



SAINTS ALIVE!



*The Parish Magazine of
All Saints' Church, North Hillingdon UB10 9BT*



January 2025

£1. (suggested minimum donation)



THE PARISH OF ALL SAINTS, NORTH HILLINGDON
UB10 9BT

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Deanery of Hillingdon & Diocese of London

THE PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

All Saints' Church aims to be a welcoming Anglican community, a place of prayer and worship, providing a ministry to all and where people gather to share the love of Jesus Christ.

Normal SUNDAY Times

Said Eucharist **8.00 am**

SUNG PARISH EUCHARIST

with Children's Corner **10.00 am**

*followed by refreshments in the Church Hall next door,
at which **all** (and especially any visitors) are very
welcome.*

One Sunday each month:

Sung Parish Eucharist *in a less formal style* **10.00 am**

Usual HOLYDAY & WEEKDAY Times

The Parish Eucharist on Holydays & Feastdays **7.30 pm**

On weekdays Wednesday **10.00 am**

Please see the Parish Website or the weekly *Parish Bulletin* on the church porch notice-board for full details or telephone the Vicarage (01895 262024).

Parish Website: www.allsaintsnorthhillington.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ASHillingdon

Twitter: @ASHillingdon

Enquiries concerning Baptisms, Banns, Marriages or other parish business can be made during Vestry Hour in church, which is normally on Saturdays between 10:00 and 11:00. No appointment is needed.

A VIEW FROM THE VICARAGE

Dear All Saints,

Archbishop Justin Welby was forced to resign on 12th November 2024. The start of the 105th Archbishop of Canterbury's life was not the easiest either. He described his own childhood as 'messy'. His parents divorced when he was three. They were both alcoholics, and his mother Jane, had had a fling whilst she was Winston Churchill's personal secretary. It wasn't until 2016 Welby found out that Gavin Welby was not his father. Although not brought up going to church, he experienced the presence of God at university and gave his life to Christ.



Welby then worked for over a decade in the oil industry, during which his daughter died in a car crash. Some time after this he felt 'reluctantly' called to the priesthood. At college his dissertation was on "Can Companies Sin" (in contrast to individuals), his answer was 'yes', although his later comments on the 2008 banking crash were somewhat ambiguous (on who was responsible). He was ordained in 1992 and appointed to Canterbury twenty years later.

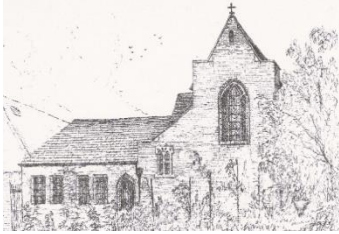
As Archbishop, Welby's Chief Advisor and gatekeeper was Cannon David Porter, a life-long member of the Labour Party, and some have suggested that Welby's very public political interventions on Brexit, food banks, inequality and poverty, the two-child benefits limit, the nature of Islam, 'Palestine', refugees, LGBT issues and taxation were influenced by him.

Welby's non-political views were interesting. He supported the Rev Paula Vennels (CEO of the Post Office, knowing persecuting innocent Postmasters) to be Bishop of London. Global South Anglicans stopped recognising him as head of the Anglican communion due to his support for gay marriage. His closure of churches during Covid led to a permanent drop of 25,000 Anglican churchgoers.

I met Welby and his wife a couple of times. He was a kind and gentle man. I was sad to hear that he, as well as one of his daughters struggled with depression. He was a spiritual man, although this side of him sadly was not strongly expressed in the national public life or in Church leadership. The church, under him, became less orientated around sustaining everyday parish ministry, and more on diocesan-lead initiatives and projects and business style management, albeit with the laudable aim of mission and growth.

Why did Welby resign? He was accused of turning a blind eye to John Smyth, a charismatic barrister who had been beating boys. However, Smyth had left the UK before Welby was even ordained, so it was never about Smyth. Ultimately, Welby's left-leaning politics alienated the politically conservative. His church-as-a-business model alienated regular parish priests. His support of same-sex relationships alienated traditionalists.

