

# ALL SAINTS NEWS

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2023  
Trinity 13

## The Acts of the Apostles

### A Summary:

The book of Acts gives the history of the Christian church and the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ, as well as the mounting opposition to it. It was probably written in Rome between 70 and 90 CE.

Although many faithful servants were used to preach and teach the gospel of Jesus Christ, Saul, also called Paul, was the most influential. Before he was converted, Paul zealously persecuted Christians. Paul's dramatic conversion on the Damascus Road (Acts 9:1-31) is a highlight of the book of Acts. After his conversion he went to the opposite extreme of loving God and preaching His Word with power and fervency in the Spirit of the true and living God. The disciples were empowered by the Holy Spirit to be His witnesses in Jerusalem (Acts 1 to 8:3, in Judea and Samaria (8:4—12:25), and to the ends of the earth (13:1—28:31). Included in the last section are Paul's three missionary journeys (13:1—21:16), his trials in Jerusalem and Caesarea (21:17—26:32) and his journey to Rome (27:1—28:31) – the acknowledged centre of the gentile world.

The central theme the spread of Christianity to the gentile world under the guiding inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The author also describes the church's gradual drawing away from Jewish traditions.

### Why is it important today?:

The Book of Acts is vital not only for its vivid historical record, but also for the inspiration which it brings to us now. Today's church can seek to recapture something of the early confidence, enthusiasm, vision and power of the church of the first century. Despite all its imperfections and troubles, the young church clearly had been overwhelmed by the Holy Spirit, who thrust it out to witness.

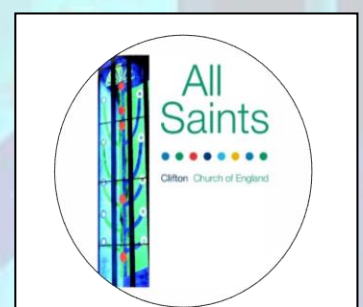
The experiences of the early church have lots to say about issues that concern Christians today. What can Acts tell us about extraordinary manifestations of the Spirit? How should churches structure themselves - with elders, deacons, pastors or all three? And, of course, how should the church reach out into a lost world, with the glorious message of salvation?

*'The Acts of the Apostles have long ago finished: the acts of the followers of Jesus will continue until the end of the world.'* John Stott 2020

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## Early Worship Focus on the Acts of the Apostles:

Over the last month the Early Worship focus has been on the Book of Acts, and in particular the missionary journeys of Paul. This will be followed with the next episode which will focus on the '**Apostles and the Epistles**'. Without the 'Acts of the Apostles' we would not be in a position to fully understand the Epistles of Paul – and others.

## Further Reading – Two Novels and some Theology:

**Two Novels:** For those who would like to know a little more there are two novels (yes, novels) written by the British theologian and Anglican Lay Reader Paula Gooder. Paula completed her DPhil at Queens College Oxford, taught at Ripon College, Cuddesdon and the Queen's Foundation and has been Director of Mission, Learning and Development.

**Phoebe: A Story.** Sometime around 56 AD, the apostle Paul wrote to the church in Rome. His letter was arguably his theological masterpiece, and has continued to shape Christian faith ever since. He entrusted this letter to Phoebe, the deacon of the church at Cenchreae; in writing to the church that almost surely met in her home, Paul refers to her both as a deacon and as a helper or patron of many. But who was this remarkable woman? In this, her first work of fiction, Biblical scholar and popular author and speaker Paula Gooder tells Phoebe's story – who she was, the life she lived and her first-century faith – and in doing so opens up Paul's theology, giving a sense of the cultural and historical pressures that shaped Paul's thinking, and the faith of the early church.

**Lydia: A Story.** The New Testament tells us very little about Lydia, a seller of purple cloth who was living in Philippi when she met the apostle Paul on his second missionary journey. And yet she is considered the first recorded convert to Christianity in Europe. In her second work of fiction, Biblical scholar and popular author and speaker Paula Gooder tells Lydia's story - who she was, the life she lived and her first-century faith - and in doing so opens up Paul's letter to the Philippians, giving a sense of the cultural and historical pressures that shaped Paul's thinking, and the faith of the early church. Written in the gripping style of Gerd Theissen's *The Shadow of the Galilean*, and similarly rigorously researched, this is a book for everyone and anyone who wants to engage more deeply and imaginatively with Paul's theology.

