

SAINTS ALIVE

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALL SAINTS AND ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, KINGSTON UPON THAMES

THOUGH WE ARE STILL FAR OFF ...

by | Ian Christie

Churches and action to sustain our environment



Ian Christie, Christ Church, West Wimbledon; Environment Advisory Team, Diocese of Southwark;

Senior Fellow, Centre for Environment and Sustainability, University of Surrey

It might not seem like it as we shiver through January, but the world has never been hotter in modern history. The latest research into global climate shows that the last three years have been the hottest since records began, and 17 of the 18 warmest years since 1850 have taken place since 2000. The evidence has been piling up for decades. There is now no reasonable doubt that the Earth's climate system is being disrupted by our burning of coal, oil and gas and the emission from human activities of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane that are heating the globe. The world is on course to experience warming of well over 2°C by the end of the century, above the 1.5-2°C range scientists agree is relatively "safe". But even that level of warming is risky. Already we are experiencing climate disruption worldwide in the form of extreme weather and its impacts on health, economies and wildlife - droughts, floods, acidification of seas, bleaching of coral reefs, loss of Arctic sea ice. The list goes on.

We can all add to the list. Many of us have watched awestruck as Sir David Attenborough guides us through the marvels of the Blue Planet. But we've been appalled by the evidence of plastic pollution and damage to the creatures of the oceans. We know that many species are at risk of extinction, from loss of habitats, poaching, climate disruption, pollution. We're more aware too of air pollution. The world is showing serious signs of stress as a result of the unintended consequences of



The future we need: renewable energy and sustainably produced food, with vibrant local communities... Weekly Farmers' Market in Wimbledon school grounds, with solar panels on the school roof

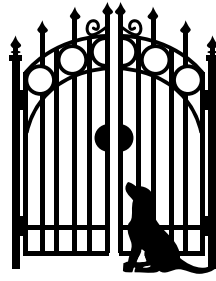
our global industrial way of life. And that puts our societies at risk: the life support systems we depend on, and take for granted as a free gift from Nature, are in trouble.

A common response is to feel hopeless as well as worried. What can any one of us do in the face of these enormous problems? Another reaction is to try to block it all out. But if we have children and grandchildren, and if we care about the fates of people worldwide – our neighbours – who are facing the consequences of environmental disruption, then we must face up to them. And in doing so we should actually feel hopeful and energised to act. Why?

[Continued on page 3 ...]

From the vicarage *All Saints*

by | Revd Jonathan Wilkes



St John's

by | Revd Vicky Maunder

A foolish optimist

"I'd rather be an optimist and a fool than a pessimist and right" (Albert Einstein). Easter Day this year falls on April the first – April Fools' Day. So the question as to who might be having the last laugh will extend beyond the wisdom of rising in the dark hours to set off for the Dawn Service that we now annually hold (6 am this year – you are very welcome!). We'll be "fools for Christ" (1 Corinthians 4:10) in more ways than one.

That phrase of St Paul picks up on the paradoxical theme that Jesus describes as a drumbeat throughout his life: the greatest must be least, the first must be last and only those who are willing to lose their life will find it. Paul finds strength in weakness, and honour in disrepute, but it seems to be a similar point. The season of Easter and all that comes before it, of course, says the same thing and, perhaps above all, stakes a serious challenge to conventional reason which is, quite possibly, somewhere near the heart of why some people often find faith unlikely and, so, unappealing. To claim that a man died on a Friday and was up and about tending to the garden on Sunday morning makes no rational sense. It doesn't happen. It can't be true. The difficulty is that there are all sorts of things that are "true" now that once weren't (flight, curing some cancer, talking across continents) suggesting that truth is becoming an increasingly narrowly defined thing and, arguably, is the lesser for it (Pilate was right to question what it is – John 18:38). A problem with mystery, which our rational age has taken against, seems to be at the heart of it (though Harry Potter and others seem to suggest we still yearn for it).

