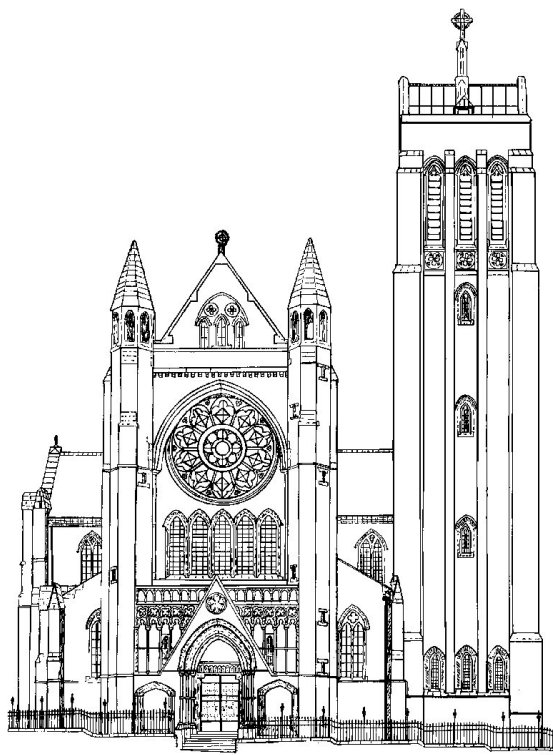




The Church of
St Alban the Martyr
Birmingham 12



ST ALBAN AND ST PATRICK PARISH MAGAZINE



Maryellen Fellows

January
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 am: Followed by Open Church 'tea and toast' in St Patrick's Room
Rosary at 6.00 pm: 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

Dr Christopher A. Smith
219, Gristhorpe Road,
Selly Oak
Birmingham B29 7SP

☎: 0121 471 1301

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"Richeldis" 343, Wake Green Road
Moseley
Birmingham B13 0BH

☎: 0121 777 1120

E-mail: edward.fellows@blueyonder.co.uk

From The Vicarage...

A very happy New Year calendar year to you all! The Liturgical year is well underway and, looking back, good things took place during Advent. As part of our involvement with the Anglo-Catholic Mission project, we have begun our 'Mission Wednesdays', and we are joined by Anna, the Diocesan Anglo-Catholic Mission Assistant. The day begins with Mass at 10 a.m. and then the church is open for people to visit while hospitality is offered to those who come. In the evening, we have gathered at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham and have offered the Rosary as a prayer for the mission of the church. These have been well attended, and it is good to have a midweek Mass being offered again. St Alban's has a unique part to play in reviving Anglo-Catholic spirituality, and this has been part of that revival.

The Birmingham Bach Choir were here on Gaudete Sunday (December 14th) for their annual Nine Lessons and Carols Service. We are very blessed that they chose to come here, and we were able to offer many people some warm hospitality in St Patrick's room after the service.

We were also blessed with a visit from Chandos School, who came *en masse* for their school Christmas concert. This also attracted around 65 parents who came to support their children and to enjoy their reading, singing, and music making. It was wonderful to see the nave of the parish church being used as a festive community space.

In the Academy, as we approached Christmas, all the students and staff were invited to write a prayer for peace on a yellow star. These were then displayed in the school atrium. Their prayers were very heartfelt and moving. Prayers such as: 'I pray for peace in Sudan and Gaza. I hope God makes my wish come true and I wish happiness in my family' (Year 10); 'I wish all fighting in the world ends' (Year 7); 'I hope for the end of suffering, I wish for an end to world hunger' (Year 9). These prayers show what it is that the children of Highgate have on their hearts and minds, aware of what is going on in the world.

Looking forward. We shall be joined by the community of St George's, Edgbaston, on the Feast of the Epiphany — January 6th, for an Epiphany Carol Service at 7.15 pm. St George's is also involved in the mission project. This has provided another opportunity for us to have a combined choir, and for us to offer to others the opportunity to sing in such a wonderful space.

I continue to be thankful for the signs of growth that we see, (and even though not many things grow in the cold), we can be thankful that people are drawn to this place to pray and worship with us. There are often supportive and kind comments on the Facebook page thanking the community for our worship and hospitality, and we can take these as food for encouragement.

