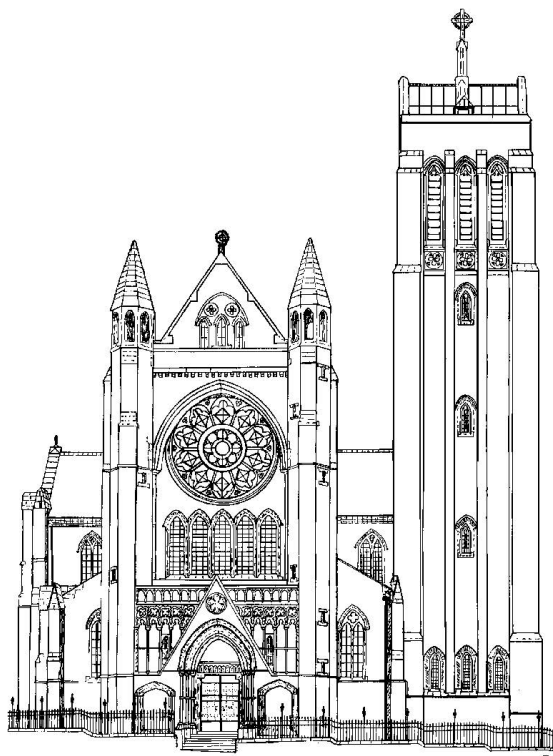




The Church of
St Alban the Martyr
Birmingham 12



St ALBAN AND St PATRICK PARISH MAGAZINE



Marysean Fellows

March
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
Birmingham B29 7SP

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Birmingham B13 0BH

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From The Vicarage...

Stop Press:

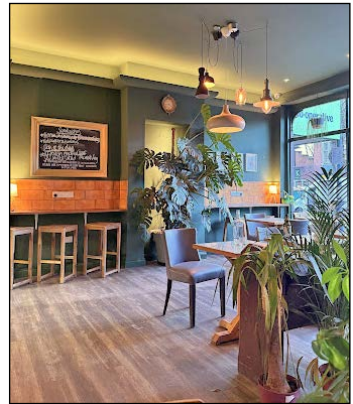
Congratulations to Christina (Negash's daughter) has had offers on all of her UCAS applications, dependant upon her exam results, including Cambridge.

Life so far 1 My Gap Year by Enfys Sykes

Hello everyone, I pray all is well in the congregation at St Alban's Highgate. I am writing this to show my journey so far as a university student and now as a 21 year old!

My journey is divided into two chapters: my gap year and my university experiences so far. I hope you enjoy part one relating to my gap year exploits.

First, I should start off with my gap year. As many of you know, I worked full time as a barista and front of house worker in a beautiful French bakery/bistro called Maison Mayci I loved working there, the scent of ground coffee, fresh bread and pastries always filled the cafe. I was there for almost a year, building up funds to help me through my university years, and for a trip to Japan in order to experience the culture before my studies started. Although I had to leave, I would highly recommend anyone who happens to be in Moseley to drop in. I promise you it won't let you down. They have just undergone a major refurbishment so now is a good time to visit. Their address is 148 Alcester Rd, Moseley.



Newly refurbished Maison Mayci

Alongside this, I found myself playing D&D and watching various old movies with my sixth form friendship group on Tuesdays after work and dancing at the weekends with my dance groups. The highlight to this 12 month period occurred at the end of my gap year.

I Went to Japan

As a solo traveller, I did not want to miss out on experiences whilst there. I wanted to try and capture all of the interesting aspects of the country which is difficult to do when organising a trip and travelling alone. Instead, I decided to join a tour with *Intro Travel*. I am thankful every day that I did not go it alone but shared it with others. The opportunities given to me were incredible.

When I landed in Haneda, I met with a friend of a friend, in Tokyo. He helped me



navigate to my hostel where we dropped off my things before having lunch together in a nearby small ramen shop. We walked around the park and found a food festival, which was lively and had dancers performing on stage. We then went to *Ueno Zoo*, walking around and chatting before I was dropped off and went for dinner with my tour group for the first time.

On our first full day we went to the *Senso-ji temple*, *Meiji shrine*, *Shibuya* and *Omoide Yokocho*, learning lots of history and eating good food! Then on the second day we traveled to a family's



Left: Senso-ji Temple and above: Meiji Jingu Shrine

apartment where we were taught how to make sushi, went shopping around Tokyo, and later in the day went to Akihabara where there was a big entertainment building full of arcade games, roller skating and other fun activities.



