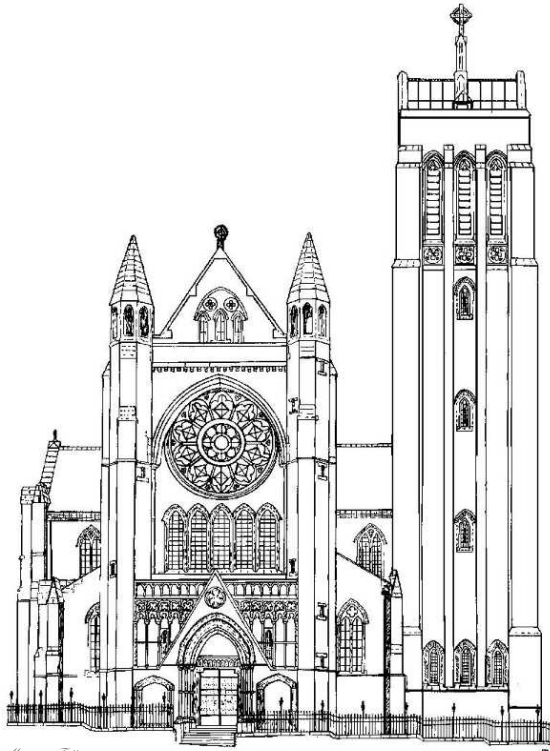




The Church of
St Alban the Martyr
Birmingham 12



St ALBAN AND St PATRICK PARISH MAGAZINE



Maryellen Fellows



April
2025
£1



Church of S Alban the Martyr
Conybere Street, Birmingham
(Traditional Anglo-Catholic)
(www.saintalban.co.uk)

Vicar: Vacant

*If you need a priest during the Interregnum please contact
one of the Churchwardens*

Sunday Services

Choral Mass 10.00 a.m. Solemn

Evening Service 6.00 p.m. (*Usually the last Sunday of the month — see the Music List*)

Weekday Masses (*Please note that normal weekday services are presently cancelled*)

Confessions: By appointment

Authorized Eucharistic Ministers (*Bishop's Permission*)

Mrs Verna Smith-Broadbent

Mrs Amanda Cadman

☎: 0121 624 3865

Dr Christopher Smith

☎: 0121 471 1301

Churchwardens

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E-mail:

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***An apology from Maureen Fellows:** I am sorry that this magazine is a bit late. Unfortunately I was taken into the QE on March 17th and diagnosed with pneumonia, which was followed by a stomach bug. I am getting better, but it seems to be a slow process!!*

No Longer From the Vicarage

Dear Everyone,

When the PCC met with the Archdeacon and Area Dean on January 27th, we were relieved to be assured that the Diocese was intending to fill our vacancy with a new incumbent, and that they would seek to clarify with the Academy what might be expected of a future chaplain. They encouraged us to think long and hard as we compiled our new Parish Statement, and to give prominence to our vision for what our new incumbent should bring to the parish. It is the responsibility of the PCC to create a new Parish Statement, but other members of the congregation and local community have been sounded out to ‘get a feeling’ of what we are looking to achieve for the future of St Alban’s — church, school and parish.

More recently we have been encouraged to compile our new Parish Statement sooner rather than later, and the PCC discussed our draft on Monday last, March 24th. We looked in detail at our future vision for a new incumbent at St Alban’s as well as our vision for future mission and ministry. We will submit the final version to the Archdeacon, we hope, next week so that the formal process of advertising the vacancy can proceed. Let us hope that, like James Pollock, a willing candidate will be found to accept the challenge and privilege of building on 160 years of Anglo-Catholic mission — religious, educational and social — in this diverse, challenged and newly-growing area of inner-city Birmingham.

By the time you read this the Choir Vestry should be fully up and running. The new tiled floor looks magnificent and the new lighting, with its heritage-style light fittings

and a fresh coat of paint throughout, are a triumph. Thanks are due for the various funding sources that have brought this work to completion. Thanks are due too for the huge amount of tidying and sorting of choir music, now housed in smart and robust new boxes.