**Some Theology:** Willie James Jennings is Professor of Systematic Theology at Yale. He is a powerful writer of accessible theological material. He presents a powerful challenge to Christians to reexamine their assumptions, confront their complicity, and seek a more inclusive and transformative Christian imagination that breaks free from the constraints of colonialism and fosters a vision of God's kingdom characterized by justice, love, and flourishing for all

**(Belief: A Theological Commentary on the Bible) Acts:** This new commentary for the Belief series, award-winning author and theologian Willie James Jennings explores the relevance of the book of Acts for the struggles of today. While some see Acts as the story of the founding of the Christian church, Jennings argues that it is so much more, depicting revolution--life in the disrupting presence of the Spirit of God. According to Jennings, Acts is like Genesis, revealing a God who is moving over the land, "putting into place a holy repetition that speaks of the willingness of God to invade our every day and our every moment." He reminds us that Acts took place in a time of Empire, when the people were caught between diaspora Israel and the Empire of Rome. The spirit of God intervened, offering new life to both. Jennings shows that Acts teaches how people of faith can yield to the Spirit to overcome the divisions of our present world.

## The Annual DAC Conference 2023

### 'The Importance of Welcome'

DAC stands for the Diocesan Advisory Committee. Every Diocese has a DAC, and they review, reflect, advise and give permission for any and all changes to church fabric.

Over the last few years, we have approached the Bristol DAC to engage with and then to be given permission for the following (and others):

- All Saints Forecourt
- Sacristy Lighting
- Richard Chapel stone cleaning
- Atrium Lighting
- Piper window Preservation Research
- Piper Window Preservation Project
- Richard Chapel Lighting
- Church Sound System
- Church Streaming and Security
- Church Lighting
- Atrium Project
- Monuments for Ken Smith and Bill Fry

In every Diocese the DAC carries out an important role. Guidance and permission for these fabric changes are given on the basis of:

- ★ Alignment with missional priorities of specific church in given context
- ★ Support and enrichment of worship
- ★ Enabling greater inclusivity and access
- ★ Extent to which improvement will achieve net-zero carbon objectives
- ★ Degree to which 'church buildings' become more accessible to the local and wider community
- ★ Development of partnered opportunities with other churches and organizations

Next week Bristol Diocese will host the National Conference with about 120 participants from across the National Church. On Wednesday 6 September they will be having lunch at All Saints and be taking the opportunity to see and ask questions about what has been happening here and to hear about future intentions.

There will also be two presentations:

**'Sharing the Sacred Space'**

**'Space for Action – a response to those in need'**

#### **Welcome from Bishop Viv:**

In her Welcome to Conference participants, Bishop Viv has said:

*"You will see, we have focused on the theme of "welcome" and how our work towards reaching Net Zero, improving accessibility, expanding our social engagement and responding to contested heritage feed into this.*

*We have embarked, with Church Commissioners' support, on a major period of change in parishes, dioceses and communities entitled, Transforming Church. Together. That work has church buildings and their communities at its heart.*

*We are, for obvious reasons, unable to show all our 210 churches, contexts and cultures. That said, we hope to provide a snapshot of the diocese as we take you on a walking tour of Bristol city centre. This will give you an opportunity to soak up the city's historic setting and vibrant*

*culture as you visit a variety of churches and see the opportunities and challenges the diocese encounters day by day. You will also meet some of our wonderful clergy and volunteers who dedicate themselves to maintaining our church buildings whilst ensuring that they are adapted to meet the needs of our communities."*

### **Atrium Development Project**

The Atrium Development Project at All Saints is a very good example of the type of thinking and work that is being encouraged at National Church level and within the Diocese. This is because it aligns with the Five Marks of Mission proclaimed by the Anglican Consultative Council and with the values identified by 'Transforming Church Together' and with ensuring continuing relevance within our community.

Do take the opportunity to look at the CGI images that give a good impression of what the Atrium might look like in the future. The images are located in the Atrium.



"we always leave the Friends Together Café feeling better!"

"my husband always receives a supportive and sympathetic welcome"

"a welcoming and relaxed atmosphere and a delightful group of volunteers"

"a great way to meet other carers and share thoughts and experiences"

**Friends Together**  
Next meeting  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>  
September at 10am

**Friends Together Café** is open to everyone for support, guidance, information and friendship – tea, coffee and delicious home-made cakes included! *First Thursday of every month 10.00am-12 noon.*

**All Saints Church**  
Pembroke Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8 3ED  
Friends Together Café  
First Thursday of every month: 10am-12pm  
Admission Free | [allsaintsclifton.org](http://allsaintsclifton.org)

**All Saints**  
Clifton Church of England

The ASC Saturday morning Walks for Everyone are  
on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month.



Our next Walk is on Saturday 9 September

Meet at ASC for a prompt 10.45 start.

Mary Benton will take us to Royal Fort Gardens, where there's lots of interesting things to see, from Civil War Fortifications to Repton's Red Book and much more besides.

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

allsaintsarts  
2023  
All Saints  
Church  
Pembroke Rd

**Saturday  
September 2nd  
4pm**

**Lucy Thomas**  
clarinet

**Jennifer Carter**  
piano

Mozart:  
*Concerto in A major*  
att. Weber (Joseph Küffner )  
*Introduction, Theme & Variations*  
Malcolm Arnold  
Sonatina

admission to concert matinées is free retiring collection  
refreshments after the concert.

