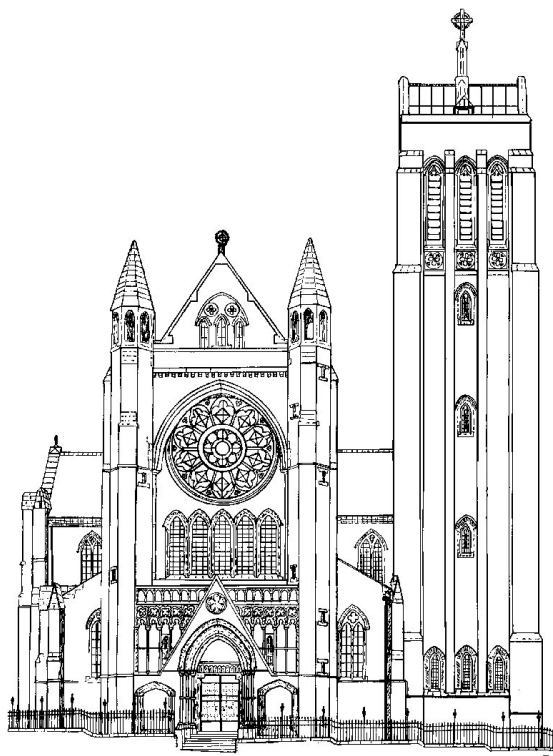




The Church of
St Alban the Martyr
Birmingham 12



St ALBAN AND St PATRICK PARISH MAGAZINE



Maryellen Fellows

February
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

Mass at 10.00 a.m.: Followed by Open Church 'tea and toast' in St Patrick's Room
Rosary at 6.00 p.m.: This is the time of Shrine Prayers at Walsingham,
Join in from home or at St Alban the Martyr

Confessions: By appointment

Authorized Eucharistic Ministers *(Bishop's Permission)*

Mrs Verna Smith-Broadbent

Mrs Amanda Cadman

Dr Christopher Smith

☎: 0121 624 3865

☎: 0121 471 1301

Churchwardens

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Selly Oak
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From The Vicarage...

There has been nothing quiet about the month of January. Looking back quite a lot of things have been going on in and around the parish. The PCC had a very fruitful Parish Away Day looking at our mission priorities of Hospitality, Catholic Spirituality, Outreach to families and young people.

Lots of good ideas came out of our discussion together, and although it's clear that we can't do everything at once, we can however keep chipping away at our mission priorities as we move forward together.

The work with the Anglo-catholic mission project is going well. And we continue to enjoy our weekly visits from Anna, the Anglo-catholic mission assistant. Anna has prepared a booklet for us which contains a prayer guide to the rosary. This follows on from the Rosary prayers that we offered during Advent at the statue of our Lady of Walsingham which resides in the parish church. It is good that we could do this together as there are very few parishes which will offer opportunities for the corporate praying of the rosary.

For the Feast of the Epiphany we were joined by Saint George's Edgbaston. They were a blessing to us, and we can give thanks that they were willing

to join us in the depths of winter. The church looked very pretty in the snow that fell on the 8th of January. It did however cause the church buildings to suffer a large amount of water ingress as the snow piled up and melted on the roof.

Within the parish the school children were delighted that school was closed as the roads become inaccessible for the staff to travel. They enjoyed making a snowman and playing outside in the park opposite the vicarage. This was my first experience of Highgate in the snow.

Looking forward to February, we shall be entering into the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday is on the 18th February and the imposition of ashes will be given at the Sung Mass at 7.30p.m. . Several opportunities for prayer and devotion will be tabled at the PCC meeting at the end of January, so soon after that, I hope you'll begin to see the publicity for the services and devotions that will be held here.

Please do continue to pray for this parish, and for the gift of discernment as we continue to discover what it is that God is calling us to do in this place, as we seek to serve the people of Highgate together.