We continue to have water ingress into the kitchen vestibule and the kitchen itself, unfortunately undoing much of the decoration work that followed the re-roofing of the kitchen last year. The problem turns out to be a defective lining to a gutter lying between the original building and the 1980s St Patrick’s Room. Until this gutter is effectively relined (and work is expected to start very soon) we cannot refurbish the kitchen decorations. Again we must be grateful for a generous donation to allow us to proceed speedily with this work. We will be able to re-cover the floor in St Patrick’s Room with insurance money paid out after the original failure of the drainage to the kitchen roof. It is intended to replace the carpet by the kitchen with some sort of washable floor covering!

You will have read that the organ is in need of a significant amount of re-leathering, for which we need to raise a very substantial amount of money! It was a thrill when David Briggs, organist at St Alban’s 1979 – 81 and now Artist-in-Residence at the Cathedral of St John the Divine in New York, came back on a visit recently and played for our Sunday Mass. He has very kindly agreed to return to launch a fund-raising series of organ recitals over this summer and autumn. See elsewhere for full details of his concert on the evening of Saturday July 26th. Three later lunchtime recitals will be led by the organists of three

Pearson-designed churches: St Alban's itself, Truro Cathedral and St Michael and All Angels, Croydon. These organists will stay overnight to then take part in the following Sunday Mass and Solemn Evensong and Benediction.

Huge thanks as ever are due to Fr Andrew

Lenox-Conyngham for all he is doing to keep church life flourishing at St Alban's during our interregnum. We are grateful too to those other priests who are supporting us in a number of ways. We are hugely blessed to have their support and encouragement.

Amanda Cadman

The Choir Vestry Re-occupied

On Monday March 24th, Bryce Somerville organised the move of the choir robes and music back from the church into the choir vestry.

Now there is a neat row of freestanding bookcases against the wall under the window, where once there was an old cupboard leaning against the remains of the flue for a heater.

New Bookcases

At the other end of the room the shelves have been restored in the alcove carrying more of the new files into which the music has been re-organised.



The Corner Shelves Restored

The upright piano has been moved into the vestry to support choir practice, and the grand piano will remain in the church for use in concerts and recitals. Most of the choir photographs are back on the wall.



The Upright Piano in the Vestry

The temporary shelves in the hall are now bare — some of them may find a new home with our food bank.



Organ Concert Series
Featuring Pearson Church Organists

Gala Organ Concert

to open our Organ Concert Series

Reception with David Briggs after the Concert

(£20 to include refreshments. See page 5 for ticket details)

Saturday 26th July at 7:30 pm - David Briggs

*(Artist-in-residence at the Cathedral of St John the Divine, New York
and former organist at St Alban the Martyr 1979 – 1981)*

Big screen for an excellent view of the Organist



Photograph by Maike Shultz

Tickets for the Gala Concert are now available to purchase via Eventbrite (<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/gala-organ-concert-by-david-briggs-followed-by-reception-tickets-1304037444099>) or the QR code on the right.



Tickets are also available from the Director of Music: Angela Sones, whose details are on the back cover

Lunchtime Organ Recitals by Pearson Church
Organists are on the 4th Saturday of each month at
1.00 – 1.45 pm.

The series continues with:

Lunchtime Organ Concert
Saturday 23rd August

Andrew Scott (*St Michael and All Angels, Croydon*)

Lunchtime Organ Concert
Saturday 27th September

Angela Sones (*St Alban the Martyr, Highgate, Birmingham*)

Lunchtime Organ Concert
Saturday 25th October

Andrew Wyatt (*Truro Cathedral*)

Refreshments are available following each recital.

You may also hear the Recitalists accompanying both sung services the following day.

You are welcome at both services.

And may join the choir if you wish.

