

Dear Friends,

We can allow ourselves a brief moment of rejoicing at the beginning of September as Fr Charles starts his ministry and a whole new chapter in the life of All Saints commences. Let us enjoy it and celebrate our good fortune.

Martin and I would like to give thanks to everyone who has supported us through the interregnum and the selection process and helped us, not only, with the day to day running of All Saints but also sharing in the very heavy responsibility of discerning the future of All Saints and appointing the right person to lead us at this time. We would also like to express our huge gratitude to the Ministry Team who have led us during this period. Under their guidance and your support we have moved a long way.

We must all bear in mind, however, that we are indeed in a very privileged position with a full time priest and all this continued ministerial support but that carries with it huge expectations and responsibilities. We must, therefore, support Fr Charles and Helen in every way as they develop their own style of ministry, preserving the best that All Saints can offer but looking outward to the diocese and the wider world. We have no doubt that the congregation is ready and able for this - you have only to look to the marvellous response to the Nepal earthquake Appeal and the generous support of this year's Soup Run to see how people take their responsibilities. There are many other examples and it is very humbling to learn of how much so many people do in a quiet way.

Let us enjoy our privileges and continue to make All Saints a place of which to be truly proud, a place of excellent worship, music and education, a place of practical help and a voice for the underprivileged but, above all, a spiritual place of peace with a welcoming family.

The responsibility lies with us all to achieve this and we can start with a memorable welcome to Fr Charles, Helen, Isobel and the rest of the family.

Andrew and Martin

**Parish of All Saints
with St John, Clifton**



**COLLATION,
INDUCTION &
INSTALLATION**

**of
Fr Charles Sutton
as Vicar
and 12th parish priest
of All Saints**

Monday 7th September at 7.30pm

Reception in the atrium afterwards

***ALL VERY WELCOME
to this very special occasion***

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE
PARISH CHURCH CRAWL**

There will be another Parish Church Crawl on **10 October** to the following churches:
St Mary's, Deerhurst and Odda's Chapel
Tewkesbury Abbey
Ripple
Malvern Priory

We will leave All Saints at around 9.15am and the Crawl will finish with Tea with Fr Kim and Chryssa Taplin in Malvern

Please bring a picnic lunch
The cost will depend on how many people sign up, we will be travelling by minibus.

Please sign notice in porch.
Further details from Liz Badman

IN THIS MONTH.....SEPTEMBER 1968

CHARLES CYRIL CLARKE

28th July 1968

Forster Alleyne's History of All Saints, Clifton gives a "list of Servers, Acolytes, etc., 1892." Under the heading of "Boys" is the entry Cyril Clarke. He must have been nine at the time; from then until his death 76 years later he followed the undeviating course of the faithful Churchman and staunch Catholic. It was fitting that towards the end he could be present at the consecration of the rebuilt All Saints; his name is inscribed on the foundation stone which he laid and which stands in the aisle looking towards the high altar.

He took a leading part in many church works, being a member of the P.C.C. from 1920 until the 1950's, and, in a wider sphere, a member of the Church Assembly during the same period. He was treasurer of the first Anglo-Catholic Congress in 1923 and again in 1948. Members of the old Guild of the Holy Cross will remember with pleasure their visits to Gatcombe Court and their admiration of his fine display of daffodils in which he specialised.

But not for him Christianity confined to the sanctuary or the devotional guild. He carried it into the whole of his life, and it gave meaning to everything he did - his chairmanship of the Bristol Hospitals, of the governors of local schools, his work as Master of the Merchant Venturers, or as secretary of the Commercial Rooms.

We give thanks for his example, and most of all for his belief in God at the centre of his life, and the whole of life for God. May he rest in the peace of his Lord.

Canon Luetchford conducted the funeral at Arno's Vale and was present at the Memorial Service at St Mary, Redcliffe.

HARVEST PROJECT 2015

Our Harvest Project this year will support **WATERAID** and their campaign to provide sanitation to many parts of the world.

