

VICARS OF HOLY TRINITY



Revd Joseph W Marshall (1864-1875),
the first Vicar of Holy Trinity



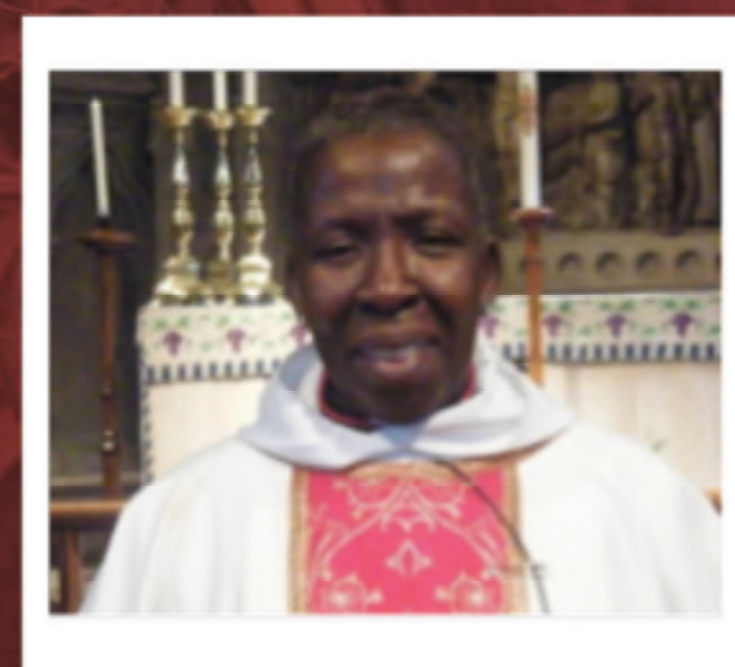
Revd Barry Thorley and family
(1978 -1983)



Father Richard Hunt
(1984 - 2001)



Father Daniel Bowen
(2002 - 2008)



Revd Canon Eve Pitts
(current Vicar, 2009 - present)

Since 1864 there have been 17 vicars appointed to serve Holy Trinity and its parishioners. The vicars who saw Holy Trinity through its first 100 years were responsible for the establishment of the Parochial Church Council, and the election of women to that body. Holy Trinity during this period made key architectural additions, including having a door between the altar and the vestry; and committed to raising funds for the building of All Souls Church, in Witton.

The tenure of Rev. Cyril Arthur Brooke (1943-1953) coincided with post-war settlement of Caribbean families into Birmingham. From the late 1940s the demography of the parish and the church began to slowly reflect significant social and cultural change. It's possible that Holy Trinity had African worshippers in the 19th century, perhaps as far back as when it was originally consecrated. The history of the Black presence in the West Midlands dates as far back as the Roman period, and evidence of a Black presence since the 17th century reflects Britain's growing international dominance through trade and commerce, including the global reach of transatlantic enslavement. The movement of Africans to the Americas and beyond resulted in Black settlers integrating into rural and metropolitan areas in Britain. These men and women were often brought here by slaveowners returning to Britain having made their fortunes in the Caribbean.

The service of the last five vicars covers the past 56 years, reflecting the most recent period of African and Caribbean migration into the West Midlands. This transition was a challenging period for Holy Trinity –some vicars of that period struggled to accept the congregational changes – consequently, African Caribbean worshippers were initially faced with an unwelcoming clergy and established congregation. The vicars who served the church over these years have in turn hindered and then encouraged the congregation to take ownership of the church, to lead it and shape it into a space that is welcoming to all.