10.00 am Mass

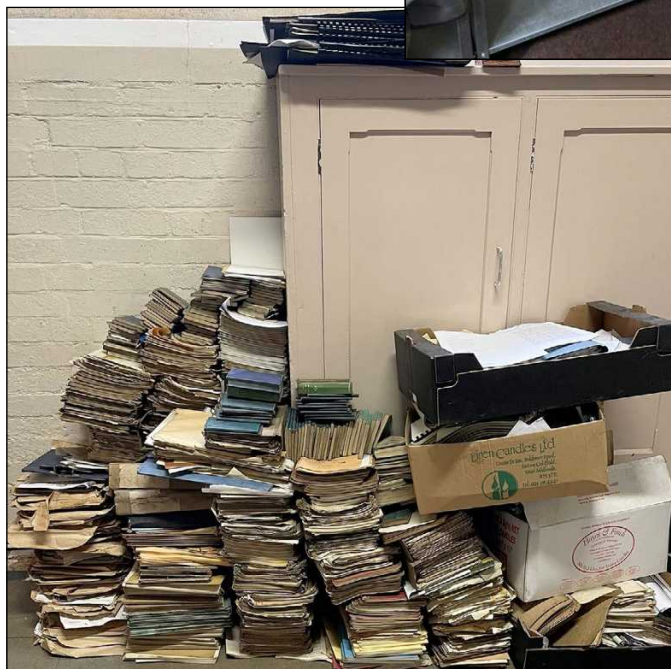
6.00 pm Solemn Choral Evensong and Benediction

St Patrick's Room

“Spring is here, suffering is here, life is skittles and life is beer” to quote Tom Lehrer, but for us it means that the Choir Vestry is back in use, and everything has been moved back and organised from out of piles and off the metal shelving racks, which now stand empty. (See photo on page 3 for the full length of shelving.)

The metal shelving racks measure 60 cm wide, 140 cm high, and 27 cm deep. They are 7 in number, and their temporary purpose is now at an end. They now seek good homes elsewhere. If you have the space and need for them, please help yourself. They originally cost £20 each, but to you they are free, if you arrange your own transport. They will take apart for that purpose.

And so begins the Great Spring Clean of St Patrick's room... If



you have any personal possessions or family heirlooms that are in the room, then please remove them, before they are thrown away. The library will be moved into new bookcases with safety glass doors.

Bryce Somerville

The Church's Year — April 2025

Sunday April 6th, is both the 6th Sunday of Lent and is also Passion Sunday, two weeks before Easter Day, when we begin to concentrate increasingly upon the Passion, meaning the “suffering”, of our Lord Jesus Christ which he underwent for our salvation. It was on this day traditionally that he set out from Galilee to begin his momentous last journey to Jerusalem, knowing full well what would await him there.

It is graphically described in Luke 9: 51 — “When the time came for him (Jesus) to be received up, he steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem” — words which have always had a great impact upon me. The phrase “steadfastly set his face” reminds us of the phrase from Isaiah when about to confront the difficult task of carrying out God’s will — “Therefore have I set my face like a flint” (Isaiah 50: 7). What a lesson for us, in the midst of our politically and socially turbulent times! Resolution is called for, but we have the assurance of God’s presence with us.

On Wednesday April 9th we are encouraged to remember the great German theologian and martyr, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was executed — murdered — would be a more exact word — by the Nazis on this day in 1945, only a month or so before the end of the war. He was still a young man but was one of the most distinguished writers on theology and spirituality of his time and came back to Germany when it was under Hitler, because he felt he had to be in his country during this terrible time — he had been in the safety of America where he could



Westminster Abbey Statue

have stayed. He was arrested for taking part in the plot against Hitler and met his death with an extraordinary serenity — his “*Cost of Discipleship*” is one of his most famous works.

Sunday April 13th, is Palm Sunday and the beginning of the most important week of the Christian year, “**Holy Week**”, leading up to the Triduum, the



three days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Eve (as it should be called, not Easter Saturday) — the last three days of Lent. On this day, as most people know, Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, to the accompaniment of people shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” and putting palm branches on the road ahead of him. I remember in the East End of London we used to have a procession of about a mile from one church in our parish to another, along the streets, carrying palms and singing the Palm Sunday hymns — it was, I felt, a wonderful, public demonstration of the place which Christianity should have in our society.