We all take for granted having a safe, clean toilet at home, work and many public places.

WATERAID have identified one of the world's most neglected issues.

Did you know –

2.5 billion people – around 1 in 3 of the world's population do not have a safe, clean and private toilet.

Last year **WATERAID** helped 2.9million people gain access to toilets - that's 8000 people a day.

Every year around 60 million children are born into homes without access to sanitation.

More people in the world have a mobile phone than a toilet.

In many countries young girls and women are only permitted access to 'public' toilets after dark. This puts them at great risk of rape and other horrendous forms of attack.

So this Harvest let us help ease this crisis by supporting **WATERAID** to provide the millions without basic sanitation, access to the most simple but essential of necessities which we take for granted.

Address given at the funeral requiem of Marlena Fitzner on the Feast of the Transfiguration, 6th August 2015

Jesus said "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, that where I am, there you may be also." (John14:3)

'Home is where the heart is.' I wonder what those words evoke in your mind? You may have ideas of what they meant to Marlena.

Let's first settle the matter of how her name should be pronounced. She told me her father was a big fan of Marlene Dietrich, the beautiful and stylish German actress, singer and film star of the last century. He chose the name and called her by it for the first 10 years of her life - more of that anon. Because of the German spelling, her name came subsequently to be pronounced the English way, but she loved her original name and latterly changed the **e** on the end to an **a** to encourage correct pronunciation. Dietrich's full forenames were *Marie Magdalene*, after the woman in the gospels we call Mary Magdalen; 'Marlene' was a contraction of the two. More of that later also.

There were many reasons why the concept of Home was important to Marlena. Looking back over a life that was at times overwhelmingly sad, fearful and turbulent, we can understand why. She was born the second of twins in the post war years to Gwendoline and Dennis Parsons, 5 minutes after her brother Michael. There were six children in the family home at Southmead, and Marlena remembered poverty because of her parents' ill health. She recalled looking after them both and doing the housework. Her mother contracted emphysema and died in 1959 at the age of 34. Her father, already unwell with TB, didn't survive long after her, passing away the following year. The tragedy split up the children, some being adopted, and they didn't meet up again during childhood. Marlena went to a children's home in Downend, remaining there till she was 14. We can begin to sense why Home was so important to her. The break-up of the family home, the loss, the longing, must have been unbearable. Her first job was as a care worker in a home in Belvedere Road. She

had an instinct for caring and loved the job she had there for two years. It was one of the residents there who introduced her to the Christian Faith, reading Bible stories with her in the evenings, which she found comforting. She could probably have gone on the stage, though - she was a fantastic mimic! If she reported what someone had said, you could be sure it was true because she not only spoke the exact words, but imitated the voice with deadly accuracy!

She left Belvedere when she met her husband-to-be, Henry Fitzner, moving with him to Belfast, where Simon was born soon after. Marlena was then just 17. She and Henry returned to Bristol with their small son, but times were difficult and they divorced soon after. Life was a terrible struggle for Marlena and Simon, but the longing to look after others remained. Simon describes his mum as warm, loving, caring and encouraging. No doubt she wanted to provide the tender loving care she'd herself been deprived of for much of her young life. So it was that she qualified as a nurse, finding great satisfaction caring for the sick. Her home from that time was the one she had for the rest of her life - Chaplin Road in Easton. Anyone who's visited knows what her home meant to her. She kept it immaculate, arranging and rearranging her precious possessions, each of which had special meaning. She had a keen sense of design and relished the admiration her home-making skills attracted. Latterly home was shared by cats Bunjy and Barny - "my boys", as she called them. Happily they're being homed by the Cinnamon Trust charity, having been looked after since Marlena went into hospital by friends and neighbours.

Animals generally were a passion. She was sensitive to them and deeply empathetic to any kind of cruelty. Out in nature she also felt at home, taking delight in God's creation, often during times others eschewed, such as rainy autumn days among trees. Home included her garden, where she was as happy beavering away and watching things grow as she was indoors making all things bright and beautiful.