Fr Jacob

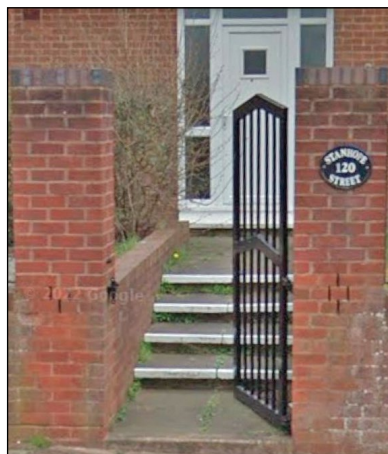


New Name Plates for the Vicarage

We first installed name plates on the brick gate posts of St Alban's Vicarage in 2011 or 2012 — Google Street view shows the posts bare in June 2011 but with the name plates in July 2012.



Google Street View July 2012



Google Street View April 2016

From 2013 to 2016 we took down the Vicarage plate, leaving only the house number, as Fr Nicholas lo Polito lived in Bournville and the diocese rented out the vicarage.

We put the Vicarage sign back when Fr Gerry Sykes moved in, but by 2020 some of the letters were beginning to fall off the signs. The letters and numbers had not been cast with the base but were separate castings glued onto the flat base before painting. By the time of Fr Jacob's appointment both plates were in a sorry state with letters and numbers missing and the floral design lost from the centre of the Vicarage plate.



September 2025



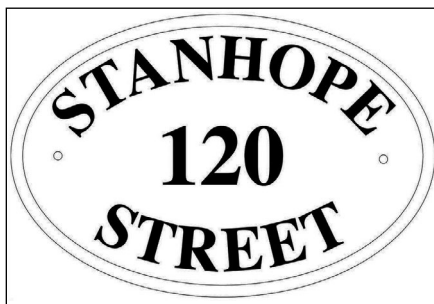
September 2025 — Measuring for a Replacement

New signs were ordered from Majestic Metals Ltd (www.majesticmetals.co.uk), who use a Computer Numeric Control machine to prepare custom moulds directly from

design drawings to produce nameplates as single castings including the lettering and decorations.



*Design drawing for the Vicarage Plate
— Majestic Metals Ltd*



*Design drawing for the House Number Plate
— Majestic Metals Ltd*

Plates can be cast in aluminium or bronze, but bronze would be have more value to metal thieves, so our new plates are aluminium.



The New Plates in Position

Chris Smith

St Alban's Events Calendar for 2026 *

Concert

Saturday February 14th — 4:00 p.m. A concert of early seventeenth-century music performed on period instruments in our church, featuring music from *Música d'Outrora's* acclaimed debut album *Still Life*, recorded here last year. This is a ticketed event in aid of our Organ Fund, with free admission for students.

Mission Wednesdays 10.00 a.m. Mass — February 4th, 11th and 18th

Shrove Tuesday February 17th — Pancake Party in St Patrick's Room — 6.30 p.m.

Lent

Ash Wednesday February 18th — Sung Mass with Imposition of Ashes 7.30 p.m.

Sundays in Lent: February 22nd; March 1st, 8th, 15th and 29th
Sung Mass 10.00 a.m.
Compline and Benediction 6.00 p.m.

Mission Wednesdays: Rosary at 6.30 p.m.
25th February; March 4th, 11th, 18th, (*JP on residential*) and 24th

Fridays in Lent: **Stations of the Cross** at 6.30 p.m.
February; 27th; March 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th

Saturday March 28th Outreach: Family Easter Activity Afternoon 2.00 – 4.00 p.m.

Easter Triduum: April 2nd, 3rd and 4th

Maundy Thursday: Sung Mass 7.30 p.m.
followed by the Watch (Tenebrae style) till midnight

Good Friday: 10.30 a.m. — Stations of the Cross (*Choir practice after stations*)
12.00 noon — Liturgy (*Hot Cross Buns*)

Holy Saturday: 9.30 a.m — Morning Prayer, (*followed by preparations for Easter*)
Easter Vigil — 8.00 p.m.

Weekday Feast Days, with Said Mass:

Thursday March 19th — St Joseph – 6.30 p.m.
Wednesday March 25th — Annunciation – 10.00 a.m.
Thursday March 23rd — St George – 6.30 p.m.
Saturday March 25th — St Mark – 10.00 a.m.

