

All Saints Parish Paper

7, MARGARET STREET, LONDON W1W 8JG
www.allsaintsmargaretstreet.org.uk

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THE ASSISTANT PRIEST WRITES

November, always a busy month at ASMS, has been packed with incident this year.

First, Fr Alan's 70th birthday and retirement coalesced seamlessly with our Festival services. There is a letter from Fr Alan below and much of this issue of the Parish Paper, unsurprisingly, is made up of speeches and sermons from those events.

The following Saturday (9 November) we welcomed the Bishops of London and Fulham to a parish meeting in church to hear about their plans for the Vacancy and appointment process and beyond. There was an opportunity for questions and comment from parishioners and the afternoon concluded with Benediction. Bishop Sarah had been with us already to preach on All Saints Day and Bishop Jonathan will celebrate High Mass, and preach here for the first time, on Sunday 8 December (Advent 2).

The PCC also enjoyed a long and productive meeting on Monday 11 November, during which Fr Adam Atkinson (Two Cities Area Director of Mission Development) outlined his suggested plans for the process of consultation with parishioners leading into the appointment of the next Vicar.

The same week also included a Deanery

Chapter meeting with the new acting Area Dean, Clare Dowding, and the Westminster Clergy Breakfast, a lively ecumenical clergy gathering which meets monthly across Deanery boundaries. This was addressed by the new co-ordinator of Westminster Citizens, Daniel Mackintosh, whom I hope to invite to All Saints soon to help us think about some outward-looking community



Fr Alan exiting into the vestry after his final High Mass 3 November 2019.

Photograph: Andrew Prior

focus for the future. Westminster Citizens is a recently-formed local iteration of Citizens UK, which includes many Churches and other faith groups, working with issues such as the homelessness which confronts us daily in central London. I am especially struck by the fact that Daniel is keen to link spirituality and faith with this form of social engagement; he is also on the leadership team of one of the fastest-growing reform synagogues in the UK (Willesden Minyan). I met him for a further conversation a week after this meeting and hope to introduce him to more of you in the new year.

In the PCC meeting, in meetings with our musicians and servers and elsewhere, I have been talking to many people about revisions to our liturgical provision, both the daily timetable and some of the content and I have been much encouraged by the positive and constructive responses I have received. I look forward to continuing that work in the months ahead.

Ten days after Fr Alan's retirement Dee Prior left her rôle as Parish Administrator for a similar post at St George's, Hanover Square. As we work out the most appropriate way to cover the Administrator's rôle, with the Churchwardens' and PCC's agreement I have asked James Sherwood (whom most of you know as a regular member of our choir) to take over the more routine administrative work in the parish office, which he will do on two days each week (usually Tuesdays and Wednesdays). This means that there will not always be someone based in the parish office for the foreseeable future and also that communications are probably better made by email than by telephone. The office address remains the same: **office@allsaintsmargaretstreet.org.uk**

Meanwhile, Peter Little, whom many

of you will also know as a member of our congregation, is taking on a newly-minted rôle as verger, combining sacristy work (done so ably for a great many years by Kate Burling) with other day-to-day administrative tasks and oversight of the church building during the day. He will normally work Tuesday to Saturday, which will also greatly assist us in preparations for Sunday worship. Again, we will be working out, with Peter's help, how best to cover these tasks for the future.

I also spoke to the PCC about weekday Mass attendance. Despite offering three daily Masses we have no daily Mass attenders (i.e. people who come every day): in other similar Anglo-Catholic city churches there are usually some. I don't expect that to change quickly, but I did suggest to the PCC that members might try to programme at least one weekday Mass into their weekly schedule, and four members have already done so. In the past week two of our homeless sleepers have also participated in the 13.10 Mass, one of whom does so quite often. I am reminding you, as I did the PCC, that regular attendance at Mass and Holy Communion is a good foundation for the Catholic Christian life and also benefits our All Saints community. The offering of Mass is efficacious in itself, but the more of us who join in the Offering and are thereby nourished in our prayer and Christian life, the more the whole Body of Christ in this place will grow in depth as well as in number. And if more of you can commit to regular attendance it will help in assessing the future of this liturgical provision, in the Vacancy and beyond.

With best wishes for Advent and Christmas and my prayers,

Fr Michael

LETTER FROM FR ALAN MOSES



*Fr Alan Moses preaching his final sermon
at All Saints*

(Photograph: Andrew Prior)

Dear Friends,

The extremely generous gift we received to mark my retiral was enough to require a letter of thanks. But the sentiments — of which the gift and wonderful card were an “outward and visible sign” — were even more so. We shall find a special place in our new home to keep the card, and shall spend some of the gift on a tangible and lasting memento.

There are so many people to thank for the celebrations of my last weekend as Vicar: the services and music, the splendid lunch and entertainment and the party after Evensong. I will be writing to them personally, but there are so many others whom it was possible to speak to only briefly.

It was a great joy to have family and friends, former parishioners, couples I had married, children I had baptised, former choir members and servers, All Saints Sisters from Oxford; Bishop Allen Shin from New York. People came from Wales

and Dorset, from Durham, Edinburgh, Dundee and from Poitiers.

After High Mass on Festival Sunday, I referred to words from the Gospel on All Saints Day: **“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets”** (Luke 6: 26). However, it would be ungracious not to be thankful for words and gifts which speak of a pastoral relationship which has stretched over almost a quarter of a century.