If you're a Facebook friend of Marlena you'll know she enjoyed posting family photos. After the cruel separation of her childhood, it meant so much to be reunited with them and their offspring later on. She lavished care on great grandson Amiel, sharing the warmth of her home with him as well as childhood pleasures she probably missed out on; the two of them were a true blessing to one another. He went to live in America but kept in touch via phone calls, and returned recently to visit 'Granma' in hospital. Her Facebook page has now been memorialised, incidentally, so friends can post on her timeline and remember her at significant times. You may also find helpful the words of wisdom she shared there.

Marlena planned today with as much attention to detail as everything in her life, making the task of preparing for it fun as well as poignant. She faced death with enormous courage and extraordinary openness of faith. "*I'm going home*," she said, and she meant it from the bottom of her heart. The ending of her journey here had to be just right - she was planning for a wonderful future! The healing of hurt was in progress - reconciliation; knowing how much she is loved by those she described as her 'wonderful friends'; acceptance of what couldn't change. She was devoted to her friends, especially those who helped her through the worst times - you know who you are - also her brothers and sisters in Christ in her spiritual homes here at All Saints and over decades at All Hallows Easton. It's splendid that both parishes are represented today, priests and servers included. A special joy is welcoming Father Kim and Chryssa back with us.

Earlier I mentioned the name Marlena as the contraction of *Marie Magdalene*, the woman who was so special to Jesus. "*Her sins are forgiven*", he declared, "*for she*

loved much." (Luke 7:47) We can never be thankful enough for having known this woman who loved much, despite all the struggles, heartbreaks and sorrows - maybe because of them. She had a rich prayer life and loved the silence on retreat. Yes, life was tough, very tough indeed at times. She would sometimes rage against God, but never did she lose faith. She's a shining example of God's healing love and perhaps the greatest tribute we could offer is to pray in the time left to us for faith as deep as hers.

Thank you, Marlena, for all you taught us, for your open and generous friendship. You are indeed going home to the place Our Lord has prepared for you. You know how much he loves you, and your response has been wholehearted. That counts above all else. You spoke often of the power of prayer, Marlena; pray for us, dear friend, as we shall pray for you.

I'm going to finish with a poem by Christina Rossetti, entitled *Up-Hill*. It's a question and answer piece, so you need to imagine two voices, (though either of them could actually be Marlena's!)

Does the road wind up-hill all the way?

Yes, to the very end.

Will the day's journey take the whole long day?

From morn to night, my friend.

But is there for the night a resting-place?

A roof for when the slow dark hours begin.

May not the darkness hide it from my face?

You cannot miss that inn.

Shall I meet other wayfarers at night?

Those who have gone before.

Then must I knock, or call when just in sight?

They will not keep you standing at that door.

Shall I find comfort, travel-sore and weak?

Of labour you shall find the sum.

Will there be beds for me and all who seek?

Yea, beds for all who come.

Jessica Smith

Exploring Christianity

Would you like to explore your faith, grow in discipleship, deepen your commitment and learn with others? The 'Exploring Christianity' could be for you.

Exploring Christianity is a course run by the Diocese of Bristol for those interested in finding out more about the Christian faith. There are no age limitations and no previous experience is necessary. Come with an open mind, your experience and your background.

Groups begin in mid September in Bristol, Chippenham and Swindon on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday evenings, depending on venue. For details of a course near you, please contact Brenda Greet – details below.

How does it work?

People meet week by week in a home or other venue. Each student receives a Study Guide with preparation to complete each week – reading, thinking and reflecting – which is discussed at the tutorial. The tutor will also provide additional activities for the group. Some students will complete assignments, although this is not compulsory. The course also fulfils the first two years of training for those exploring Licensed Lay Ministry.