We should try to observe Holy Week as seriously as we can, so as best to prepare ourselves for the last three days of this week, surely — not only from the historical point of view, but above all from the spiritual — the most dramatic in the history of the world. Maundy Thursday takes its name from the ‘new commandment’ — *mandatum novum* — which Jesus gave to his disciples at the Last Supper, which was also the Passover meal (according to the first three Gospels — and this is generally accepted by New Testament scholars — St John’s Gospel places the Passover a day later).

This ‘new commandment’ was that they should ‘love one another’ — one might have thought that having worked with Jesus for the two or so years at least of his ministry they wouldn’t have needed such a commandment, but they evidently did, which I feel can be a comfort for



us in trying to sort out disagreements when they arise within our churches! And it was at this meal, of course, that Jesus took bread and said, “*This is my body, which is given for you,*” and took wine and said, “*This is my blood, which is shed for you,*” words which have been repeated so many millions of times throughout history every time we meet together to share in this wonderful sacrament. As St Augustine said, in receiving the bread and the wine, we are receiving God himself, his power, his love and his strength.

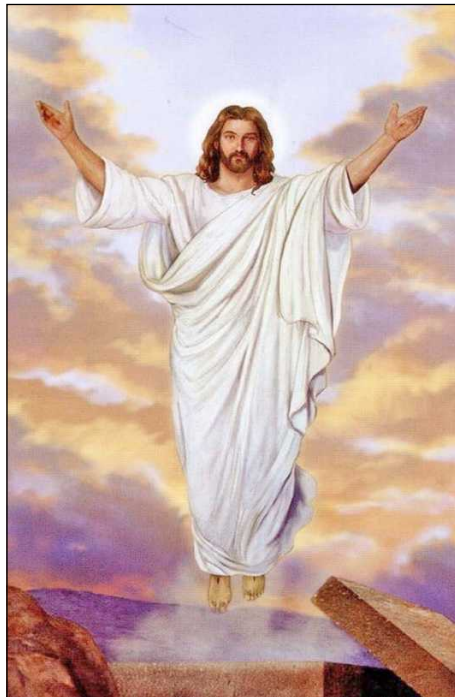
What a night that Thursday night was! And how human the disciples were at the moment of Jesus’ betrayal! Having said that they would all stand by him, when he was arrested, they “*all forsook him and fled.*”

In many ways, Good Friday is the



most important day of the Christian year, the day of our redemption through the sacrifice made for us by Jesus on the cross — Easter Day itself seeing the announcement of the victory won on that Good Friday. We should ensure that we spend some time in church on this most important of all days — nothing can detract from the staggering message of Christianity that it was not just another innocent man who had suffered — but God himself, out of love for the human race.

Easter Day therefore sees the result of this victory — the rising of Christ spiritually from the dead. Some years ago, I was engaged in a controversy in *The Church Times* on whether the resurrection could be counted a historical event or primarily as a belief — three letters appeared in the paper the following

