

# SAINTS ALIVE

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

## An Even Warmer Welcome to St John's!

by | Vanessa Hamilton, St John's Project Committee

**T**he completion of the first phase of the **St John's Regeneration Project** last November meant we were able to give an even warmer and brighter welcome to all our visitors over the Christmas season.

Our new heating and lighting systems are up and running, and were dedicated by the Archdeacon on 25th November. The ugly overhead strip lighting and heating gantries are no more; and, at last, we have an unobstructed view of the beautiful vaulted ceiling and towards the High Altar. It's wonderful to see our church transformed and back to the way it was intended when it first welcomed the community inside in 1871. Congregations at all our Christmas services were up and we were delighted to see so many people enjoying the atmosphere and fellowship of St John's – without shivering in their coats!

We should be particularly proud of the **Heating and Lighting** projects (and not forgetting all the feasibility studies, architect drawings and specifications, faculty approvals, RIBA stages etc. that went before them). They were entirely self-funded by our church family, local community and valued partners. A huge thank you again to everyone who contributed to this phase of the project and supported the fund-raising events we held. It would not have been possible without you.

In 2019, we look forward to completing the next phase of work: installing a new kitchen, new toilets and improving access into and around the church. This will be possible thanks to significant grants from the **Garfield Weston Foundation Anniversary Fund** and **City Bridge Trust**, and additional grants from the **Rowan Bentall Foundation** and **All Churches Trust**. Competition for grants is fierce and there are many worthy causes to consider. We were delighted to have been successful and extend our thanks to the Trustees who considered our applications carefully and saw the strength of commitment to developing St John's that we all share.

Our own fund-raising efforts will continue too! Stay tuned for more information on 2019 social and musical events at St John's over the coming weeks and months.

It's been a long and sometimes bumpy journey to get this far: a test of belief, patience and perseverance that has brought us closer together as a church and community.



*St John's interior, after completion of phase 1 work ("Before", see below)*

Thank you to everyone for your faith, your commitment, your energy and all the support you have given in so many ways to the future of St Johns.



# From the vicarage

## *All Saints*

by | Revd Jonathan Wilkes



# *St John's*

by | Revd Vicky Maunder

"I just wanted to fit in and feel valued." So said Cameron Bancroft, the Australian cricketer, recently when explaining why he took part in an infamous piece of cheating this time last year, tampering with the ball in a match against South Africa (non-cricket enthusiasts, bear with me, I promise you this is going somewhere). "You hope that fitting in earns you respect," he said; but concluded that it hadn't. Seeking to save his skin, he'd lost much more.

To fit in, or not to fit in, that's been our national question for the last few years which, by the time of publishing this magazine, may be a little closer to finding an answer. Where to draw the line between compromise and individuality in establishing our national interest has been debated and agonised over again and again but at its heart, arguably, lies the same dilemma that faced Mr Bancroft on a hot South African afternoon 12 months ago: can I be myself more by fitting in with others or do I need to stand out from the crowd, at the risk of rejection and failure – where can I explore the truth about me best, in this context, at this time?

It's a question that has been facing the church, too. Confronted by a new mindset and order in which its traditional place at the heart of society has been increasingly challenged, there's been a need to work out how to respond. The pressure of declining numbers has encouraged an approach that finds value in what can be counted and publicly verified even though faith has always been an unquantifiable thing. I sometimes ask, out of interest, parents that we've not seen before why they've brought their children to be baptised. "We don't know," they say. "We just know that we must." In an age of reason the church has found it hard to resist the temptation of fitting in and proving itself, even though a core principle of Jesus was just the opposite: to point us in the direction of losing our life in order to find it (to be last in order to be first, least in order to be greatest). He taught us it and then, on Good Friday at the end of Lent in order to enable the hope of Easter, he showed us what it looked like in the flesh.

The letting go and giving away that faith requires is hard, yet perhaps the reason why it has stood the test of time is because it speaks to an innate truth deep within us: on some level, we recognise that becoming our truest selves requires of us to relinquish something. Snakes shed their skin, caterpillars surrender their chrysalis and if we hope for new good habits we must somehow let go of the old bad ones, no matter how much we've relied on them in the past ("dead to sin but alive to God" in St Paul's money). May Easter, when it comes, say something of that for you.