Fr Jacob

Cover of Our Parish Magazine Through Time

As part of our matching contribution for the National Lottery Heritage Fund grant that enabled us to complete the renewal of the church roof, I photographed many of the bound copies of our parish magazine in the Birmingham Library Archive.

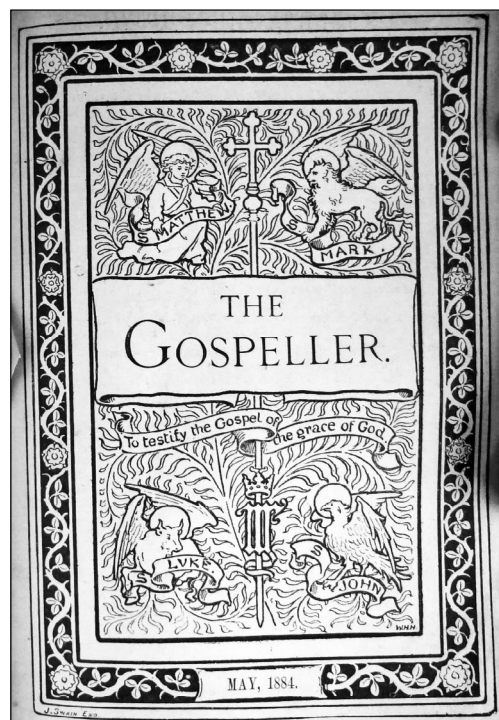
Here I present a selection of the covers as they have evolved over the years from the start of St Alban's Mission in 1865. The quality of some of the pictures is not ideal, but many of the magazines are tightly bound and cannot be opened flat, and my copies were made hurriedly for study as a source of historical information.

The “Diary of events concerning S. Albans — the Priests — the people” prepared by Anna Pollock, elder sister of our founding priests James and Thomas Pollock, contains the following entries:

1865 Decr 24th. There is to be a B’ham Church Union & the “Church Magazine” is to be its organ.

1866 January 3rd. We received 2 copies of the first number of “Church Magazine” from Revd. J.S.P.

This “Church Magazine” was, or soon became, *The Gospeller*, and was produced mainly by James and Thomas Pollock, containing many of Fr. Tom’s hymns and litanies.



The Gospeller, May 1884

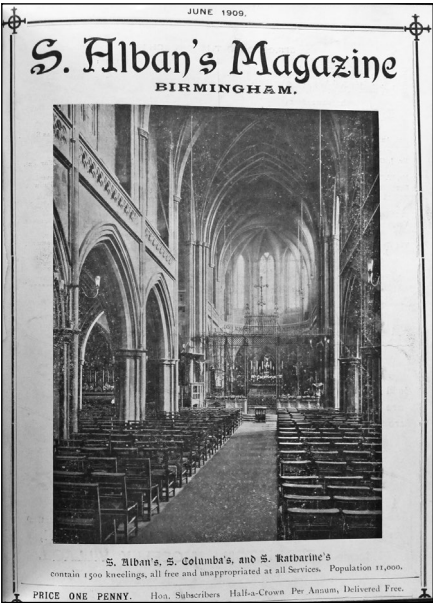
From, I think, 1868 the *Monthly Record of S. Alban the Martyr* appeared as a single two-sided sheet with information specific to our church, enclosing each edition of *The Gospeller*.

Other parishes had similarly ‘localised’ copies of *The Gospeller*.

By 1908 the cover of *S. Alban's Magazine* featured an etching including the central window above the high altar added in 1904, but not the pulpit designed by Arthur Dixon that was installed in 1907. There was now much more information below the picture. From June of 1909 there was a new photograph including this new pulpit and the list of officers was moved to the inside the cover.