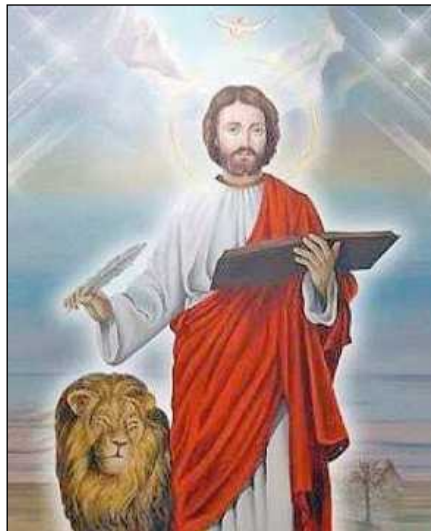


week, discussing this very matter. Many people in the world — atheists, obviously, among them — simply say that it didn't happen, that it was just an illusion, a hallucination or the result of wishful thinking. I quoted Edwyn Bevan who in his excellent short book on Christianity (*Home University Library* series, first appeared in 1932) said that, whether Jesus did or did not rise from the dead, it is a matter of indisputable historical fact that the belief that he had risen from the dead was the belief of those first Christians from the earliest days. They were a tough-minded lot, those early Christians! — not a group of high-fluting academics! — and were not likely to have been taken in by a ghost or the result of wishful thinking. Belief in the resurrection of Christ is the foundation of the Christian faith, as St Paul makes clear in 1 Corinthians, chapter 15 (one of the most important chapters in the Bible) — by this belief Christianity stands or falls. Therefore, Easter Day is fitting the leading Feast Day in the Church's year — a day of joyous and triumphant celebration, which continues up to the Feast of Pentecost (Sunday June 8th this year).

Because Easter Day on April 20th is fairly late this year, it means that, according to the Common Worship lectionary, the important Feasts of St George and of St Mark are transferred. St George (usually April 23rd) is transferred to Monday April 28th — since the entire week following Easter Day is given over to a continuous celebration of the Resurrection. St George, our own Patron Saint of Merrie England of course, was believed to have been a Roman soldier, martyred for his faith in the Great (and last in the Roman Empire) Persecution



of Diocletian in about AD 304. St Mark, the Evangelist and reputed author of the Gospel named after him, is usually celebrated on April 25th — this year his feast is transferred to Tuesday April 29th, the day after St George's. With the



celebration of those two saints, this year right at the end of the month, we can be well prepared spiritually for our rejoicing as we come to the merrie month of May, the quintessential month of Spring.

Fr Andrew

Music in St Alban's for April 2025

Sunday 6th — 5th Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday) — 10.00 am

Mass setting: Darke in A minor

Hymns: 461 There's a wideness in God's mercy (T: Corvedale)

358 Father of heaven, whose love profound

297 Lord Jesus Christ

Lift high the Cross (T: sheet AMNS 72)

Anthem: O Saviour of the World — John Goss

Sunday 13th — Palm Sunday — 10.00 am

Mass setting: Missa de Angelis

Sung Lord's Prayer

Hymns: 509 All glory, laud and honour (Procession with 511 Ride on...)

From Heaven you came (T: sheet)

86 My song is love unknown

83 Glory be to Jesus

Anthem: A Palm Sunday Antiphon — David Morgan

***NB:** The Marian Anthem for April 6th and 13th will be the Salve Regina.
From Easter Sunday it will be the Regina Cæli.*

Thursday 17th — Maundy Thursday — 7.30 pm

Mass setting: Kyrie and Gloria — Oldroyd: Mass of the Quiet Hour
Sanctus and Agnus Dei — Missa XI Orbis Factor

Hymns: 302 O Thou, who at thy Eucharist didst pray
281 Draw nigh and take the body of the Lord
307 Sweet Sacrament Divine
268 Pange Lingua (for the procession to altar of repose)
515 Psalm 22 (for the stripping of the Altar)

Anthem: God so loved the world — Stainer

Friday 18th — Good Friday

Stations of the Cross — 10.00 am

Good Friday Liturgy — 12.00 pm

Hymns: 95 When I survey the wondrous cross
516a Reproaches — The Veneration of the Cross
517 Crux Fidelis

Saturday 19th — Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil) — 9.00 pm

Mass setting: Darke in F (Gloria)
Sung Lord's Prayer
Exsultet

Hymns: 105 Christ the Lord is risen again! (ii)
115 Now the green blade riseth
117 The day of Resurrection!

Anthem: If we believe — John Goss

Voluntary: Final from 6th Symphonie — C.M. Widor

Sunday 20th — Easter Sunday — 10.00 am

Mass setting: Darke in E
Sung Lord's Prayer

Hymns: 109 Hail thee, festival day
104 At the Lamb's high feast we sing

115 Now the green blade riseth
120 Thine be the Glory
Anthem: The Strife is O'er — Henry Ley
Voluntary: Variations on an Easter theme — John Rutter

Sunday 27th — 2nd Sunday of Easter — 10.00 am

Mass setting: Oldroyd — Mass of the Quiet Hour

Hymns: 105 Christ the Lord is risen again
114 Now is eternal life
369 Happy are they, they that love God
112 Jesus lives!

