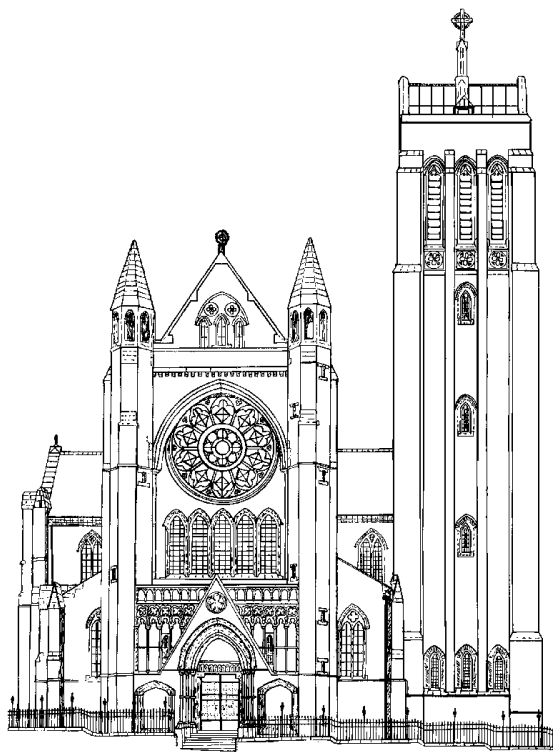




The Church of
St Alban the Martyr
Birmingham 12



St ALBAN AND St PATRICK PARISH MAGAZINE



Marysean Fellows



May
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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A Warden's View

Dear Everyone,

After Mass on Sunday, the 27th of April, we held our annual parish 'Vestry Meeting' at which Amanda and I were elected unopposed for a further year as churchwardens. This is my tenth term in this ancient office. I think that our longest serving churchwarden was 'Jim' (John James) Whithouse, who is listed in our parish magazine from 1947 to 1982, although I do not have a full record of the wardens during the time of the Pollock brothers in the nineteenth century. I was first persuaded to stand for churchwarden by Fr Nicholas Polito, when Edward stepped down in 2016 after 19 terms. I had hoped not to stand again for the office this year, as I announced at our vestry meeting in 2024. However, just before Amanda and I were installed as churchwardens for the year 2024 to 2025 on the 10th of June at St John and St Peter's Ladywood, Fr Gerry informed us in confidence of his intention to retire in early 2025. With our parish in interregnum, I felt that it was my duty to continue, if elected, for another year until we have a new incumbent in post. I continue to look for a successor as PCC Treasurer.

Following the Vestry Meeting we held our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), which received the minutes of last year's meeting and reports on the Electoral Roll, the Proceedings of the PCC and activities in the parish, the Statement of Financial Activities for 2024, the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church, and meetings of Deanery Synod — all of which are officially required. The meeting also received written reports from our Printing (or Litho) Unit, Food

Bank and the Aspinall Trustees as well as brief oral reports on the choir and servers.

The reports to the meeting expanded on the more concise information in the official Annual Report and Statement of Financial Activities which have been sent to the Charity Commission. These were adopted by the PCC on the 24th of March and approved by an independent examiner on the 14th of April. Together with those for several previous years these can be viewed or downloaded in PDF form from our website www.saintalban.co.uk/documents/.

After producing our parish magazine since 1981 and generating income for our church by producing magazines for other parishes, Edward and Maureen Fellows, now in their mid-eighties, expect to wind down the Printing Unit during 2025.

(It is intended that an article about the history of the Printing Unit will be prepared for the June Magazine. M.F)

This year the electoral roll had to be created anew, as is required every six years. Those eligible to join must either live in the parish or have habitually attended worship in the church during the last six months or have been prevented from doing so by illness. Our new electoral roll at the APCM was 31, with one more person due to be added whose form was not completed in time. Six of the members of the new roll live in the parish and another just outside. This is a decrease from the roll of 40 at the APCM in 2024 but is in line with the assessment in December 2024 of 33 for the "Worshipping Community" — those attending services at least monthly, or who would do so if not prevented by illness.

By a resolution of the 2013 APCM,

up to three PCC members are elected each year to serve for three years. This overrides a default of two members per year for electoral rolls below 51. Three members of the PCC had completed their three-year terms of service: Bryce Somerville, Rachel Smith and Fay Wilson and were elected again. Bryce and Rachel will serve for a further three years. Fay will serve for one year, taking a casual vacancy left following the resignation of Aled Liddington when he moved from the West Midlands to Cornwall. The single-year term fits Fay’s plans for retirement and departure from Birmingham. Newly elected to the PCC for a three-year term is Rhonda Elvins, mother of Reshawn who was confirmed last year and has now joined our serving team.