After a night's rest we travelled to Nagano on the Shinkansen (bullet train). We stayed for two days in a ryokan style hotel learning origami, trying an onsen (a natural hot spring bath) for the first time, making soba noodles and watching the snow monkeys up close, all whilst admiring the beauty of the mountains. We then ventured to Osaka, staying there for three days. I tried Japanese BBQ for the first time, had fun in karaoke bars and visited Osaka castle, as well as, of course, having a look around the shops.

Next we went up the mountain to the town Koyasan, where we stayed with Buddhist monks in the temple. They taught us meditation, took us through the most famous Japanese cemetery at night, gave us food they eat and allowed us to join their morning prayer ritual and fire ceremony. After the morning prayers and ceremonies we packed up and headed to Kyoto where we had a guided tour with a woman in traditional attire, she told us about the history of geishas. In Kyoto we saw the bamboo forest, golden pavilion, the tori gates of Fushimi-Inari and went to a samurais house where we were taught how to use a katana and a short history on samurais way of life.



Finally we all headed back to Tokyo, staying the night in a hostel before having to leave. It was an amazing experience to say the least, and I am thankful I was able to have such an adventure. After this vacation, I felt ready to tackle anything and that included university life and studying in Oxford!!

Enfys

Photos on pages 2 & 3 are taken from Commons Wikimedia.org, a source of copyright free images.

On the following page is a montage of Enfys' photographs.



St Alban's Events Calendar for 2026 *

Lent

- Sundays in Lent: 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.
March 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th
- Saturday March 28th 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 Saturdays 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 year's 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 — March 2026

The very first day of March is a Sunday and is also the Feast Day of St David, the great bishop of Wales and of course the patron saint of that country. Because his day falls on a Sunday, it is likely to be displaced by that Sunday being celebrated as the Second Sunday of Lent but let us not forget him!



His feast can be transferred to the next day. St David was a great missionary bishop who died about 601.

The whole of March falls, as often is the case, in the holy season of Lent and on Monday March 2nd we celebrate St Chad, who was both a bishop and a missionary in Anglo-Saxon England in the 7th century. The Roman Catholic Cathedral is named after him and we can remember our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters in the faith especially on this day and pray for Bernard Longley, the R.C. Archbishop of Birmingham, and



give thanks for the excellent relations which exist between the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church in this city.



Sunday March 15th, just two days after the half-way mark in Lent, is Mothering Sunday (please note — not Mother's Day!) when we remember the holy Church specifically as the mother of us all, in accordance with St Paul's great description of the difference between the earthly and heavenly Jerusalem in Galatians, chapter 4, verse 21 to the end (*one of my favourite passages which, needless to say, is omitted from the present lectionaries, as being regarded presumably as too difficult for our poor, little minds, but I am sure that readers of this article won't allow that to put them*

off!). We remember also of course our earthly mums and all that we owe to them — and remember also those who haven't known the stability and security of an early childhood.

Tuesday March 17th is the Feast Day of St Alban's second Patron Saint, St Patrick — we shall be celebrating him on the following Saturday March 21st, so I shall write about that when we come to that date. Because first of all, on Thursday March 19th, we celebrate — again, a Red-Letter Day, that is, of the highest importance — St Joseph of Nazareth, the husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We read very little about him in the New Testament and it is assumed that he had probably



died before Jesus began his ministry,

but what an important rôle he played in the drama of our redemption, being responsible, together with the Virgin Mary, for the upbringing of God himself! It was he who was, as we read in St Matthew's Gospel, assailed by doubt when he realised that the Virgin Mary had already conceived Jesus in her womb, until he was reassured by the angel that her conception was of the Holy Spirit — this is, I think, sensitively depicted in the very fine film, *The Gospel of St Matthew*, a black and white film, made on a shoe-string budget way back in the 1960s by Pier Paolo Pasolini and which I saw for the first time in my student days on October 31st 1970 — it had a

great impact upon me and I hope we can show it again sometime.

