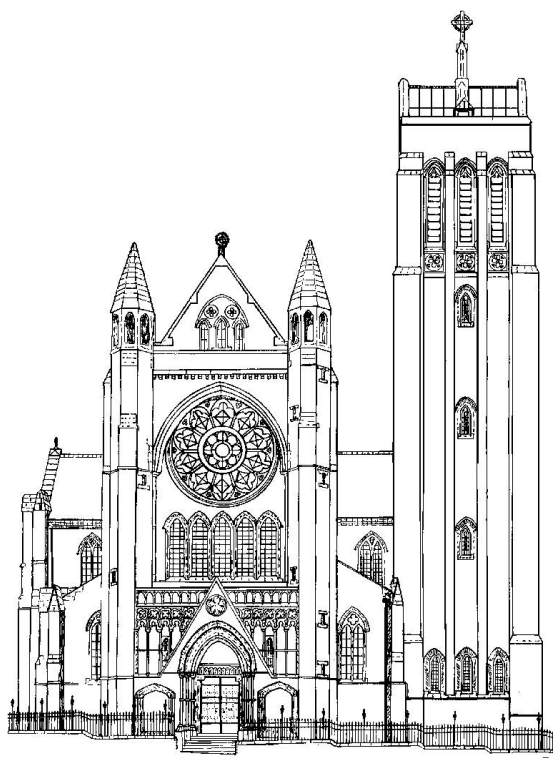




The Church of
St Alban the Martyr
Birmingham 12



St ALBAN AND St PATRICK PARISH MAGAZINE



Maryellen Fellows

October
2026
£1





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

Vicar:

Fr Jacob Pallett 07510 270381
St Alban's Vicarage, 120 Stanhope Street,
Birmingham B12 0XB frjacobpallett@gmail.com

Sunday Services

Solemn Choral Mass 10.00 a.m.

Evening Choral Service 6.00 p.m.

(Usually the fourth Sunday of the month — see the Music List)

Mission Wednesday

Said Mass at 10.00 a.m.: Followed by Open Church 'tea and toast' in St Patrick's Room

Confessions: By appointment

Authorized Eucharistic Ministers *(Bishop's Permission)*

Mrs Verna Smith-Broadbent

Mrs Amanda Cadman ☎: 0121 624 3865

Churchwardens

Dr Christopher A. Smith
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Selly Oak
Birmingham B29 7SP

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From The Vicarage...

This past month we have been celebrating the Season of Creation, or Creationtide. This season, which runs from the 1st of September to the 4th of October (the feast of St Francis of Assisi), was introduced to the Church in the East and the West in 1989 when Demetrios I was the Ecumenical Patriarch. His desire was to see the Church celebrating creation by turning its attention to the Creator of all things, as a response to the crisis seen in the ecological systems of the world — a crisis that is fuelled by our consumerism, which is deeply destructive towards the environment on which all life on Earth depends. The Church of England has since (in 2026!) embraced the idea and published material for a festival called Christ in Creation, from which I have used the Eucharistic prayer. Here in Highgate, it appears that we have been praying in ecumenical partnership with the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches for some time.

Looking back over the past month, there have been several things going on that have kept us occupied as we welcomed many people to share in events happening in the parish church. The main event was the Heritage Open Days, which included a variety of talks relating to our Anglo-Catholic heritage, all very generously provided for free. We welcomed over 100 people during this time. People visited for a variety of reasons: some simply wanted to see the inside of the church, which they had seen so many times from the ring road; others were tracing their family history in this area; and still others came simply to pray because the building was open and there was someone to welcome

them. Once again, it was good to be open, and this was made possible by those who volunteered to make it so — thank you.

David Briggs came for two days over the weekend of the 19th and 20th of September, and James Lancelot joined us for the Pearson Weekend on the 26th and 27th of September. Both organists have distinguished musical careers, but for both of them, the church of St Alban the Martyr was an important place in their early musical development. It was wonderful to have them visit us and to help us imagine our vision for inspiring the next generation of musicians. You will have heard me say this before — but that won't stop me saying it again — music is not a bolt-on activity in the life of the church. Our Anglo-Catholic tradition holds that music is fundamental to the way we worship, and therefore fundamental to what it is to be a human being. I wonder if our Anglo-Catholic mission here involves helping people to discover the fullness of their humanity through the riches of sung theology? But that might not be the question!

Moving through October and the final weeks of Ordinary Time, we will be heading toward a season of remembrance in November. This year at All Souls, amongst the faithful departed, we will be offering heartfelt remembrance for our brother, Edward Fellows. The eulogy given at Edward's funeral is included in this edition of the magazine, which both Edward and Maureen produced together. Maureen will continue to produce the magazine, and as you read this edition, please give thanks for the life of God's faithful servant, Edward Fellows.

Fr Jacob

Forthcoming Services and Events

Angela's Organ Concert

Angela Sones, our own Pearson Organist, will be giving her organ concert raising funds for the organ restoration appeal. This will be on Saturday 24th October. Do come and support Angela and be on hand to welcome the visitors who come to enjoy musical offering that we provide here at St Alban's. It's free entry, with donations going to the organ appeal.

