



PARISHIONERS' NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2025



Spring garden by the church door – Brigid

www.allsaintsheadington.org.uk

Who's Who at All Saints

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A Message from Paul

Hello everyone, Huge thanks to everyone who made all our Advent and Christmas celebrations go so well, it was great to welcome so many to All Saints for such a wonderful range opportunities and events. Whilst the world saw Advent as chocolate filled calendars, we were able to focus on the deep truth of God's personal intervention in our human history.

And now we are going to prepare for the culmination of that intervention in Lent and Easter. Once again, the world will minimise these to giving up "Something" and eating more chocolate, this time in egg form.

What, then, shall we do? Give up? Take up? Change?

I'm "Giving up" preaching for Lent [well almost]. I've invited a variety of guests to share their reflections on Lent and Easter; a Missionary, a Soldier, one of our own, even, I hope, an old friend and, well...me. Is there something that you might give up? Or take up? Elsewhere you'll read of the Diocesan Lent course, something we might all take up, or perhaps something spiritual that's more personal to you? Lots of people read a book or more of the Bible, more prayer, whatever we choose it's a season for additional reflection upon all that God has done for us in and through Jesus.

We have two services of Holy Communion on Ash Wednesday, 5 March one at 10:00am and one at 7:30pm to start things off, perhaps planning to join us for that might be a really good start?

We shall have one or two [subject to levels of interest] Lent groups, looking at the letter to the Philippians. One in the morning and one in the evening. There will be sign up sheets at the back of Church.

Helen and I have been with you for six very eventful months and I've had the chance to get to know both All Saints and many of you, in that time. I'm delighted to say that more people have engaged with us and in more and different ways as those months have passed, which is a blessing. It would be even better if they and we can all go deeper with God - and what better time than Lent and Easter?

So, however each one of us chooses to do so, may each of us get to know God better as we move forward and by so doing, seek his will for us as individuals and all of us at All Saints.

God's continuing blessings.

Paul

Our Worship in February

February sees the end of the Epiphany season, and a period of what's called 'Ordinary Time', before we move into Lent. With Easter being quite late this year, so is Lent. In fact, it does not begin till March, so there are no Lent services in February.

On the first Sunday we have Steven, bishop of Oxford, coming to preach and celebrate at our 10:00 am service. This is not for any special occasion, but he likes to visit the churches in 'his patch' for a normal Sunday service from time to time. He was last with us at a morning service in 2017.

James

Summary of Services in February

Time	Date	Occasion	Service
10:00 a.m	2 Feb.	Candlemas	Holy Communion – Bishop Steven
10:00 a.m	9 Feb.	4 th Sunday before Lent	Holy Communion – Rev. Paul Niemiec and Christine Tucker
10:00 a.m.	16 Feb.	3 rd Sunday before Lent	Holy Communion – Rev. Paul Niemiec
10:00 a.m	23 Feb.	2 nd Sunday before Lent	Holy Communion – Rev. Paul Niemiec
5:30 p.m.	23 Feb.		Choral Evensong

Phyllis Joan Bolt
1925-2025



On Monday 27 January we celebrated the life of a remarkable lady, our dear friend Phyllis. She died earlier in the month aged 99½, having been a member of All Saints all her life, and never having lived more than half a mile from the church.

Phyllis Bricknell was born in Alexandra Road (now called Gathorne Road) in August 1925. Baptised in September 1925, she was an active member who came to church almost every Sunday. She was in Sunday School, and then Pathfinders. She had seen a huge number of changes at All Saints, including the building of the chancel, vestries and Lady Chapel, which took place in 1937. She was in church when the Second World War was declared in 1939. Extraordinarily, she remembers looking out from the back of their Gathorne Road home and seeing the sky lit up by the fires in London caused by German bombing. She went to activities in the old tin-hut parish hall, which was in use till the present Church House was built in 1967. She was unique in being at both the beginning and end of Rev. Jim Cocke's long time as vicar, from 1956 to 2020.

In 1951 she married John Bolt, who was then a draughtsman at Morris Motors. They lived with his parents in Windmill Road till they had saved enough to put down a

deposit on one of the newly built houses in Barrington Close in 1956. Daughters Alison and Christine were born in 1960 and 1963. Her immediate family, and her wider family of brother, sister, in-laws, nieces and nephews were very important to her. She was involved in the local community through the Highfield Residents' Association in its early days, and especially in the preservation of the Warneford Fields as a public place. After retirement, she also volunteered for many years at the Oxfam shop in Headington.