Just before the APCM, we received the formal notice from the new Diocesan Registrar that the benefice is vacant following Fr Gerry’s retirement. This means that the PCC can now hold a

“section 11” meeting and the PCC will meet for this purpose after Mass on the 11th of May. The purpose of this meeting is to approve a Parish Statement (or Profile) “describing the conditions, needs and traditions of the parish” and to appoint two lay members of the PCC “to act as parish representatives in connection with the selection of an incumbent”, following which the post can be advertised. The Parish Statement has already been drawn up and circulated to the members of the PCC, the Archdeacon of Birmingham and our Area Dean for comment but needs minor updating now that we have our new electoral roll.

May is traditionally Mary’s month, and we will have our traditional shrine before the statue of Our Lady. Gifts of potted flowering plants for the shrine are welcome — any which survive to June may be reclaimed by the donors.

Chris Smith

The Aspinall Trust

Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2024

On 24th March 1997, a Declaration of Trust was made by Canon Pendorf along with Messrs. Clark and Matthews, Churchwardens. The registered number **1061909** was assigned to the Trust by the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.

Set out below is the object according to the detailed charity report of the Commission.

Also set out below are the eight purposes for which the Trust’s **income** is applied.

“The general purposes of the Parish Church of Ss. Alban and Patrick, Highgate, Birmingham.”

1. The maintenance and upkeep of the Church and its adjoining facilities;
2. The provision of funds to upgrade the facilities of the Church and its adjoining facilities;

3. The general upkeep of the Church and its grounds;
4. The provision of financial assistance up to £1,000 per annum (such figure to be reviewed at the discretion of the Trustees) to any male member of the congregation or male children of the parish or diocese under training for the Priesthood;
5. The support of the development of the Church, including mission and ecumenical activities;
6. The provision of occasional grant aid for the upkeep of the liturgy and the music of the Church;
7. The development of the Anglo-Catholic faith as practised at the Church in such a way as the Trustees think fit; and
8. The provision of occasional emergency or temporary help to any member of the Parish suffering severe financial hardship, such assistance to be in the form of an interest free loan to such person.

During the year under review the names of those who served as Trustees are set out below.

Fr. Dr. Gerald Sykes, Vicar

Mr. Edward Fellows, Churchwarden Emeritus

Dr. Christopher Smith, Churchwarden/Treasurer

Dr. Fay Wilson, Churchwarden Emerita

Mrs Amanda Cadman, Churchwarden

The Trustees held two meetings during the year, on the 18th of August and the 15th of December, and made these grants to the P.C.C.:

£9,500 towards the cost of Church Insurance;

£2,000 towards the cost of the Monitored Alarm System;

£2,000 towards the cost of an Electrical Survey;

£2,000 towards the alteration of the Kitchen Roof;

£1,000 towards the Director of Music's Fees.

At year end, total assets were valued at £523,839.12 an increase from £517,122.14 at the end of 2023 due to the continued recovery in value of investments during the year after a fall in value in 2022 from a peak value of £553,198.51 at the end of 2021.

Since the original bequest of £177,457.00 was received in October 1992, **grants of £274,600.95** have been made against **total interest of £322,039.91**.

C.A. Smith, Treasurer 15th April 2025

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

The Church's Year — May 2025

Only two days after, in this year, we have been celebrating the transferred Feast of St Mark the Evangelist, we are in May, and on Thursday May 1st we celebrated the Apostles, St Philip and St James. St Philip is of course the Patron Saint of our Cathedral (again, to be distinguished from Philip the Evangelist, who appears in the Acts of the Apostles and who is a completely different person — despite the mistakes I have heard in at least two sermons in the cathedral!!). Philip figures prominently in the first chapter of St John's Gospel, in which he was one of the first disciples to be called by Jesus (John 1.43) and Philip



then told his friend, Nathanael, about Jesus — Nathanael usually being identified with Bartholomew. The James with whom Philip shares this Feast Day is James, the son of Alphaeus, so to be distinguished from the James who is the brother of John — the sons of Zebedee. He is sometimes referred to as “James the Less” which seems a bit unfair, because he might have been just as worthy a disciple as the more famous James — it's simply that we don't know very much about him.

In the middle of the month, on Wednesday, May 14th we celebrate St Matthias the Apostle, who was chosen, as we read in the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, to take the place of the traitor Judas Iscariot. We know nothing else about



him, but I have prayed in my student days before his tomb in the great Benedictine abbey of St Matthias, in the famous Roman town of Trier, in the beautiful Moselle valley in Germany.