Parish Festivals: *These will include a **Parish Lunch** after the Sung Mass at 11.00 a.m.*

March 21st – St Patrick's Day Celebration;
including a talk from Andrew Harvey on the Pollock Brothers

June 27th — St Alban's Patronal + Rowan Williams to preach
(*June 26th, talk at St George's*)

September 12th — Holy Cross

Heritage Open Days

Friday, 11th September to Sunday 20th 2026. (*To be advertised*)

*** This list will be updated as necessary in the magazine and on the website.**

Pearson Church Organists — Concert Series 2026

A Message from Angela Sones, Director of Music

Following the success of the Pearson Church Organists Concert Series of 2025, we are pleased to announce the 2026 series, starting in March.

Lunchtime concerts are on the 4th Sunday weekend of every month at 1.00 – 1.45 p.m. These are all 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 each lunchtime concert.

The March and June Concerts coincide with St Patrick's and St Alban's Patronal Festival services, which will take place at 11.00 a.m. All are welcome to join us for these celebratory services for our Patron Saints! **Concerts in March and June will be at 3.00 – 3.45 p.m.**

We are extremely fortunate to have some of the very finest organists in the country playing in our Pearson Organists Concert Series this year.

David Briggs, now internationally renowned organ recitalist, was eager to feature in this years series, although he was already booked-up on all of the 4th Sunday weekends this year, so we decided to do something different on the third weekend of September, with a **Choral Masterclass, Choral Evensong and Evening Concert at 7.30 p.m.** after a buffet reception. **These events on 19th September will be ticketed.** David will also play for 10.00 a.m. Mass the following day.

March 21st / 22nd — Andrew Scott

(St Michael & All Angels, Croydon and Director of Harrison & Harrison Organ Builders, Durham)

April 25th / 26th — Keith Dale

(Queen Mary's School, Thirsk)
Former Organ Scholar at St Alban's

May 23rd / 24th — Iain Simcock

(Director of Schola Gregoriana of Cambridge)
Former Organist at St Alban's

June 27th / 28th — Tim Hone

(St George's Church, Cullercoates)

July 25th / 26th — Tom Stockwell

(St Augustine, Kilburn)

August 22nd / 23rd — John Butt

(Musical Director, Dunedin Consort)
Former Organist at St Alban's

September 19th / 20th

— David Briggs

(Cathedral St John the Divine, New York)
Former Organist at St Alban's

September 26th / 27th

— James Lancelot *(Tewkesbury)*

James's father was Assistant Priest at St Patrick's church and James frequently played for services at both St Patrick's and St Alban's churches).

October 24th / 25th — Angela Sones

(St Alban's Church, Conybere Street)

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

The Church's Year — February 2026

The month of February starts with a Sunday, and, whatever lectionary churches may be using, I find it spiritually helpful to think of this Sunday according to the Book of Common Prayer, which calls it Septuagesima Sunday, which is the third Sunday before the beginning of Lent — Septuagesima is Latin for seventy, the implication being that there are almost seventy days until Easter — in fact, there are sixty three from this Sunday, but let's keep to the old description! The point is that from this time we start to prepare ourselves spiritually for the holy season of Lent and it used to be the custom not to say or sing “Alleluia” from this time until Easter Day. (There was a fine hymn on this very theme in the old English Hymnal, omitted alas in the New English Hymnal, on which, perhaps pedantically, I wrote a letter of protest many years ago to the editors, but we had better not go into that now!).

Monday February 2nd, is exactly forty days after Christmas, therefore the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (also known as the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary and also Candlemas). It was on this day that we read in St Luke's Gospel that Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem “*to present him to the Lord*”, as the first-born male to be born in the family. Once again (as I have so often said of similar Feast Days!) this was a magnificent Feast Day for our Christian ancestors. It is roughly half-way through the time between the winter solstice on December 21st and the vernal equinox on March 21st, therefore we are increasingly conscious (whatever the temperature may



