



PARISHIONERS' NEWSLETTER
EASTER/ APRIL 2025



White 'snowflake' Leucojum, Tete-a-Tete miniature daffodils, blue Iris Stylosa – 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>
<p>Safeguarding Officer Emma Steane safeguarding@allsaintsheadington.org.uk</p>	<p>Editors: Parish Newsletter Catherine Hodgkinson and Catherine Hodgkinson newsletter@allsaintsheadington.org.uk</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 – What does Easter Mean to Me?

What does Easter mean to me? I wonder what you'd answer: a supermarket shelf filler might say eggs, cards, daffs and chocolate. Some might add Spring, flowers, sunshine and maybe weddings.

Well, I'm delighted that at All Saints we'll have weddings: David and Emily, and Michael and Orimolade. What an honour for me and all of us to be hosting their very special days.

Of course, Easter means so much more than just that for you and me, at least I hope it does. This Lent and Easter we'll have Homegroup, extra services, weddings, guest speakers and much more to help us reflect for ourselves on all that Easter means. We'll be enabled to wonder, give thanks, to respond, to read and listen, to pray and to decide for ourselves what, if any difference, all that Jesus said and did makes to ME [that's to say YOU]! That's not to say there won't be chocolate eggs wrapped in amazing and exciting packaging to entice us all to spend and eat too much! But on reflection the glossy, shiny stuff is just rubbish and even the egg has to be broken before we can "get at the good stuff"

Jesus was broken on the cross so that our rubbish could be gone, and that with His gift of Himself and The Holy Spirit we can have all God's good stuff and share it with others.

Happy Easter, in sharing God's great gifts, and a small one from me. Last month I shared one favourite song of mine, here's another.

God Bless

Paul

He Has Risen!

*He has risen, he has risen,
He has risen, Jesus is alive.*

When the life flowed from His body,
Seemed like Jesus' mission failed,
But His sacrifice accomplished,
Vict'ry over sin and hell.

*He has risen, he has risen,
He has risen, Jesus is alive.*

In the grave God did not leave Him,
For His body to decay,
Raised to life the Great Awakening,
Satan's pow'r He overcome.

*He has risen, he has risen,
He has risen, Jesus is alive.*

If there were no resurrection,
We ourselves could not be raised,
But the Son of God is living,
So our hope is not in vain.

*He has risen, he has risen,
He has risen, Jesus is alive.*

When the Lord rides out of heaven,
Mighty angels at His side,
They will sound the final trumpet,
From the grave we shall arise.

*He has risen, he has risen,
He has risen, Jesus is alive.*

He has given life immortal
We shall see Him face to face,
Through eternity we'll praise Him
Christ the champion of our faith.

*He has risen, he has risen,
He has risen, Jesus is alive!*

Noel Richards

Our Worship in April



Photo - Jamie Cable's Easter Garden design ([Church Times](#))

April will be very busy at church this year. Easter is quite late, on 20 April, and so there are all the special services around that time, from the quiet and thoughtful services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, to the joyous Easter services, including Easter Carols on 27 April.

In addition to all that we have TWO weddings! It is many decades since we had two weddings in a month.

On Maundy Thursday we will have a Holy Communion service at 7:30pm. Maundy Thursday celebrates the Last Supper, when the Communion Service was instituted as something the church was commanded to do, 'in remembrance of him'.

On Good Friday we have our family event, when we make our Easter Garden, which stands as a public witness to the story of Good Friday and Easter Day in our garden, in a place passed by scores of people each day. It is also an enjoyable and instructive occasion for the children who attend.

In the afternoon at 2pm Paul will lead us in an hour or so of prayer, meditation, and possibly some hymn singing, on the crucifixion.

On Easter Sunday we have the great celebration of the church, Resurrection Communion. Please make every effort to be with us in church for that day, arguably the most important Sunday of the year.

We will, as usual, have a service of Easter Carols, which is always a special evening. This will be on the Sunday following Easter, at 5:30pm

Time	Service	Date	Day	Preacher/Celebrant
12 noon	Wedding	5 April		Paul marrying Emily and David
10:00 am	Holy Communion	6 April	Lent 5	Griff / Paul
10:00 am	Holy Communion	13 April	Palm Sunday	Rev. Paul Niemiec
7:30 pm	Holy Communion	17 April	Maundy Thursday	Rev. Paul Niemiec
10:00 am	Easter garden making	18 April	Good Friday	Paul, James and others
2:00 pm	An hour before the Cross	18 April	Good Friday	Rev. Paul Niemiec
12 noon	Wedding	19 April	Easter Eve	Paul marrying Seun and Michael
10:00 am	Resurrection Communion	20 April	Easter Day	Rev. Paul Niemiec
10:00 am	Holy Communion	27 April	2 nd Sunday of Easter	Rev. Paul Niemiec
5:30 pm	Easter Carols	27 April		James Larminie

During the week there are normally services for prayer at **8:30 a.m.** as follows:

Tuesdays, Book of Common Prayer: Morning Prayer

Wednesdays, more informal prayer

And of course the All Saints Team will be taking services in McMaster House, St Luke's Hospital and The Headington Care home during April.