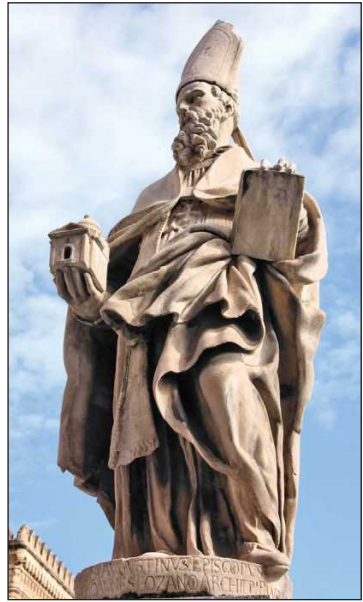
A week later, May 21st, the Church celebrates St Helena, described in my lectionary as ‘Protector of the Holy Places’ who died in 330. She was one of the most influential women in history since she was the mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine. She had been married to Constantius, Constantine's father, who was a pagan, but Helena herself was a whole-hearted Christian and there can be little doubt of her impact upon her famous son, who greatly loved and honoured her all his life. Constantine became the first Christian Roman Emperor, which had an enormous impact upon the Christian Church and, generally there can be no doubt, the course of history. Helena discovered what was believed to be the remains of the True Cross, on which Jesus



Ss Constantine and Helena

had been crucified, and a church was built on that site. Evelyn Waugh, the author of the famous “*Brideshead Revisited*” novel, which was also made into a TV series, also wrote a very different kind of book, simply called ‘*Helena*’ which is a historical novel account of Helena’s life. I read it many years ago and found it one of the most fascinating of all historical novels I have read, and I warmly commend it.

Monday May 26th is the day on which we celebrate Augustine, the first Archbishop of Canterbury (to be distinguished from Augustine of Hippo, who wrote the “*Confessions*”, after whom this Augustine was almost certainly named). He was sent by Pope Gregory to convert the wild English (what a task!) and set off from Rome with some companions, arriving in Kent in 597, a signal date in British history. He was courteously received by the king, who I believe was a pagan, and the queen,



who was a Christian, in Canterbury, and set about his work, becoming the first Archbishop of Canterbury and dying in 605.

We have two Red-Letter Days in May — days of the highest importance — of which the first is Thursday May 29th, which is Ascension Day — again, one of the most important Feast Days in the Church’s year, 40 days after Easter Day, when we celebrate Jesus’ Ascension into heaven. The Acts of the Apostles begins with this momentous event — the parting of Jesus in his spiritual but visible body from his disciples, with his promise that he would be with them always, ‘to the end of the age’, a promise which applies just as much to us as to them. Only by returning to his heavenly Father would this be possible — that is why we read that the disciples “*returned to Jerusalem with great joy and were continually in the Temple, praising and blessing God*” (Luke 24: 53). Most churches hold a service on this day



Baptist, and she greeted Mary with the words, “Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb”, since this was just after Mary had been told by the Angel Gabriel that she was to be the mother of Jesus. It was on this occasion that Mary, according to this account, declaimed what we know as The Magnificat, a hymn of praise to God, which is one of the customary canticles at Evening Prayer. What could be a more fitting note on which to end this beautiful Spring month of May? *Fr Andrew*

or on the following Sunday — which should be attended by all faithful Christians!

Just two days later, on Saturday May 31st, we celebrate the Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to her cousin Elisabeth, as described in Luke, chapter 1, verses 39 to 56. This was in the sixth month of Elisabeth’s pregnancy with John the



Easter at St Alban’s!

The church was looking particularly beautiful on Easter Day and we owe much to those who put in time and trouble to make sure that everything was prepared — thanks are especially due to our churchwardens, Chris and Amanda, also to Rachel for the flower arrangements, to Roy and Irene for contributing flowers, to Amy, Cynthia and Rhonda for valuable help and to Rashawn for serving, Verna especially for cleaning, Simon for masterminding so much, Stephen (the Easter fire!), Alison (hot cross buns!) — all those who served and helped in other ways and of course the choir and Angela, the director of music, and Bryce, the choir secretary — truly a valorous team — may this continue throughout the year!

