

# ALL SAINTS NEWS

29<sup>th</sup> January 2023  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany

## Candlemas

Candlemas commemorates the ritual purification of Mary, 40 days after the birth of her son Jesus. This day also marks the ritual presentation of the baby Jesus to God in the Temple at Jerusalem. The Gospel of Luke says that Jesus was met by Anna and Simeon. Simeon held the baby Jesus and called him a Light to the World.

Ritual purification stems back to a Jewish tradition that women were considered unclean after the birth of a child. For 40 days for a boy, and 60 days for a girl, women weren't allowed to worship in the temple. At the end of this time, women were brought to the Temple or Synagogue to be purified. After the ceremony women were allowed to take part in religious services again.

The festival is called Candlemas because this was the day that all the Church's candles for the year were blessed. On Candlemas night, many people place lighted candles in their windows at home.

### A Pagan Link

Like some other Christian festivals, Candlemas draws some of its elements from Paganism. In pre-Christian times, it was the festival of light. This ancient festival marked the mid-point of winter, half way between the winter solstice (shortest day) and the spring equinox.

There's a link to the weather too: Some people believed that Candlemas predicted the weather for the rest of the winter:

*If Candlemas Day be fair and bright  
Winter will have another fight.  
If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain,  
Winter won't come again.*

### And the 'end of the Christmas Season'

In most parts of the Christian world, it is at Candlemas that Christmas decorations are finally taken down – for other it is, of course, on Twelfth Night.

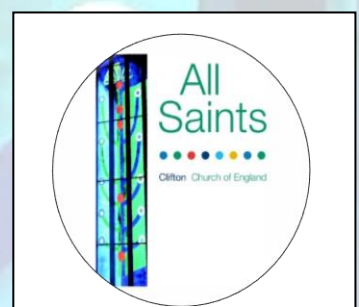
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**Statement from Rt Revd Vivienne Faull, Bishop of Bristol**  
**Concerning the proposal to General Synod regarding same-sex relationships**  
**20 January 2023**

'Much attention has been given in recent days to the Church of England's evolving stance on same-sex relationships. I have remained committed to the College of Bishops' agreement to refrain from commenting on draft documentation before its formal release for debate at the General Synod in February. Now that this happened, I would like to declare my own views on this issue to the Diocese.

The proposal under consideration offers a significant change in policy towards LGBTQI+ people and, for the first time, permits clergy to offer services of prayer and blessing for same-sex couples. I hope that the General Synod will endorse these prayers.

I further support a change to the law that would allow for the marriage of same-sex couples in church, and regret that this proposal does not extend that legal change.

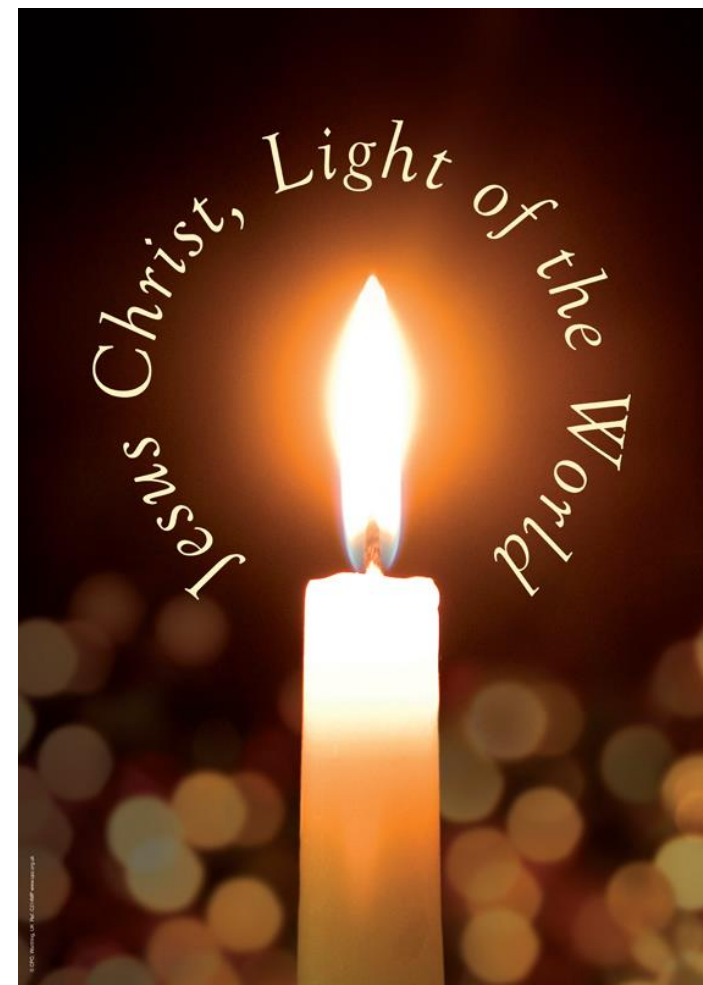
Over many years I have tried to travel alongside LGBTQI+ Christians as they have responded to the call of God and struggled against discrimination. As a deaconess and university chaplain in the 1980s, I became aware of the risk of prosecution that many faced, and the secrecy they consequently kept. I was relieved when both law and culture changed to allow for civil partnerships (though deeply disappointed that bishops argued against this change). I continued in conversation about marriage over the years, knowing that there were a variety of views within the Christian LGBTQI+ community about this possibility.

