

ALL SAINTS NEWS

25th December 2022
Christmas Day



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The celebration of Christ's incarnation at Christmas is one of the two poles of the Christian year. The wonderful mystery of God's dwelling among us in the fullness of humanity, as Emmanuel, foretold by the prophets and born of Mary, provides the material of the feast:

Hark, hark, the wise eternal word,
like a weak infant cries!
In form of servant is the Lord,
and God in cradle lies.

(Thomas Pestel)

Christmas is much more than simply the celebration of Jesus' birth, and neither of the great Christmas morning readings (Hebrews 1 and John 1) is taken from the infancy narratives. The task of the Christmas liturgy is to recall us, amid all the joyful customs and celebrations of Christmas, to this central truth of the Word made flesh for our salvation.

It is, of course, Christ's nativity that has provided the occasion for this festival of the incarnation, since the end of the third century. The Christmas crib and the nativity play can both be said to descend from the tableau of Christ's birth that Francis of Assisi arranged when he celebrated Christmas at Greccio in 1223. Christmas carols are a medieval tradition, which has been notably developed from the end of the nineteenth century. The Festival of Lessons and Carols is itself an influential English creation of the late nineteenth century, made widespread by the choir of King's College, Cambridge, in the first half of the twentieth.

The Christmas season is often celebrated for twelve days, ending with the Epiphany. Contemporary use has sought to express an alternative tradition, in which Christmas lasts for a full forty days, ending with the Feast of the Presentation on 2 February. The days around 25 December are a principal holiday in the secular calendar of Britain, and commercial pressures have led to much of Christmas celebration being displaced into Advent. It has become a still greater challenge to celebrate as they deserve the saints of the Christmas season: Stephen, who first paid with his life for following the incarnate Lord; John, who was believed to have lived to great old age in profound meditation on the Word made flesh; and the Holy Innocents, who draw our attention to the plight of children in a world where the implications of the birth of the Christ-child are not yet manifest. New Year's Day is an important moment in the civil rather than the Christian calendar, but it provides the original occasion for the searching Covenant Renewal service of the Methodist tradition.



When? 1st Thursday of **every** month

Time? 10.00am-12.00pm

Where? The Randall Room, All Saints Church

Join us for...

- Reminiscence activities
- Support, guidance, and information
- Tea, coffee, cake
- Fun, laughter – and friendship!



2022

- Thursday 6th October 2022
- Thursday 3rd November 2022
- Thursday 1st December 2022

A special festive Christmas
Café with carols!

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2023

- Thursday 5th January 2023
- Thursday 2nd February 2023

- Thursday 2nd March 2023
- Thursday 6th April 2023
- Thursday 4th May 2023
- Thursday 1st June 2023
- Thursday 6th July 2023
- Thursday 3rd August 2023
- Thursday 7th September 2023
- Thursday 5th October 2023
- Thursday 2nd November 2023
- Thursday 7th December 2023

For further information, please call All Saints Parish Office on 0117 974 1355 or see the website for latest updates.

All Saints

www.allsaintsclifton.org

Clifton Church of England

If you would like to support the group, join the group or need information please do drop in.

Bristol North West Foodbank

The Bristol North West Foodbank is the All Saints 2022 Christmas Charity

The Bristol North West Foodbank operates within the Deanery of Bristol West and is part of the parish work of St Andrew's. Fr Charles is Area Dean of Bristol West and All Saints is within this Deanery.

Bristol North West Foodbank is an Anglican Charity and affiliated to the Trussell Trust network of over 430 Foodbanks across the UK.



The Foodbank has been open for 11 years and during that time they have helped more than 60 000 people crisis with the provision of emergency food parcels. People suffer a crisis for many reasons, such as benefit changes, debt, redundancy, ill-health, family break up or just unexpected large bills.

All Foodbank clients are referred to by local care agencies who identify individuals and families in crisis. Anyone in crisis from North West Bristol, stretching from Avonmouth to Henbury, Hotwells to Lawrence Weston and areas in between, can have access to this Foodbank. This is pretty much all of the Deanery of Bristol West.

There are also four outlets that provide access to food support in Avonmouth, Henbury, Hotwells and Lawrence Weston.