Two days later, on Saturday, 21 March, as mentioned above, we shall be celebrating St Patrick, the second Patron Saint of St Alban's, with a Sung Mass at 11 am which will be followed by lunch and then by a lecture by Dr Andrew Harvey, a member of our congregation, on the Pollock brothers, who were in effect the founders of our parish of St Alban's — they were wonderful examples of the inner-city parish priest of the nineteenth century, like the famous Charles Lowder of the London Docks, who slogged away often in circumstances of great deprivation and difficulty to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to their parishes. And how fitting that we should also be celebrating St Patrick on this day as well — since he was an outstanding example of a missionary priest, preaching in Ireland, whose patron saint of course he is, and whose *Confessions*, written in simple Latin (with many translations!), is a most moving and readable account of his spiritual life. Do come and join us at St Alban's in our celebrations on this day!

The next day, Sunday March 22nd, is two weeks before Easter Day, therefore Passion Sunday, when we think increasingly on the Passion (the suffering) which Jesus was prepared





to undergo for our salvation. Traditionally it is on this day that Jesus began his momentous journey from Galilee to Jerusalem, as we read in Luke, chapter 9 verse 51 — *“When the time came that he should be received up, he steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem”; in fulfilment of the words from Isaiah, “Therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be afraid”* — how often we can be encouraged by those words surely in our own spiritual pilgrimage, amidst the mockery or indifference of this world!

Wednesday March 25th, is Lady Day, or the Feast of Annunciation of the Angel Gabriel to the Blessed Virgin Mary, as we read in St Luke’s Gospel, when Gabriel appeared to the Virgin Mary to announce that she would give birth to the Son of God himself. It is easy to overlook the fact that this would, in the first instance, have been a cause of trepidation for Mary — *“How can this be? seeing I know not a man”* — until she was assured by Gabriel that she would conceive by the Holy Spirit, to which she replied, *“Behold, the handmaid of the Lord. Be it unto me according to your word”* — what a wonderful example of an acceptance of God’s will! It was thanks to her instant obedience and acceptance of the angel’s message that God’s great purpose for our salvation began to be accomplished.



The following Sunday March 29th, is Palm Sunday, when we celebrate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem at the start of what for Christians is the most important and holiest week of



the year, Holy Week. Let us strive to accompany Jesus as much as we can throughout this week, through our own spiritual lives and devotions and through attendance, especially during the Triduum (the last three days of Lent), at the services in our churches at this holy time. But more of that in detail in the April article!

Fr Andrew

Calendar for March 2026

1st	Sunday	2nd Sunday of Lent
2nd	Monday	St David, B, Patron of Wales
3rd	Tuesday	Weekday of Lent
4th	Wednesday	Weekday of Lent (<i>St Casimir</i>)
5th	Thursday	Weekday of Lent
6th	Friday	Weekday of Lent
7th	Saturday	Ss Perpetua and Felicity, Mrr
8th	Sunday	3rd Sunday of Lent
9th	Monday	Weekday of Lent (<i>St Frances of Rome, R</i>)
10th	Tuesday	Weekday of Lent
11th	Wednesday	Weekday of Lent
12th	Thursday	Weekday of Lent
13th	Friday	Weekday of Lent
14th	Saturday	Ss Cyril; Monk, and Methodius; B
15th	Sunday	4th Sunday of Lent
16th	Monday	Weekday of Lent
17th	Tuesday	Weekday of Lent (<i>St Patrick, B</i>)
18th	Wednesday	Weekday of Lent (<i>St Cyril of Jerusalem, Dr</i>)
19th	Thursday	St Joseph Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
20th	Friday	Weekday of Lent
21st	Saturday	St Patrick, B (Patronal Festival)
22nd	Sunday	5th Sunday of Lent
23rd	Monday	Weekday of Lent (<i>St Turibius of Mogrovejo, B</i>)
24th	Tuesday	Weekday of Lent
25th	Wednesday	The Annunciation of the Lord
26th	Thursday	Weekday of Lent
27th	Friday	Weekday of Lent
28th	Saturday	Weekday of Lent
29th	Sunday	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
30th	Monday	Monday in Holy Week
31st	Tuesday	Tuesday in Holy Week

Music in St Alban's for March 2026

Sunday 1st — 2nd Sunday of Lent — 10.00 am

Mass setting: Missa Orbis Factor

Hymns: 338 At the name of Jesus
375 I danced in the morning
238 New every morning is the love
420 O Jesus, I have promised (T. 285 Thornbury)

Anthem: If ye love me — Thomas Tallis

Postlude: Christe, du Lamm Gottes BWV619 — J.S.Bach

Sunday 8th — 3rd Sunday of Lent — 10.00 am

Mass setting: Missa Adventus et Quadragesimæ

Hymns: 333 All my hope on God is founded
137 Come down, O Love divine
471 We love the place, O God
437 Praise the Lord! Ye heavens, adore him