Many people have contributed to the Lord’s service over these past years. Some now worship with us “but on another shore and in a greater light”: Denzil Freeth and Helen Clayton who were Churchwardens when I first came; Philip Prain who was the Treasurer; Dilys Thomas the PCC Secretary and chronicler of the life of All Saints; Dr Christopher Rawll, our Reader, archivist and historian of the parish; Bishop Ambrose Weekes (a daily companion in prayer), Canon James Robertson and Fr John Gaskell (whose mastery in the pulpit inspired my efforts to share the Gospel and teach the Faith); Sisters Jean Margaret, Barbara Mary and Elizabeth; Nick Luff at the organ; Norman and Lily Caplin, Brenda Lusha, Jill Horley, Mary Bishop, Patrick Spencer, Philip and Yvonne Harland and... the list could go on. The latest addition is Jean Harmsworth, whose funeral Mass was on 25th November.

And among those who are still in the land of the living: Dennis Davis, Mhairi Ellis, Anne Merrit and Dee Prior, who have worked in the Parish Office; Harry Brama, Paul Brough and their colleagues in the Choir; and the priests who share the ministry of word and sacrament, of pastoral and spiritual care.

As Bishop Sarah kindly said on All

Saints Day, while my ministry has involved the restoration of the church building, it has also been about building a Christian community. Visitors often say about the restoration project, “You must have a rich congregation”. I reply: “No, but a generous one.” Churchwardens and PCC members and ordinary parishioners have been generous with their time and energy and substance. All Saints would not be possible without you.

Some of my time and energy has been devoted to extra-parochial duties. I served as Area Dean, member of General Synod, and chaired the House of Clergy in the Diocesan Synod (where I promoted our Deanery's concern for the lot of persecuted Christians in the Middle East and elsewhere, urged on by the tireless Cedric Stephens). The parish took on the chaplaincy at St Luke's Hospital for the Clergy and I was also a trustee and chairman of USPG. These responsibilities might have been a distraction from the parish. In fact, they have enriched my ministry here, and helped broaden our horizons to relate to the Diocese of London, the Church of England and the wider Anglican Communion around the world.

When I was appointed Vicar some were concerned about having their first married Vicar in a hundred years. No one was old enough to remember the last one. “What will we do with Theresa?”

I owe Theresa and our family an incalculable and continuing debt for supporting my ministry over more than forty years. I know, too, that many at All Saints share that sense of gratitude and we are grateful for the friendship shown us by so many.

I came to All Saints at a time when with

the rest of the Church of England the parish was navigating stormy waters over the ordination of women. The congregation of All Saints was not a monochrome “anglo-catholic” one. All Saints has always sought to be a faithfully Anglican expression of Catholicism, and avoided the papalism prevalent in some London parishes. The parish had agreed on a compromise in order to keep the congregation together and I have kept the undertaking I made to respect that decision. With the ordination of women to the episcopate and the appointment of Bishop Sarah, the issue remains and the parish will have to continue to work through it. My hope and prayer is that the charity and mutual respect demonstrated in our consultation process a couple of years ago will continue.

As my time at All Saints ends and Theresa and I move to a new phase of our life, and I take up new duties, in Lincoln, we will be praying for you and those responsible for appointing a new Vicar, and for Fr Michael and those now sharing in the pastoral care of the parish.

Let me end with two verses of scripture which I believe to be important for priests. The first is from St Matthew (13: 52): “... **every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.**” It has been my privilege to seek to be such a scribe for the people of All Saints. The second is from St Luke (17: 10): “**So you also, when you have done all that is commanded you, say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.’**” It may have been my duty, but in the language of the liturgy, it has also been my joy.

Yours in Christ,
Fr Alan Moses

SERMON PREACHED by FR GERALD BEAUCHAMP
at ALL SAINTS, MARGARET STREET, at EVENSONG &
BENEDICTION on the EVE OF ALL SAINTS', 31 OCTOBER 2019

Readings: *Ecclesiasticus 44: 1 – 15;*
Revelation 19: 6 – 10

If you are a regular worshipper in this church then I wonder if you can recall the first time that you came. If you can, then I imagine that like most people, you did this: on entering the church, you looked up. In recent years, coming to this church has been like walking into a jewel box.

Of course, it wasn't always like that. When I was an undergraduate, no excursion to the West End was complete without a trip to Mowbrays Bookshop and a visit here for Mass or to light a candle. In those days this church had a rich patina on the walls built up over the years with hefty doses of incense. It's surely to Fr Alan's credit that under his leadership this church has been restored to a glory not seen for a long time. Looking up never had such rich rewards.

And because we just have to look up on coming in, this church is countercultural. It speaks of something different to worldly concerns. Indeed, it has always been countercultural.

Back in 1859 when the church was consecrated, the neighbourhood was choc-a-bloc with busy street life but rather more sordid than it is now. Butterfield designed this church to lift the spirits: to give something transcendent to those people whose lives were tough and drab; to raise their gaze; to point them in the direction of the spire — heavenwards; to surround them with images that tell the story of our redemption and to assure them that others ('the saints') had trod the path of faith before them.



Fr Gerald Beauchamp preaching at Evensong on the Eve of All Saints

(Photograph: Andrew Prior)

Life in 1859 hard? Yes, but it was no picnic for any of those depicted in this church. Many of these in the sanctuary, on the walls and in the windows were martyred. The Doctors of the Church had to battle it out with what would eventually be called heresy. If they looked up then so too could the newcomers over 150 years ago.