James

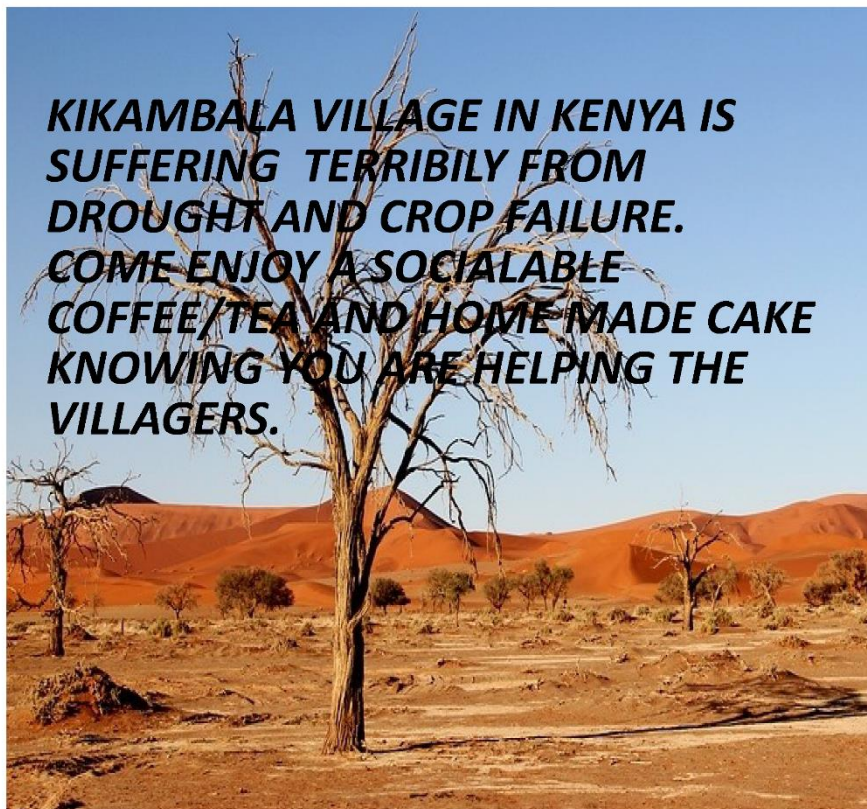
Social Committee

Wednesday 2 April, Lunch at the Britannia at 12.15pm. Everyone welcome.

Church House Management Committee meeting on Wednesday 2 April at 1.30pm in Church House.

Charity Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy

COFFEE MORNING AND BRING AND BUY SATURDAY 12th April 10AM METHODIST CHURCH HALL, NEW HIGH ST, HEADINGTON



PCC Report

The archdeacon, Rev. Jonathan Chaffey, and the diocesan parish development officer, Rhodri Bowen, joined us for part of the meeting to initiate a discussion about the future of the parish. Paul Niemiec's three-year period as vicar-in-charge ends in June 2027 and we need to start thinking in good time about what models of ministry would be appropriate for All Saints after that. We began to explore various different possibilities which might fulfil our long-term aim of building a sustainable, thriving church community.

The other main business was discussing the annual report and annual accounts, which we then approved in preparation for the annual meetings in May. We were encouraged to learn that the church finances are in a healthy state.



Among other matters, we agreed that the latest quotation for the installation of a data projection system be accepted. (This subsequently went ahead on schedule between 26 and 28 March, and was in use on 30 March.) We also considered ideas for developing the mission of the church, both by fostering a sense of community within the church and by reaching out more effectively to those around us. Some action is already in hand (for example extra notice boards inside the building to display information about our mission partners and signage outside the church to make it more immediately welcoming); other suggestions will benefit from further reflection.

Vivienne

Easter Gospel Singing Workshop

Gospel singing Easter workshop



ALL WELCOME

**12 April
2025**

At
**Tyndale
Community
Primary School**

WITH

Tyndale Community Gospel Choir

10.30am-3.30pm

Interested? w: <https://tyndalegospel.fun>
e: tyndalegospel@gmail.com

A Musical Weekend at All Saints

On Friday 14 March All Saints Church House hosted a concert of folk music in aid of 'Asylum Welcome', organized by Highfield Residents' Association. The upper room was full to capacity to hear local musicians 'The Mad Marston Hares', 'Quest for Folk' and John Winterbottom, who entertained us with some excellent music and a varied programme. Emma from 'Asylum Welcome' spoke movingly about the plight of those for whom the organization cares, and a collection raised the impressive amount of £540.



The following afternoon All Saints Church was host once again to our friends, the Oxus String Quartet. In a performance entitled 'More Postcards from a String Quartet', Spike, Kate, Heather, and Louise, took us on a musical whistlestop tour of (much of) the world, with pieces from Argentina to Norway, China to Spain, and Britain to Azerbaijan. Keep an eye on the All Saints calendar for their next performance in our church.