Mission Wednesdays

Beginning at the end of October is a six week course titled:

"Called to Care: Christian Social Teaching Today"

This was created as part of the Anglo-Catholic Mission Project.

These will be on Wednesdays at 10.45 a.m. after the morning said Mass.

28th October; 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th November; and 2nd December.

All Saints' Day

Sunday 1st November: 10.00 a.m. Sung Mass.

Saintly icons and relics can be brought to church on this Sunday and placed on the side altars. These will be visited during the procession around the church on All Saints Day.

All Souls' Day

Monday 2nd November — 7.30 p.m. Sung Mass.

Please remember to add names of the dearly departed to the annual list so that we can pray for those who have died, and undertake this act of charity together.

Parish Festivals 2027

The PCC have agreed the dates for the Parish Patronal Festivals will be on the following Saturdays at 11.00 a.m. followed by a Parish Lunch.

Saturday 13th March — St Patrick's Day Celebration.

Saturday 26th June — St Alban's Celebration.

Saturday 18th September — Holy Cross, Dedication Celebration.

Heritage Open Days 2027

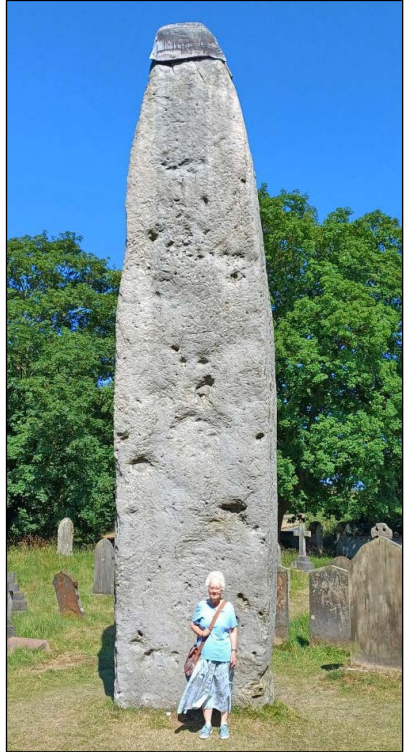
Once again, after a very successful Heritage Open Week, participating in both the national and local Birmingham Heritage Open Day, we will be taking part next year. These are the dates advertised for next year:

Friday, September 10th to Sunday, September 19th, 2027.

The Menhir in the Church Yard

On our way north in July for our holiday in Scotland, Rachel and I visited the village of Rudston about six miles (9.6km) inland from Bridlington in the East Riding of Yorkshire. There, in the churchyard of the church of All Saints, is the largest surviving menhir or standing stone in Britain. A single slab of gritstone, its height above the present ground level is 25 feet (7.6 m), but the ground level is believed to have been raised by 5 feet (1.5m) in the nineteenth century.

For comparison Rachel, in front of the stone in the photograph, has a height of about 4 feet 11 inches (1.5m). The height of the vaulting in the nave of our own church of St Alban the Martyr is 50 feet (15.2m), just twice that of the stone. The larger sarsen stones at Stonehenge stand about 13 feet (4m) above ground level. However, the Grand Menhir Brisé near Locmariaquer in Morbihan, Brittany was originally over 20m in height. The archaeological term Menhir is from Breton *men* (stone) and *hir* (long).





The name of the village, Rudston, is believed to come from old English *rood-stane* — cross-stone. There is no sign of a cross having been carved into the monolith to Christianise what was presumably a pre-Christian religious site since at least the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age when the stone was erected. Of course, a cross may have been fixed to the top of the monolith, or there may have been another ancient cross stone here. There may have been a Saxon church here, but the present church is Norman in origin, much extended in

the thirteenth century. Its stonework incorporates some tile that may be Roman, recycled from the nearby Rudston Villa.

Situated on a ridge, the village seems to have been the centre of a ritual landscape, with three cursus monuments — pairs of banks and ditches defining track ways — converging towards the stone, although ploughing has left little trace of the banks now and the ditches show only as cropmarks.

Chris Smith



Birmingham Canal Canter

Yes, I was wondering what this was all about when I was told of the event. It has nothing to do with horses but is the name given to one of the ***Heart of England Long Distance Walking Association's*** challenge events. The route starts and finishes at Moseley Rugby club and takes participants around some of the vast network of the city's canals.

Ed, who comes from St Mary's Selly Oak and joins us every fourth Sunday in our musical endeavours, decided to challenge himself to see how he would cope with running a good portion of the 30 mile (48 km) route along the uneven towpaths by the city's canals. He is not a trained runner, and his footwear choice was questionable, so this was a leap of faith or foolishness!!

At certain points along the route, evidentiary photos had to be taken to show that the participants had passed by set landmarks. Ed has shared this photo of him at one such place, the inscription telling of the purpose of the lock is printed below:

'The Guillotine Lock — the water level on the Worcester & Birmingham Canal has to be kept 1 inch above that of the Stratford on Avon Canal. It is my job to open and close the lock gates and let the boats through.

Canal Lengthsman 1810'

Well done Ed in raising around £400 for repairs to the spire at St Mary's, Selly Oak.



Good luck to you and your friends, Catherine and Cian from St Peter's Maney Hill and Amy from St Alban's, when you set out on the towpaths again, this time taking you all to Worcester. Don't worry, we will have the blister easing poultices and walking sticks at the ready along with the padded seats in the choir vestry and parish rooms for your use for the following few weeks after the event!!