We live in danger of casting the baby of faith out with the bathwater of religion. The reason why the Easter story has stood the test of time as it has is because it speaks to underlying experience that resonates with us all. It starts with suffering which, last time I looked, none of us avoids, and then never flinches. Though the ending appears to be all "happy ever after", if you look closely it isn't: Jesus has changed, he's different, altered by his experience, unable to stay no matter how much they want him to. Those who follow remain as vulnerable as he was to the terrible fate that befell him. No one is immune, no one is safe. What they have, however, is a confidence that in the heart of all their traumas they are both accompanied and supported to find the deep reserves of forbearance, courage and ability that lie within them – and lie within us, too.

So this isn't magic. Foolishness, perhaps, but not magic and anything but fantasy. Einstein's preference for foolish optimism over pessimistic correctness perhaps corresponds with his favouring imagination over knowledge. "Knowledge is limited," he wrote "imagination encircles the world." In an age of fear and degradation, perhaps imagination is what we need most – and maybe the fools are the ones to bring it.

When it comes, have a very happy Easter,

No 26 Bloomfield Road

When we moved into Bloomfield Road in 2007, no 26, a few doors down, was a florist. It's an attractive little shop. The building, like many in the area, dates from the 1860s and it still has a number of original decorative tiles on the walls; in a brown flowered pattern inside the shop and in a blue flowered pattern outside.

My family and I loved the florist with its buckets of colourful flowers and little pots of herbs and plants arranged on tables outside. We often stopped for a chat with Carol the friendly owner and my children loved to pop inside to watch the goldfish in the little fish tank hidden amongst all the beautiful blooms. We were sad when the shop closed for good the week before Christmas 2016. For several days after one of my younger daughters, aged five at the time, who is an emotional little thing, cried every time we walked past and asked why it would not be opening again. Things change, my love, was my reply.

The shop stood empty and unloved for nine months and then we noticed some workmen inside. A few weeks later it opened again as a bakery. A little kitchen had been put in and most of the tempting looking cakes are made on site. Delicious smells now waft over us as we walk by. The pots of herbs and plants on the paving outside have been replaced by tables and chairs for those enjoying the patisserie, hot drinks and light lunches and a smiling face greets you in the new owner, Elyse, who's passionate about her baking. Breads, croissants, chocolate brownies, carrot cakes, raspberry cookies, there is so much delicious food there to enjoy.

Endings and beginnings. Deaths and resurrections. Our lives are full of these, in big ways and small ways. Some endings are very painful and costly, and we wonder how we can possibly go on. The promise of Easter, that we will shortly be celebrating in the church, is that even with the most difficult of endings, there is always hope with God. God can do something new. Jesus' disciples were distraught and defeated when Jesus was sentenced to death and executed. They couldn't believe that the wonderful man they had loved and followed, who had taught them so many things about themselves, the world and God, had been killed. How could they possibly carry on? Everything they had given their life to appeared over. But this was not the end of the story. In Jesus' resurrection we see that God can bring something new out of the most horrendous ending. Sometimes we need to let old ways die so that new life can come.

THOUGH WE ARE STILL FAR OFF ...

[Continued from page 1 ...]

The truth is that we have most if not all of the technologies, tools and knowledge we need to make an enormous improvement in the state of the Earth. We know how to keep within a safe global temperature range. We know a lot about how to safeguard wildlife and habitats. Collectively we have the money and resources to shift our economies towards what is called “sustainability” – the capacity to live well while keeping the Earth’s life support systems secure for future generations. We’ve got the science, technology and the money. What holds back progress is political resistance to changing the status quo, and our everyday fixation on the short term.

Big shifts are underway as more and more governments and businesses take these challenges seriously, from California to China. And the churches are part of this movement. Churches are increasingly engaged in practical action to reduce fossil fuel

use and protect the environment. But we in the churches have another vital task. Our role is to highlight the ethical imperative of action to safeguard God’s creation and care for our neighbour. Archbishop Justin Welby wrote about this recently in the New York Times: “The moral crisis of climate change is an opportunity to find purpose and joy, and to respond to our creator’s charge. Reducing the causes of climate change is essential to the life of faith. It is a way to love our neighbour and to steward the gift of creation.”

Each week in church we pray using the words “when we were still far off, you met us in your Son and brought us home.” There is no doubt that we are still “far off” when it comes to protecting God’s good Earth and securing a good future for our descendants. But progress is possible and it is real, and there is a big part to play for people of faith.