Jonathan

Tucked away amongst my vicar books on the shelves in my study is Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows*. The first chapter "The river bank" is my favourite. Mole feels the call of spring and decides to abandon his housework and take a day off. What a great time out he has. He feels the sun on his fur, he notices the happy birds singing, he discovers the gleaming, sparkling, gurgling river and has a new experience, boating; he makes a new friend, Ratty, and they enjoy a picnic together. He is renewed and refreshed by delighting in the world around and being open to the unexpected. He remembers what a gift life is.

I remember one of my spiritual directors, a lively, elderly, Roman Catholic nun, telling me this chapter teaches us more about prayer than any book on prayer she's ever read.

We all need these experiences. Times of rest when we slow down, put down the tablet, the phone, let go of all the expectations and obligations we have in our busy 24/7 world, shut our minds off to the 101 things we need to get done and we just delight in the gift of life however best we like to do that. Perhaps a walk in the park, a good natter with a friend, fun with our kids if we have them, a creative hobby. This is what rest should be. It's that space, that time out, to notice the wonder and blessings of life and to see the good things in our lives.

I wonder if we often struggle to properly rest because we feel so responsible for everything. We have so much going on, we want to do our best and we think if we take time out surely it will all fall apart without us. It won't. The Christian faith promises that the world is safe in God's hands. It won't disintegrate if we stop our efforts. And for a time, for our spirits, our minds and our bodies, it's vital that we can just put it all down, let it all go, and rest.

The church season of Lent begins on 6th March. Lent is an Old English word that means "spring season" and what a wonderful time of the year it is, of growth and new beginnings. The trees blossom, the flowers bloom and after the dark, barrenness of winter, the earth comes back to life. The Christian season of Lent is intended to be a time of spiritual renewal to prepare ourselves to celebrate the great mystery of Easter. In our hectic, 21st century world perhaps the best Lenten discipline we can take on is to make time to truly rest and to delight in the gift of life that we have been given and to appreciate the sacredness of life and the beauty of the earth. I wish you a very happy Lent and a happy Easter too when it comes.

Vicky

# Bringing history to life at All Saints Church

by | Pippa Joiner

As a well-loved community hub, All Saints Church is known for the diverse range of events and activities that take place every week – from music recitals to toddler groups.

All Saints also has a nationally important Anglo-Saxon heritage, yet its history is relatively little known by the many thousands of people who live in or visit the borough. It is our ambition to continue to raise the profile of All Saints as the place “Where England Began” – where the first kings of England were crowned.

King Athelstan, the first true King of England, was crowned in 925 at this very site, and we plan to mark this with a large-scale celebration in 2025.

One of the strands of the learning ambitions is to make every primary school child in Kingston aware of this history by 2025. As a former teacher, I understand the positive impact that a different learning environment outside the classroom can have and am devising new ways to expand our school audiences. One very exciting development in 2019 is our new partnership with Story Storks, specialists in Early Years theatre. In a newly developed session participants will discover Saxon history and have lots of fun taking part in a re-enactment of the coronation as well as dressing up in Saxon costumes!

Other plans for 2019 will include an exciting programme of Heritage Lectures, building on past successes. We will also be piloting themed tours of the Church exploring the different time periods and fascinating characters associated with the Church.

These new developments will complement an already full heritage, learning and community programme which includes:



*Tom Holland on “Athelstan and the making of England” in the inaugural lecture series*



*Pippa Joiner, Learning and Engagement Officer, talks about the heritage programme and her role in bringing the history of All Saints Church to life.*

**Schools sessions:** We offer a wide variety of schools’ workshops including: Athelstan – The First King of England, Stained glass, Saxon Royalty and Medieval Tiles. Full details are available on the website.

**Activity Days:** Half-terms and school holidays are packed with family activities with craft activities and trails themed around the exciting history of the Church. The next Thumbs Up It’s Thursday event is on 21st February from 11am-2pm, featuring spring crafts.