From January 1913 there was a new photograph which showed the central clerestory window by Henry Payne above the High Altar more clearly. It also showed the stature of Our Lady holding the infant Jesus by the Lady Chapel and the first electric lights:

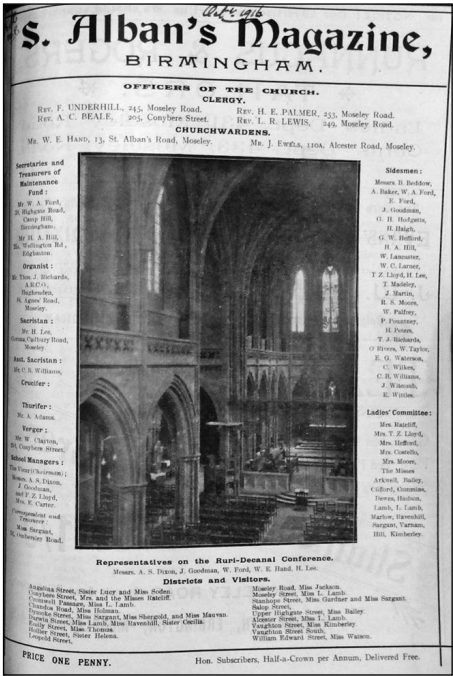
In 1916 there was a new, smaller picture, apparently taken from the triforium walkway on the south side of the church, and the details of the officers of the church were again on the cover.



June 1909



March 1913



From 1955 our magazine was renamed The Sword and the price rose to 4 pence.

[illegible]

January 1924

S. Alban's Magazine

BIRMINGHAM

OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH.

CLERGY—The Rev. **EDMUND CLARK, M.A.**, Vicar, S. Alban's, 248, Moseley Road.
 The Rev. **K. A. PEARSON, B.A.**, 20, Queenswood Road, Moseley.

The Community of the Holy Name, S. ALBAN'S MONASTIC HOUSE, 256, Moseley Road.
Church-women—**Mr. A. F. LAMPRELL, 41, Grosvenor Road, Birmingham, 13.**
W. W. F. ELDERTON, 114, Taylor Road, King's Heath.



JAN.
1935

Price:
2d.

Ann. Subscribers

Four
Shillings
per Annum.

Delivered
Free

SUNDAY SERVICES.

10 a.m. Holy Communion.
 11 a.m. Holy Communion.
 11.15 a.m. Morning Prayer.
 2.30 p.m. Holy Communion.
 4.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.
 7.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

WEDNESDAY SERVICES.

10 a.m. Holy Communion.
 11 a.m. Holy Communion.
 11.15 a.m. Morning Prayer.
 2.30 p.m. Holy Communion.
 4.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.
 7.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

CONFESSION.

Feast Days. Ascension Day, Monday 5 p.m.; Pentecost 5 p.m.; Pentecost Sunday 5 p.m.; Pentecost 10 a.m.; Pentecost 11 a.m.; Pentecost 11.15 a.m.; Pentecost 12 a.m.; Pentecost 12.15 a.m.; Pentecost 12.30 a.m.; Pentecost 12.45 a.m.; Pentecost 12.55 a.m.; Pentecost 13 a.m.; Pentecost 13.15 a.m.; Pentecost 13.30 a.m.; Pentecost 13.45 a.m.; Pentecost 13.55 a.m.; Pentecost 14 a.m.; Pentecost 14.15 a.m.; Pentecost 14.30 a.m.; Pentecost 14.45 a.m.; Pentecost 14.55 a.m.; Pentecost 15 a.m.; Pentecost 15.15 a.m.; Pentecost 15.30 a.m.; Pentecost 15.45 a.m.; Pentecost 15.55 a.m.; Pentecost 16 a.m.; Pentecost 16.15 a.m.; Pentecost 16.30 a.m.; Pentecost 16.45 a.m.; Pentecost 16.55 a.m.; Pentecost 17 a.m.; Pentecost 17.15 a.m.; Pentecost 17.30 a.m.; Pentecost 17.45 a.m.; Pentecost 17.55 a.m.; Pentecost 18 a.m.; Pentecost 18.15 a.m.; Pentecost 18.30 a.m.; Pentecost 18.45 a.m.; Pentecost 18.55 a.m.; Pentecost 19 a.m.; Pentecost 19.15 a.m.; Pentecost 19.30 a.m.; Pentecost 19.45 a.m.; Pentecost 19.55 a.m.; Pentecost 20 a.m.; 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Pentecost 67.15 a.m.; Pentecost 67.30 a.m.; Pentecost 67.45 a.m.; Pentecost 67.55 a.m.; Pentecost

From January 1935 there was again a photograph on the front cover.