Green energy and environmental schemes being publicised at the Anglican retreat house Rydal Hall in the Lake District

Ian Christie is coming to All Saints Church on **June 6th at 7.30pm** to give a talk on the Environment.
All are very welcome.

Meet Kingston University's new Faith Advisor

by | Louise Walton



Louise Walton is the new Kingston University Faith Advisor. Here she tells us about the role of Faith Advisor and also a bit about herself.

What is a Faith Advisor?

Well, my role has several aspects to it. I offer pastoral support to students and staff, particularly regarding faith, religion, belief and spirituality. I advise the University and the Union of Kingston Students on these matters, oversee our prayer spaces and co-ordinate the work of our volunteer Faith Advisors, (such as the Revd Vicky Maunder, our Anglican Faith Advisor).

It's also part of my role to keep faith and spirituality on the radar here by arranging events, trips, and services, such as the recent "Facing the Future" series and the University Carol Service.

I'm a Roman Catholic Christian and I'm neither a priest nor a nun! I'm married to Oliver (an Anglican) and we have a two year old son. Previously I worked at Roehampton University, and before that I was the Catholic Chaplain at the University of Greenwich for six years.

A "typical" day...

"Louise, have you got a moment?" There is a stressed member of staff at my office door. "Certainly, come in," I reply.

I don't know what – let's call him Steve – wants to talk about. I rarely know in advance as it could be anything – that's the nature and joy of being the University Faith Advisor. It isn't always a shared sense of faith – sometimes that's just the first step or even the excuse for the conversation.

So we have a chat – about a family situation, it turns out. As he leaves a Muslim sister pops in to ask when someone will be steam-cleaning the carpets in the Prayer Room. Shortly afterwards a student calls requesting details of the Adventist Society, and as I reply my computer goes "ping" to remind me of a Hindu Society event which I've agreed to publicise on our Facebook page. This is a normal Monday.

Being present as the University Faith Advisor is varied, challenging and rarely quiet. As a person of faith and as a University employee in the Student Wellbeing section I accompany people of faith and of no faith here, and I hope to help them thrive. This is a privilege and it is based on trust and hope on all sides.

In this, I think University Christian ministry (and it is a ministry, although I'm not ordained) mirrors the vocation of all Christians in and to the world – to be genuinely present as a person of faith, before God, whilst serving the world and especially those in need. Christ came so that God could be fully present to us in our very flesh, and just by his existence he brought us more fully to life. Being genuinely present to those around us is, I think, what St. Francis of Assisi meant when he said, "Preach the gospel – and if you need to, use words."

"Find ideas in surprising places"

That is the promise of the new Penrhyn Faith and Spirituality Book Group – an initiative for 2018 developed by the Kingston University Faith and Spirituality Centre together with All Saints Kingston, and designed to be of interest to inquiring readers of all faiths – and none.

The discussions will be twice a term, on **Monday evenings, 7pm to 8:30 pm**, in the Faith and Spirituality Centre in the KU's Main Penrhyn Road Building – just opposite Surrey County Hall – with wine, coffee etc, to help lubricate the sharing of ideas.

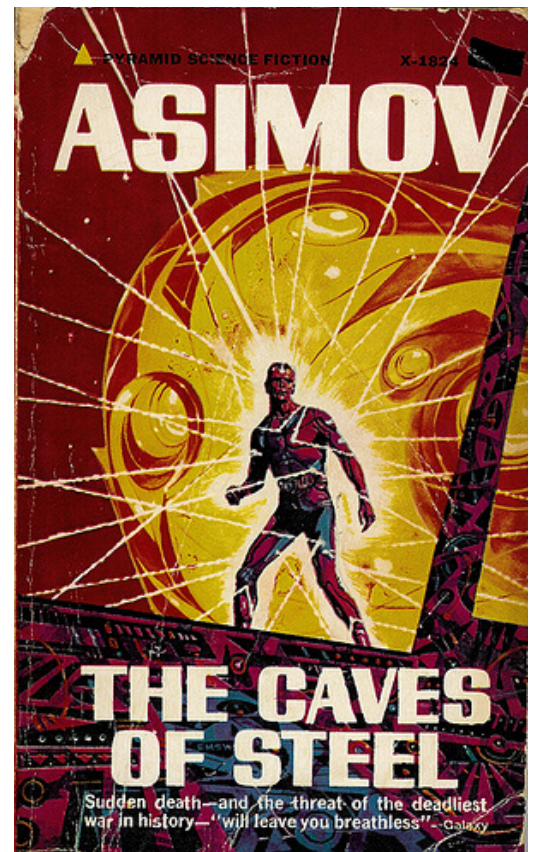
The first two meetings are on **12 February** and **19 March**. Louise Walton, KU's new Faith and Spirituality Adviser, and All Saints' Martin Corner (former KU English Lecturer) have chosen **Isaac Asimov's *The Caves of Steel***, then **Tolstoy's *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*** – both in print, or available second hand from book websites, including Oxfam's.