And today we still look up. And it's still countercultural. Life may sometimes be tough but by and large it isn't drab. But it goes against the grain for many of us to spend much time looking up at all. Modern life makes us look down. We are imprisoned by small screens. In the TV age, this only applied in the privacy of own homes. Now it's all-pervasive. Especially during the day, to walk down Margaret Street is to run the gamut of people staring at their smart phones.

A while back I was almost knocked over by someone speaking loudly and talking in — let's say, 'colourful language'. When he

became aware of my presence he yelled: ‘Do you mind? This is a private conversation!’ Well, he could have fooled me.

All Saints, Margaret Street, is doing its job when it’s swimming against the worldly tide. This church calls us beyond ourselves. It beckons us out of our egos and opens our eyes to the glories of heaven.

So, what does ‘heaven’ look like? The answer that we heard from the Book of Revelation this evening is that it is ‘the marriage feast of the Lamb’: and not just any old lamb but the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

The Agnus Dei is sung here as we make our way to communion, to make that simple physical connection between us and the bread of heaven. And we do this in the company of our brothers and sisters now, and our saintly brothers and sisters whose faith we have inherited.

The writer of Ecclesiasticus may have lived before the revelation of Christ but he certainly knew what he was talking about when he saluted the people and the deeds of past generations: those who had been touched by grace and lived by grace; those whose legacy is marked by valour, wisdom, music and poetry.

And beyond the physical appearance of bread and wine is a whole historical and doctrinal hinterland reaching back to the liberation of God’s ancient people from slavery in Egypt and mediated through the saving grace of Jesus the Jew who we believe is the embodiment, the incarnation of the Creator God. That hinterland, that theology stretches out like a vast landscape and resonates with our own stories.

Why do the scriptures or statues or pictures or music move us so intensely from time

to time? Because they are the deep calling to the deep: the times of estrangement or slavery or misery; the times of freedom, liberation or salvation; the times of love and joy and peace.

We know that our faith is true not because we’ve read it in a book but because we have been challenged by it and affirmed. We’ve been immersed in it, in churches like this. We have looked up and we have been raised up.

If our faith is both true — and also true *for us* — then our response is not going to be just passing on some good news or giving up ourselves to good works, but to worship — that wholehearted self-emptying to the glory of God. In worship we bask in the company of the heavenly realm. Our souls are emptied of self and filled with the Holy Spirit. And it is from this experience that we live and move and have our being.

It is this energy that inspires us to carry out our daily lives in a way that is also countercultural — different to the world. It enables us to do what Christ prayed — that God the Father’s will is done on earth as it is in heaven. Heaven isn’t ‘next’. It’s supposed to be **now**.

So, let’s ask the question again: ‘What does heaven look like?’ We need to move beyond the images all around us and look at the people here, and the people in the street and wherever we go — be that in the real world or the virtual one.

Heaven is before our eyes and it’s countercultural; it stands against selfishness and greed, corruption and violence. Heaven is on parade when beauty triumphs over ugliness; when holy silence quells earthly clamour. And heaven isn’t just all around. It’s also deep within. Our souls are enclosures of heaven’s light.

This evening we ‘praise famous men and women’. Most of us aren’t famous but our vocations are the same as theirs: to be heavenly lights in a darkened world; to clean off the patina of sin and to be a revelation of the glory of God that the world cannot ignore.

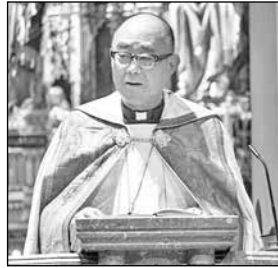
May this All Saints Festival be a joyful tribute to the past both ancient and more recent. May our looking up truly call us to looking out and looking inwards so that others may also look up and see what we see.

SERMON PREACHED at ALL SAINTS
by BISHOP ALLEN SHIN, Suffragan of New York
on FESTIVAL SUNDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 2019

Readings: *Psalm 145, Isaiah 66: 20 – 23*
Colossians 1: 9 – 14

It is truly an honour and a privilege to be invited to preach this evening as we celebrate All Saints Evensong and the last service of Fr Alan Moses’ twenty-four-year tenure at this famous parish. Thank you, Father, for your generous invitation. Fr Alan and Theresa have been dear friends to me and my wife, Clara, for over twenty years. We first met when he came to preach at St Mary the Virgin, Times Square, where I was serving as curate. And it is through his generous friendship that I had the privilege to serve here as honorary assistant while I was carrying out the postgraduate research at Oxford. Fr Alan the elder, as I like to refer to him, has been a wonderful mentor to me as well as a friend and a colleague, and for that I feel fortunate and am grateful. And how appropriate it is that his last service at All Saints Church be the All Saints Sunday Evensong.

From today’s lesson from Colossians: “Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: who hath delivered us from the power of darkness and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: in whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness



*Bishop Allen Shin preaching
at Evensong on All Saints Sunday*

(Photograph: Andrew Prior)

of sins.” These words from Colossians raise a couple of questions for me. What is the inheritance of the saints that we are so privileged to partake? How does that inheritance have to do with our redemption we attain through the blood of Christ?