Like Sheila Fitzgerald whose life we celebrated a couple of months ago, Phyllis was in the Young Wives group, and then the Mothers Union. She was on the PCC at various points and had a part in the licensing service of Leon Catallo in 2021. However, it was as such a faithful presence in the church that she will be best remembered, together with her ever cheerful nature, and twinkly smile. All those who knew her will miss dear Phyllis. In a sense saying good-bye to Phyllis at her funeral represented the ending of an era.

James

From the Family

Would you also please pass our huge thanks to all at All Saints, and in particular all those who contributed to the service, whether through prayers, music (including singing of descants!), Valerie's lovely flowers, the excellent and much appreciated refreshments (we are so grateful to the social committee) or behind the scenes.

Everyone worked so hard to make it a really special and fitting send off for Mum and it meant so much to us all to be surrounded by so much love for her and to have everyone's support.



Memories of Phyllis from Valerie



Margaret Belfrage invited Phyllis and me to have tea in her garden, what a lovely time we had – Valerie.

From Paul

You will read words from others who knew Phyllis well.

Sadly, I never had the chance to get to know Phyllis, but from all your reactions I am very aware of what a special lady she was. It was an honour to pray for her and her family at the JR, where she was so well looked after in her final days. As I write this, I'm seeing her family tomorrow to plan her funeral. As you read this it will have been and gone and all of us will have had the chance to give thanks for all that she meant to us and to our Church.

My thanks to all who made Phyllis' final service at All Saints so special. Her family and friends, all at Oliver and James and the All Saints family. I had many words of thanks at both the crematorium and the reception. The gist was that a very special lady had had a special send off.

Do, please, keep Phyllis' family in your prayers as her family come to terms with their loss.

As we say goodbye to another very long-term member of All Saints let us all be thankful for those who have gone before and play our part in sustaining and developing the Church for those who are to come.

Paul

Social Committee

The next Britannia Lunch will be on Wednesday 5 February 12.15pm. All are welcome.

An Evening with Ed Walker

Paul has recommended this event. Helen and he have known and supported Ed's projects for many years and they hope you enjoy this event at Headington Baptist Church.



An Evening with Ed Walker
A Rocha International Executive Director

Thursday 27th February 2025, 7.30pm
Headington Baptist Church, Oxford

Including a time of worship
Tickets are free but please book in using the QR code

Scan here to book



Headington Baptist Church

United Service

This service took place on 18 January and brought together the All Saints', Lime Walk Methodist and Oxford Chinese Christian Church congregations.



THANK YOU to all who in any way assisted in making the United Worship Service at All Saints so special.

I have received so many very complimentary comments, both after the service and since. Do please, also pass thanks to anyone you know who helped in any way. EVERY aspect was a blessing and went well. Any visitor would assume we worshipped like that every week - a shame, perhaps, that we don't more often.

My heartfelt gratitude to each who joined me in leading words, music, hospitality, preparation, prayers, readings and more.

Paul



With thanks to Brigid and Joanna for some photographs of this special event.



Christian Aid Changemakers Conference



All are welcome at this event on **Saturday 8th March 2025** from 10 am.

You can participate in three ways:

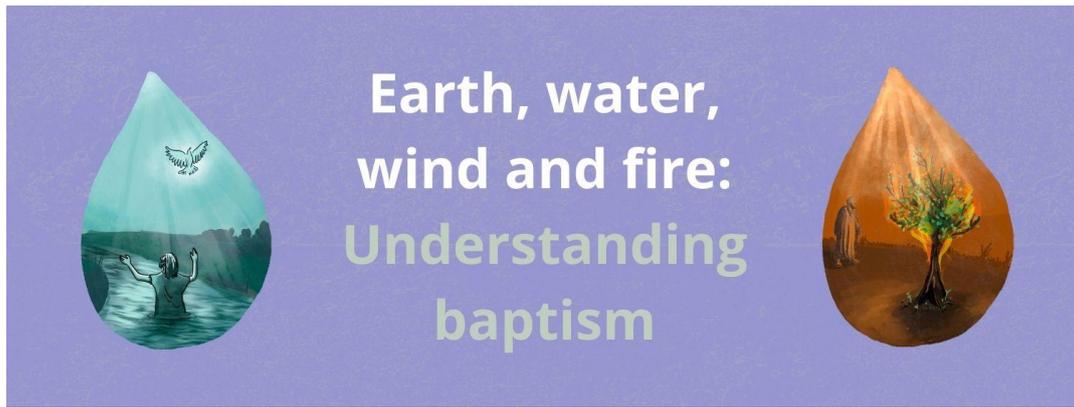
1. Come in person to **St John's Church Waterloo, London SE1 8TY** from 10am, followed by a free lunch and an **afternoon of seminars and workshops between 2pm and 4pm**. These workshops have been organised in partnership with Faith for the Climate and as well as a focus on climate action, will include a more in-depth Q&A with our visitors from Guatemala.
2. Join the **regional watch party** from 10am to 1pm, followed by a free lunch together when we can mull over what we've heard, at **Oxford (St James Church, Beauchamp Lane, OX4 3NE)**
3. Watch the **live stream** from the comfort of your home (and maybe invite local supporters to watch with you).