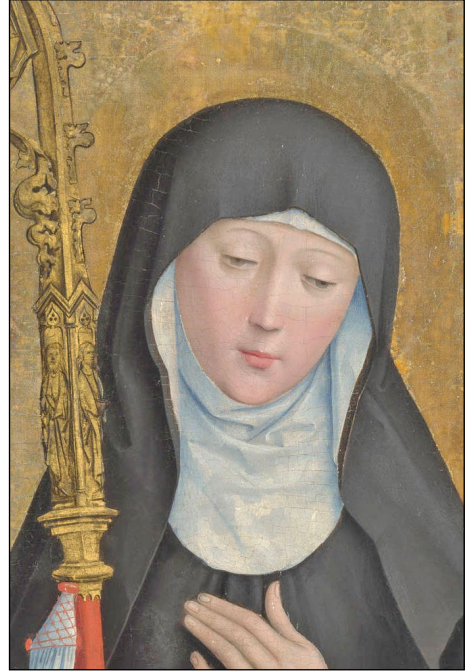
be like!) of the lengthening days and the greater number of hours of sunlight — a reminder to us of Christ as the Light of the World. The prophet Malachi had prophesied that one day the Lord would indeed come to his temple — and Christians see in this day a fulfilment of that prophecy — but what a surprising fulfilment in many ways! He comes not, as his people might have been expecting him, as a mighty sovereign, but as a forty-day old baby. It seems that only two people in the Temple recognised this — Simeon (probably an old man, although his age is not stated) and Anna, the prophetess, a widow of eighty-four years. It was Simeon who greeted Jesus as “*a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of his people, Israel*”, and it is in fulfilment of those words that it is the custom to have a candle-lit procession in the church at this service, hence the designation also



of Candlemas for this day. On this day in St Alban's, we shall be celebrating this Feast with a Sung Mass at 7.30 p.m. with a candle procession, as usual. The service will be immediately followed by a long-established tradition in St Alban's, the Blessing of St Blasius! What is this? I first came across this ceremony in Heidelberg in my student days. St Blasius is the patron saint of sore throats and the blessing is administered by two candles being held (unlit, you will be relieved to hear!) under the throat of each person coming to receive the blessing and a prayer in Latin being said which asks for the intercession of St Blasius to relieve any throat afflictions the suppliant may be suffering from "and any other affliction" — what a bargain! You will then be given a slip of paper giving the prayer in the original Latin with a translation. Do come for this great ceremony — even if your throat is well and sound at the time — it will still

avail for any future afflictions!

The next Sunday February 8th — again following the BCP (Book of Common Prayer) — is Sexagesima Sunday — meaning roughly sixty days before Easter and I confess, as a dyed-in-the wool Oxonian, to having a special interest in the following Tuesday February 10th,



which is the Feast Day of St Scholastica, an abbess of the middle of the sixth century. It was on this day in 1355 that a quarrel broke out in the Swindlestock (what a wonderful name!) Tavern in the centre of Oxford, caused by two students who complained about the quality of the wine which had been served to them. This escalated into a riot in which, alas!, many both students and townspeople were killed — and some students were so disgusted by this that they emigrated to the still fairly fledgling university of Cambridge, which

benefitted from this migration. Some kind of investigation was held into this and as a result the university came out top and the town, represented by the mayor, had to do penance to the university until, I believe, early in the nineteenth century. Such was student life in those days — and still is in many ways today but mercifully not usually with such a violent outcome. On this day I shall be praying especially for all the students of today at university or similar places — (with perhaps a special request that they may be served only



*Healing of the Blind Beggar
Gospel for Quinquagesima*

good wine or beer, when they want it, in order to avoid *any slight misunderstandings!*).

Sunday February 15th, is Quinquagesima Sunday (the word means “fiftieth” but again that is not particularly accurate) — which is the Sunday next before Lent, so, for some of us, perhaps, the last drinking Sunday before Easter — (we can raise a glass to the memory of those who perished in the violence of St Scholastica’s Day!).

