

# SAINTS ALIVE

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

## Let the bells ring out!

by | So-Shan Au and Paul & Kate Flavell

The Kingston bell ringers are delighted to be back in the tower at All Saints Church, and ringing the loudest musical instrument for Wednesday practices and for Sunday services.



The bells were silenced during lockdown for many months, the first time that ringing has stopped since the second world war. Our last ring before lockdown was Sunday 15 March 2020. The band kept in touch with regular Zoom calls to keep up with all the news.

Restricted ringing began in earnest again in April 2021 when we were allowed to ring 4 bells, later expanded to 6, with ringers masked and socially distanced. We had a rota of keen ringers for the one Sunday service permitted.

Our first open practice night was on 21 July 2021, some 16 months after some of us had been together in the tower. It was so nice to see everyone and to ring together again. We are lucky to have 12 glorious bells at All Saints so with exactly 12 for our practice night, it was the perfect opportunity to ring them all! And what a glorious sound they made. We had a lovely tweet from Tony's fruit stall in the market saying he had been delighted to hear the bells ringing again after the first Sunday.

We have also had new recruits to the tower; one an experienced ringer who has moved into the area. We had one new learner during lockdown and she rang with us on the computer

program called Ringing Room. We're hoping to welcome her to the tower and ringing on real bells in the future. Some of the band have been learning methods on Ringing Room and are looking forward to putting their new learning into practice in the tower.

And we have a new learner who has had his first lessons on actual bells and is now ringing a bell on his own. One ringer's 8-year-old came with her on a Sunday morning and got to try out a bell too. He was very excited to have a go and we hope that he might consider taking it up in the future (10 is a good age to start but you can learn at any age). In other plans, we are having a little outing in September, ringing at two towers in deepest Surrey and having a pub lunch together and possibly tea at Winkworth Arboretum. Not as exciting as our usual more distant outings, but we are inching our way back to "normal" life.

We welcome visitors and new learners so do drop us a line if you are interested: [paulflavell53@gmail.com](mailto:paulflavell53@gmail.com) Follow us on Instagram or Twitter [@kingstonbellringers](https://twitter.com/kingstonbellringers) for more photos and videos of the band, and to find out what we have been ringing for services.



# From the vicarage *All Saints*

by | Revd Jonathan Wilkes



# *St John's*

by | Revd Mark Stafford

## ***It might be about the building***

As the Church of England emerges into a new world of church life it's maybe hard to know what to do with our buildings. Some years ago, we hosted an exhibition of our University's Art work – not inside, but outside, through photos and images projected onto the stones of our ancient building's walls. It left the mind firing with all kinds of thoughts about how the church might help people make sense of their experience if it was willing to let them shine their life onto the backdrop it provided. This last year has opened our eyes to a church beyond the building where, with varying degrees of enthusiasm, many have asserted, sometimes quite proudly, that the ecclesia (the church) is at its heart “a gathering” – it's where the word comes from – rather than a pile of old and expensive stones, prone to cold and increasingly impenetrable to the secularly minded masses.

So much is right about this. But, buildings offer us something priceless. Not just a place for that “gathering” to congregate together (because, after all, you can do that anywhere, can't you?). Nor that others, less inclined to find meaning in faith, can gather too, to sing or bend or support each other in battle for restraint. No, perhaps our buildings' most vital gift is to draw us inside – not inside its walls but inside ours – by letting us project our fear and need and hope onto the blank canvass of a silent space in which only God is listening. There, beyond the sound and fury of our worship and different views, beyond our obsession with personality (were we ever daring enough to admit it), we encounter the truth of who we really are reflected back to us without judgement, and so with the common currency everyone seeks: love. When we let them, these buildings still allow people to look beyond the forms and fashion of doctrine and liturgy to let people do business with God on their terms.

A local non believer once said to me “I know that I'm home when I see the church tower as I cross the bridge”. People love our buildings even if they find the faith inside them hard to understand sometimes, but perhaps that's just the point. We're not meant to understand we're simply meant to seek (and knock and ask) and keep doing so day after day, a searching that our expensive old stones enable.

“It's not about the building”, people earnestly say. But, I wonder, just perhaps it might be a bit?