Cynthia

A Message from the Printing Unit

I hope to continue printing the St Alban's Church magazine for the coming year and will keep you up-dated if this becomes impossible for me. For the moment I wish to let you know that the **December 2026** issue will be a joint publication with **January 2027**, as Alban and I will be away over the Christmas / New Year period.

It has not yet been decided whether the magazine will continue to be bi-monthly, which will cut down on postage costs for this printed black and white version. The colour email PDF will continue to be available to all who would like to receive it, for a donation to church funds. Please contact Chris Smith if you wish to receive a PDF.

PS I am sorry that this issue is late, some of the articles were late coming to me for various reasons, also I unfortunately had a fall on Wednesday and spent over 24hrs at Heartlands Hospital.

Maureen

Life So Far [part 2]...Creating a Work / Life Balance

by Abby Palmer

The story continues along with linking how chickens have played a part

For those amongst you who know the boroughs of London well, I'm sure the reputation of Barking and Dagenham is a fierce one. The borough has one of the highest rates of domestic violence and unemployment in London. We have a significant proportion of learners with additional needs, of learners who are young carers for their family. Poverty, economic deprivation, and tensions within the community create a storm for the young people living there.



When I announced that I'd accepted a job 27 miles from home in one of the most deprived areas of London, I think everyone thought I'd gone mad. My mum was convinced I'd get stabbed on the train ride home, my boyfriend thought the commute would kill me, and my dad thought the kids would be feral. There's an awful lot of stigma attached to Dagenham.

What I actually found was a staff base with relentlessly high expectations and ambitions for our young people. I work with a team that fights fearlessly to make music education accessible to anyone, no matter their background. The school is partnered with a charity, Music in Secondary Schools Trust (MiSST) that supports all our new Year 7 students receiving a free orchestral instrument, as well as tuition on it in class. The students themselves are fantastic; they're funny and sassy, fierce and determined. They don't want you to pity them or underestimate them. They want staff that will challenge them, that will listen to them, that will be ambitious for them.

I can say that I've thrived at SRS. Having been there now for three years, it's suddenly such a different energy when you're no longer the "new teacher". Everyone knows who I am (especially since I have my hair dyed pink!) Most importantly, I've had a set of young people who I've been privileged enough to witness them grow up. Some of my Year 8s in my first year are now my wonderful Y10 GCSE class. My Junior Orchestra make me tear up with pride just thinking about them. When I first began teaching, I felt I had to put on a classroom persona to be respected. Now, I find I am more respected by being both professional, but also unequivocally myself at the same time.

Many things have happened both in and out of work during those three years at SRS. I began organ lessons during my first year, and am now in a position where I



work as a freelance organist in my own time. I feel much more confident at the organ bench and love it — it has overtaken piano as my principal instrument. I took on the rôle of MiSST Lead at SRS, overseeing our Year 7 curriculum and much of our extra-curriculum, in addition to liaising with the charity. I've used this rôle as an excuse at various



points to try out various instruments — I've been teaching violin for three years, have dabbled in teaching flute and clarinet, and once got a Year 9 student to teach me C to G on a trumpet in less than 30 minutes!

As I took on more work and later moved out from my parents, I began to stop adding new chickens to my flock, and instead focused on giving my last

few rescues a wonderful last few years. My mum sadly no longer keeps chickens due to her work commitments, so we rehomed the remaining hens and our rooster, Barry, to some friends of mine. Barry is doing well at his new home, and the four remaining hens (Rosy, Bramble, Thistle and Hawthorn) are happily settled with a sweet rooster named Squish who lovingly looks out for them. I'm still an active volunteer for the British Hen Welfare Trust, and am patiently saving up for a house so I can once again amass a chicken army!

This year is my final year at SRS. Despite taking on more leadership with the curriculum I found I hit a limit with how much I could take on while living 27 miles from work. As much as I love the school, I have zero desire to live in Dagenham, and even less desire to pay more rent! I have been fortunate enough to gain the rôle of Head of Music at Fitzwimarc School, far closer to my flat in Rayleigh. I'm very excited for the new post, but it's very bittersweet leaving a workplace where I have such fond memories.



It's always incredibly difficult to condense a very intense 5 years of my life into writing. It's definitely been challenging at points, but I feel it has been a very rewarding 5 years as well. As I finish up my 'era' at Sydney Russell, it's been interesting to look back and see how I've become the person I am today. I feel I'm very different in some ways than the person you may remember me as... until you start talking about chickens of course!

Abby Palmer

Many thanks Abby for taking the time to share your inspirational journey since leaving St Alban's and we look forward to hearing of your experiences as Head of Music at Fitzwimarc, perhaps even seeing you back in Birmingham sometime soon.

