish to apply to be a member, please complete the form at the back of church. If you have any queries, please talk to the Church wardens.

Secondly the April issue of the newsletter will be the Easter one, so we are even more eager than usual for contributions; the deadline is 25th March. We hope to hear from you.

With best wishes

Catherine and Catherine

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