In 2019 they opened a Social Justice Hub in Avonmouth, with the vision of extending support and providing a more holistic service. The Hub now houses the office and warehouse and our growing services include:

- Homebank
- Free-advice Appointments
- Cookery Courses
- Dancercise Classes
- Support for Homeless
- Woodwork Class

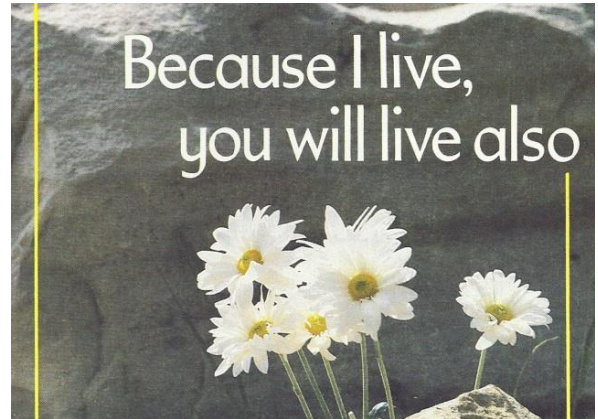
Much of this is designed to help tackle social isolation.

Prayers Requests

'In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.'

(John 14: 19).

Please let Fr Charles know of anyone who would like to be remembered within the weekly prayer list or anyone who you would like to be remembered in prayer



Those who we remember in our Prayers

Sunday Tabitha Clark, Ruth and Richard Harding, Katie Norman, Neal Gordon, Jean Callow, Joyce Shepherd, Cynthia Ashford Sarah Bradley Sue Hilliar Steve Cooper Ruth Marson Valerie Donkin Alexander and his family

Monday

Tuesday. Diana Verity

Wednesday , Katrina and Katherine King, Philip Miles, Samantha Tucker, Hugh Farry, Ros Hawkins

Thursday

Friday Charlotte Hopkins, Andy & Gina Ford, Elisabeth Morgan, Caroline Semon

Saturday

The Departed

Drusilla Esam Peter Butterfield Molly Sharpley James Johnson-Brown
Jane Selby Rio Fisher

Years' Minds - this week we remember

Jim York Jo Drewett Hayden Rees Mae Skerrett Fred Nickalls
Phoebe Oakley Garn Lee Bons

ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

Mon 26	Holy Family Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr We pray for all those who are in preparation for ordination and those who will be ordained this year. May they and your whole Church have a rich outpouring of God's grace. We pray also for their families, friends, for all those who support and encourage them on their journey and for those with whom they will serve.
Tue 27	John, Apostle and Evangelist We pray for our friends. John was the 'disciple whom Jesus loved', we pray for and give thanks for those who are close to us, whose opinions are important to us and for whom we care.
Wed 28	Mass 10.00am The Holy Innocents Remembering the infanticide of Herod the Great, we pray for all children who suffer death, injury and loss in the war zones of this world. A child, 'Nour', in Syria aged 6 described: "Nour was such a kind, friendly girl, but I watched her go crazy. She is always alone. She won't talk. She won't eat. She wakes the neighbours with nightmares. The fear stopped her mind. She is too shocked to have a personality anymore."
Thurs 29	Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr, 1170 We pray for Archbishop Justin. We pray for the three priorities on which he focuses his ministry: 1. Prayer and the Religious Life, 2. Reconciliation, and 3. Evangelism and Witness. Enable us to work with him in bringing positive change in these areas of priority.
Fri 30	Mass 10.00am God, thank you for a new year. May everyone in our family be willing to begin anew with a clean slate. We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another. As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time.
Sat 31	John Wycliffe, Reformer, 1384 We pray for those who are willing to speak out for what they believe is right: "Englishmen learn Christ's law best in English. Moses heard God's law in his own tongue; so did Christ's apostles." And " <u>I am ready to defend my convictions even unto death. I have followed the Sacred Scriptures and the holy doctors.</u> " John Wycliffe
Sunday 1st January 2023	New Year's Day Naming and Circumcision of Jesus Your Blessed Son was given the Name that is above every name: give us grace faithfully to bear his Name, to worship him in the freedom of the Spirit, and to proclaim him as the Saviour of the world. Early Worship 9.00am Parish Mass 10.30

If you would like to give regularly to the Church, please set up a standing order to the church account, details below ;

Parochial Church Council of All Saints

Account No. 65256747

sort code 08 92 99

Gift Aid forms are available from the office

office@allsaintsclifton.org