The Celebration of All Saints Day has its origin in the commemoration of the martyrs in the early church. By the fourth century, there were so many martyrs to commemorate and many of them on same days, the custom of commemorating martyrs on a common day began to develop. By the fifth century, the commemoration of All Saints was kept on the Sunday after Pentecost. Then, on 13 May in 609, Pope Boniface consecrated the Pantheon in Rome to the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the martyrs and decreed the anniversary celebration of the day. Soon, 13

May became the day of commemoration for all the saints and martyrs. But, in the mid eighth century Pope Gregory III founded an oratory in St Peter's Basilica "for the relics of the holy apostles and of all saints, martyrs and confessors, of all the just made perfect who are at rest throughout the world." The date was 1 November, which has become the Feast of All Saints since then.

So, the notion of sainthood is grounded in martyrdom, an act of witnessing to Jesus Christ, to the self-sacrificing love of Jesus Christ who died and rose again. While martyrdom seems rather remote and even irrelevant to many in the modern western society, there are many Christians around the world today for whom this is the reality of life and a choice they have to make. But, we can in lesser degrees give ourselves over to life in Christ, dying to our selfish and self-centered ways of living and rising to the way of compassion and mercy which Jesus exemplified for his disciples.

St Augustine of Hippo regarded charity as the root of all virtues, and thus all true virtues are forms of charity. And charity here is not some sentimental love or merely being nice to each other. For Augustine the ultimate goal of charity is the love of God which God alone can give and which is revealed in the self-giving, unconditional, faithful and everlasting love of Jesus Christ on the Cross. All true virtues and everlasting happiness are rooted in and derived from this love of God in Jesus. So, for Augustine, only when we are immersed and lost in that gracious love of God and only then can we live the genuinely virtuous life and attain the truly everlasting happiness.

It is this that we are celebrating in all the saints. Sainthood is meaningless apart from the death and resurrection of Christ. The saint is rooted in the stability of the love and

suffering of Christ. It is this bodily charity of Christ that knits together the cloud of witnesses and all the baptized as one in the Body of Christ. Today we see ourselves knit together in one communion and fellowship of all the saints past, present *and* future.

We think of saints as those individuals who cultivate and live a life of holiness. And such a life is expressed and lived out in various different ways. Some live it in serving the poor, some in cloistered life, and some others endeavouring in intellectual pursuits as theologians. So, what is holy life? What is holiness?

Holiness is a tricky thing like humility. Christians can be neurotic about being humble, and that hasn't always been healthy. Thomas Merton reminds us that "Humility is a virtue not a neurosis". Holiness is also a virtue not a neurosis. The moment I try to be holy or am aware of being holy, chances are that I am really pretending to be holy. Holiness is not something that can be manufactured or programmed no matter how neurotically we might try. Holiness is also not something I can declare for myself. Like honour, it is something I can only earn over time and that through disciplines and tribulations. It is something that is bestowed upon a person by other people who recognize certain qualities of holiness in that person.

We recognize and honour saints as holy people, because we recognize Jesus' own holiness in them. If the church is built upon the blood of Christ as its foundation, then the building blocks of the church are the blood of the witnesses past, present and future. Perhaps that is what Paul is referring to in today's reading from Colossians, when he talks about the "inheritance of saints in light". What we inherit from the communion of saints is the holiness of

life they have inherited from Jesus Christ himself through *his* blood.

Holiness is often thought of as purity — moral purity, physical purity, spiritual purity, social purity, or even economic purity. That has led to legal codes of purity which, in turn, has led to setting legal boundaries of purity — who is pure and who is impure, who is in and who is out. But, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, offers a radically different insight into holiness, based on the life and the examples of Jesus. Williams says, “Holiness in the New Testament is Jesus going right into the middle of the mess and the suffering of human nature. Being holy is being absolutely involved, not being absolutely separated.” This means that holiness of life is found in our engagement with the messiness of human conditions with all its pain and suffering and with all its impurities and imperfections. When we go out into the world and embrace the painful messiness of human conditions and proclaim and witness to the merciful and loving grace of Christ crucified, we see and experience holiness of life. Holiness cannot be manufactured or programmed. But, it has to do with going where it is most difficult in the name of Jesus, who went to the place where it was most difficult, the Cross of Calvary.

So, Williams describes the Holy Church as “a Church that is taken over by the excitement of the extraordinary grace of God, a Church that wants to talk about the beauty and splendour of God in Christ, and wants to show the self-giving, self-forgetting love of Christ by being at the heart of humanity, by being where people are most human, by being truly incarnate of God’s love”. Holiness Jesus lived and has called us to follow is not a programme or an institutionalized set of laws but a way of

life that is blessed by God’s self-emptying love and mercy. It is a way of life that builds each other up in communion and builds a beloved community of God here on earth.

In today’s OT lesson, the prophet Isaiah prophesies a message of hope to a people who are returning from an exile in a foreign land and are in the process of rebuilding a new nation. Their people will come out of their exile and diaspora and return to their homeland to serve God again as priests and Levites. God will establish the new heavens and the new earth for them and keep his Covenant with them. What an amazing message of hope it must have been to the Israelites returning from their exile! What an urgently important message of hope it is for us even today!

As you enter a new and uncharted chapter of life as the Warden of Spirituality, Father Alan... I haven’t the slightest idea what that means but it’s an awesome title. They must be in desperate need of salvation in Lincolnshire. And I am sure you will serve them well as a messenger of hope and grace.

May the new heavens and the new earth of Lincolnshire be a place of blessing for you and Theresa! Well, I have never been to Lincolnshire and I am just making this up. But, anything must be more peaceful than the mess you have to deal with in Oxford Circus. May God continue to bless you richly, Father Alan and Theresa, as you begin a new journey of life! And may God bless you all at All Saints Church as you enter into an important transition in the life of this community! And remember, as St Paul bids us in Colossians, to give thanks always for the gift of inheritance of saints in light and for the grace of the One by whose blood we are redeemed.