Brum 2 Marseille Team Cycling in aid of the Sudan Appeal



The Brum 2 Marseille team is raising money for the Sudanese Humanitarian Appeal. Samuel and his friends will be cycling from Birmingham to Marseille, France starting on September 21st 2026 — they are cycling to raise money for the crisis appeal for Sudan. They have set themselves a target of £10,000 so if you would like to support them, please go to the justgiving site below.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/brum2-marseille?>

Their story

We are a group of friends, coming together to take part in what could possibly be the hardest thing we do in our lives: cycling over 1,000 kilometres from Birmingham to Marseille. Whilst it will be an unforgettable and memorable experience for us, the primary goal of this cycle is to bring awareness to others of the crisis in Sudan, and more importantly, to help provide aid to the people there. We are all truly touched by what is going on, which is why this cycle is so much more than a bunch of friends embarking on a crazy journey.

We will be documenting everything, from the training and setbacks to the cycle itself, so if you'd like to watch us as we embark upon this journey of a lifetime, please feel free to follow us on our Instagram site below.

<https://www.instagram.com/brum2marseille?>

**GOOD LUCK LADS — I HOPE ONE OF YOU KNOWS THE FRENCH
FOR PUNCTURE KIT AND PLASTERS!**

Cynthia

Recent Partial Eclipse of The Sun

Did anyone manage to buy the special glasses (that incidentally sold out!) and that would have allowed them to view the phenomenon directly?

Well, I was not one of those people and I did not bother with capturing the reflection through a colander onto a piece of paper either. Why not you may ask, well just at the moment of the eclipse, a dirty black cloud obscured my view of the event!

However, the dramatic skyline was captured by others who pointed their cameras in the general direct of the eclipse and kept their fingers crossed. Fortunately, they managed some amazing images.

The one thing I did notice was the incredible silence that engulfed the area and that was quite eerie to experience. The birds fell silent and it felt like nothing was moving.

If anyone has more photos of the event, please send them in for us to display in church. For those of you who missed it, you will have to wait until 2090 for it to happen again!

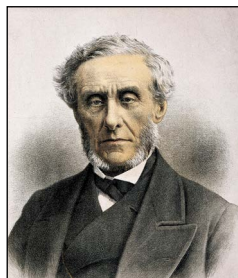
Alban, who has seen total eclipses previously, and therefore has the equipment, has answered my call, and provided the photographs below taken at Chesterton Windmill, Warwickshire

Cynthia



The Church's Year — October 2026

The month of October starts, on Thursday October 1st, with the Feast of St Remigius, known as “*The Apostle of the Franks*” because of his extraordinarily successful missionary enterprises among the Franks, who were the ancestors of the present-day French. He is commemorated on this day because it was today that his remains — he died in about 533 — were transferred to the Abbey of St Rémi by order of the Pope in 1049. Perhaps his most famous act was the baptism of Clovis, King of the Franks, together, it is said, “*with about 3,000 of the king's subjects*” — what a baptism service that must have been! Because of his close relations with the king, there was a close and fruitful co-operation between Church and State — perhaps a model for our times!



On this day we also remember Anthony Ashley Cooper, the Earl of Shaftesbury, who died in 1885, and who was a tireless worker, inspired by his strong Christian faith, in Parliament for the passing of Factory Acts and various other Acts which greatly improved the conditions of work for many people, and especially for his success in abolishing the conditions under which so many poor children of the time had to work, such as boy chimneysweeps. He was one of the most impressive of all philanthropists of the Victorian era.

October 4th is the Feast Day of one of the most famous of all saints, St Francis of Assisi. This day is also a Sunday, so it could be that he is not remembered as he deserves to be on this day since it is also the 18th Sunday after Trinity, but he should be remembered nonetheless! I may have mentioned before that I was first impressed by his story when I saw a beautiful film, “*Never take no for an answer*”, with my father, when I was about seven, which was based on St Francis’ healing powers. Coming from a wealthy family in Italy, he gave up the prospect of a comfortable and secure life in order, in the famous words, “*naked to follow the naked Christ*”, and made such an impression that disciples rapidly gathered around him which led to the foundation of the Franciscan Order of



Friars, still very much going strong. There is a strong Church of England branch of this Order with its base at Hillfield in Dorset.



Two days later, on Tuesday October 6th, we celebrate William Tyndale, who was martyred in 1536 for what was regarded as his wicked work in being so presumptuous as to translate the Bible into English. If there is one name we might connect with the famous Authorised Version (the AV or the King James Version to use the American title) of 1611, it is that of Tyndale, since the translators of that wonderful version (which I use twice a day) were very much dependent upon and influenced by Tyndale's translation. Oddly enough one of the greatest praises of the AV is to be found, perhaps surprisingly, in five pages of Richard Dawkins' "*The God Delusion*", pages 383 to 387 in the 2006 edition of his work. Dawkins, an avowed atheist, said that "*even he*"

was surprised by the degree of ignorance of the bible shown today by so many people, including Christians. Let's not be among that number! Certainly, I find the resonance of the language of the AV wonderfully inspiring as well as being much more memorable than the language of modern translations, which I have noticed sometimes contain inaccuracies not to be found in the AV, but it would take up too much space to go into that here!