However, it was his failure to fast track same-sex marriage that led the progressives to call for his resignation. And without support elsewhere he had little choice but to resign. Who will be next Archbishop? If I was going to be cynical, the powers-that-be will probably nominate a middle-of-the road liberal man who will not rock the boat, who will remain malleable and influenceable by the church authorities. In my heart I long for a spiritual leader who will re-enchant the nation with the gospel and turn the heart of the nation back to Christ. We live in hope.



Blessings for 2025.

Rev Ulric Gerry

EVENTS AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Wednesdays 10:45am Coffee, Cakes and Companionship
in the Hall

January

Sunday 10am Services Rev. Ulric Gerry

12th 10am *Baptism of Christ*

“NHWS Sunday” 10am 19th January

February

Sunday 2nd 10am *Candlemas Service* Rev. Ulric Gerry

“NHWS Sunday” 10am 9th February

March

5th Ash Wednesday 7:30pm *with imposition of Ashes*



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Macmillan Coffee Morning 2024

This certificate is presented to

Anne Robinson

& friends

For your kind contribution of

£324.58

To help support those affected by cancer. Thank you.

Celine

Celine & the Coffee Morning Team

04 December 2024

2025

A guid New Year to ane an' a' and mony may ye see!

Although Christmas is widely celebrated now in Scotland, New Year was, and still is, a more widespread celebration. December 31st is Hogmanay, and the celebrations continue into January 1st or 2nd!

In my father's village, in the north-east of Aberdeenshire, the men were often out at sea, fishing, over Christmas, but they would usually be ashore for Hogmanay. I remember as a small child that we would run round the village, knocking on doors, and calling to the women to "gie's oor Hogmanay" – money, fruit, or sweets. It's probably unthinkable now-a-days, but back then, I was related to about half the village!

Later on, the young men would set out with a lump of coal, some black-bun or shortbread, and whisky. After midnight, they would "first foot" their neighbours. Householders would hope for a tall, dark-haired, handsome man to be the first person to set foot in the house in the New Year. (It may be that a dark head was preferred, as a blond may have brought reminders of the Vikings!)

The greeting above, or a variation with "lang may yer lum reek", brought good wishes to the household; the coal signified fuel and warmth for the year, the black bun/shortbread signified food, and a tot of whisky would be offered to the host, who would offer his guest a tot in return – hospitality to the start the New Year.

At the start of the New Year, and certainly before the 6th, we would put on our Sunday-best coats, hats and scarves, and sturdy shoes, and walk behind a "pipe and drum band" (often wooden flutes, or 'fifes') to the next village. Once there, the

children were given an orange. These walks are reminders of the Temperance Walks of the mid-nineteenth century.

As a young adult in Fife, the “first-footing” had turned into a series of parties around the village, well into the small hours, and my dark-haired boyfriend was very welcome!

Now, Edinburgh’s Princes Street New Year’s party attracts visitors from around the world, and is televised far-and-wide; though sadly, bad weather cancelled this year’s display. I’m sure some hardy souls still made their way down the Royal Mile, visiting various hostelries for shelter!

Jane Turnbull

Happy Hogmanay

C X V S R J C E L E B R A T E F K G Y I
O M K T A L L A U L D L A N G S Y N E I
A C C Q Z G B E D I O T Q G K P R Q Y M
L U F Q R T D M E G D M V A Y V J B O X
W T U B N O G O M S A H A N D S O M E M
U K F D M T W L W E R T T U O L O R B L
P C O P Y F I D L H K F Z L S M U G R A
E Y N A G N D Y F A B I A A E V Z U I C
L D U F B B X E Z P J R U S O Y J I H D
N E W Y E A R A S P K S Q B S H O F E Q
G F G A R S Q R M Y P T B B Z L G I R E
X I U E X B J B J H G F L I B I R J E L
S R M Z W I B L E O T O A Q X A I D I W
T E D K H P D H C G R O C E Q Q Q O Y X
U W R O I U T O W M L T K W X G Q N F S
P O A R S K V S L A T V B U N Z K M R Z
A R M G K B R T Y N R M U I V E R Y P C
Y K S K Y V H I W A Y L N G V C J U Z I
Z S E I B F F Y I Y M V F I R E B A L L
G V E D K R B F C B A N K H O L I D A Y