To sign up to any of these options, visit caid.org.uk/conference

We have an amazing line up for you, including:

- Stories of hope from a Programme Officer and Partner from Guatemala.
- Fundraising resources for Christian Aid Week 2025.
- Updates from our humanitarian team on our ongoing response to global disasters, including our work in Gaza.
- Our latest campaign action for 2025.
- Reflections on 80 years of Christian Aid and what we've achieved together.

Come and See, Our Diocesan Lent Course



Come and See is our big, warm open invitation to an adventure in faith and trust.

[Sign-ups now open! Register now](#)

It's for everyone in the local church and the whole community. It's free of charge, and all are welcome.

What is Come and See?

Each Lent, we delve into a new aspect of Christian faith - this year we're looking at baptism. It's perfect for new and old Christians alike, and can be done on your own, as a family, as a church, school or in a small group.

What does it involve?

Everyone who registers receives a short daily email to reflect on, and a weekly video from Bishop Steven exploring the themes in a bit more detail.

There are special materials for children and young people, with a weekly email featuring video messages on the same theme - one for primary-aged children and the other for those in secondary school.

I'm in, how do I sign up?

The theme for 2025 is Earth, Water, Wind and Fire - Understanding Baptism. You can sign up on the Diocesan website **www.oxford.anglican.org**

What do people think?

We've just completed our fourth year of Come and See. Over the years we've learned that once people sign up for Come and See during Lent, they stay.

"The Bishop's language and imagery in the films was excellent and worked extremely well for us, a group of people in their 20s."

"The videos with text were brilliant. Loved the gentle rhythm of the daily reflections."

From the Editors

Dear Friends,

As ever, we express our gratitude to everyone who has contributed to this newsletter. Many of us will have felt that Phyllis' passing is, as James described, the end of an era. She was such a beloved figure for decades. While we mourn her, we must also rejoice in her faith and service to the church. We were blessed and privileged to have her among us.

Sadly as we go to press, we have learnt of the passing of Marion Loudon, the widow of Martin, our former Church warden. Marion's last decade was clouded by severe illness, so that many of the current congregation will not have known her. We will include more about Marion next month. Please pray for the families of Phyllis and Marion as they grieve. As usual we also request your prayers for our fellow worshippers whose infirmity prevents their presence at our services: Eve Vause, Audrey and Derek Woodcock, and Joan Turner, who celebrates her birthday on 4th February - have a lovely day, Joan! We also send our commiserations and best wishes to Veronica John after the accident which dislocated her shoulder and also to her granddaughter Hannah who has broken her arm skiing.

Now back to birthdays, we omitted to mention that Brigid Crofton and her twin sister Jane celebrated their birthdays on 23 January when their combined ages totalled 186! They are both amazing and we are immensely grateful to Brigid for the continuing stream of photos of church events in these newsletters.

It appears February will be a relatively quiet month in the run up to a later than usual Lent. Perhaps we will all find time for some extra reading. Today (2nd February) Radio 4's Sunday programme featured the familiar voice of Archbishop Rowan Williams, whom we have been privileged to welcome to All Saints' on several occasions. He was discussing his new book, *Discovering Christianity: A Guide for the Curious*. God bless,

Catherine and Catherine

A Message from Peter Boulton-Lea

I want thank all of you so much for the generous collection you had for me. I was really moved and touched by your kindness. I put it towards a new tv which I needed.

I'm beginning to get sorted out here and know something of the town from having visited several times over the last few years. I'm only five minutes from the Abbey and the same from the swimming baths so am able to refresh body and soul! Thank you again for your kindness. Be sure of my prayers for you all at All Saints.

With love and happy memories and God's blessing,

Peter

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