*Jonathan*

## **Change**

St John's like all three churches in the team ministry stands on the cusp of a new era of the life and ministry of our Church and community. Brexit and Covid-19 will inevitably affect our lives and the way that we function as a Church and a community, some change will be for the better and some for the worse.

No matter what our opinions on the impact and desirability of this change, there is no escaping the fact that change will happen and rather than be taken by surprise it is important that we have given this some consideration.

We need to recognise that at this point, the future is predominantly unknown. We are unsure about the level of impact, the length of time that the impact will be felt and the depth of the impact that Covid-19 and Brexit may have; but we can be sure that some things will change.

Some of these changes will need us to be reactive and put out fires as they appear, a little like working out how we can use zoom rather than meeting, when we had the Michaelmas fuel supply problems. However, others will be more expected, and we can plan for these, taking advantage of the new opportunities presented.

Change can be challenging. We have to take time to look at what we have been doing and assess whether this can be continued, or even if we want to continue in the same way or to work out ways in which we can build on what we have done to take it on into the future.

However, we can always rely on God to be alongside us, especially in this period of change, and we can rest on his eternal changelessness. Through all the changes and chances of life God promises to be with us. God never promised us an easy life, but he did promise to be alongside us in the storm.

As I reflect on Autumn and watch the dead leaves start to fall and gather at the base of the trees, I reflect on how all around we see change: the old falling away to make space for the new growth.

Change is as much a part of life as consistency and one which we should embrace.

*Mark*

# New music coming to St John's

by | Tony Hardy

After 18 months hiatus, it is great to welcome live music events back to St John's with our church hosting three shows for Banquet Records in September featuring Jordan Rakei, The Psychedelic Furs (Q&A session) and Kings of Convenience. Banquet events, chiefly at Kingston's Pryzm night club, started up in earnest in August with Covid-19 measures in place; entry being conditional on proof of double vaccination, a current negative test or natural immunity. The return to St John's this month gives us the opportunity to bring new people in to enjoy our beautiful space as well as generating much needed income to support the building.

**The Harriets + Alex Hall + Denney – live at St John's Church**

**Saturday 30 October 7:30pm Tickets - £12**

St John's is also hosting a special evening in aid of church funds featuring three of the country's finest emerging acts, with generous help from Banquet Records who are handling ticket sales and sound for us.

We are delighted to welcome back Leeds-based alternative pop and rock band **The Harriets** after their amazing Parish Hall show back in November 2019. Fronted by lead vocalists Daniel Parker-Smith and Ben Schrodell, The Harriets bring accomplished songwriting, unmistakable harmonies and a live show to lift the soul. After being nominated for Glastonbury Emerging Talent and Record Store Day Unsigned in 2019, the band released its 2020 debut album *Hopefuls* to great acclaim.

An adept and engagingly conversational storyteller through song, **Alex Hall** is fast becoming a Ray Davies for our time. Alex wooed us with a set of superlative singles over the past 18 months, gaining BBC Radio coverage for his 2020 hits "Neon Light" and "Pterodactyl", and drawing praise from music



Alex Hall



The Harriets - Full band - Photo by Iona Skye

bloggers, DJs and critics. His DIY approach to his developing 'British Pop' sound is individual and characterful while, live, he combines instrumental skills with a natural gift for storytelling.

**Emma Denney** is an exceptional singer-songwriter originally from North Hampshire. Since age 11, she has written songs and lyrics in diaries and notebooks, kept to this day. It was only in late 2019 that Denney found the confidence to shine light on her music publicly, via her debut self-released single, "Overheard." Since then she has crafted an impressive portfolio of songs, creating a signature style of captivating vocal layers, diary-like lyrics and soft electronic sounds against traditional pop ballad backdrops.



Denney

Check out all 3 acts via YouTube. You won't find this show in the Banquet events calendar as it is our own promotion. **To book tickets**, please go to [www.banquetrecords.com](http://www.banquetrecords.com) and search for **Harriets** where you find both the ticket link and The Harriets' wonderful debut album, *Hopefuls*.

# A visitor's view of life at All Saints

by | Katherine Willis,  
Placement student at All Saints Kingston  
10 January – 4 April 2021



When I began my ordination training in September 2018, I was delighted to discover that I would spend part of my final year on placement in a different parish. Little did I know that this would fall during a global pandemic, so that it would largely be a 'virtual' placement! Despite this, and thanks in no small part to the very warm welcome I've received from Jonathan and the congregation of All Saints, it has been a wonderful experience.

