

ALL SAINTS NEWS

1st January 2023
New Year's Day
The Naming and
Circumcision of Jesus.

Wishing Everyone
a very
Happy New Year.
2023

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The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus.

HOW do you name the Son of God? The answer, it seems, is with a very common name, so that there is nothing to make him stand out from other Jewish boys. "Jesus", a shortened form of "Joshua", or "Yeshua" in Hebrew, was a common name for pious Jews to give their sons. The meaning of names was important, and Yeshua meant "Yahweh, God, is salvation."

Naming, in the biblical stories, is both a divine and human activity. In the creation stories, God starts by naming his creation, but then, in a delightful twist to the story, waits to see what his own creation, the man, will name the animals. There is a sense of collaborative purpose in naming that continues through the Old Testament as, occasionally, God intervenes to specify the name of a child for a particular reason.

Matthew explains that this child is named Jesus because he will save his people from their sins (Matthew 1.21). This extension of the meaning of Yeshua from "God is salvation" hints at this baby's divinity.

The same applies in Luke's Gospel, although the angel's explanation to Mary is slightly different: this child will be great, the Son of the Most High, and will inherit David's throne and reign over the house of Jacob for ever (Luke 1.32-33). This recalls Isaiah's words about a child's being born who will inherit David's throne for ever, being called "Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9.6).

But none of that prophetic weight of meaning would be obvious to look at this child, born in a stable in a strange town, looking and crying like any other eight-day-old baby when he was circumcised, with a name that did nothing to draw attention to his future.

Unlike the unfortunate sons of Isaiah, who, to make a prophetic point, were named "A remnant shall return" and "The spoil speeds, the prey hastens" (Isaiah 7.3, 8.1,4), Jesus would not stand out because of his name. Only Mary and Joseph knew the particular reason for it, and, unlike the naming of John, no one thought it odd.

Both the Gospel and the epistle assert that this baby was born of a woman who gave him his Jewishness, born under the law, a child of the covenant, circumcised on the eighth day. Today's observance of the naming of Jesus reminds us of Jesus's full humanity, and, in his first 30 years of life, of his unremarkableness as he lived and worked with his family.

We who confess that Jesus is Lord can find ourselves reading back into this story with the wisdom of hindsight what we know about his death, resurrection, and ascension. But Luke, who has been quite free with his stories of angelic messengers in the events leading up to and at his birth, suddenly goes silent on divine interventions, and instead tells us of a routine circumcision as far as the people around Mary and Joseph were concerned.

Luke is setting up the story of Jesus's ministry by telling us that, although a few people had special insight into who Jesus was, most people thought he was an ordinary good Jewish boy. As the Gospel unfolds, people will have to respond to Jesus's actions and his words in order to understand that he is indeed God's salvation living among them. And those who do come to understanding and make the confession that this Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, have the joy of calling his father our father, "Abba".

The lovely reading from Numbers acts as a commentary on what it means that Jesus bears God's name. We know the words of the blessing, but the frequently overlooked final comment is important: "So I shall put my name on the Israelites and bless them."

God's name imparts God's blessing. We who bear the name of Jesus today — Jesus now revealed to be the Son of God and bearing the Messianic name "Christ" — are blessed in him. That is cause for celebration on this feast of the Naming of Jesus, when we begin a new calendar year of our Lord.

Friends Together

A Dementia accessible café – for **all**.
Support, guidance, information and
friendship. Tea, coffee and cake included.

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!



Café Dates 2022-2023

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 6th October 2022 • Thursday 3rd November 2022 • Thursday 1st December 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 |
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- A special festive Christmas
Café with carols!

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

The first 2023 meeting of Friends Together will be held on Thursday 5th of January at 10.00am in the Randall Room.

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



Guide
Dogs

Foster a future life-changer!

Could you be part of the
journey of a future guide dog?

You could help our dogs by providing them with a loving home during the evening and transporting them to training school in the morning. A perfect role for a dog lover with some time on their hands.

“

We get to experience taking care of a dog, but without the expense that comes with owning one.