Sunday October 18th is the Feast Day of St Luke, marked in the Lectionary as a Red-Letter Day, i.e. taking precedence over its also being the 20th Sunday after Trinity. St Luke, referred to by St Paul as "the beloved physician", is the reputed author of the Gospel named after him and, also, its sequel, the Acts of the Apostles. He is also the only Gentile author of any part of the New Testament. It is, of course, thanks to St Luke that we have the beautiful account of Jesus' birth and of the surrounding events which are read every Christmas. A particular



emphasis in both his writings is the work of the Holy Spirit, from the conception of Jesus in Mary's womb through to the Acts of the Apostles, where every move of the infant Church, spreading out into the pagan Roman world, was attributed to the guidance and work of the Holy Spirit. May our churches be as open to the guidance and the power of the Holy Spirit as those infant churches were, which enabled them to grow into a spiritual adulthood, we might say! Two of the most famous parables of all, that of The Prodigal Son and of The Good Samaritan, are to be found only in his Gospel. May we truly "*read, mark, learn and inwardly digest*" its glorious message!

On Monday October 26th we remember King Alfred, described as “king and scholar,” who died in 899. The earliest thing I learned about King Alfred — probably true of the experience of many others — was that *“he burned the cakes”* but, needless to say, there was more to him than that! He both valiantly resisted the Danes, who were in control of much of England at that time, and at the same time greatly encouraged scholarship and has usually been regarded as a model Christian ruler and therefore an example for all following rulers.



Wednesday October 28th is the Feast Day of the Apostles, Simon and Jude — not so well



known but fully deserving of commemoration simply they obeyed the voice of Jesus calling them to be with him and to accompany him in his ministry. Simon — obviously to be distinguished from Simon Peter, the leading apostle — was also called Simon Zelotes, which means he may have been a member of an anti-Roman resistance group, which he must have left in order to follow Jesus and to take up a more glorious conflict against Satan. Jude is the same name as Judas, in this case of course not Judas Iscariot, but of him we know equally little. It could be that he is the author of the rather fearsome, and perhaps for that reason highly readable, Epistle of Jude, to be found immediately before the Book of Revelation.

The month ends on Saturday October 31st — famous for two reasons. First, it was on this day



in 1517 that Martin Luther nailed or affixed somehow his famous 95 theses to the door of the Chapel of Wittenberg University, which is usually regarded as the beginning of the Protestant Reformation, which tore Europe apart in the following century and longer. Luther was a formidably learned theologian and a deeply spiritual man, if of a rather tempestuous nature at times, (not the only theologian to have had such a temperament!), but many of his insights into the meaning of Christianity were accepted by the Second Vatican Council which took place from 1962 to 1965.

Secondly, of course, this day is commonly called Halloween, but, as I remind the children who customarily come to me for their “trick or treat” visitation on this evening, it should be called All Hallowe’en — the Eve of, or the day before, All Hallows, which means All Saints, which we celebrate fittingly this year on a Sunday, November 1st which therefore will be discussed in next month’s article.

Fr Andrew

Meet Adam Heron

Assistant Organist at Coventry Cathedral

Whilst Angela took a well-deserved break in Norfolk, we welcomed back Adam Heron as organist at for the service on August 30th.



Adam came to St Alban's initially to assist us at the start of the summer and now, at the end of the season, he has returned just as he enters the final year of his MMus degree at The Conservatoire.

Over the summer he has been busy playing at St Helen's, Stonegate (York), Halifax Minster and the cathedrals of Newcastle and Carlisle. He also accompanied the Coventry Cathedral choir when they sang evensong at Lincoln Cathedral. If you wish to hear

more from Adam, please follow him on Facebook and Instagram.

We saw him again as he returned for the David Briggs event, which was part of our organ concert series on 19th September 2026.

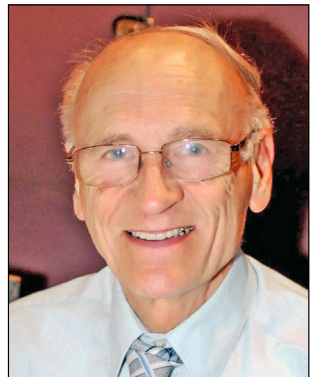
Tuesday 11th August was the day when we celebrated the funeral requiem for our brother, the late Edward Fellows. The text below is the eulogy that was given by Stephen Wycherley during the liturgy. It contains memories from Edward's family as well as further remembrances of Edward's long and faithful life. All who gathered at the service were deeply grateful to Maureen and Stephen for composing this tribute. May all who read this continue to pray for our brother Edward — may he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Eulogy

Many of you will know that for well over half a century Maureen was Edward's friend, partner, support, confidante, help-mate, wife and, now, sadly, widow. And, as we will hear, for many decades she was also Edward's fellow-printer, fellow-organizer and fellow-toiler in Saint Alban's vineyard. Maureen has now honoured me by asking me to read her account of Edward's life and his many activities, interests and achievements. She begins by recalling that Edward often said: *"I have been attending this church since before I was born"*.

Maureen writes:

And that was quite true. Edward was born in 1938 in a house in Conybere Street, only a few hundred yards from where we are now gathered, to parents who were regular members of St Alban's congregation.



His great grandmother had even been present at the opening of the church in 1881. His father, Ted, and mother Edith, and his aunt Mary were involved in the church in various ways — PCC, Birthday Book, Girls' Friendly Society and so on and — the life of a busy urban church of those days. Ted was a regular server and, by all accounts, a memorable thurifer!