After that, who knows? Other books Louise and Martin thought about included John Updike's *The Carol Sing*, Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*, Tolkien's *Leaf by Niggle*, and Anthony Trollope's *The Warden*. But it will be over to readers to take things forward – with suggestions invited.

Ideally, each group will have no more than 10 people. We will split into as many groups as numbers dictate.

If you can, please register your interest with Leslie Packer – 020 8549 1960 or lgpacker123@gmail.com. Or just turn up – the wine won't run out!

There's no charge – but a modest contribution to the cost of drinks would be welcome.



Celebrating 5 years of Love Kingston



Over 400 charity and community groups in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames are doing amazing work. They are the glue in our society. These groups often need small yet vital grants so that they can support some of the borough's most vulnerable residents. **Love Kingston** was set up five years ago to facilitate this and build a legacy fund for future need and giving. This year **Love Kingston** is proud to have the support of The Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kingston, Cllr Julie Pickering.

Love Kingston has a flagship fundraising day, **Love Kingston Day: Wednesday 14th February** and we're inviting everyone in the borough to unite and have fun raising essential funds for borough-wide causes on or around this date.

Tessa Kind, Community Fundraising Manager for **Love Kingston** said, "We want to live in a borough where residents, groups and

businesses come together to support local charitable organisations. Our aim for 2020 is to increase our fund to close to £1million – so we're calling upon YOU to dig deep.

"We'd love you to get creative and fundraise at your place of worship or business. How about organising a cake sale, prize draw, football tournament or sponsored challenge?"

All money raised stays local

60% of the money raised will go into building the legacy fund for the future, and 40% will go direct to the community through our grant-making programme. Charitable groups that have benefitted to date are Kingston Foodbank, KCAH, Oxygen, LGBT Forum, Hestia, Express CIC, Surrey Save (now Boom CU), The Vintage Banquet and Refugee Action Kingston. Our theme for giving in 2018 is tackling isolation and creating wellbeing.

Together we can create a thriving borough for all

For enquiries and to add your fundraising event to our programme email the team: events@lovekingston.org.uk

Love Kingston is a project of Kingston Voluntary Action. Charitable Incorporated Organisation no: 1160403

ASK Topical Lunches Spring 2018



Every Third Thursday of the month - All Saints Parish Church, Kingston Market Place.

Enjoy lunch – discuss Kingston's topical issues

- **Thursday 15 February**
Kingston Food Bank – The organisation I wish we didn't need
PAUL PICKHAVER – Kingston Food Bank Organiser
- **Thursday 12 April** (NB - *second* Thursday)
Growing plants, growing people – The Stud Nursery in the Home Park
JEREMY OSBORN describes the Nursery's work. He'll also bring good things to buy - nursery-grown garden plants, house plants, bird boxes, bat boxes ...
- **Thursday 17 May**
Keeping Kingston town centre safe and welcoming, day and night
Chief Inspector PENNY MILLS, Kingston Police;
PAUL RIORDAN, Kingston First

Lunch from 12noon – Sandwiches at the *ASK East End Cafe*; or bring your own.