When I was appointed to the Diocese nearly five years ago, there had been (unlike other dioceses) very little formal opportunity for discussion of sexuality and identity, and nervousness about engaging in debate when many were aware of profound disagreement. I was glad, therefore, that discussions around human sexuality endorsed by the national church ('Living in Love and Faith') provided an opportunity to listen and learn together. I am grateful to those who participated, particularly those for whom personal disclosure left them vulnerable to hurt.

It has been the testimony of gay Christians who have married, and who have longed for the support of the church and for Christ's blessing, which ultimately convinced me. I honour those who, despite prejudice against them, have established faithful, loving and stable relationships which have been a gift to the church and to their communities.

As Bishop of Bristol, I share with bishops in England responsibility for the mission and ministry of the church and its unity; and so I am aware that advocating marriage for same-sex couples goes against scripture and tradition in the view of many. As a woman in Church of England ministry, I have my own experience of the cost of disagreement about doctrine and practice.

In our Diocese, there will continue to be a variety of views about sexuality and identity. I remain steadfastly committed to a spirit of generosity: that we can continue to listen and learn together, respect each other and disagree well. In the meantime, I pray that General Synod will be supportive of the changes proposed today.



**Presentation of Christ  
Candlemas**

**2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023**

**Festival Mass  
with Blessing of Candles**

**7.30pm**

**Refreshments will be  
available after Mass**

## **Let's do Lunch ! All Saints Parish lunch**

The next Parish Lunch will be on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2023 .

Time 12:30

Cost £6 or £12 for a family ticket for 3 courses.

Vegetarian or gluten-free options available  
with prior notification.





all saints arts 2023 All Saints Church Pembroke Rd Clifton

Saturday  
February 4<sup>th</sup>  
4pm

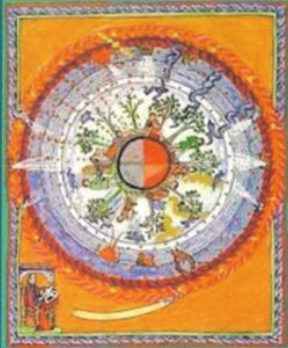
## A Celebration of English Song

Emily Harrison  
Daniel Robson  
James Drinkwater *piano*

Vaughan Williams  
Walton  
Quilter  
Butterworth

Admission to concert matinées is free.  
There will be a retiring collection  
(cash or card).  
Refreshments available after the concert.

ALL SAINTS, PEMBROKE ROAD  
CLIFTON BS8 4ED  
SUNDAY JANUARY 29<sup>TH</sup> 2023 8.00pm



## At the Turning of the Year

Medieval and Renaissance music  
for voices and instruments  
to celebrate the New Year  
and the sacred and secular feasts of January

*Nova*  
Directed by Bruce Saunders

*Programmes £10 at the door. Students £5. Under-16s free*

### 'At the Turning of the Year'.

Nova, directed by Bruce Saunders, invite you to a musical celebration of January, a month full of high-days and festivals, some sacred, some extremely secular.

Medieval and Renaissance choral music with the early instruments of the Gloucester Waites.

Sunday January 29<sup>th</sup>. 8.00pm All Saints, Pembroke Road.