But the war came and Hitler bombed them out of Conybere Street. The family moved to grandparents in Kyrwicks Lane. This was also flattened by Herr Hitler shortly afterwards. The Führer versus the Fellows? Well, at least we know who won.

While the struggle was going on, however, Edward had a lucky escape one night when a bomb went through their air-raid shelter. Edward was tucked up in a hammock but the bomb caught and killed the woman seated below him. Edward was unharmed but his mother and grandmother received shrapnel wounds and had to be rushed to hospital in Lichfield.

Later the whole Fellows family moved out to Hall Green but they still managed to get to St Alban's. Edward even began serving as a boat boy when he was about 5. He was trained by Ken Smith and wore a cotta made for him by the Sisters of the Holy Name, who helped in the parish from their convent in Malvern. When he was older he moved on to become an altar server, sometimes even coming in the early morning to serve at feast-day Masses.

After the war Edward and his parents moved to Hartfield Crescent, only a few doors from the school he then attended (which later became the grammar school I attended!). Always a bright boy with scientific interests he passed his 11+ he went on to Moseley Grammar School.

It was there, in that momentous year

of 1953 that he met an older pupil, who mentioned to him that, though only 17, he was going to be the organist and Director of Music at — of all places — St Alban's Church. This prodigy was Roy Massey, at the very beginning of his distinguished career as a church musician. And I'm sure that we're all pleased, as would Edward have been, that Dr Roy Massey, MBE has been able to join us today.

But that was the end of Edward as regular boat boy and server for Roy had recognized the quality of Edward's voice and urged him to join the boys' choir. He sang with the boys until he was 19, when, as his voice had not broken, he joined the men as an alto. So, in one way or another he sang in the choir at St Alban's for over 70 years and a few years ago was made a formal presentation to record that extraordinary fact. You'll find a photograph in your order of service.

Also on the musical front, Edward's mother played the piano and Edward had had lessons as a child so Roy Massey decided to teach him to play the organ. Just like that! He was clearly an adept pupil and soon became honorary assistant organist, playing for the 9.30 a.m. Sunday Family Mass until Ian Ledsham took over as organist some decades later.

Music apart, Edward served on the PCC for many years and took over responsibility for the Birthday Book from his Aunt Mary. He was a Trustee of the Aspinall Bequest and was a Churchwarden for some 13 years, including more than one interregnum.

I met Edward through the church after I started attending and was then confirmed in St Alban's in 1957. I would travel to church on the bus but Edward's family would often give me a lift home. We were married at an 11.00 a.m. High Mass on a

Sunday and Edward played for the 9.30 a.m. family service before joining me for the Nuptial Mass.

Edward had a considerable career outside St Alban's. When he left school he had gone to work at the University of Birmingham's Department of Industrial Metallurgy. But he also attended Aston Technical College as a day-release student and when the ATC became Aston University his qualification was accepted as a BSc. Meanwhile a new building in Pritchatts Road had become Birmingham's Department of Physical Metallurgy and Edward was now a senior technician there, in charge of the photographic materials they all used but, even more important, in particular charge of the electron microscopes including an instrument of a million volts! He had become such an expert that in 1982 he was seconded for a month to Lahore in Pakistan to set up microscopes which had been donated to the University there.

He worked at the University for 40 years, by which time the department had become the School of Metallurgy and Materials with a sub-department, the Interdisciplinary Research Centre, and Edward was then Technical Superintendent of both departments. His work at the university entitled him to add an impressive series of letters after his name. Although he did not boast of them, he was proud that they signposted his professional achievement in the field of material sciences.

After retiring in December 1996 — and never wishing to be idle — he took a part-time job taking disabled children to and from school in a mini-bus. He really enjoyed this and became friends with the owner of the coach firm and with the Tomlinson family and other parents of his young passengers. He only gave it up when he approached his 80th birthday!

Back to St Alban's, alongside all this, when Fr Harding, our long-serving parish priest died in 1981 Edward was asked to take over producing our magazine, then *The Sword*. At first this was prepared with help from Marion Jones, then parish secretary, and from office staff at the university department. But Fr Hutt, Fr Harding's successor, helped set up a Printing Unit in St Alban's School in Angelina Street, and later in a rented unit in Sparkbrook. Edward did the computer work and I operated the press with my finger nails blackening with ink! The unit expanded to print magazines for other churches and organisations as well as Festival brochures, posters, and tickets for St Alban's. Starting with a duplicator the unit went on to use a litho press and a large, sophisticated copier/printer. Edward's abilities began to fail, though, and he could no longer use the computer, meaning I had to do all the work. The Unit could no longer commit to outside work but only stopped doing so last December.

Edward and I always worked as a team and for many years arranged a number of Saturday coach outings to Cathedrals and other places of interest. Even more important we organized our annual Parish Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, with Edward driving a minibus or our motor caravan to take our pilgrims across the fens to that wondrous Norfolk Shrine.

Through his father, who worked for Telephone Rentals, Edward developed an interest in electronics and communication. Soon after we were married he took the Radio Society of Great Britain exams, built his own transmitter, and qualified as an amateur radio operator, licensed as G8ENA. He later encouraged both me and our son Alban to become licensed operators. We all went to radio rallies several times a

year and still have contacts in the amateur radio world.