Happy Hogmanay	AuldLangSyne	bankholiday	coal
celebrate	fireworks	firstfoot	dark
blackbun	fireball	handsome	host
newyear	whisky	dram	tall
oldyear	tot		

COFFEE MORNING

The Party



“A very good morning Lesley, whilst I was late, the joy I felt as I walk in was wonderful, a big thank you to you and all involved in making it such a special day XX 🍷🍷🍷🍷👶”



On December 18th we held our last coffee morning of the year as both Christmas Day and New Years Day fell on Wednesdays this year. So that day we made it into a coffee morning Christmas party, so instead of coffee and cake we had party food.

We had a plentiful supply of sandwiches, sausage rolls, dips and crisps etc. plus mulled cider and prosecco. Our lovely attendees all contributed towards this spread for which we were very grateful. So in true party form we played a couple of games of pass the parcel and finished up with several games of bingo which went

down very well.

We had lots of prizes for the winners and the majority of these had also been donated and I think a good time was had by all.

These coffee mornings just started as a way of trying to get people together over coffee and cake and we were not sure how they would pan out but they have been a great success. We have about 30 people who come on a regular basis from a pool of about 50, quite a few have made new friends and have found some company that they previously didn't have and look forward to attending.

We have made about £1,750 since we started in mid-May plus extra donations we have been given from some very kind people all of which is going to the church boiler fund. So my very grateful thanks to all of you who support these mornings and make it all worth while.

Lesley

Rosemary's Quiz

HATS

All the answers are a type of headwear:

1. A canal
2. Worn at Ascot, Weddings, and by Fred Astaire
3. Bob the Builder's
4. For those messing about on the river
5. Cricketer hopes to get you out
6. Spring-time, with chicks and ribbons
7. This one has a point at Halloween
8. Worn by Baden Powell's original 1907 boys
9. Sounds like it grows on bushes or trees
10. BRITLY anagram
11. A member of the family?
12. The Bride's mother might buy or hire one
13. Scotland the Brave or Robert Burns
14. Colourful at the racecourse
15. A former Man.United manager

From Rosemary Bounden

Five Popular Classic Story Ballets – Part 2



A Classic Story Ballet, also known as Story Ballet or Narrative Ballet, refers to ballets that follow a storyline. These are the bread and butter of any ballet repertoire, and they are firm favourites for good reason. They are often based on fairytales and magical myths, featuring recognizable characters and full set designs and costumes, which make them eye-catching and easy to follow.

Here are 3 more of the greatest Classical Story Ballets ever conceived.

Giselle

Giselle is a Romantic ballet, written by French composer and music critic, Adolphe Adam (also famous for the Christmas carol ‘O Holy Night’) and choreographed originally by Jean Coralli and Jules Perrot.

The popular ballet’s plot revolves around the ghosts of maidens deceived and lost, and it has a fittingly haunting score.



The Nutcracker

Audiences in St Petersburg were promised ‘a fairy-tale ballet’ in the winter of 1892 when, all around the city, posters began to appear advertising the much-anticipated new project from Tchaikovsky.

He had been commissioned to set to music a popular family story called 'The Nutcracker and the Mouse-King'. The last of Tchaikovsky’s three beloved ballets, The Nutcracker is a magical Christmas fairytale and has endured as one of the most-performed ballets all over the world.

Young Clara, having been given an anthropomorphic nutcracker as a gift, falls asleep and enters a dreamworld, where her nutcracker is a prince who goes to war with the evil Mouse King. The greatest delights come in the introduction of the inhabitants of the Land of the Sweets, a dancing journey around the world for dessert-lovers.

From the elegant ‘Waltz of the Flowers’ to the thrilling ‘Russian Dance’, the score is a feast of wonderful melodies. Other favourites include the ‘Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairies’ and the ‘Dance of the Reed Flutes’.

The ravishing music, romantic imagery, and brightly-costumed festive scenes make it not only the ideal introduction to ballet and classical music for all, but also the perfect tradition for Christmastime.