THE
SWORD

S. ALBAN THE MARTYR

BIRMINGHAM

May 1956 Price 4d. Vol. 2. No. 5

May 1956

THE
SWORD

S. ALBAN THE MARTYR

BIRMINGHAM

Price 4d.

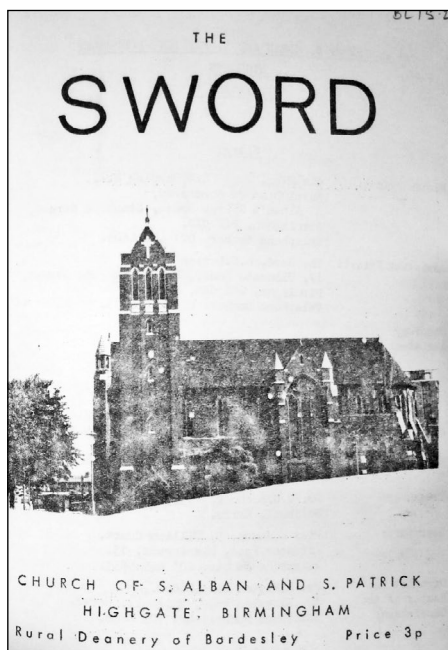
January 1961

With rising costs, commercial printing proved prohibitive. From January 1961 the internal pages produced by duplication using Gestetner stencils, created by typing on special wax-coated paper to break through the wax leaving a porous layer through which ink could pass to make multiple copies of the original. A printed

cover was retained, but now without the date, so that a single batch could be used for multiple issues.

From October 1964 the cover too was produced by duplication.

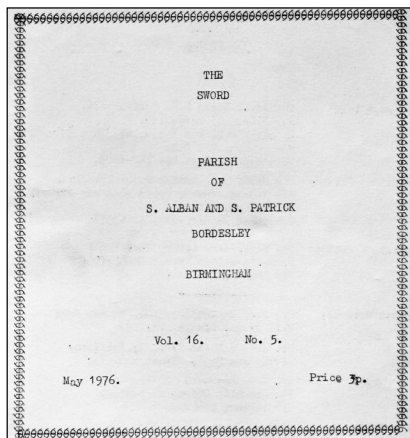
In 1971 the British currency was decimalised and the pound was divided in 100 new pence instead of 240 old pence. At that time the price was not on the cover, but from June 1973 there was a new duplicated cover with the price 3p (three new pence = 7.2 old pence) and a new photograph of the south side of the church.



July 1973

The name of St Patrick's reappeared on this cover, as St Patrick's Church, Frank Street had closed in 1964 and in 1973 the parish of St Patrick was united with that of St Alban (apart from a part on the other side of the Belgrave Middleway, which was joined to the parish of St Paul, Balsall Heath). This cover lasted until the end of 1974 when a

simple cover design produced by typing became standard.



May 1976

From January 1977 the price rose from 3p to 5p and in May 1980 it doubled to 10p.

With the death of Fr Harding in 1981 Edward and Maureen Fellows took over production of *The Sword*, (with help from staff and equipment at Metallurgy Dept UoB) and a period of experimentation with different cover designs ensued.