He was also interested in steam trains and theatre organs. We used our motor caravan to tour the UK visiting sites of interest including Thursford Organ and the National Railway Museum in York.

We both also enjoyed cruising and from 1991 until 2025 we ranged from Norway's North Cape to the Falkland Islands and beyond and visited over 60 countries including many Caribbean islands, Russia, China, USA and Japan. We were also on two cruises specially organised to coincide with Solar Eclipses in the Black Sea (1999) and, with a very long coach ride from Benghazi, Libya, into the Sahara (2006). To celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary we went on a cruise which ended in Philadelphia, where I had arranged for us to visit the 5 manual Wanamaker organ — one of the largest working pipe organs in the world, taking up the centre of a multi-storey department store. The store was closed for transfer to new ownership so we had a private tour including sitting in a staff room with chairs, tables and a fridge, **inside** the organ! The resident organist, Peter Conte, played for us and let Edward play — a rare treat for him.

Our 50th anniversary was also a cruise, this time round the four main islands of Japan, including a visit to the atom bomb site and museum in Nagasaki. An unforgettably moving experience.

But now we leave Maureen and Edward on the other side of the world in the shadow of great world-historical events and return to Highgate. Maureen has given us some idea of Edward's wide range of interests and activities, not even mentioning his love of guinea pigs or his work as projectionist to film societies, his interest in astronomy,

electronic bells, home cinema, the novels of Stephen King and, latterly, the work of J.R.R. Tolkien.

But most of all we remember Edward's long (and, as we have seen, lifelong) and important service to his own church community. Maureen mentioned that Edward had served as Churchwarden for 13 years and she has allowed me to add a few words based on my own time as Edward's Junior Warden. And one of the oddities of doing anything in the Church of England is that you can be in your 70s and still be a 'Junior'.

As some of you might know Church wardens, Senior or Junior, are holders of an office of great honour but one with duties that are not easy to perform. There is great responsibility but little real authority, little support and few resources. And Edward's time as warden came at a difficult period for this church.

Without going into detail we can say that though that diplomacy was not, perhaps, Edward's strongest suit, when called for, he could use unexpected skills to great advantage. If it wasn't for the wisdom and patience of Edward and his fellow warden, the late Dennis Clark, it is unlikely that the parish would have survived in any meaningful form. But it did and has.

Much heat had gone out of the atmosphere by the time I joined Edward in the wardenship but there was still a wary disturbance in the air. But what I noticed was that, amid much existential concern for the future of the church, was the figure of Edward just getting on with things as he had always done. He was continuing to take this active — almost hyperactive — interest in the humblest practical aspects of the church's life. Alarms functioning properly? Floors polished? Leaks identified? Boiler

and organ regularly serviced? Reports completed? Insurers satisfied? Cobwebs removed? Archdeacons' queries answered? Chairs in line? Enough paper towels and toilet paper? Edward knew what had to be done. And he did it. He was always active — moving about, checking, counting, seeing that all was properly maintained. Visitors did often comment on how well the church was kept. That didn't happen by accident

So, in large things and in small, St Alban's has lost a great man. There are those who say that great men are not always easy to get on with. I don't know if that is always true I but I do know that some, though admiring him, did find that Edward could be a bit hidebound, a bit over-fussy, a bit resistant to new thoughts, proposals or ideas, even (so I've heard) a bit obstructive. To my mind those are not always bad things. Sometimes a judicious touch on the brake is needed to maintain what is valued and valuable. And anything of this sort that might have seemed excessive on Edward's part is as nothing weighed against his solid,

weighty virtues as a keeper of the faith, as a churchwarden and as a man.

All that Edward did for St Alban's from his leadership rôles to all the humdrum, tedious tasks that always called out to be done, he did through a compelling sense of duty but that compulsion itself came from an even deeper sense of Love. That might not have been a word that Edward, not openly emotional, would have used but the truth shone out from his conversation and from his constant service to his church, to its heritage and to its worshipping community, past, present and future. He always enjoyed telling visitors about the church.

With all this in mind I'd just like to finish with my abridgement of a short poem by the late Ursula Fanthorpe. When I read this years ago I even then thought "Edward". But the poem is called not 'Edward' but 'Atlas' and you might remember that Atlas was commanded by the ancient Gods to hold up the sky in order to prevent it crashing down and reducing the world to ruin and chaos.

Atlas

*There is a kind of love called maintenance
Which stores the WD40 and knows when to use it.
Which checks the insurance ...
Which answers letters, which knows the way
The money goes... which upholds
The permanently rickety elaborate
Structures of living; which is Atlas.
And maintenance is the sensible side of love,
Which knows what time and weather are doing
To my brickwork; ... which keeps
My suspect edifice upright in air;
As Atlas did the sky.*

Great work, Edward. Thank you. Now rest.

Stephen

The collection, for the Organ Fund, at the Requiem raised £270.00.

