

The Barnsbury Team All Saints Caledonian Road

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“We live and proclaim Jesus as Lord”

Introduction

All Saints is a diverse inner city church on the Caledonian Road in Islington. It is a genuinely welcoming church, with a strong sense of community and a particular focus on ministry to those at the margins of society.

The life of All Saints

All Saints is evangelical by tradition, in worship it is informal, accessible and spontaneous, leaning towards the experimental. In recent years the church has become more open to charismatic gifts. The church is busy throughout the week, not just on a Sunday, and has a committed and diverse community who inhabit the building.

All Saints is committed to serving people whoever they are and social outreach is a large part of our ministry. This includes projects like the Cross Cafe and Breakfast Stop which care for the street community and people in insecure housing. Rainbows toddler group, the South Islington advice project, the cold weather nightshelter, and our monthly service at the local Care home. Some of our best mission opportunities come through our annual events like the Pancake party which see the church packed with children and their parents.

We are grateful for what has been achieved in partnership with the other churches in the team, particularly projects like Bemerton Soul holiday club and Bemerton Carols on the local estate. Our well established and growing parish youth and children’s ministry is another example of excellent collaboration.

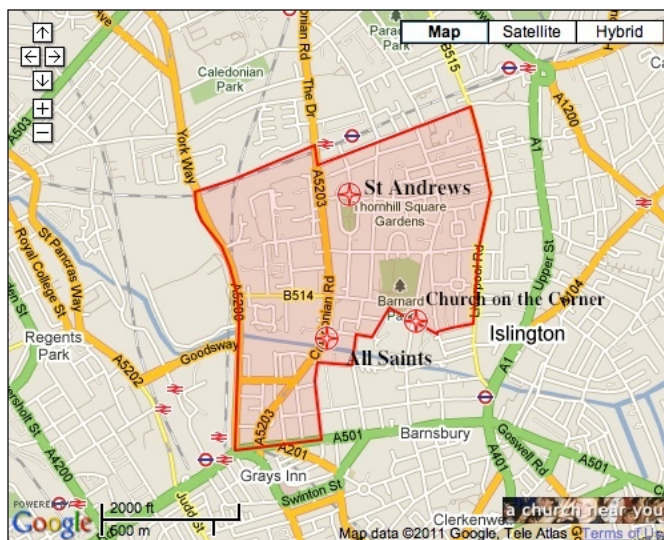


The Parish

All Saints is one of three Churches that makes up the Barnsbury Team Ministry. The members of the team work with a high degree of autonomy, and each has a distinct mission, yet retain a commitment to supporting and resourcing the ministry of the others.

All Saints is located at the southern end of the parish, nearest to Kings Cross on the busy Caledonian Road. The parish is one of stark contrasts with social housing, sprawling council estates, expensive townhouses and gated communities lying side by side. St Andrews primary school lies at the heart of the parish and is an important part of our ministry.

Big changes are taking place around the parish, with the redevelopment of the railway lands behind Kings Cross, and the Regent Quarter within the Parish. This will mean 5000 new homes, retail and commercial developments and already includes the relocation of the Guardian newspaper and the Central St Martins School of Art nearby.



History

The original church building on All Saints Street was consecrated in 1838. This neo-gothic building remained until being destroyed by fire in 1965. The congregation then moved onto the current site, which had been the church hall. This move transformed the ministry of the church, instead of a grand but austere building, the church now inhabited a simple meeting hall and began a pattern of mission we remain committed to. All Saints was united with St Andrews in 1975 to form a Team Ministry, and in 1994 were instrumental in the planting of a new congregation which is now Church on the Corner.



The Building

We have mixed feelings about our building. On one hand its informality is a real strength, and it provides a welcome to many who would not feel comfortable in a more traditional church setting. On the other, its lack of obvious identification as a church, and the state of the building are drawbacks. The DCC has carefully considered redeveloping the site, and though this may happen in the next few years, in the meantime we need to make the most of the building we have.



Finance

Though given the nature of our congregation money is tight, through the dedication of our regular givers, and creativity in letting the building and the car parking space outside church we have consistently paid our share of the parish common fund contribution.

Our Strengths

We are welcoming, accepting, open and able to share.
We feel that what we do is important and impacts people's lives.
We have a strong sense of togetherness.
We recognise the importance of social action.
We are willing to explore new areas of mission and ministry.
We are good at communicating with and helping those in need.
We are willing to accept leadership.



The Future

This is a time of change for All Saints, and for the local area. We are looking forward to prayerfully exploring what God has in store, and being part of the ongoing vision seeking process of the parish.

What kind of leader are we looking for?

We are praying for a leader who is passionate about Christ, who will celebrate the unique strengths and diversity of All Saints, who is prayerful, and teaches the Bible in a way which brings it alive, who communicates the gospel clearly. A shepherd who is loving and leads by example, who will encourage church members to identify and develop their gifts and who can manage our sometimes difficult relationships, and who can bring a greater degree of organisation to our life and worship. And a team player who is committed to developing the close working relationships within the parish.

For an informal conversation and to arrange a visit to the parish then please contact the Team Rector Rev'd Michael Learmouth on 020 7607 9039