Therefore, Wednesday February 18th is Ash Wednesday, which should be marked in

everyone’s calendar or diary, as the First Day of the holy season of Lent, the forty (week) days before Easter Day, which is on Sunday April 5th. It is well known how seriously many Muslims take Ramadan, their equivalent of Lent — let’s imitate them by taking this holy season equally seriously. Like many churches, at St Alban’s we shall, *Deo volente!* (God willing), be holding a Sung Mass at 7.30 p.m. on this day at which the Imposition of Ashes will be offered which means the signing of the cross on the foreheads of those who come forward, as a sign of our penitence and a reminder of our mortality. Precisely through this ceremony and the receiving of the Holy Sacrament at this time we can be better prepared and strengthened for the tribulations of this life and for the coming immortal life to which we are all called. Please make this a priority in your diary or calendar! Thereby we can be well prepared spiritually for the month of March, the whole of which falls within this holy season of Lent.

Fr Andrew

Calendar for February 2026

1st Sunday	4th Sunday of The Epiphany (<i>OT 4</i>)
2nd Monday	Presentation of Christ
3rd Tuesday	St Blaise; B, Mr, (<i>St Ansgar; B</i>)
4th Wednesday	Weekday in Ordinary Time (<i>St Gilbert of Sempringham</i>)
5th Thursday	St Agatha; V, Mr
6th Friday	St Paul Mikki & Companions; Mrr
7th Saturday	Weekday in Ordinary Time
8th Sunday	2nd Sunday Before Lent (<i>5th in Ordinary Time</i>)
9th Monday	Weekday in Ordinary Time (<i>St Teilo; B</i>)
10th Tuesday	St Scholastica; V
11th Wednesday	Weekday in Ordinary Time (<i>Our Lady of Lourdes</i>)
12th Thursday	Weekday in Ordinary Time
13th Friday	Weekday in Ordinary Time
14th Saturday	Ss Cyril; Monk, and Methodius; B
15th Sunday	Sunday next before Lent (<i>6th in Ordinary Time</i>)
16th Monday	Weekday in Ordinary Time
17th Tuesday	Weekday in Ordinary Time
18th Wednesday	Ash Wednesday (<i>Fast day</i>)
19th Thursday	Thursday after Ash Wednesday
20th Friday	Friday after Ash Wednesday
21st Saturday	Saturday after Ash Wednesday (<i>St Peter Damian; B, Mr</i>)
22nd Sunday	1st Sunday of Lent
23rd Monday	St Polycarp; B, Mr (<i>Ember Day</i>)
24th Tuesday	Weekday of Lent
25th Wednesday	Weekday of Lent
26th Thursday	Weekday of Lent
27th Friday	Weekday of Lent (<i>Gregory Herbert</i>)
28th Saturday	Weekday of Lent

Music in St Alban's for February 2026

Sunday 1st — 4th Sunday of Epiphany (*4th in O T*) — 10.00 am

Mass setting: Ireland in C

Hymns: 443 Rejoice, the Lord is King
148 The God of Abraham praise
57 The race that long in darkness pined
467 Through all the changing scenes of life

Anthem: O taste and see — R. Vaughan Williams

Voluntary: Intrada — Grayston Ives

Monday 2nd — Presentation of Christ (*Candlemass*) — 7.30 p.m.

Mass setting: Darke in F Sung Lord's Prayer

Hymns: 157 Hail to the Lord who comes (T. St Veronica)
257 This is the day the Lord has made
44 Faithful vigil ended (T. 282)
8 Lift up your heads ye mighty gates (T. 128 ii)

Anthem: When to the temple Mary went — Johannes Eccard

Voluntary: Herr Gott, nun schleuss den Himmel auf BWV 617 — J.S. Bach

Sunday 8th — 2nd Sunday before Lent (*5th in O T*) — 10.00 am

Mass setting: Sumsion in F Sung Lord's Prayer

Hymns: 401 Light's abode, celestial Salem
263 All creatures of our God and King
342 Breathe on me, breath of God (T. Carlisle AMR)
466 Thou whose almighty word

Anthem: Thou visitest the earth — Maurice Greene

Voluntary: Introduction & Toccata on 'Lasst uns Erfreuen' — N. Choveaux

Sunday 15th — Sunday next before Lent (*6th in O T*) — 10.00 am

Mass setting: Mass of the Quiet Hour — Oldroyd

Hymns: 234 Christ, whose glory fills the skies (Tii.)
343 Bright the vision that delighted
407 Lord, thy word abideth
271 Alleluya, sing to Jesus

Anthem: My eyes for beauty pine — Herbert Howells

Voluntary: Prelude in E minor BWV 548 — J.S. Bach

Wednesday 18th — Ash Wednesday — 7.30 p.m.