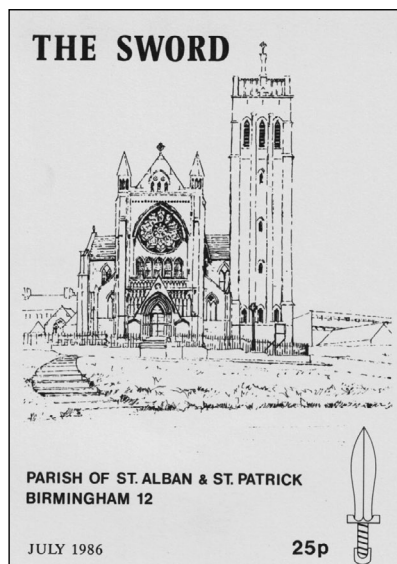


April 1981

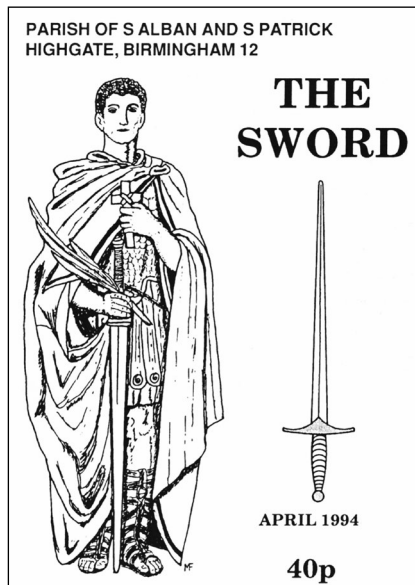


June 1981

Soon they were able to move from duplication to offset litho printing, producing work of far higher quality (*following a grant from the Harlow Trust*).

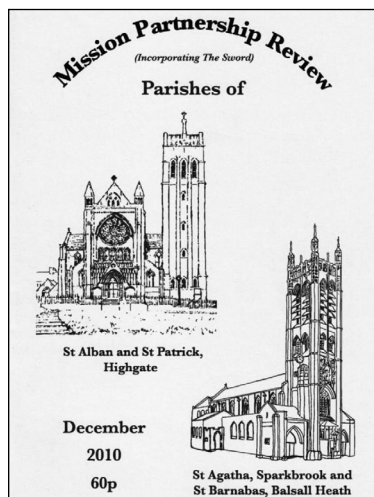


July 1986

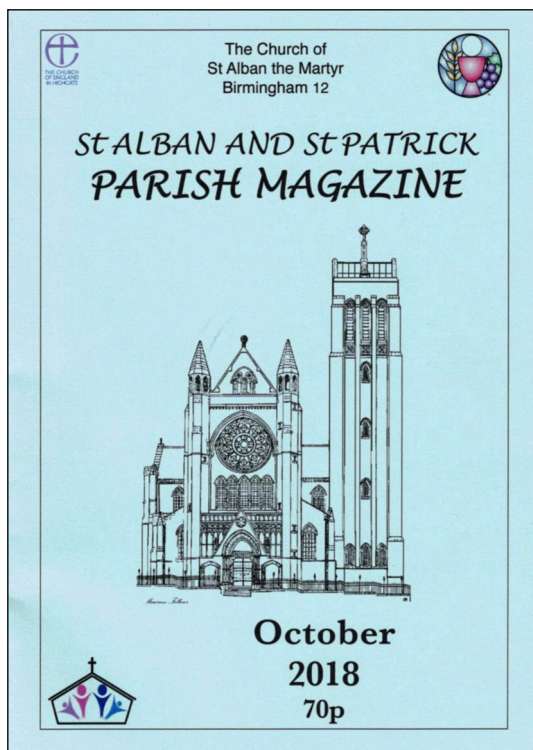


April 1994

From 2005 to 2010 our parish was in a Mission Partnership with our neighbouring parishes of St Agatha, Sparkbrook and St Barnabas, Balsall Heath, sharing the same Priest in Charge and our Litho Unit produced a combined magazine.



December 2010



When the partnership ended the cover design reverted to the previous design, now using high-quality laser printing instead of offset Litho technology.

In 2015, Fr Nicholas deemed both the name The Sword and the image of a sword inappropriate and the present name and cover design were adopted.

Chris Smith

Note:

The drawings of St Alban (April 1994) and the West Front of the Church (October 2018), were produced by Maureen Fellows. Large photographs were prepared and then traced using a rotary technical drawing board in the Department of Physical Metallurgy at the University of Birmingham, where she worked as a technician.

The Church's Year — January 2026

Exactly a week after Christmas Day, which is Thursday January 1st, New Year's Day, we shall also be celebrating the Feast of the Naming and Circumcision of Jesus — again at 9.00 am and again do join me please! The Circumcision is “played down” rather in our modern liturgies, being regarded presumably as rather too offensive for our poor, little sensitive ears, but it was on this day, a week after his birth, that Jesus received his name meaning Saviour and was circumcised:

*O happy day, when first was poured
The blood of our redeeming Lord,
O happy day, when first began
His suffering for sinful man*

So begins a magnificent hymn, not, needless to say, to be found in the latest editions of our hymnals!