Introduction 1pm – 1:15 pm Questions, comments, discussion. Finish 1:45 pm
For further information, contact Leslie Packer
lgpacker123@gmail.com or 020 8549 1960

Wednesday 14 February 2018 love kingston day

Fundraising at the heart of our community, for our community

Have fun and create your own event or personal challenge to support **local causes** in the Borough of Kingston

#LoveKingstonDay #Celebrating5years



Together we can create a thriving borough for all

To register your event email: events@lovekingston.org.uk

bit.ly/LKDay2018 lovekingston.org.uk [@LvKingston](https://twitter.com/LvKingston) [LoveKingstonDay](https://www.facebook.com/LoveKingstonDay)

Heritage and Learning News

by | Kate Kern

Heritage Reminiscence

This September, ASK will be putting on an exhibition all about the history and heritage of All Saints Church. This exhibition will be made up of the All Saints community memories. If you have any photographs, written literature or particular memories of events or characters from the church's history, please contact Kate in the office or on 020 8541 5371, heritage@allsaintskingston.co.uk. We welcome all memories and the more people get involved, the more detailed the exhibition will be!



Saxon Stories

ASK has just launched a brand new learning offer for schools in partnership with Kingston Museum. The workshop is a multi-site visit based on the Saxon history of Kingston, with a hands on look at the Museum collection and a dramatic re-enactment of the coronation of Athelstan at the church. This has already proved popular, with five bookings already confirmed for the start of the year! We do need several volunteers every time we run the workshop, so if you are interested in helping out and getting involved, please get in touch with Kate (heritage@allsaintskingston.co.uk).



Volunteers

New year, new goals! Volunteering is a fantastic way of getting involved in your local community, developing new skills and meeting new people. If you are interested in volunteering this year, you can see some current volunteer profiles on our website at www.allsaintskingston.co.uk/get-involved or email heritage@allsaintskingston.co.uk for more information.

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**What is the
Church for?**



Lent Lunchtime talks 2018: Thursdays 1.10-2.00pm
All Saints Church, Marketplace, Kingston, KT1 1JP.

22 February: *The Church as a place of faith*
Rt Revd Martin Wharton, former Bishop of Kingston.

1 March: *The Church as a creator of community*
Ann Morisy, Community Theologian

8 March: *The Church as a product of history*
Dr David Robinson, Honorary Borough Archivist

15 March: *The Church as an engine of culture*
Simon Toyne, Executive Director of Music, David Ross Education Trust

22 March: *The Church as a stumbling block for the world*
Rev Dr Stan Brown, Superintendent, Kingston Methodist Circuit

The talks are free and un-ticketed. All are welcome.
www.allsaintskingston.co.uk | 020 8546 5964

STUDENT SERVICES

Faith and Spirituality | faith@kingston.ac.uk | 020 8417 2940

**STUDENT
WELLBEING**

February Events

Sun 4th All Saints: 9.30am Baptism of Sophie Olivia Kovacik (DOB 26.10.2015) and Bailey Alexander Kovacik
Mon 5th All Saints: 1.15pm lunchtime concert Katya Lazareva (viola) and Ayako Yamazaki (violin)
Sun 11th All Saints: 9.30am Baptism of Harry Owen Seth Mangan; Adam Morley Holliday and Chloe Ann Holliday
Mon 12th All Saints: 1.15pm lunchtime concert Alice Bishop (soprano)
Wed 14th All Saints: 7.30pm Choral Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes
Wed 14th St John's: 6.30pm Ash Wednesday Service
Thu 15th All Saints: 11am-2pm Activity Day – Colour & Light
Thu 15th All Saints: 1pm Topical Lunch – *Kingston Food Bank – The organisation I wish we didn't need* – Paul Pickhaver
Sat 17th All Saints: John Cannon – “Big Sing”
Mon 19th All Saints: 1.15pm lunchtime concert South London Saxophone Quartet
Thu 22nd All Saints: 1.10pm Lent Talk – The Church as a place of faith – Rt Revd Martin Wharton, former Bishop of Kingston
Sat 24th St John's: 10am-2.30pm Book Fair and Church Café
Mon 26th All Saints: 1.15pm lunchtime concert Constance Leung Chow (piano)