There are six modules exploring a breadth of areas, including Spirituality and Prayer, the Bible, Christian Ethics and more. Each module costs £50 (£25 if you are not doing assignments) and all six modules are usually completed over a two-year period.

A limited bursary scheme for those students who experience financial hardship is available. Please write to Becky Waring, Adviser for Lay Ministry Development, in confidence.

What people say

"It's opened my horizons and changed my perspectives, with fantastic fellowship."

"It's been a transformative experience. I started because I wanted to know more, and I'm now exploring being a licensed lay minister!"

"It's good coverage - you can go into it as much as you like... and then it's addictive and you want to find out more!"

Find out more

Visit www.bristol.anglican.org/exploring-christianity

For further information about the course, contact Becky Waring: becky.waring@bristoldiocese.org

To enrol, contact Brenda Greet: brenda.greet@bristoldiocese.org

Or phone 0117 906 0100.

DOORS OPEN DAY – SATURDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2015

This year we are again taking part in the Bristol Doors Open Day. On this day, lots of buildings of interest throughout the city are open for visitors. We, of course, are open every day, but this is a particular opportunity to be part of an initiative that welcomes thousands of people to places they might otherwise not think of visiting.

We need lots of help on the day, in one-hour periods – people to provide and serve refreshments and people to act as stewards/welcomers.

This is always great fun for us as well as being a great privilege for us to welcome people to All Saints. If you can help for an hour (or even more) on the day or provide cakes, please sign the list in the porch.

Janice Hopkins

Sermon preached by Bishop Martin Jarrett at the Bristol Catholic Societies' Assumptiontide Mass in Bristol Cathedral on Saturday 15th August

Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me. Luke 1 v 48.

It is strange how life turns out. Just over forty-seven years ago I was ordained deacon in this cathedral church. If anyone had been so rash in those far off days to suggest that I might one day preach from this pulpit as a bishop on the Church of God then I would have enjoyed the joke. If anyone, though, had suggested all those years ago that one day I would be encouraged to preach in Bristol Cathedral on the festival of Our Lady's assumption then I would have feared that he or she was verging on fantasy. How things change. Today, thank God, you and I live in an age of what is called receptive ecumenism. Do not be put off by the complicated words. It is the technical name for what Christians of most traditions are now doing as part of their journey towards an ever greater Christian unity. We listen to each other in order to discover what there is within the treasury of those standing within a different tradition from our own. You and I, together with our fellow Christians, can then see our own faith enriched and our prayer life deepened as we reflect on those insights gained from one another. Today, then, as we mark this wonderful festival of Our Lady's Assumption, you and I can spend a while teasing out just some of the precious nuggets that this feast day might provide for our growth in discipleship of the Lord Jesus.

Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me.

It may be a great surprise to some but, first and foremost, today is about God. A fear, often expressed by some Christians, is that of thinking that any devotion to Our Blessed Lady must be at the expense of the devotion due to the God we worship. Nothing could be further from the truth. Blessed Mary, herself, sings in her Magnificat that she is to be honoured by all generations. That honour, however, is to be given simply because both what Blessed Mary is and what she undertakes, are only possible because of what God, in the first place, has caused to brought

about through her. Jesus ascends into heaven by right. He is Lord of all. That is not the case for Our Lady Mary. Blessed Mary does not ascend. Rather, she is assumed. Assumption is being taken up by someone else and not anything a human being, however special, can bring about for him or herself. You and I know, sometimes all too well, what it is like to be able to do something because it is our absolute right. Yet, even as we do so, we often realise how limited we are. We may, for instance, insist on the freedom to spend our own hard earned money. We soon learn that, however much we might have that right, our capacity to spend is soon limited by the prices of the many things we would wish to purchase. It is very different, though, when someone gives us some gift that we would never dream of either being able to afford or to own. Were that kind of thing to happen to us, then very first thing we should probably recognise is the immense generosity of the giver. In just the same way, then, whenever you and I rejoice in the special gifts with which God has endowed the Blessed Virgin Mary, then it is that we are delighting in God's generosity. It is God's generosity that, first and foremost, you and I celebrate on this festival of the Assumption.