A SPEECH FROM CHRIS SELF, CHURCHWARDEN, AT THE END OF HIGH MASS, 3RD NOVEMBER 2019

Ladies and Gentlemen
I want to say a few words on your behalf to mark Fr Alan's retirement but first of all I want to encourage some lusty singing to celebrate an important birthday. To quote Psalm 90: 10, 'The days of our age are threescore years and ten though men be so strong that they come to fourscore years'. I shan't quote the rest of the verse because it becomes rather depressing particularly to those of us who have already passed three score years and ten. So with choir and organ accompaniment let's sing happy birthday.

Although, after something bubbly in the courtyard, just over 100 people will go off to a special lunch to mark this day where further remarks will be made, not everybody is able to attend for various reasons so it was felt appropriate that a few words should be said in church and a presentation made where the greatest number of people were gathered.

I would like to make two particular points on Fr Alan's time at All Saints. The first has already been alluded to by Fr Beauchamp and Bishop Sarah in their respective sermons this week and that is the restoration that has been completed during his time here. That has been a long process which has included the organ refurbishment, new chairs and the



*Churchwarden Chris Self speaking at
High Mass on All Saints Sunday*

(Photograph: Andrew Prior)

complete restoration of the interior of the church. That is a very fine legacy to leave behind and something to be appropriately proud of. Many of you will remember that when the previous Bishop of London came to celebrate with us the completion of one of the phases of the

restoration that we learnt a new word reipristination which he managed to use regularly throughout his sermon.

The second point I want to make and perhaps the more important in many ways is a specific aspect of the priestly function. To quote John Keble, which is not a bad thing to do at All Saints:

The trivial round, the common task
Will furnish all we need to ask,
Room to deny ourselves, a road
To bring us daily nearer God.

And that is what has been maintained by Fr Alan here day in and day out over the years through good weather and bad and from which so many people have benefitted.

I will also mention one other priestly rôle from which I have benefitted and that is the visiting of the sick. I received my Easter communion on the afternoon of Easter Day in the Intensive Care Unit at St Mary's. I'm not sure that I was at my most

attentive but I am forever grateful that it happened.

Throughout all of his ministry at All Saints Fr Alan has been fully supported by Theresa whilst maintaining her own career, latterly as one of the diocesan finance officers.

As you may have read in the Parish Paper the house that Fr Alan and Theresa are moving to in Lincoln has a manageable if rather unloved garden which Theresa will enjoy making blossom. To help in that endeavour we have some garden vouchers for her which should supply a goodly number of plants.

Many people have contributed towards the collection for a retirement gift from far and wide and a very substantial sum has been raised. Some donations are still arriving and the final total will be published shortly. It was agreed that we should not spend such a large amount on your behalf and I'm sure Theresa will be able to help you spend it.

So this comes with the love of the congregation at All Saints and our very best wishes for your future in Lincoln.



Cedric making a presentation to Fr Alan from the Servers

Photograph: Andrew Prior

FRANCES O'NEIL'S SPEECH at the FAREWELL LUNCH for FR ALAN and THERESA

Ladies and gentlemen, Reverend Fathers, Theresa, Father Alan:

As you are all well aware, I have been busy over the last few weeks, inviting people to sign a farewell card for Father Alan and Theresa, and giving them the opportunity to write their thoughts on his retirement; and people have given it very serious consideration, and taken time to think exactly what they wanted to say. It's been an interesting and moving experience, as I hope you, Father, will appreciate when you have the leisure to look at what people

have written, because I feel it reflects the great affection and esteem in which you are held by the people of All Saints.

Some of us have been around long enough to remember the news of your appointment. It didn't quite conform to the pattern. What were we getting? Wife! Children! All Saints hadn't had anything like that for 100 years!

An anniversary which occurred in the early years of Fr Alan's incumbency was their Silver Wedding. When this leaked out to the clergy of the deanery, and still further

in the diocese, it was the cause of enormous hilarity. Ha! they said. All Saints don't know what a silver wedding is! They won't have a clue how it should be celebrated!

But we rose to the occasion, and showed we knew how such events should be properly celebrated and we have had the pleasure of marking numerous anniversaries including ordinations and significant birthdays with the Moses family over the last 25 years.

We were in for a few surprises. For instance, some hymns which All Saints, Margaret Street, had never been required to engage with before (we put it down to the Scottish influence) appeared on our service sheets. But we proved ourselves adaptable and we can now render 'To God be the Glory' with any kirk in the land. Though now Jean has gone before us with her tambourine, it will never be quite the same again.

Talking of hymns, we had a near miss two or three weeks ago. He nearly had us singing:

'There were 90 and 9 that safely lay in
the shelter of the fold,
and one was out on the hills away far off
from the gates of gold.'

Well, in this case, it isn't the sheep who've wandered, it's the shepherd who's off to pastures new! So before they go, Let's celebrate their time with us.

I've talked to many people in the last few weeks about what they feel Father Alan has given to All Saints and what they will



Frances O'Neil speaking at freuds

(Photograph: Andrew Prior)

remember about him and his work. To my enquiries the immediate answer is often: 'Well, the restoration of course.' (And it's true that anyone who remembers the church 25 years ago knows how much needed doing then and how it is now transformed.)