Janet (with photographs by James)

Easter Egg Appeal

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Easter Egg Appeal

We're supporting Ronald McDonald House
by gifting eggs to local children this Easter

If you would like to donate please
drop off your eggs here between
now and 14th April 2025

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Guest Preachers in Lent

As many of you will know, Paul has invited guest preachers for Sundays in Lent (all except for 30 March, Mothering Sunday, when he will be preaching). On Sunday 9 March we met Miranda and Tom Heathcote who work for the Church Mission Society. This is one of the charities which All Saints has supported for many years. Miranda and Tom are based in Spain and also travel to support missionaries in eight countries in north Africa. In their sermon they both reflected on what the season of Lent meant to them and told us a little of their work. They gave us an insight into the need for pastoral care and spiritual support for those engaged in frontline missionary work, and how this can be achieved through leadership development, debriefing, spiritual direction, and retreats. Miranda and Tom left some leaflets in church about their work. If you did not get chance to pick one up, or were not able to be in church, you can read more at:

www.churchmissionsociety.org/heathcote



On Sunday 23 March we welcomed back to All Saints Laura Biron-Scott. As many will know, until last November Laura was vicar of Holy Trinity, Headington Quarry and she is now chaplain at Balliol College. In her sermon, Laura said that she felt that some of the readings for Lent were challenging, and she wove together themes that connected the three readings for the day: Isaiah 55: 1–9 and 1 Corinthians 10: 1–13, beautifully read by Sherin and James, and the gospel, Luke 13: 1–9.

Janet

The Good Shepherd: a service for the third Sunday in Lent

More than forty people attended the evening service at All Saints on 23 March. Instead of choral evensong, our wonderful musicians had put together a programme of music and readings on the theme of the Good Shepherd. There were three congregational hymns: 'The King of Love my Shepherd is', 'Good Shepherd, you know us', and 'The Lord is my Shepherd', and the biblical readings were Psalm 100, Isaiah 59:1–6, John 10:1–18, and Revelation 7: 9–17. The reading from John was followed immediately by a poem by Malcolm Guite, 'I am the door of the sheepfold', which the poet himself explains was inspired by the passage from John in which Jesus describes himself in these words. The choir sang 'Jubilate Deo', in the arrangement by Stanford, 'With my Shepherd I Abide' (Bach, Cantata 92). 'Good Shepherd of My Soul' (Getty, Townend, de Barra), 'Sheep May Safely Graze' (Bach, from Cantata 208), and Goodall's setting of 'The Lord is my Shepherd'. As many as could stay enjoyed the fellowship of a shared supper, and Stuart's wonderful soup. Thank you to all concerned for a wonderful evening.

Janet

Christian Aid Week

Dear Friends,

As many of you will know, I'm the local area rep for Christian Aid. As Christian Aid Week 2025 draws near, I've been asked by the regional manager, Phil Evans, to send out some information on events and appeals relevant to this year's campaign. Please see this information below.

I know that most people now order Christian Aid Week materials directly from Christian Aid, but please let me know if you would like me to order any materials for you, such as posters, bunting or collection envelopes.

I've booked a stall at Headington Market on 17 May to raise money for Christian Aid. We'll have collecting tins and a card reader, and a couple of members of St Andrews Church are making wine bags and gift bags to sell. If you or anyone you know would like to help out at the stall, or provide items to sell, please do let me know.

It would be great if we could all advertise our fund-raising initiatives that we have planned for this year, so please do email them round when you have something you'd like to share.

All best wishes for Christian Aid Week 2025!

Nigel Voak

Concert – Headington Singers & Orchestra

Headington Singers & Orchestra

Conductor : Malcolm Pearce

Leader : Thomas Gregory-Smith

Haydn The Creation

Robyn Pullen : Soprano

Peter Willis : Tenor

Will Orr : Bass

Maureen Cooper : Continuo

Friday, 4 April 2025 at 7.30pm

All Saints Church, Lime Walk, OX3 7AL

**Tickets on the door £15 / £12 / children free
(interval drink included in the ticket price)**

www.headingtonsingers.org.uk

From the Editors

Dear Friends,

Many thanks to all our contributors who have sent material and given our readers such an excellent insight into the life of All Saints'. We wish all our contributors and readers a blessed and peaceful Easter and hope they will find comfort in the Easter message in the services and the articles here. We are all too aware of the threats to world security at this time but also of the problems afflicting our own church, evidenced in the recent television appearance of our former Archbishop Justin Welby. I suspect most of us feel somewhat removed from Lambeth Palace but Bishop Steven also gave an interview to BBC Radio Oxford in which he had some reassuring words about the state of safeguarding in our own diocese. In an hour long programme he ranged over a wide variety of topics concerning the church; in addition to safeguarding, he covered mobile phones in schools, online safety, same sex marriage, assisted dying and church attendance. You can find out more in this article:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cq8ylxlx15no>

Back in our own parish, we ask you to remember in your prayers the members of All Saints' who are not well enough to come to church this Easter: Eve Vause, Joan Turner, and Audrey and Derek Woodcock.

With all good wishes,

Catherine and Catherine

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