Painting by Albrecht Dürer (1471 – 1528)

The twelfth and last day of Christmas is Monday January 5th, followed by the great Feast of the Epiphany, the “showing forth” of Jesus to the Gentiles, on Tuesday



January 6th. (It is permitted to celebrate the Epiphany on the previous Sunday January 4th). We celebrate the visit of the wise men to the child (no longer a baby in Matthew’s account) Jesus — many of us may know the great poem by T.S. Eliot, *The Journey of the Magi*, which brings out wonderfully how the wise men might actually have experienced this occasion — what they felt and how they reacted. We have some magnificent hymns to celebrate this Feast — among them the one by Prudentius, described as:

*The Christian Virgil’
Earth hath many a noble city
Beth’lem, thou dost all excel.*

On the following Sundays we celebrate the further revelations of Jesus, at his baptism and then at the working of his first miracle, the conversion of water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana of Galilee.

On Tuesday January 13th, we celebrate

Hilary, who was Bishop of Poitiers in what was then Gaul and who died in 367. He is not so well known today, perhaps, but so well known by our ancestors in the faith (let us imitate them in this matter!) that he gave his name to the academic term beginning at about this time — the “Hilary Term” is still the phrase used by some universities and Inns of Courts and, indeed, schools perhaps — to designate this term, rather than the rather over-optimistic “Spring Term” (which is hardly accurate, since Spring begins only right at the end, rather than the beginning, of the term).



Hilary was a valiant fighter against Arianism, the belief that Christ was only the first of all creation and not fully equal with God the Father — a view in practice very common today among those who think of Jesus simply as “a very good man” or “a great moral teacher” etc, which is missing the whole point of the Christian faith.

Once again, I cannot resist mentioning St Felix of Nola, celebrated the following day, on Wednesday January 14th, who was a valiant martyr in one of the Roman persecutions in probably the middle of the 3rd century and who is commemorated in a magnificent Latin poem (which is why



I mention him!) by Paulinus of Nola, who was Bishop of Nola in Italy in the beginning of the 5th century. Anyone who would like a copy of this short, but memorable, poem (with a translation!) should just write to me with your name and postal address at: andrewlenox44@gmail.com

Wednesday January 21st is the Feast of St Agnes, a “child martyr”, who received the glorious crown of martyrdom in about 304, the last of the great persecutions of the Christian Church before the peace brought by the Emperor Constantine. On the night before, I always read Keats’ poem “*On the Eve of St Agnes*”, usually in bed with a glass of



port or whisky! Do read this great poem, one of Keats’ greatest, if you have not already done so.

Sunday January 25th is very much a leading Festival in the Church’s calendar, being the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul (it might be transferred to the next day, Monday January 26th). This is one of the most momentous events in history — the conversion on the road to Damascus of the furious persecutor of Christians into the foremost defender of the Christian faith, which he unceasingly preached through many tribulations throughout the rest of his life. It could be said that he was the second



most influential person (therefore the first after Jesus himself) in the entire history of the world since he was by far and away the most brilliant exponent of the Christian faith in the Early Church — had his conversion not happened, it is unlikely that you and I would have heard of Jesus Christ.

The church in Rome in which he is believed to have been buried — *San Paolo fuori le Mura* (St Paul outside the Walls, that is the walls of Rome) — was recently visited by King Charles in company with Pope Leo. On that note, both regal and papal, we can prepare ourselves for the coming month of February!