”

Gillian - Fosterer

Start your fosterer
journey today at:

**guidedogs.org.uk/
fosterer**



Be part of something amazing

Whoever you are, whatever you want to do, we've got something for you.

Directly supporting people who have sight loss

Whether it's popping to the shops together or just strolling in the park, you could help give freedom, confidence and independence to someone with sight loss. Not bad for a few hours a week.

Be part of something special

You'll join an amazing community and meet wonderful people. Not only could you build relationships that could last a lifetime, being a sighted guide is also a great way to get out and about, keep fit and healthy and boost your wellbeing.

Gain memories that last a lifetime

When we say that volunteering with Guide Dogs is life-changing, we're not just talking about the people we support. You'll gain new skills, give back to your local community and create memories that you genuinely couldn't find anywhere else.



“

We hit it off straight away – luckily we both had the same interests. We would go to the cinema, cafes, go walking to the shops and things like that.

– Jan

Find out more at guidedogs.org.uk/volunteer
or chat to us at volunteer@guidedogs.org.uk

The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity in England and Wales (209617), Scotland (SC038979) and Isle of Man (1334). GD0364 09/22

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

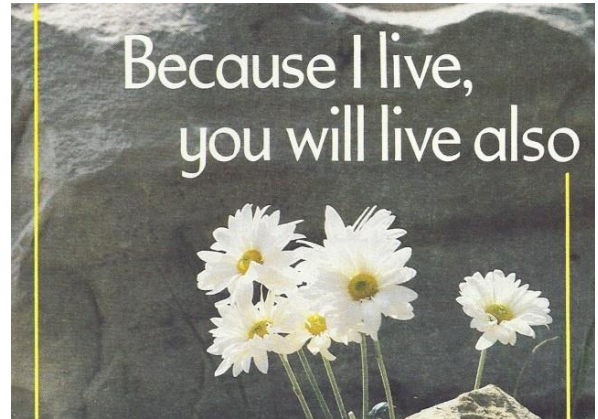
Much of this is designed to help tackle social isolation.

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

Albert Edwin Jones Irit Lauven Geoffrey Sunderland (Pr) Freda Smith Mavis Heller
Jill Racy Iris Morton Rachel Stilliard Jeanette Seager Derek Jay Molly Micheal

ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

Mon 2	<p>Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishops, Teachers of the Faith, 379 and 389 Seraphim, Monk of Sarov, Spiritual Guide, 1833 Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah, Bishop in South India, Evangelist, 1945 <i>"Acquire a peaceful spirit and thousands around you will be saved". Seraphim.</i> <i>"Every evil is a sickness of soul, but virtue offers the cause of its health". Basil</i> <i>"In India we wonder if you have sufficiently contemplated the grievous sin of perpetuating your divisions and denominational bitterness in these your daughter churches."</i> Bishop Azariah</p>
Tue 3	<p>Pray for all who have a New Year's resolution and determination to get fit in 2022 asking that they may be able to keep their intention. Pray for the work of the NHS in reducing obesity, for those who are obese.</p>
Wed 4	<p>Mass 10.00am Louis Braille was born today in 1809. Pray for all those with sight impairments – the blind and the partially sighted. Pray for teachers, charities and NGOs who work with the blind, who raise awareness and who enable access to reading and learning.</p>
Thurs 5	<p>Pray for the work of the RSPB, those who care for the British bird population, conservationists and researchers. For all who work to care for creation, those who work to halt and inform about climate change</p>
Fri 6	<p>The Epiphany Mass 10.00am</p> <p>Through the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face.</p> <p>Mass 7.30pm</p>
Sat 7	<p>(Old Rock Day) Pray for earth scientists (all fields of natural science where the area of study is the planet earth). May all who study this area, those who write about the topic and those who engage in positive environmental action serve to increase our awareness and improve our ability to be good stewards of this part of creation. We pray for those engaged in climate change research and communication.</p>
Sunday 8	<p>Epiphany 1 Baptism of Christ</p> <p>Father, at the baptism of Jesus you revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children.</p> <p>Early Worship 9.00am Parish Mass 10.30</p>

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