**Volunteering:** All of the vast amount of work could not take place without our dedicated team of volunteers. If you would be interested in becoming a volunteer, we have a wide variety of volunteer roles currently available. Volunteering is a fantastic way of getting involved in your local community, developing new skills and meeting new people. If you are interested in starting volunteering please email [heritage@allsaintskingston](mailto:heritage@allsaintskingston) for more information.

The Church also has a wonderful Heritage Gallery with an introductory film and explanatory panels which is usually open 10am-4pm every day, unless in use for other purposes. Please contact [heritage@allsaintskingston.co.uk](mailto:heritage@allsaintskingston.co.uk) if you are interested in finding out more about the vibrant heritage and learning programme.

# Events at All Saints Church

All Saints is a busy, popular, town-centre church: it holds three services on Sundays: 8am Holy Communion, 9.30am Choral Eucharist and 6pm Choral Evensong and three weekday communion services. The church also plays host to a wide variety of events throughout the year – a selection of which are shown below.

Traditionally, All Saints has been a much-loved venue for classical concerts and its Monday lunchtime recitals have a loyal and enthusiastic following. Thames Philharmonic Choir, who have a concert at All Saints on Saturday 9 March, celebrated their Golden Jubilee a few years ago with a series of concerts, the first of which was held at All Saints.



*Thames Philharmonic Choir performing Brahms' Song of Destiny and Schumann's Mass in C minor at All Saints Church in 2010; soloist Chloe Hinton with Artistic Director John Bate (photo © TPC)*

Over the last five years Banquet Records have added All Saints to their list of Kingston venues finding that the building provides “a beautiful setting and wonderful environment for those who make beautiful music ... we're so grateful to the church for trusting us and enabling us to provide a safe environment for people of all ages, but particularly youngsters in and around Kingston.”



*Gabrielle Aplin. Photo credit: James Perou*



*As it is. Photo credit: Jez Pennington*

The first ever K-Pop UK National Competition was held last year and the organisers chose All Saints Church for their venue.



Check out the list of forthcoming events on page 7 (also available on the church's website: [www.allsaintskingston.co.uk](http://www.allsaintskingston.co.uk))

## **To hire All Saints Church**

The church is available for hire, offering flexible accommodation for a wide range of events: concerts, recitals and rehearsals; wedding receptions; celebrations; meetings and presentations; exhibitions.

To find out more, please contact the Parish Office: [info@allsaintskingston.co.uk](mailto:info@allsaintskingston.co.uk)

# Little Saints at All Saints

by | Ann Cornick

Little Saints started about twelve years ago. Held on Tuesday afternoons and Friday mornings, it is an informal drop in for parents and carers and the babies and young children they care for. Since the restoration of the church there has been an area at the East end set out especially for children, with hampers of toys for different age groups and interests. Besides its use by Little Saints, it is also heavily used at other times throughout the week and at weekends. A year ago Praytime was started on Fridays at 11.30am led by Jonathan, Sandy, Vernon or David. It is a short time together at the altar when families come together for a little while to pray and to sing a song accompanied by shakers.



Over time we have met many, many people, and I asked a few of those who currently use the area for their comments:

“Clean, homely, welcoming, a mini-community in a big town.”  
*Steph*

“Sanctuary, calm, 5 minutes’ peace for us while our son plays, especially at weekends when the café is open.” *Claire*

“A wonderful experience coming to All Saints playgroup. It’s one of the best places where my son loves to play.” *Lakshmi*

“Coming to the group and feeling part of the church community; a social experience; meeting friends.” *Tamzin*

“Little Saints and the play area is an oasis for babies/toddlers and particularly for parents who often could struggle (and also get exhausted!) to keep them entertained. A huge gratitude to Ann for her determination to keep it going!” *Yasko*

“I come to every playgroup, every week. I’ve made friends here, so has my son. It’s wonderful!” *Claire*

## Children at St John’s

**Little Groovers** is a long running community led play group held at St John’s church every Tuesday 9:45am-11am (£1:50 per family). Follow us on Facebook @Littlegroovers to find out more about our group’s sessions and events.

“Many people who come and spend the morning with us say how relaxed and fun it is for their little one.” *Stephanie*



*Alice enjoying “Little Groovers”*

Sarah, Alice’s Mum “Little Groovers is a lovely calm, warm, friendly playgroup. My children love attending and I love a chance to meet and chat to other parents and enjoy a relaxing play and a cup of tea!”