Programmes £10 at the door. Students £5.  
Accompanied under 16s free.



**The ASC Walks are now on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month.**

Our 11<sup>th</sup> February walk is with Clifton Down Community Association. It will be led by Steve England, and we will go to Severn Beach on the train. There are always a lot of interesting things there in terms of wildlife, geology, local history etc.

We will meet at Clifton Down station and take the 11am train to Severn Beach. CDCA will pay Steve but ask people to pay their own train fares.

Contact: [georginaharford@hotmail.com](mailto:georginaharford@hotmail.com) 07767 746168

PARISH RETREAT 2023

Have you started to plan your Spring holiday time yet?  
Why not try a Retreat

Our Parish Retreat is at Llangasty Retreat House  
12 - 14 MAY

Conductor: Fr Neil Kelley, vicar of St Laurence, Chorley

This will be a silent retreat, but if you come and need to talk,  
then we will allocate somewhere for you.

Details of cost etc to follow later.

Liz Badman  
[liz.badman@virginmedia.com](mailto:liz.badman@virginmedia.com)



*Wishing Judy Torrens  
a very happy 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
on  
Tuesday the 31st of January  
with many congratulations  
from  
Everyone at All Saints*

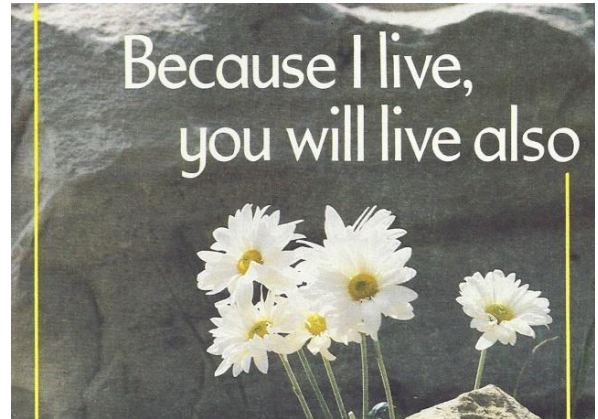


## Prayers Requests

'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 Ryan Lindsey

### **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 Audrey Huntley Graham Llewelin Tanner Rosemary Beeho

## Years' Minds - this week we remember.

Olivia Wilson Barbara Sharpe Kenneth Clarke (Pr) Helen Weeks Dennis Squires Ann Monro  
Pat Sterling Louis Bono Robbie Aitken

# ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

Mon 30	Pray for those whose interests lie predominately in the world of electronics and digital communication. For developers and users of the social media, 'games' and other on-line activities that have transformed the world. May they be enabled to do this to the benefit of humankind and creation.
Tue 31	<b>John Bosco, Priest, Founder of the Salesian Teaching Order, 1888</b> The Anglo Catholic movement in the world, 'High Anglicism', the fundamental belief in God Incarnate and the move to act on behalf of 'the God in everyone' .
Wed 1 February	<b>Mass 10.00am Brigid Abbess of Kildare 525</b> Pray for the church in Ireland – Roman Catholics, Church of Ireland and all denominations. Pray for the work of the church conducted under the 'Bishops' Appeal' which serves to address issues of health, education, development and emergency response.
Thurs 2	<b>Mass 7.30pm Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)</b> Over the Epiphany Season we have reflected on the 'revelation' of the Word made flesh. We have recognised the visit of the high born and gentile magi, the recognition of Jesus as Messiah at his Baptism, the first miracle at Cana and the start of Jesus' ministry in the Nazareth synagogue. We pray that we see him now, at work in our world.
Fri 3	<b>Mass 10.00am International Optimist Day.</b> An optimist is more than someone who just believes things will work out, as they are also people who work hard to build a positive future. Science proves that being optimistic is good for your mental and physical health. Five decades of research into the positive mindset has revealed that being an optimist helps you recover from illness faster. Optimists recover from surgery quicker, have higher immunity, have a better quality of life and longer life, and might be more resilient. We pray for those with low optimism.
Sat 4	<b>Gilbert of Sempringham 1189</b> Pray for religious communities – in particular the Sisters of the Church and the Franciscans
Sunday 5	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Lent</b>  Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where the true joys are to be found:  <b>Early Worship 9.00am</b> <b>Parish Mass 10.30</b>

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](mailto:office@allsaintsclifton.org)