Mass setting: Missa de Angelis

Hymns: 67 Forty days and forty nights
383 Jesu, Lover of my soul
82 Drop, drop, slow tears
76 Take up thy cross, the Saviour said

Anthem: Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake — Farrant

Sunday 22nd — The First Sunday of Lent — 10.00 a.m.

Mass setting: Darke in A minor

Hymns: 486 We have a Gospel to proclaim
146 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty
294 Just as I am, without one plea
377 Immortal, invisible, God only wise

Anthem: View me Lord — Lloyd

Postlude: Vater unser im Himmelreich BWV636 — J.S. Bach

Sunday 22nd — Choral Evensong & Benediction 6.00 p.m.

Responses: Ayleward

Canticles: Noble in B minor

Hymns: 414 O for a closer walk with God
307 Sweet sacrament divine

Anthem: Wash me thoroughly — S.S. Wesley

Voluntary: BACH fugue No.3 — Robert Schumann

Organist: Thomas Howell

Marian Anthem — Angelus until Lent

— Salve Regina through Lent

Choir rehearsals

Thursdays, 7.15 p.m.; Sundays, 9.00 a.m.; Tuesday 2nd, 6.30 p.m.;
Sunday 22nd, Solemn Choral Evensong & Benediction 6.30 p.m.

Director of Music — *Angela Sones,*

Music Secretary — *Bryce Somerville*



The Parish of Moseley
St Mary's & St Anne's

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Birmingham B13 8HW
Tel: 0121 449 2243

E: office@moseleychurch.org.uk

W: www.moseleychurch.org.uk

Fbk: www.facebook.com/musicatstmarysmoseley/

MOSELEY ORGAN FESTIVAL 27th February – 1st March 2026

Celebrating the rebuilding of St. Mary's 1885-87
Henry Jones Exhibition Organ

FRIDAY 27th FEBRUARY: St. Anne's Church Hall FESTIVAL SUPPER (advance booking essential)

A delicious curry meal with all the trimmings.

BYO Alcoholic drinks

After Supper Guest Speaker: **DAVID BRIGGS**

Artist in Residence, St. John the Divine, New York

£15.00 Book via:

<https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/YiwWUL9xL2>

SATURDAY 28th FEBRUARY

10.00am-1.00pm: OPEN CONSOLE for players to try
the organs at St. Anne's (Brindley & Foster), Cambridge
Road Methodist Church (Harrison & Harrison), St. Mary's
(Henry Jones)

£10.00 Book via:

https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/nmQRL_d4IV

2.30pm: St. Mary's Church

A YOUNG PERSON'S GUIDE TO THE ORGAN

A hands-on afternoon of discovery for school age people
(with a supervising adult): what makes organs tick!

£5.00 (supervising adults free) Book via:

<https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/M25a5L4Ve3>

7.30pm: St. Mary's Church

GALA ORGAN RECITAL: DAVID BRIGGS

Artist in Residence, St. John the Divine, New York

£20.00 Book via:

<https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/I2uMmYbOkC>

SUNDAY 1st March: St. Mary's Church

10.00am: Sung Eucharist

Preacher: Rt. Rev. James Langstaff

Organist: David Briggs

4.00pm: Lecture / Recital: PAUL HALE

Consultant and former DoM at Southwell Minster

Rebuilding the Henry Jones' Exhibition Organ

£10.00 Book via:

<https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/Dv7N6onhmm>

5.30pm: FESTIVAL TEA

6.30pm: SONGS OF PRAISE

Organist: Paul Hale



Tickets for all events from:
Moseley Parish Office

office@moseleychurch.org.uk

www.moseleychurch.org.uk/faith-

[worship/music](http://www.moseleychurch.org.uk/faith-worship/music)

Or via the QR Code:



David Briggs' Gala Recital is sponsored by
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