We have recently introduced **Diddi Disciples** for our younger children on Sunday mornings at St John’s. This is church especially for little ones with the focus on worship and storytelling rather than on teaching. There is lots of interaction, movement and singing to engage and nurture children’s spirituality. It’s during our 10am service. Under 3’s need to be accompanied by an adult. Children aged 7 and above have their own “children’s church” activities.



*“diddi disciples” (epiphany season focus)*

*Emma* says “My daughter Mollie (aged 5) loves the new ‘Diddi Disciples’ sessions at St Johns. She particularly loves singing the songs and will quite happily sing them all day. She struggles with sitting still so it’s great that she can get up and dance about whilst learning all about God and worship.”

*Mollie* says “Diddi Disciples is really fun as I like singing the songs so much.”


“Both my three-year-old and four-month-old (plus me at thirty-something!) have really enjoyed the Diddi Disciples sessions at St John’s. The sessions are really engaging for all ages and really hold both of their attention – even the baby finds it all fascinating and manages not to wriggle (too much!). My three-year-old has been singing the songs regularly, as well as repeating the sayings that are said in each session. I definitely recommend attending a Diddi Disciples session – it is a fun and interesting way for little ones to explore faith.”

# St John's WW1 Memorial Exhibition

Throughout February there will be a display in the church about the men listed on the WW1 memorial in the church (located in the newly refurbished chapel, pictured here). Thanks to Carolynne Cotton, Local History Officer, for her extensive and excellent research into the men. The best time to view the Exhibition is on Saturday mornings. The research is also available at Kingston History Centre in the Guildhall.



Thames  
PHILHARMONIC  
Choir



**Durufle's *Requiem* and Haydn's  
*Nelson Mass***  
Saturday 9 March 2019, 7.30pm

**Thames Philharmonic Choir  
Thames Festival Orchestra,  
Leader Nandor Szederkényi  
Organ: Stephen Disley  
Conductor: John Bate**

**Featuring** Katherine Crompton, (soprano), Yvonne Howard (mezzo), Mark Dobell (tenor), and Edward Grint (baritone)

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**Online reservations:** [www.thamesphilchoir.org.uk](http://www.thamesphilchoir.org.uk)  
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## February Events

**Sat 2nd St John's:** 10am-2pm Community Café with Book Sale  
**Sun 3rd All Saints:** 6pm Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)  
**Sun 3rd St John's:** Baptism of James Winstanley  
**Mon 4th St John's:** 2-4pm First Monday Club – social afternoon  
**Sat 9th St John's:** 10am-2pm Community Café with WW1 memorial display  
**Sun 10th All Saints:** 9.30am Baptism of Flynn Rigby, Timothy Meads and David Paul Mills  
**Mon 11th All Saints:** 1.15pm lunchtime concert: Sarah McKenna (violin)  
**Sat 16th St John's:** 10am-2pm Community Café with WW1 memorial display  
**Mon 18th All Saints:** 1.15pm lunchtime concert: Endelienta Baroque  
**Thu 21st All Saints:** 11am-2pm Thumbs-up it's Thursday Activity Day – Spring Crafts  
**Sat 23rd All Saints:** 3pm-6.30pm Kingston Rotatory Club's 'Big Sing'  
**Sat 23rd St John's:** 10am-2pm Community Café with WW1 memorial display  
**Sun 24th St John's:** Baptism of Kitt Pownell  
**Mon 25th All Saints:** 1.15pm lunchtime concert: Alice Bishop (soprano), Simon Marlow (piano)