Anthem: Like as the hart — Herbert Howells

Postlude: Prelude on 'Rhosymedre — R. Vaughan Williams

Sunday 15th — Mothering / Laetare Sunday (Lent 4) — 10.00 am

Mass setting: Mass of the Quiet Hour — Oldroyd Sung Lord's Prayer

Hymns 186 Tell out, my soul
184 Shall we not love thee, Mother dear (T. St Agnes — sheet)
63 All ye who seek a comfort sure
285 For the beauty of the earth (T.ii Lucerna Laudoniæ)

Anthem: Mary's Song — Richard Shephard

Voluntary: Sortie in E♭ — Alfred Lefébvre-Wély

Saturday 21st — St Patrick's, Patronal — 11.00 a.m.

Mass setting: Darke in E Sung Lord's Prayer

Hymns: 159 I bind unto myself today (NEH 278 between vv 5, 6)
477 Ye that know the Lord is gracious (T. 408 Blaenwern)
305 Soul of my Saviour, sanctify my breast
204 Blessed city, heavenly Salem (T. 205 Westminster Abbey)

Anthem: Te Deum in B♭ — Stanford
Angelus

Voluntary: Intrada — Grayston Ives
Pearson Church Organist — Andrew Scott

Sunday 22nd — The 5th Sunday of Lent (*Passion Sunday*) — 10.00 a.m.

Mass setting: Short Communion Service — Adrian Batten

Hymns: 83 Glory be to Jesus
86 My song is love unknown
84 It is a thing most wonderful
95 When I survey the wondrous cross

Anthem: Praise to Thee, Lord Jesus — Heinrich Schütz

Voluntary: Postlude in D minor — C.V. Stanford

Pearson Church Organist: Andrew Scott

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

Responses: Plainsong

Canticles: Fourth Evening Service — Adrian Batten

Hymns: 70 Lord Jesus, think on me (T. Southwell)
331 Abide with me; fast falls the eventide

Anthem: Lord, let me know mine end — Maurice Greene

Voluntary: Prelude on ‘Down Ampney’ — Henry Ley

Pearson Church Organist: Andrew Scott

Sunday 29th — Palm Sunday — 10.00 a.m.

Mass setting: Missa Adventus et Quadragesimae Sung Lord’s Prayer

Hymns: 509 All Glory, Laud and Honour (Procession with 511)
511 Ride on, ride on in majesty
297 Lord Jesus Christ
307 Sweet sacrament divine
Lift high the Cross (Words and Tune ‘Crucifer’ — sheet)

Anthem: A Palm Sunday Antiphon — David Morgan

Marian Anthem — Salve Regina through Lent
(except 21st — St Patrick — Angelus))

Choir rehearsals

Thursdays, 7.15 p.m.; Sundays, 9.00 a.m.; Saturday 21st, 10.00 a.m.;
Sunday 22nd, Solemn Choral Evensong & Benediction 4.30 p.m.

*Director of Music — Angela Sones,
Music Secretary — Bryce Somerville*

A Message from Mick Perrier: Birmingham Diocesan Music Advisor

If you or your Singers would like to share choral events elsewhere there are two Come & Sing events leading to Easter:

One on **PALM SUNDAY** afternoon at St. Mary's Moseley, where Passion Music including by Bach and Handel will be prepared from 3.00 pm – 5.00 pm and presented at a Service of Music and Readings at 6.30 pm.

All visiting Singers will be warmly welcomed.

Express your interest to music@moseleychurch.org.uk to receive copies of the music and all details.

The other is on **GOOD FRIDAY** at St. Peter's Church, Harborne, where we are invited to sing or to listen to the Fauré Requiem at 7.00pm. Singers will rehearse at 5.30pm with refreshments at 6.30pm. The dress code is Black and White (in any form) and Singers should bring their own music copy.

For further details contact:

Simon Palmer sfp1549@gmail.com / 07932 791717

I do hope that this gives confidence that there is support for all of us working week by week in our parishes. There is much to celebrate — do come and be part of it in the company of others who share your commitment to the cause.

We are very happy to receive communications with suggestions for other activities we can promote or initiate. Do get in touch at any time.

All very best wishes,

**Mick Perrier (music@moseleychurch.org.uk)
and Simon Palmer (sfp1549@gmail.com)**

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