Romeo and Juliet

Russian composer Sergei Prokofiev set “the greatest love story ever told” to music for St Petersburg’s Kirov Ballet, now known as the Mariinsky Ballet, in 1935.

Upon meeting with the ballet company, Prokofiev expressed his wish to find a lyrical scenario for a ballet and the love stories of Pelléas and Méllisande, Tristan and Isolde and Romeo and Juliet were cited.

“I immediately ‘clung’ onto the latter,” Prokofiev later said. “It would be impossible to find a better one!”

The demanding ballet was first performed in 1940 and features the enduringly popular ‘Dance of the Knights’, also known as ‘Montagues and Capulets’.



Anne Robinson



Articles for the [February 2025](#) issue need to reach the editorial team by [Friday 24th January 2025](#) saintsalive.editor@gmail.com

We shall definitely need some new items for the next edition, please.

Please don't forget to mention SAINTS ALIVE! when you contact any of the advertisers in this month's edition. It makes a difference.

BOOK REVIEW



The Library Thief by Kuchenga Shenjé

At first, this seems like a typical gothic mystery novel. Our bookbinding heroine Florence, having been thrown out by her father, intercepts an assignment for work from regular customer Lord Belfield to restore his collection of priceless books.

Once at Rose Hall she discovers Lord Belfield's beautiful wife has died in mysterious circumstances. She works in the library surrounded by priceless books by day and by night sneaks about the house reading the wife's diary to try and pick up clues about the circumstance surrounding her death.

The scene is set for a historical mystery novel with a cast of interesting secondary characters, some hiding their own secrets.

But as the book goes on, it becomes a much more complex and layered book about identity, race, friendship, the privilege or otherwise that comes with the class you're born into and the desire to belong. All of which is set against the backdrop of Victorian society, which on the surface is very constrained and where everyone knows their place.

The overall impression I took away is that *The Library Thief* is a very accomplished debut novel. Strong characters, a plot that moves along at just the right pace and an author who doesn't shy away from some confronting scenes and themes, while still keeping us rooting for our heroine Florence, as she tries to forge her own way in the world.

Fiona Robinson-Morey



Have you got an item to share with our readers?
 We'd also love to have another regular feature like the
 Book review or Theatre/Ballet critic.
 Could YOU provide an article?
 Please send anything to saintsalive.editor@gmail.com

- Rosemary's Quiz Answers:
HATS
1. Panama
 2. Top Hat
 3. Hard hat
 4. Boater
 5. Bowler
 6. Easter Bonnet
 7. Witch's hat
 8. Scout hat
 9. Beret
 10. Trilby
 11. Sun (hat)
 12. Wedding hat
 13. Tam O'Shanter
 14. Jockey cap
 15. (Matt) Busby

Happy Hogmanay



Come Sing with Us!

You may have noticed over the holidays that the choir was very much smaller (and possibly not even there)! If you are now settling into new routines with family and school or work, please ask yourself if you could spare a couple of hours a week to join your choir – even if you can't commit to sing every Sunday. We practise for about an hour on a Thursday evening and have the services of a very friendly pianist to help us through the week's music. Men will also be very welcome. Whether or not you can sing the harmonies, the 'lower' voice adds to the sound! NONE of the current choir are sight-readers, so we learn new pieces at an easy pace, and can support you, whatever your 'level' of musicianship. *Jane*

This space could be working for **your** business. Our Magazine also appears on the Parish Website –
www.allsaintsnorthhillington.co.uk

For **2025** advertising rates, please contact
 Rev. Ulric ulricgerry@icloud.com






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NORTH HILLINGDON, MIDDLESEX UB10 9BT
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(Unless otherwise indicated telephone area code is 01895)

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SAINTS ALIVE! is the Parish Magazine of All Saints' Church, North Hillingdon UB10 9BT and is published eleven times annually, with a two-month edition over the summer.

email: saintsalive.editor@gmail.com

Any opinions expressed in articles in *Saints Alive!* do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or of the Parochial Church Council of All Saints.