And then they go on to add: 'But for me, personally, my memories of Father Alan's time with us will be pastoral.' And then they talk about his visiting the sick and hospitalised, his messages to the bereaved, his welcome to all comers, his caring friendship, and his remembering the names and circumstances of individuals.

For other people, the things that stand out are different: his example of the prayerful life, the teaching and spiritual guidance which they have received.

And there is a timely corrective for those of us who, over the years have enjoyed joking about the length of the Vicar's sermons. That is, how many people have said and written about how important those

sermons have been for their spiritual growth and instruction and understanding. So you have been vindicated, Father!

Other people have spoken movingly about Father Alan’s rôle in the rights of passage which mark the stages of our pilgrimage: The celebration of baptism — carrying the newly baptised infant from the font to the altar, that wonderful metaphor of the Christian life. And especially, people have spoken of the valedictory sermons he has delivered for members of the All Saints family, which have found exactly the right words to describe the departed and touch the hearts of mourners at funerals over the years.

These will be the lasting memories of your flock — the memories of a Good Shepherd and a faithful servant.

And also, of course, there is Theresa’s contribution to our parish life. Throughout their time at All Saints she has unfailingly supported Fr Alan in all the challenges and rejoiced with him in the successes, but recently, she has made another contribution, one which will help to establish a new

and more inclusive tradition at All Saints in joining the servers’ team. We thank her warmly, together with the other women servers, for that pioneering work.

Well, what more can I say? Time would fail me to speak of Simnel cakes or Easter eggs, of Santiago or Canterbury, of prebendal stalls or red buttons...

And anyway, we have tasks to perform:

First, thanks to our multi-talented acting Director of Music, we have three mementos of All Saints for your new home, which we hope will bring back happy memories.

And for the final task, ladies and gentlemen, I hope your glasses are charged.

We are pleased to hear that Joanna is remaining in London, and we hope she’ll drop in from time to time. We’ll be delighted to see her.

But for Fr Alan and Theresa, we thank you for all you have done for All Saints and we wish you every happiness and prosperity, fulfilment and blessing in your new home and throughout your lives.

Alan and Theresa!

THOSE MOSES THINGS by *James Sherwood*

When you have left us far behind
 Don’t think out of sight means out of mind.
 We’ll still be think’n
 Of you in Lincoln
 So many things that we will find.

When we have long since bid adieu
 Like it or not, we’ll think of you.

A pair of walking boots with Spanish
dust on,
 A church’s metalwork with much less
rust on,

When the Angelus rings,

These All Saints things
 Will remind me of you.

An inch of soot hiding a gorgeous ceiling,
 More mission hymns — once more
with feeling,

When the deacon sings,
 These solemn things
 Will remind me of you.

You came, you saw, you visited me.
 Among the faithful, we
 Hear stories retold so gratefully.

A tinkling bell as all the incense rises,
A pile of cottas, but in women's sizes,
Through fortune's arrows and slings
Margaret Street things
Will remind me of you.

Prime Ministers reading as a regular
feature,
And no less eminent a visiting preacher
Such as Allen Shin!
This kind of thin(g)
Will remind me of you.

Hearing a sermon text that needs an edit,
Responding after everyone else has said it
(said it)
Or sometimes (sli...) slightly (bef...) before,

These things and more
Will remind me of you.

Your words, such words, I hear them still.
What finer oratory
From any who stepped in a sanctuary?

The choir striking up a Jubilate,
Unflatt'ring mentions of the Tory party,
Some truly terrible hymns,
These tuneful things
Will remind me of you.

Misfiring notices, so well-intentioned,
Onward Christian soldiers, with no soldiers
mentioned,

And as the candle dims
These hallowed things
Will remind me of you.

Holy water sprinkled with a hint of
violence,
Another prayer with a meaningful silence,
Some *avant garde* tunings,
These priestly things
Will remind me of you.

Those words, more words, an endless joy.
Such glorious oratory
That gives a taste of eternity.

A lot of hymns and always psalms aplenty,
The sermon stopwatch clicking over
twenty,

[this line has been redacted]
These wicked things
Will remind us of you.

*As sung by the choir at Fr Alan's Farewell
lunch.*

FAREWELL TO DEE PRIOR

Dee Prior has left the post of All Saints' Parish Administrator after more than six years (Dee and Andrew Prior are of course also well known members of the ASMS congregation). She will not be far away, as she has moved on to be Parish Administrator of St George's, Hanover Square, a slightly different sort of parish from ours, with far fewer liturgical services and many more concerts and events, especially since the substantial restoration and refurbishment of St George's Undercroft, which now houses a restaurant as well as meeting rooms and other facilities.

We thank Dee warmly for the significant contribution she has made to the life of our parish both through her everyday work in the parish office but particularly for her initiatives to increase our income from outside sources. We look forward to seeing her and Andrew with us from time to time.

MEETING WITH THE BISHOPS OF LONDON AND FULHAM

Many thanks to those who attended on 9th November. The Diocese of London's Mission Director for the Two Cities, Revd Adam Atkinson, has been asked by the Bishop of London to consult widely with All Saints' congregation as we prepare for the future.