Fr Andrew

Calendar for May 2025

1st	Thursday	Ss Philip and James, Apostles
2nd	Friday	St Athanasius, B, Dr
3rd	Saturday	Feria
4th	Sunday	3rd Sunday of Easter
5th	Monday	Feria (St Asaph)
6th	Tuesday	Feria
7th	Wednesday	Feria
8th	Thursday	Feria
9th	Friday	Feria
10th	Saturday	Feria (St John De Avila, Pr, Dr)
11th	Sunday	4th Sunday of Easter
12th	Monday	Feria
13th	Tuesday	Feria
14th	Wednesday	St Matthias, Apostle
15th	Thursday	Feria
16th	Friday	Feria
17th	Saturday	Feria
18th	Sunday	5th Sunday of Easter
19th	Monday	St Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury
20th	Tuesday	St Bernadine of Siena
21st	Wednesday	Ss Constantine and Helena
22nd	Thursday	Feria (S Rita of Cascia, Religious)
23rd	Friday	Feria
24th	Saturday	Feria
25th	Sunday	6th Sunday of Easter
26th	Monday	S Philip Neri, Pr
27th	Tuesday	St Augustine of Canterbury
28th	Wednesday	St Pius V, Pope
29th	Thursday	Ascension of the Lord
30th	Friday	Feria
31st	Saturday	Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Music in St Alban's for May 2025

Sunday 4th — 3rd Sunday of Easter — 10.00 am

Mass setting: Ireland in C Sung Lord's Prayer

Hymns: 345 Christ is the King! O friends rejoice
362 Glorious things of Thee are spoken (T. Abbot's Leigh)
294 Just as I am
443 Rejoice, the Lord is King

Anthem: O for a closer walk with God — Stanford

Marian Anthem: Regina Cæli

Voluntary: Variations on an Easter Theme for Organ Duet
(Angela Sones and Richard Hartshorn)

Sunday 11th — 4th Sunday of Easter — 10.00 am

Mass setting: White in E♭

Hymns: 369 Happy are they, they that love God
457 The King of love my Shepherd is (T. Dominus Regit)
282 Faithful Shepherd, feed me
374 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds

Anthem: The Lord is my Shepherd — Goodall

Marian Anthem: Regina Cæli

Voluntary: Sheep may safely graze — J.S. Bach

Sunday 18th — 5th Sunday of Easter — 10.00 am

Mass setting: Darke in F Sung Lord's Prayer

Hymns: 401 Light's abode, celestial Salem
115 Now the green blade riseth
276 Bread of heaven on thee we feed (T. Bread of Heaven)
420 O Jesus I have promised (T. Wolvercote)

Anthem: Ubi Caritas — Gjeilo

Marian Anthem: Regina Cæli

Voluntary: Maytime Gavotte — Hollins

Sunday 25th — 6th Sunday of Easter — 10.00 am

Mass setting: Mass of the Quiet Hour — Oldroyd
Hymns: 381 Jerusalem the golden
364 God is love, let heaven adore him (T. Blaenwern)
342 Breathe on me breath of God (T. 178 Carlisle)
346 City of God, how broad and far
Anthem: If ye love me — Tallis
Marian Anthem: Regina Cæli
Voluntary: Tuba Tune — C. S. Lang

Sunday 25th — Choral Evensong and Benediction — 6.00 pm

Introit: If ye love me — Tallis
Responses: Ayleward
Canticles: Gibbons 'Short' Evening Service
Hymns: 366 God of mercy, God of grace
310 We hail thy prescence glorious
Anthem: The Lord hath been mindful of us — S.S. Wesley
Voluntary: Pre Service — Voluntary 1 — Weelkes
Post Service — Fantasia in d minor — Byrd
Organist: Thomas Howell

Thursday 29th — Ascension Day — 7.30 pm

Mass setting: Mass in F — Sumsion Sung Lord's Prayer
Hymns: 109 Hail thee, festival day
134 The head that once was crowned with thorns
271 Alleluia, sing to Jesus
308 Thee we adore
(sheet) Christ triumphant, ever reigning
Anthem: God is gone up — Finzi
Voluntary: Heut' triumphiret Gottes Sohn BWV 630 — J.S. Bach

Choir rehearsals:

Thursdays 7.15 pm Sundays, 9.00 am Ascension 6.30 pm
Solemn Choral Evensong and Benediction 4.30 pm

Director of Music — Angela Sones
Music Secretary — Bryce Somerville

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<p>Electoral Roll Officer Dr Rachel L. Smith</p>	<p>Website www.stalbanbirmingham.org.uk www.saintalban.co.uk</p> <div data-bbox="827 1083 1012 1251">  </div>
<p>The Friends of S Alban and S Patrick Secretary: Dr Rachel L. Smith 219, Gristhorpe Road B29 7SP ☎: 0121 471 1301</p>	