But I know I haven't had a chance to meet everyone, and some may like to know a little more about the visitor who has been part of your church this term. I live in Claygate, where I have been a member of Holy Trinity Church since 2004, when Mike and I married and moved to the village. The smallest members of our family are two delightful Westies – Millie (photo above) and George, who are brother and sister, aged 12.

I began to discern God's call to ordained ministry a few years ago, but also felt called to stay in Claygate – and so I am training on the 'Ordained Local Ministry' route, where I will stay in my own parish after I am ordained in July. During my training I have loved being able to explore aspects of theology in more detail and to get to know the Bible better. Another highlight was a placement at Kingston Hospital Chaplaincy in February 2020.

During my time at All Saints, one of the things I have most appreciated is the chance to join in worship within a church tradition very different from my evangelical roots. I have found the services inspiring, peaceful and reverent, and particularly

enjoyed the musical contributions from David and Matthew and recordings from the choir – though I do hope to return to visit soon as I'm very much looking forward to hearing the full choir in person!

I have been exploring how your church building contributes to the mission of All Saints, through being a space open to welcome all, and I was delighted to be able to shadow the verger team during my final week on placement. It's been inspiring to understand something of the theology behind your approach, in allowing people to come on their own terms, even where that involves welcoming a bit of mess and chaos too – and believing in the potential within all to discover something of faith in their own way.

A real highlight has been the chance to get to know some of you individually, and by participating in different zoom groups – including Lent group, PCC, and the various weekly coffee mornings. One question that I'm left pondering, which is a perennial issue for all churches including my own, is this: When the pandemic is over, how can we ensure that newcomers and visitors experience as warm a welcome in person on a Sunday as I have experienced during my time at All Saints this term?

*Katherine was ordained Deacon in Guildford Cathedral on Sunday 4th July 2021*

by | Aileen Almond Chief Executive of Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness



But we are working with some of the most vulnerable people in our community in many other ways:

- We are supporting homeless people who were housed temporarily in hotels during the Government's 'Everyone In' campaign, as they move to one-bedroom flats or shared houses. Our team helps them with everything from helping to make their house a home to how to manage debt, while supporting them to address physical or mental health challenges. We want them to be 'in for good';
- Our supported housing project provides homes for 47 people in shared accommodation. We support these tenants too to become ready to move successfully to longer term accommodation;
- We continue to operate a housing advice drop-in service for people in housing crisis;
- And in April we reopened the Joel building as a drug and alcohol stabilisation centre-supported accommodation for those facing acute addiction or mental health issues.

But sadly, the need remains great. In the week ending 17 Sept, there were 14 people sleeping rough on the streets of Kingston. We face an uncertain Autumn and rising demand for our services – the end to the furlough scheme, £20 uplift



I know that All Saints has been a staunch and longstanding supporter of KCAH. I can't thank you enough for all you have done to help tackle homelessness and help find lasting solutions for people in great need in our community.

If you would like to find out more about what we do, our website is **[www.KCAH.org.uk/](http://www.KCAH.org.uk/)** or follow us on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram. We often have call outs for specific items for the people we help, or for volunteers on specific projects. All donations really help – online via CAF or send cheques (to KCAH) or cash to us at St Peter's Church Hall, London Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT2 6QL. Thank you for your continued support.



# Events are back at All Saints ...

In the church grounds:

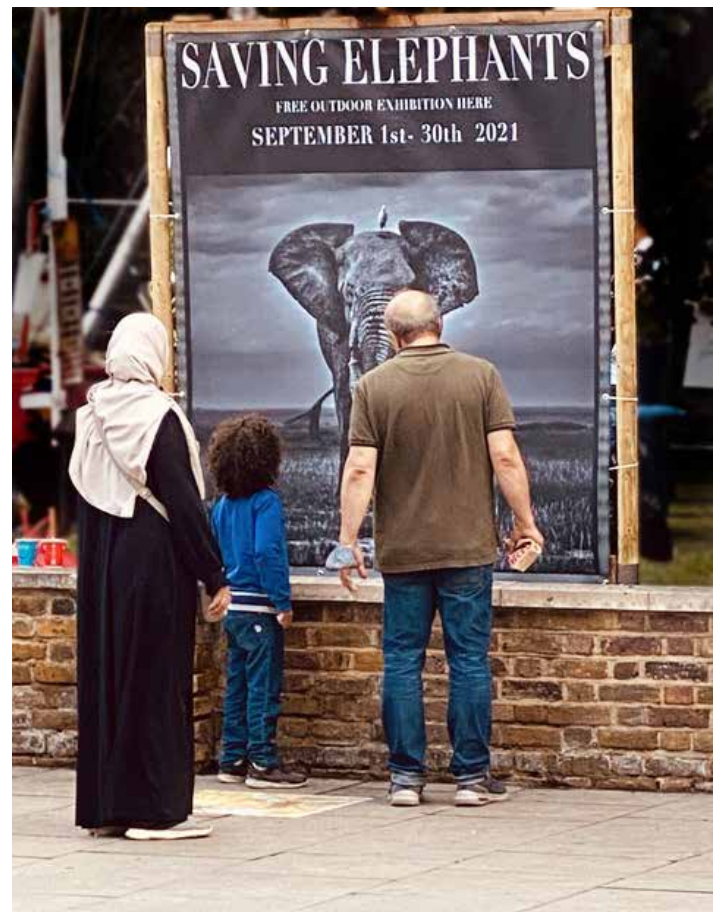
## Saving Elephants – Photographic Exhibition



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And in the church:

## Kingston Choral Society – Members' Musical Soirée

Kingston Choral Society were sadly unable to sing for their Summer Concert, planned for 26th June, due to the Covid restrictions at that time. However, a socially-distanced audience of 60 choir members enjoyed a wonderful evening organised by their Musical Director, Andrew Griffiths. Members of Stile Antico (Rebecca Hickey – soprano, Cara Curran – alto, Andrew Griffiths – tenor and James Arthur – bass) sang some madrigals; these were followed by excerpts from Grieg's *Lyric Pieces* played by the choir's accompanist Leanne Singh-Levett. Finally, the tenor Peter Harris sang Schumann's *Dichterliebe*, accompanied by Leanne Singh-Levett.



## Autumn Concert – 20th November – All Saints Church, Kingston

Kingston Choral Society returns to the concert stage on Saturday 20th November, celebrating with a programme of classical works with Thames Sinfonia: Mozart's *Coronation Mass*, a *Magnificat* by Johann Christian Bach and Haydn's *'Nelson' Mass*.

## Saturday 27 November, 7.30 pm – Thames Philharmonic Choir

Conducted by Music Director, Harry Bradford, Thames Philharmonic Choir will perform 'Hymns of Joy and Praise'. The concert will also feature TPC's new Choral Scholars and Accompanist James Orford providing organ solos. To find out more, go to: [www.thamesphilharmonicchoir.co.uk](http://www.thamesphilharmonicchoir.co.uk)

# Events

## October Events

**Saturday 2nd St John's:** 11am-1pm Community Café  
**Monday 4th All Saints:** 11am Crown Court Service  
**Monday 4th St John's:** First Monday Club 2pm-4pm  
**Sunday 10th All Saints:** 9.30am Harvest Thanksgiving  
**Monday 11th All Saints:** Lunchtime Music 1.15pm Nathan Winters (clarinet)  
**Monday 18th All Saints:** Lunchtime Music 1.15pm Mandoria Duo (Constance Chow, piano; Hannah Cresswell, flute)  
**Tuesday 19th All Saints:** 7.30pm Kingston Chamber Concert  
**Thursday 21st All Saints:** 1pm Topical Lunch (Kirsten Henley, Chief Executive, Kingston First)  
**Monday 25th All Saints:** Lunchtime Music 1.15pm Yoon-Seuk Shin (piano)  
**Thursday 28th All Saints:** 11.30am-2pm Thumbs up it's Thursday – Autumn Crafts  
**Saturday 30th St John's:** The Harriets Music Gig in aid of Church funds; Doors open at 7.30pm (see p.3 for more information)