SUNDAYS & SOLEMNITIES MUSIC & READINGS

✦ SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER ADVENT 1

HIGH MASS at 11am

Litany: Tallis
Setting: Missa Euge Bone — Tye
Kyrie — Orbis Factor
Readings: Isaiah 2: 1–5
Romans 13: 11–14
Psalm: 122
Gospel: Matthew 24: 36–44
Preacher: Fr Julian Browning
Offertory Motet: Hosanna to the Son of
David — Gibbons
Communion Hymn: 501 Drop down, ye
heavens, from above
Final Hymn: 286 From glory to glory
advancing, we praise thee,
O Lord
Voluntary: Largo from Trio Sonata No 5,
BWV 529 — Bach

ADVENT SERVICE of READINGS and MUSIC by CANDLELIGHT at 6pm

✦ SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER ADVENT 2

HIGH MASS at 11am

Entrance Hymn: 12 On Jordan's bank
the Baptist's cry
Setting: Missa Alma Redemptoris
Mater — Victoria
Readings: Isaiah 11: 1–10
Romans 15: 4–13
Psalm: 72
Gospel: Matthew 3: 1–12
Preacher: The Rt Revd Jonathan Baker
Offertory Motet: Tota pulchra es
— Bruckner
Communion Hymn: 501 Drop down,
ye heavens, from above
Final Hymn: 5 Hark! a herald voice
is calling
Voluntary: Wachet auf, ruft uns die
Stimme BWV 645 — Bach

EVENSONG & BLESSING at 6pm

Psalms: 75, 76
Lessons: 1 Kings 18: 17–39
John 1: 19–28
Office Hymn: 1 Creator of the stars of night
Canticles: Magnificat for double choir
— Stanford
Nunc Dimittis — Tone 5
Anthem: Hymn to the Virgin
— Britten
Hymn: 161 (T 385) For Mary,
Mother of the Lord
O Salutaris: T 238
Tantum ergo: T 490

Voluntary: Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen
(No 8 from '11 Chorale
Preludes', Op 122) — Brahms

**Friday 13 December
LUNCHTIME CAROL
SERVICE at 1.10pm**

**✦ SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER
ADVENT 3 (Gaudete)**

HIGH MASS at 11am

Entrance Hymn: 9 Lo! he comes with
clouds descending
Setting: Spaurmesse K 258 — Mozart
Readings: Isaiah 35: 1 – 10
James 5: 7 – 10
Psalm: 146
Gospel: Matthew 11: 2 – 11
Preacher: Fr Adam Atkinson
Offertory Motet: O thou that tellest good
tidings to Zion — Handel
Communion Hymn: 501 Drop down,
ye heavens, from above
Final Hymn: 3 (ii) Come, thou long
expected Jesus
Voluntary: Toccatina for Flutes — Yon

**EVENSONG & BENEDICTION
at 6pm**

Psalms: 12, 14
Lessons: Isaiah 5: 8 – 30
Acts 13: 13 – 41
Office Hymn: 1 Creator of the stars of night
Canticles: Fauxbordons — Byrd
Anthem: Komm, Jesu, Komm — Bach
Preacher: Fr Julian Browning
Hymn: 16 Wake, O Wake!
with tidings thrilling
O Salutaris: Fischer
Tantum ergo: Palestrina

Voluntary: Ich ruf zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ
BWV 639 — Bach

**Monday 16 December
NINE LESSONS and
CAROLS at 6 pm**

**✦ SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER
ADVENT 4**

HIGH MASS at 11am

Entrance Hymn: 181 (ii) The Lord whom
earth and sea and sky
Setting: Mass in E Minor
— Lloyd Webber
Readings: Isaiah 7: 10 – 14
Romans 1: 1 – 7
Psalm: 80: 1 – 8
Gospel: Matthew 1: 18 – 25
Preacher: Fr Julian Browning
Offertory Motet: Vox Dicentis: Clama
— Naylor
Communion Hymn: 501 Drop down,
ye heavens, from above
Final Hymn: 182 Her Virgin eyes saw God
incarnate born
Voluntary: The Coventry Carol
— Lloyd Webber

**EVENSONG & BENEDICTION
at 6pm**

Psalms: 113, 126
Lessons: 1 Samuel 1: 1 – 20
Revelation 22: 6 – 21
Office Hymn: 1 Creator of the stars of night
Canticles: Purcell in G minor
Antiphon: O Rex gentium
Anthem: This lovely lady sat and song
— Bryan Kelly
Preacher: Fr Michael Bowie
Hymn: 11 O come, O come, Emmanuel
O Salutaris: T 493
Tantum ergo: T 202

Voluntary: La vierge et l'enfant from
La Nativité du Seigneur
— Messiaen

TUESDAY 24 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS EVE

MIDNIGHT MASS at 11pm

Entrance Hymn: 29 It came upon a midnight
clear

Setting: Missa Sancti Nicolai
— Haydn

Readings: Isaiah 9: 2 – 7
Titus 2: 11 – 14

Psalms: 96

Gospel: Luke 2: 1 – 14

Preacher: Fr Michael Bowie

Offertory Motet: Hodie — Poulenc

Communion Hymn: 35 Silent night,
holy night

Processional Hymn: 30 O come, all ye
faithful

At the blessing of the crib:
Infant Holy, Infant lowly
— trad arr Willcocks

Voluntary: Toccata — Duruflé

WEDNESDAY 25 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DAY

HIGH MASS at 11am

Entrance Hymn: 30 O come, all ye faithful
(omit v 4)