March Events

Thu 1st All Saints: 1.10pm Lent Talk – the Church as a creator of community – Ann Morisy, Community Theologian
Sat 3rd 10am-4pm House of Prayer, East Molesey: Team Quiet Day
Sun 4th All Saints: 9.30am Baptism of Oscar Keeley
Mon 5th All Saints: 1.15pm lunchtime concert Young Flautists
Thu 8th All Saints: 1.10pm Lent Talk – The Church as a product of history – Dr David Robinson, Honorary Borough Archivist
Thu 8th All Saints: 7pm Writers' Centre Kingston present The English Pen – Modern Literature Festival
Sat 10th All Saints: 7.30pm Kingston Chamber Orchestra
Sat 10th St John's: Film and Music Quiz
Sun 11th All Saints: 9.30am Mothering Sunday Service
Sun 11th St John's: 10am Mothering Sunday Communion
Mon 12th All Saints: 1.15pm lunchtime concert Yoon-Seok Shin (piano)
Thu 15th All Saints: 1.10pm Lent Talk – the Church as an engine of culture – Simon Toyne, Executive Director of Music, David Ross Education Trust
Sat 17th All Saints: 7.30pm Twickenham Choral Society
Mon 19th All Saints: 1.15pm lunchtime concert Stephen Westrop (organ)
Thu 22nd All Saints: 1.10pm Lent Talk – The Church as a stumbling block for the world – Revd Dr Stan Brown, Superintendent, Kingston Methodist Circuit
Thu 22nd All Saints: 7pm Tiffin Boys choral concert
Sun 25th All Saints: 9.30am Palm Sunday service
Sun 25th St John's: 10am Palm Sunday Service with procession
Thu 29th All Saints: Maundy Thursday 7.30pm Holy Communion with washing of feet
Thu 29th St John's: 7.30pm Maundy Thursday Service
Fri 30th All Saints: Good Friday 1.30pm Veneration of the Cross
Fri 30th St John's: 10.30am Good Friday Children's Activities Workshop; 12noon All age Good Friday Service; 2pm Good Friday Service

April Events

Sun 1st All Saints: Easter Day: 6am Easter Dawn Service (a non Eucharistic service on the south lawn); 9.30am Choral Eucharist
Sun 1st St John's: 10am Easter Day Service
Thu 5th All Saints: 11-2pm Activity Day
Sat 7th St John's: 10am-2.30pm Book Fair and Church Café
Thu 12th All Saints: 11-2pm Activity Day
Thu 12th All Saints: 1pm Topical Lunch – *Growing plants, growing people – The Stud Nursery in the Home Park* – Jeremy Osborn
Sun 22nd All Saints: Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sun 22nd St John's: Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sat 28th All Saints: 7.30pm Vocality Choir

All-Year-Round Events

All Saints: The church and cafe are open daily and visitors are welcome.

On weekdays and Saturdays from 11am to 12.15pm trained listeners are available to offer pastoral support to people who wish to speak with someone in confidence. Little Saints toddler group is on Tuesdays & Fridays.

St. John's: The church is open for Little Groovers toddler group on Tuesdays.

All Saints Sunday Services

8am Holy Communion
 9.30 Sung Eucharist (with Children's Church).
 6pm Sung Evensong

Weekday Communion Services

Tuesday and Wednesday 12 noon Common Worship;
 Thursday 10.30am Book of Common Prayer;
 Friday 11.30am Praytime - brief songs and prayers for Toddlers and Carers; 12 noon Silent Prayer

St John's Sunday Services

1st Sunday of the month: 10am Family Communion
2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays of the month: 10am Parish Communion with children's church
3rd Sunday of the month: 9am Holy Communion
 10am Sacred Space with children's church
 Morning Prayer is said in Church at **9am** on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

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All Saints

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jonathan@allsaintskingston.co.uk

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sandy@toadstool.co.uk Days off Fri/Sat

Revd David Bell
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 Martin Corner 020 8546 8412

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Safeguarding Officer: Philip Walker - pwalker535@gmail.com
 Amanda Bullen - amanda.bullen@hotmail.co.uk

Organist and Director of Music: Stephen Westrop - contact via PA to the Rector

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All Saints & St John's are part of an Anglican Team with St John's Kingston Vale and members of the Local Ecumenical Project in Kingston Town Centre with their partners Kingston United Reformed Church, Eden Street, & Kingston Baptist Church, Union Street.

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DEADLINE FOR MAY/JUN/JUL 2018 9TH APRIL

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