## March Events

**Sat 2nd St John's:** 10am-2pm Community Café with Book Sale  
**Sun 3rd All Saints:** Choir open day event  
**Mon 4th All Saints:** 1.15pm lunchtime concert: Andrew Chadney (organ)  
**Mon 4th St John's:** 2-4pm First Monday Club  
**Wed 6th All Saints:** Ash Wednesday: 7.30pm Choral Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes  
**Wed 6th St John's:** St John's School Ash Wednesday service; 7pm Ash Wednesday service  
**Sat 9th-Sat 16th All Saints:** Pauline Creed – A Retrospective Art Show  
**Sat 9th All Saints:** 7.30pm Thames Philharmonic Choir  
**Sat 9th St John's:** 10am-2pm Community Café  
**Sun 10th All Saints:** 9.30am Baptism of Leon Robert Charles Pulley and Jaxon James Phillip Montague  
**Mon 11th All Saints:** 1.15pm lunchtime concert: Alianor Piano Trio  
**Wed 13th All Saints:** 1-2pm Lent lunchtime talk: "In conflict"  
**Sat 16th All Saints:** 7.30pm Kingston Philharmonia  
**Sat 16th St John's:** 10am-2pm Community Café  
**Mon 18th All Saints:** 1.15pm lunchtime concert: Yoon-Seok Shin (piano)  
**Wed 20th All Saints:** 1-2pm Lent lunchtime talk: "In conflict"  
**Sat 23rd All Saints:** 11.30am Marriage of James Mangan and Caren Gan; 1pm Christopher Snook and Inge van der Hoek; 7.30pm Kingston Chamber Orchestra  
**Sat 23rd St John's:** 10am-2pm Community Café  
**Sun 24th All Saints:** 3pm Kingston 3rd Age Orchestra  
**Mon 25th All Saints:** 1.15pm lunchtime concert: Ida Pelliccioli (piano)  
**Wed 27th All Saints:** 1-2pm Lent lunchtime talk: "In conflict"  
**Wed 27th All Saints:** 7pm Music with Soul  
**Thu 28th All Saints:** 7-8.30pm Tiffin School Concert  
**Sat 30th All Saints:** 7.30pm Kingston Choral Society  
**Sat 30th St John's:** 10am-2pm Community Café  
**Sun 31st All Saints:** 9.30am Mothering Sunday Service  
**Sun 31st St John's:** 10am Mothering Sunday Service

## April Events

**Mon 1st All Saints:** 1.15pm lunchtime concert: Emily Hall (flute)  
**Mon 1st St John's:** 2-4pm First Monday Club  
**Wed 3rd All Saints:** 1-2pm Lent lunchtime talk: "In conflict"  
**Sat 6th All Saints:** 7.30pm Teddington Choral Society  
**Sat 6th St John's:** 10am-2.30pm Community Café and Book Sale  
**Sun 7th All Saints:** Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
**Wed 10th All Saints:** 1-2pm Lent lunchtime talk: "In conflict"

**Thu 11th All Saints:** 11-2pm Thumbs-up it's Thursday Activity Day  
**Sat 13th All Saints:** 7.30pm Surbiton Symphony Orchestra  
**Sat 13th St John's:** 10am-2.30pm Community Café  
**Sun 14th All Saints:** 9.30am Palm Sunday service  
**Sun 14th St John's:** 10am Palm Sunday Service  
**Thu 18th All Saints:** 11am-2pm Thumbs-up it's Thursday Activity Day  
**Thu 18th All Saints:** Maundy Thursday 7.30pm Holy Communion with washing of feet  
**Thu 18th St John's:** 7.30pm Maundy Thursday Service and meal  
**Fri 19th All Saints:** Good Friday 1.30pm Veneration of the Cross  
**Fri 19th St John's:** 10.30 Children's Good Friday workshop; 12noon All Age Good Friday Service; 2pm Good Friday Service  
**Sat 20th St John's:** 10am-2.30pm Community Café  
**Sun 21st All Saints:** Easter Day: 6am Easter Dawn Service (a non-Eucharistic service on the south lawn); 9.30am Choral Eucharist; 6pm Choral Evensong  
**Sun 21st St John's:** 10am Easter Day Parish Communion  
**Sat 27th St John's:** 10am-2.30pm Community Café  
**Sun 28th-12th May All Saints:** Artful Dodgers art exhibition  
**Sun 28th St John's:** Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
**Wed 1st May All Saints:** 7pm Heritage Lecture

## 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 term time only; the Community Café is open Saturday mornings 10am to 12. All Welcome. St John's Weekly Bible Study Group – Tuesday evenings 7.30pm to 8.30pm. We are reading Mark's Gospel, discussing a chapter each week. For more information contact Vicky vicar@stjohnskingston.co.uk.