We are delighting, too, because in God's generous honouring of Blessed Mary, we are able to see something more of the gifts that God has in store for each one of us. Our Lady is, indeed, the most favoured one and full of grace, as the Angel Gabriel announces in S. Luke's Gospel. Our Lady Mary is still a human being like you and me. Here, in the Assumption, we have a sign of what God, in his generosity, is prepared to offer every human being. Our Lord Jesus ascends to heaven by right. There is that promise in S. John's Gospel that He goes to prepare a place for us. Most of us have been on the receiving end of promises all too many times. Sometimes we have been badly let down. We do not think, of course, that Jesus is in the business of making false promises. How exciting it is, though, when the long promised gift from someone we absolutely trust, begins to arrive; the promise of a bicycle by a parent to a child is fulfilled, or the seemingly long promised medical treatment is delivered. At last, we begin to feel better. In Blessed Mary's Assumption the Church comes to experience encouragement that Christ's promise for everyone is being kept. Blessed Mary, mother of the Saviour, given by Jesus, as she stands at the foot of the cross, to be Mother of the Church, is taken to her Lord. You and I, too, are members of that Church which is Christ's Body. You and I may not have been called to Blessed Mary's specific ministry or have been so obedient in fulfilling it. Christ promises, though, that we are precious to Him for all eternity. The fulfillment of Our Lady in the Assumption is a sign to us of the day when each of us will be perfected before the throne of God.

Yes from this day forward all generations will call me blessed for the Almighty has done great things for me.

There is yet one more reason to be excited on this great feast day for the great things God has done for His mother. Today speaks of Blessed Mary being assumed both in body and in soul. So often we Christians forget the generosity of God in creation. We sometimes slip into seeing ourselves as essentially some sort of etherial beings who will never be entirely perfect until we escape from our bodies. And, yet, it is human beings that God has chosen to make us. There have always been those who have worried about all the things that human beings enjoy. Such people have a point, of course, but only in so far as every good thing is capable of being misused and wrecking untold harm. There is something especially endearing in the story of the miracle at the wedding of Galilee, even in the basic telling of the story. The mother of Jesus sees that the party is about to fall flat for lack of sufficient wine. What a mother to have! Jesus then rectifies the situation. Whatever other lessons you and I might learn from that famous story, and there are many, we must

never lose sight of that basic fact. It is God who has given us our bodies with all their capacity for enjoyment or for sorrow. They are an essential part of our being human. Jesus, in order to save us, is incarnate. Jesus takes human flesh. Any promise of an eternal future which does not allow for the transformation of our whole selves, indeed, the transformation of everything God has made, only serves to diminish a great part of what you and I are. The Scriptures are united in telling us of Jesus ascending to His Father in bodily form and not as some kind of whisp of smoke. So it is that Blessed Mary's body is taken to God. It is part of who she truly is. Your body and mine, disfigured by a sinful world, are subject to death. We glimpse, in the sign of Blessed Mary's Assumption, that, at the fulfilment of time, you and I will be whole people. We can only begin to grasp, within the limitations of our human minds, how what God has created will be transformed at the end of time. We can only paint pictures or, rather, reflect on the pictures God has given to us. Our Lady Mary, assumed in glory, embodies the promise for us.

Blessed Mary's Assumption speaks to us today, then of God's generosity. We perceive God's gift to Mary in taking her to Him, not by right but by gift. We see once again something of God's promise that you and I, like Blessed Mary, are made to be with Him forever. We renew, too, on this day an appreciation of God's creation. This material world is not to be avoided but rather treasured as God's gift to us that will come to perfect fulfillment at the end of time. What a feast! And the God who is so generous, is with us in this Mass. You and I are, once again, caught up in the worship of heaven, joining Blessed Mary and all the angels and saints in proclaiming God's glory.