Anthem: Come, ye faithful — Thatcher

Voluntary: Final from Symphonie No 1 — Louis Vierne

(Organist: Ashley Wagner)

Sunday 27th — Choral Evensong and Benediction — 6.00 pm

Responses: Smith

Canticles: Blair in B Minor

Hymns: 113 Love's redeeming work is done
121 This joyful Eastertide

Anthem: Ye choirs of new Jerusalem — Stanford

Voluntary: Final from Symphonie No 1 — Louis Vierne

(Organist: Ashley Wagner)

Choir rehearsals:

Sundays, 9.00 am Maundy Thursday 6.30 pm

Good Friday 11.00 am Holy Saturday 8 pm

Solemn Choral Evensong and Benediction 4.30 pm

*Director of Music — Angela Sones
Music Secretary — Bryce Somerville*

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)
Sunday 27th April after the 10.00 am Mass**

Please try to attend this meeting, where Churchwardens and PCC members will be elected, and reports of the past year in St Alban's given. There will be forms available in church for nominations to the Warden and PCC posts.

Please speak to one of the wardens if you require more information.

Calendar for April 2025

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|--|
| 1 st | Tuesday | Feria |
| 2 nd | Wednesday | Feria (St Francis of Paola, Hermit) |
| 3 rd | Thursday | Feria |
| 4 th | Friday | Feria (St Isidore) |
| 5 th | Saturday | Feria (St Vincent Ferrer, P) |
| 6th | Sunday | 5th Sunday of Lent |
| 7 th | Monday | Feria (St John Baptist de la Sale P) |
| 8 th | Tuesday | Feria |
| 9 th | Wednesday | Feria |
| 10 th | Thursday | Feria |
| 11 th | Friday | St Stanislaus, B, Mr |
| 12 th | Saturday | Feria |
| 13th | Sunday | Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord |
| 14 th | Monday | Monday of Holy Week |
| 15 th | Tuesday | Tuesday of Holy Week |
| 15 th | Wednesday | Wednesday of Holy Week |
| 17th | Thursday | Maundy Thursday |
| 18th | Friday | Good Friday |
| 19th | Saturday | Holy Saturday |
| 20th | Sunday | Easter Sunday |
| 21 st | Monday | Easter Monday |
| 22 nd | Tuesday | Easter Tuesday |
| 23 rd | Wednesday | Easter Wednesday |
| 24 th | Thursday | Easter Thursday |
| 25 th | Friday | Easter Friday |
| 26 th | Saturday | Easter Saturday |
| 27th | Sunday | Second Sunday Easter (Low Sunday) |
| 28 th | Monday | St George Mr, Patron of England (Transferred) |
| 29 th | Tuesday | St Mark (Transferred) and St Catherine of Siena, V, Dr |
| 30 th | Wednesday | St Pius V, Pope |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Organist and Director of Music: Angela Sones ☎: 07885 783758 E-mail: angelasones@hotmail.co.uk</p> <p>Music Secretary Bryce Somerville bryce@thesomervilles.biz</p> <p>Deputy Organist Mr Edward J. Fellows</p> | <p>S Alban's Academy ☎: 0121 464 7811 E-mail: info@stalbansacademy.org</p> <p>Principal: Mr Guy Rimmer</p> <p>Chair of Governors: Joanne Dawson joanne.dawson20@btinternet.com</p> |
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| <p>Electoral Roll Officer Dr Rachel L. Smith</p> | <p>Website www.stalbanbirmingham.org.uk www.saintalban.co.uk</p>  |
| <p>The Friends of S Alban and S Patrick Secretary: Dr Rachel L. Smith 219, Gristhorpe Road B29 7SP ☎: 0121 471 1301</p> | |