### 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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# PARISH PEOPLE



## All Saints

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[www.allsaintskingston.co.uk](http://www.allsaintskingston.co.uk) [www.WhereEnglandBegan.co.uk](http://www.WhereEnglandBegan.co.uk)

**Team Rector of the Kingston Team:**

Revd Jonathan Wilkes 020 3132 8717  
[jonathan@allsaintskingston.co.uk](mailto:jonathan@allsaintskingston.co.uk)

**Non-Stipendiary Priests:**

Revd Sandy Cragg 020 8546 1997  
[sandy@toadstool.co.uk](mailto:sandy@toadstool.co.uk)  
 Days off Fri/Sat

Revd David Bell  
[revdhbell@gmail.com](mailto:revdhbell@gmail.com)

**Reader:**

Martin Corner 020 8546 8412

**Church Wardens:**

Jennifer Pearce [jennifer.pearce2010@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.pearce2010@gmail.com) 020 8941 6597  
 Liz Deller - [lizdeller@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:lizdeller@blueyonder.co.uk) 020 8390 5332

**PCC Secretary:**

Isabel Isaacson - [isabel\\_isaacson@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:isabel_isaacson@yahoo.co.uk) 020 8974 8275

**Honorary Treasurer:** Alastair Deller - [treasurer@allsaintskingston.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@allsaintskingston.co.uk)

**PA to the Rector:**

Katarina Hardy - [info@allsaintskingston.co.uk](mailto:info@allsaintskingston.co.uk) 020 8546 5964  
 Office open Mon - Fri 10am - 4pm

**Learning and Engagement Officer:**

Pippa Joiner - [heritage@allsaintskingston.co.uk](mailto:heritage@allsaintskingston.co.uk) 020 8541 5371

**Safeguarding Officer:** Philip Walker - [pwalker535@gmail.com](mailto:pwalker535@gmail.com)

Amanda Bullen - [amanda.bullen@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:amanda.bullen@hotmail.co.uk)

**Organist and Director of Music:** David Condry - contact via PA to the Rector

## St John's

Grove Lane, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 2SU  
[www.stjohnskingston.co.uk](http://www.stjohnskingston.co.uk)

**Team Vicar:** Revd Vicky Maunder 020 8546 9882  
[vicar@stjohnskingston.co.uk](mailto:vicar@stjohnskingston.co.uk) Days off: Mon, Tue, Sat

**Church Administrator:**

Sarah Grant Duff - [admin@stjohnskingston.co.uk](mailto:admin@stjohnskingston.co.uk) 07952 085 661  
 Office hours Wednesday 9.30am-11.30am; Saturday 8am-9am

**Parish Hall Administrator:**

Frances Hazelgrove - [parishhall@stjohnskingston.co.uk](mailto:parishhall@stjohnskingston.co.uk) 07952 085661

**Readers:**

Isobel Robinson 020 8546 5931  
 Mick Cooper 020 8286 2929

**Church Wardens:**

Frances Hazelgrove - [parishhall@stjohnskingston.co.uk](mailto:parishhall@stjohnskingston.co.uk)  
 Julie Bishop - [jpbishop3@gmail.com](mailto:jpbishop3@gmail.com)

**PCC Secretary:**

Sarah Price - contact c/o Church Administrator [admin@stjohnskingston.co.uk](mailto:admin@stjohnskingston.co.uk)

**Treasurer:**

Tony Hardy - [tonyhardy@fifty3.net](mailto:tonyhardy@fifty3.net) 020 8549 7572

**Church website:**

Anna Gorrell [annagorrell@outlook.com](mailto:annagorrell@outlook.com)

**Safeguarding Officer (Children):**

Anna Gorrell [annagorrell@outlook.com](mailto:annagorrell@outlook.com)

**Safeguarding Officer (Vulnerable Adults):**

Chris Fowles - [cfowles@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:cfowles@blueyonder.co.uk) 07946 389126

All Saints & St John's are part of an Anglican Team with St John's Kingston Vale

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**DEADLINE FOR MAY/JUN/JUL 2019 - 8 APR**

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