*Cards for Good Causes from 18th October*

## November Events

**Monday 1st All Saints:** Lunchtime Music 1.15pm Julia Dewhurst (soprano), Stephen Westrop (piano)  
**Monday 1st St John's:** 2pm-4pm First Monday Club  
**Saturday 6th St John's:** 11am-1pm Community Café  
**Saturday 6th All Saints:** 7.30pm Concert: Oya Ergun (soprano)  
**Monday 8th All Saints:** Lunchtime Music 1.15pm Luca Luciano (clarinet)  
**Saturday 13th All Saints:** 7.30pm Kingston Chamber Orchestra  
**Sunday 14th All Saints:** 11am Remembrance Day  
**Thursday 18th All Saints:** 1pm Topical Lunch (Jo Moulton, Corporate Head of Culture and Heritage)  
**Saturday 20th All Saints:** 7.30pm Kingston Choral Society  
**Saturday 27th All Saints:** 7.30pm Thames Philharmonic Choir  
**Sunday 28th All Saints:** 6pm Advent Carol Service

## December (1st week) Events

**Saturday 4th All Saints:** 7.30pm Ember Choral Winter Concert  
**Monday 6th All Saints:** Lunchtime Music 1.15pm Stephen Westrop (organ)  
**Saturday 11th All Saints:** 7.30pm Hampton Choral Society Concert

## Church Services

### All Saints

#### Sunday Services

8am Holy Communion  
9.30am Sung Eucharist  
6pm Sung Evensong

### Weekdays

Tuesday – no Service during the Interregnum  
Wednesday 12 noon Holy Communion – Common Worship;  
Wednesday 5.30pm Choral Evensong (during term time)  
Thursday 10.30am Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer

### St John's

#### Monthly Services

1st Sunday – All-age Worship at 10.30am  
2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th – Parish Communion at 10.30am  
2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th – Diddy Disciples worship, songs and craft for the under 6s at 9.15am  
4th Sunday – A Joyful Path – worship for children 6 and up at 10.30am

### Little Groovers Stay & Play

Carers and babies/toddlers group at St John's Church on Tuesday mornings 9.30am – 12noon



### Little Saints

Toddler group at All Saints Church on Tuesdays 1.30-3.30pm & Fridays 9.30-11.30am



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## All Saints

Market Place, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 1JP  
www.allsaintskingston.co.uk www.WhereEnglandBegan.co.uk

### Team Rector of the Kingston Team:

Vacancy – please contact the Parish Office

### Honorary Curate:

Revd Sandy Cragg  
sandy@toadstool.co.uk

020 8546 1997  
Days off Fri/Sat

### Church Wardens:

Roshan Jathanna - roshan.jathanna@gmail.com  
John Dewhurst - jdewhurst34@gmail.com

### PCC Secretary:

Isabel Isaacson - isabel\_isaacson@yahoo.co.uk 020 8974 8275

### Honorary Treasurer:

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### PA to the Rector:

Jenny Bridges - info@allsaintskingston.co.uk 020 8546 5964  
Office open Mon - Fri 10am - 1pm

### Learning and Engagement Officer:

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### Safeguarding Officer:

Alex Crook - alexcrook1@btinternet.com  
Rachel Davies - racheldavieshome@gmail.com

### Organist and Director of Music:

David Condry - contact via PA to the Rector

## St John's

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www.stjohnskingston.co.uk

### Team Vicar:

Revd Mark Stafford  
vicarstjohnskingston@gmail.com

020 8546 9542

Day off: Friday

### Church Administrator:

Emma Lloyd-Williams - stjohschurckkingston@gmail.com 07952 085 661  
Office hours: Tuesday 12noon-2pm; Thursday: 1pm-3pm

### Parish Hall Administrator:

Frances Hazelgrove - parishhall@stjohnskingston.co.uk 07952 085661

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### PCC Secretary:

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### Treasurer:

Tony Hardy - tonyhardy@fifty3.net 020 8549 7572

### Safeguarding Officers:

Pat Askey and Grant Vanstone - safeguarding@stjohnskingston.co.uk

### Church website:

Emma Perries - emma@digitalmother.co.uk

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

Saints Alive has a circulation of 3000 and is delivered to homes, businesses and St John's School in central Kingston. Thanks to all involved in its production, especially production facilitator PDC Design & Print (Kingston). If you'd like to get in touch, please contact the editor, Isabel Isaacson, on 020 8974 8275 or isabel\_isaacson@yahoo.co.uk or Revd Jonathan Wilkes on 020 3132 8717 or jonathan@allsaintskingston.co.uk

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