Fr Andrew

Calendar for January 2026

1st	Thursday	Naming and Circumcision of Jesus
2nd	Friday	Ss Basil the Great, B, Dr and Gregory Nazianzen, B, Dr
3rd	Saturday	Feria
4th	Sunday	2nd Sunday of Christmas
5th	Monday	Feria
6th	Tuesday	The Epiphany of the Lord
7th	Wednesday	Feria
8th	Thursday	Feria
9th	Friday	Feria
10th	Saturday	William Laud, B, C
11th	Sunday	The Baptism of Christ
12th	Monday	St Aelred of Rievaulx, R
13th	Tuesday	St Hilary of Poitier, B, Dr
14th	Wednesday	St Felix of Nola, B
15th	Thursday	Feria
16th	Friday	Feria
17th	Saturday	St Anthony, Abbot (<i>Charles Gore, B</i>)
18th	Sunday	3rd Sunday of Epiphany (<i>Christian Unity</i>)
19th	Monday	Christian Unity (<i>St Wulstan, B</i>)
20th	Tuesday	Christian Unity (<i>Feria</i>)
21st	Wednesday	Christian Unity (<i>St Agnes, V, Mr</i>)
22nd	Thursday	Christian Unity (<i>St Vincent, Deacon, Mr</i>)
23rd	Friday	Christian Unity (<i>Feria</i>)
24th	Saturday	Christian Unity (<i>St Francis de Sales, B, Mr</i>)
25th	Sunday	The Conversion of St Paul (3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time)
26th	Monday	Ss Timothy and Titus, Bb
27th	Tuesday	Feria (<i>St Angela Merici, V</i>)
28th	Wednesday	St Thomas Aquinas, Pr, Dr
29th	Thursday	Feria
30th	Friday	Feria (<i>Charles, Mr</i>)
31st	Saturday	St John Bosco, Pr

Music in St Alban's for January 2026

Sunday 4th — 2nd Sunday of Christmas — 10.00 am

Mass setting: Darke in A minor Asperges
Hymns: 48 Bethlehem, of noblest cities
33 Of the Father's heart begotten
21 A great and mighty wonder
258 O Christ the same
Anthem: A New Year carol — Benjamin Britten
Voluntary: In dir ist die Freude BWV 615 — J.S. Bach

Tuesday 6th — Epiphany of the Lord — 7.15 pm

(Members of St George's, Edgbaston, will bejoining us)

Mass setting: White in E♭
Hymns: 52 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness
50 From the eastern mountains (T. 338 Evelyns)
40 What child is this
56 Songs of thankfulness and praise
Anthem: From the rising of the sun — Ouseley
Voluntary: Prélude sur l'Introït de l'Épiphanie — Maurice Duruflé
(Organist: Philip Ypres Smith, St George's)

Sunday 11th — The Baptism of Christ — 10.00 am

Mass setting: Mass of the Quiet Hour — Oldroyd Sung Lord's Prayer
Hymns: 12 On Jordans bank the Baptist's cry
470 To the name that brings salvation
51 Hail, thou source of every blessing
55 Hail to the Lord's anointed
Anthem: Litany to the Holy Spirit — Hurford
Voluntary: Fugue in C major BWV 545 — J.S. Bach

Sunday 18th — 3rd Sunday of Epiphany (OT 2) — 10.00 am

Mass setting: Missa XVII Adventus et Quadragesimæ
Hymns: 332 All hail the power of Jesu's name
353 Dear Lord and Father of mankind
341 Blest are the pure in heart
466 Thou whose Almighty word
Anthem: Quelle est cette odeur agréable? French trad. arr Willcocks
Voluntary: Prélude sur l'Introït de l'Épiphanie — Maurice Duruflé

Sunday 25th — The Conversion of St Paul — 10.00 am

Mass setting: White in E♭

Hymns: 486 We have a Gospel to proclaim
146 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty
294 Just as I am
377 Immortal, invisible, God only wise

Anthem: From the rising of the sun — Ouseley

Voluntary: Prelude in C major BWV 545 — J.S. Bach

Sunday 25th — Epiphanytide Carol Service 6.00 pm

Introit: Gaudete — Piae Cantiones, 1582

Hymns: 49 Brightest and best of the sons of the morning
We three kings of Orient are (arr. Fletcher)
48 Bethlehem, of nobliest cities
47 As with gladness men of old

Anthems: Here is the little door — Herbert Howells
Bethlehem Down — Peter Warlock
The Three Kings — Cornelius
A spotless Rose — Herbert Howells

Voluntary: Concerto del Signor Meck (1st movement) — J. G. Walther

Organist: *Thomas Howell*

Soloist: *Michael Guest*

Marian Anthem — Angelus until Lent

Choir rehearsals

Thursdays, 7.15 pm; Sundays, 9.00 am; Tuesday 6th, 6.15pm;
Sunday 25th, Epiphany Carols 4.30 pm.

On Sunday 25th January Solemn Choral Evensong

will be replaced by an **Epiphany Carol Service**.

Solemn Choral Evensong will resume **Sunday 22nd February**.

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Music Secretary — Bryce Somerville

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