Setting: Missa Brevis in C
(Spatzenmesse) K220
— Mozart

Readings: Isaiah 52: 7 – 10
Hebrews 1: 1 – 4

Psalms: 98

Gospel: John 1: 1 – 18

Preacher: Fr Julian Browning
Offertory Motet: Benedicamus Domino
— Warlock

Communion Hymn: 32 O little town
of Bethlehem

Final Hymn: 26 Hark! the herald angels
sing

Voluntary: Russian Dance,
from the Nutcracker Suite
— Tchaikovsky

✠ SUNDAY 29 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS 1

HIGH MASS at 11am

Entrance Hymn: 21 A great and mighty
wonder

Setting: Missa ad præsepe — Malcolm
Readings: Isaiah 63: 7 – 9
Hebrews 2: 10 – 18

Psalms: 148

Gospel: Matthew 2: 13 – 23

Preacher: Fr Michael Bowie

Offertory Motet: There is no rose — Britten
Communion Hymn: 387 Jesus, good above
all other

Final Hymn: 29 It came upon a midnight
clear

Voluntary: Allegro con brio,
from Sonata No 4
— Mendelssohn

NO EVENING SERVICE

*Information correct at the time
of going to press*

KEEPING IN TOUCH

As well as the monthly **Parish Paper**, you can keep in touch with life at All Saints through:

The All Saints Website

www.allsaintsmargaretstreet.org.uk

The Weekly Parish E—mail

This gives weekly news of events, people to pray for, and a short letter from the Assistant Priest.

You can subscribe by sending the Parish Office an email titled News and Events/ Weekly Newsletter to:
office@allsaintsmargaretstreet.org.uk.

The Weekly Notices — available as a small booklet to pick up from the Church table and which worshippers are encouraged to take away with them.

Vicar:

Assistant Priest:

The Revd Dr Michael Bowie
07581 180963

Email: assistantpriest@allsaintsmargaretstreet.org.uk

Honorary Assistant Priests:

The Revd Gerald Beauchamp
020 7258 0724

The Revd Julian Browning
020 7286 6034

Parish Office: 020 7636 1788

Email: office@allsaintsmargaretstreet.org.uk

Parish Officials

Churchwardens:

John Forde 020 7592 9855

Chris Self 020 7723 2938

Hon PCC Secretary:

John McWhinney

asms.pccsecretary@outlook.com.

Phone messages to the Parish Office

Hon Treasurer:

Patrick Hartley 020 7607 0060

Acting Director of Music:

Jeremiah Stephenson c/o 020 7636 1788

Electoral Roll Officer:

Catherine Burling c/o 020 7636 1788

Service Times

Sundays:

Low Mass at 6.30pm (Sat)

8am and 5.15pm

Morning Prayer 10.20am

HIGH MASS and SERMON at 11am

CHORAL EVENSONG, SERMON and

BENEDICTION at 6pm.

Monday to Friday:

Church open 7am

Morning Prayer at 7.30am

Low Mass at 8am, 1.10pm and 6.30pm

Confessions 12.30 – 1pm and 5.30pm

Evening Prayer at 6pm

(Except bank holidays

— 12 noon Mass only)

Saturdays:

Church open 11am

Low Mass at **12 noon** and 6.30pm*

(* First Mass of Sunday)

Confessions 5.30pm.

Evening Prayer 6pm.

On major weekday feasts, High Mass is sung at 6.30pm

CALENDAR AND INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER 2019

1	✘ ADVENT 1	Parish and People
2	<i>Feria</i>	The sick and suffering
3	S Francis Xavier, Pr	Japanese Christians
4	<i>Feria</i>	The hungry and homeless
5	<i>Feria</i>	Increase of faith
6	S Nicolas, Bp	Children
7	S Ambrose, Bp	Theologians
8	✘ ADVENT 2	Parish and People
9	THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BVM (transferred)	ASMS Walsingham Cell
10	<i>Feria</i>	Penitents and Confessors
11	<i>Feria</i>	Sufferers from depression
12	<i>Feria</i>	Prophetic teachers
13	S Lucy, V M	The blind
14	S John of the Cross, Pr and Dr	Spiritual Directors
15	✘ ADVENT 3	Parish and People
16	<i>Feria</i>	Our Bishops
17	<i>Feria (O Sapientia)</i>	Our clergy
18	<i>Feria (O Adonai)</i>	Religious
19	<i>Feria (O Radix)</i>	Our servers
20	<i>Feria (O Clavis)</i>	Our choir and musicians
21	<i>Feria (O Oriens) Monthly Requiem</i>	The Faithful Departed
22	✘ ADVENT 4	Parish and People
23	<i>Feria (O Emmanuel)</i>	Local shop workers
24	Christmas Eve	Expectant mothers
25	✘ CHRISTMAS DAY	Evangelism
26	S Stephen, First Martyr	Persecuted Christians
27	S John, Apostle and Evangelist	Evangelists
28	Holy Innocents, Martyrs	Abused children
29	✘ CHRISTMAS 1	Parish and People
30	In the Octave of Christmas	Archbishop Welby
31	S Silvester	Pope Francis



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CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2019

Friday 13 December

1.10pm **LUNCHTIME CAROL SERVICE**

Collection for the Children's Society

Monday 16 December

6pm **NINE LESSONS & CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT**

Both followed by mince pies & mulled wine.



Tuesday 24 December

11pm **MIDNIGHT MASS**

Haydn – *Missa Sancti Nicolai*

Wednesday 25 December

11am **CHRISTMAS DAY HIGH MASS**

Mozart – *Missa Brevis in C (Spatzenmesse) K220*

Sunday 5 January 2020

6pm **EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE**

Monday 6 January

6.30pm **EPIPHANY HIGH MASS**

*Celebrate with us and bring your friends
to visit this beautiful Church!*