Calendar for October 2026

1st	Thursday	Thérèse of Lisieux , V, Dr (<i>St Remigius & Ashley Cooper</i>)
2nd	Friday	The Holy Guardian Angels
3rd	Saturday	George Bell, B
4th	Sunday	Trinity 18 (27th OT) (St Francis of Assisi)
5th	Monday	Weekday in OT
6th	Tuesday	Weekday in OT (<i>William Tyndale</i>)
7th	Wednesday	Our Lady of the Rosary
8th	Thursday	Weekday in OT
9th	Friday	Weekday in OT
10th	Saturday	St Paulinus B;
11th	Sunday	Trinity 19 (28th Sunday OT)
12th	Monday	St Wilfred, B
13th	Tuesday	Weekday in OT (<i>St Edward the Confessor</i>)
14th	Wednesday	Weekday in OT (<i>St Callistus I, Pope, Mr</i>)
15th	Thursday	St Teresa of Avila, V, Dr
16th	Friday	Weekday in OT
17th	Saturday	St Ignatius of Antioch, B, Mr
18th	Sunday	St Luke the Evangelist (Trinity 20, 29th OT)
19th	Monday	Henry Martyn, Pr
20th	Tuesday	Weekday in OT
21st	Wednesday	Weekday in OT
22nd	Thursday	Weekday in OT
23rd	Friday	Weekday in OT
24th	Saturday	Weekday in OT
25th	Sunday	Last Sunday after Trinity (30th OT)
26th	Monday	Alfred the Great, S
27th	Tuesday	Weekday in OT
28th	Wednesday	Ss Simon and Jude, Apostles
29th	Thursday	Weekday in OT
30th	Friday	Weekday in OT
31st	Saturday	Weekday in OT

Pearson Church Organists Concert Series 2026

Following the success of the Pearson Church Organists Concert Series of 2025, we have been extremely fortunate to have some of the very finest organists in the country playing in our Pearson Organists Concert Series this year.

Saturday October 24th — Angela Sones (*St Alban's Church, Conybere Street*)

As we now come to the end of the 2026 season Angela Sones, our Director of Music, will be playing for the Lunchtime concert on Saturday October 24th at 1.00 – 1.45 p.m. This is free admission with a retiring collection for the St Alban's Organ Restoration Appeal. We need to raise £100,000 to preserve our organ for future generations and to ensure that we can continue to provide an excellent standard of music. A simple buffet will be available in St Patrick's room, following the concert.

Sunday October 25th — Keith Dale, also a St Alban's former Organist, will play for the 10.00 a.m. Mass and the 6.00 p.m. Evensong.

There have been numerous comments and messages from colleagues and organists around the country saying such things as “*I only hear good things about St Alban's*” and “*It's wonderful how music is coming alive again*”. Our best kept secret is really getting out!

Angela Sones, Director of Music

Music in St Alban's for October 2026

Sunday 4th — 18th Sunday after Trinity (OT 27) — 10.00 a.m.

Mass setting: Mass setting: Herbert Sumsion in F

Hymns: 375 I danced in the morning
86 My song is love unknown
273 And now, O Father, minful of the love
272 All for Jesus

Anthem: Teach me, O Lord — Thomas Attwood

Voluntary: Defeating Lucifer — Thomas Hewitt-Jones

Sunday 11th — 19th Sunday after Trinity (OT 28) — 10.00 a.m.

Mass setting: Missa Orbis Factor

Hymns: 381 Jerusalem the golden
78 Sing my tongue, the glorious battle
457 The King of love my Shepherd is (Tii Dominus Regit me)
477 Ye that know the Lord is gracious

Anthem: O Salutaris — César Franck

Voluntary: Entrée Pontificale — Marco Enrico Bossi

Sunday 18th — St Luke The Evangelist (OT 29) — 10.00 a.m.

Mass setting: Missa de Angelis

Hymns: 486 We have a Gospel to proclaim
186 Tell out, my soul
315 Word of the Father
438 Praise to God whose word was spoken (T. 296i St. Helen)

Anthem: Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

Voluntary: Trumpet Voluntary — Jeremiah Clarke

Sunday 25th — The Last Sunday after Trinity (OT 30) — 10.00 a.m.

Mass setting: Mass of the Quiet Hour — George Oldroyd

Hymns: 377 Immortal, invisible, God only wise
(sheet) Brother, sister, let me serve you
306 Strengthen for service, Lord the hands
372 He who would valiant be

Anthem: Greater Love — John Ireland

Voluntary: ‘Fanfare’ from Four Extemporisations — Percy Whitlock

Pearson Church Organist: Keith Dale

Sunday 25th — Solemn Choral Evensong & Benediction 6.00 p.m.

Responses: Clucas

Psalms: 89 and 104

Canticles: Herbert Brewer in D

Hymns: 360 Firmly I believe and truly (T.3 Halton Holgate)
305 Soul of my Saviour, sanctify my breast

Anthem: Though I speak with the tongues of men — E.C. Bairstow

Voluntary: Prelude in C — Sir Edward Cuthbert Bairstow

Pearson Church Organist: Keith Dale

Marian Anthem — Angelus throughout Trinity

Choir rehearsals:

Thursdays, 7.15 p.m.; Sundays 9.00 a.m.;
Solemn Choral Evensong & Benediction 4.30 p.m.

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Music Secretary — Bryce Somerville*

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*This photograph taken in December 1938, and shows the four generations
of the Fellows' family history at St Alban's.*

*Edward after his baptism, in the arms of his great grandmother,
who was present at the opening of the church in 1881.*

With his grandmother seated, and his mother standing