## FREE Exhibition



15<sup>th</sup> September  
6pm to 8pm  
Reception

16<sup>th</sup> September  
10 am to 4pm

17<sup>th</sup> September  
1pm to 4pm

### Chrysanthemums and Copes: Flowers and beautiful church robes

Beautiful garments and exquisite flowers have traditionally been elements of Christian worship.

All Saints has some beautiful examples and a tradition of stunning floral displays.

Come and see them at this special three day 'open doors' festival.

Bristol's Henleaze & District Flower Club in partnership with All Saints, Clifton.

Please contact Ro York by email [ro@royork.com](mailto:ro@royork.com) or [office@allsaintsclifton.org](mailto:office@allsaintsclifton.org) 0117 9741355 for further detail.

## All Saints Arts 2023



### Organ Matinéés 2023

All at 4.00pm

• Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Sept – Tim & Henry Morris

Free Entry

Retiring Collection (cash or card)

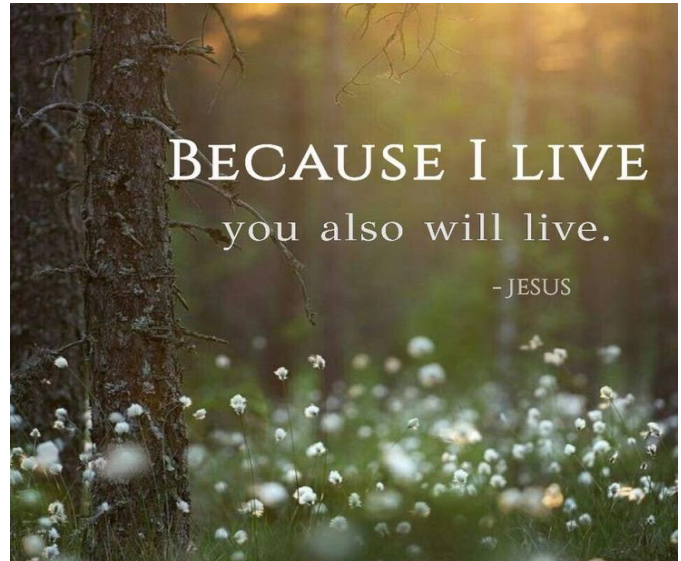
Refreshments served after the concert

## 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, Joyce Shepherd, Cynthia Ashford Sue Hilliar Mary Greenacre Nadine Benn Lorna Osbon Elisabeth Morgan Andrew Casimir Rev. Melvyn Matthews James Corner, Kelly Norse

**Monday**

**Tuesday.**

**Wednesday** , Katrina and Katherine King, Philip Miles, Diana Verity, Samantha Tucker, Hugh Farry Maureen Mumford George Lympelopoulos

**Thursday**

**Friday** Charlotte Hopkins, Andy & Gina Ford, Caroline Semon, Nicole Kaneza.

**Saturday**

## The Departed

Ron Gale Valerie Donkin Hugh Barron Chris Benton Helen Campbell  
Chris Chamberlain Rob Dalton Tom Duncan Joanne Wilkins

## Years' Minds - this week we remember

Denie Howard Mark Rogers John Gibbs

# ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

Mon 4	<b>Birinus , Bishop of Dorchester</b> Pray for those who live in 'new' towns and communities. Places without history that have become established villages or towns. in 1960 Berinsfield (after todays commemorated Saint) was the first English village built on virgin land for 200 years. Berinsfield became the 'dumping ground' for those considered difficult by Oxford City Council. Pray also for challenged and challenging families.
Tue 5	<b>International Day of Charity.</b> Pray for the work of charities, their foundation, employees, volunteers and donors. Remember their causes. In particular pray for a charity of your own choice. First day of term. Pray for students, staff and teachers at all our schools – especially St John's Primary School.
Wed 6	Mass 10.00am Allen Gardiner 1851 Sailor, Missionary and Martyr. Before his death he wrote in prayer <i>"Lord, at your feet I humbly fall, And I give you all I have, All that your love requires. To lack is best, For all is yours, Take care of me in this hour of test. Do not let me have the thoughts of a Complainer. Make me feel your power which gives life And I will learn to praise you while carrying your cross.</i>
Thurs 7	For all associated with the writing, editing, publication, marketing and retailing of books. For readers, especially those who find books (written and recorded) as their only means of escape and entertainment.
Fri 8	<b>Mass 10.00am Birth of the BVM</b> Archbishop Justin: <i>"Jesus Christ is the source of reconciliation and healing for individuals and society. It is obviously right that among many others the churches should contribute to the emergence of a dynamic and united country post-Brexit, however it may be achieved. Every one of us must play the part they can in this task."</i> <i>"Let us pray for all those in government, parliament and political leadership. Let us pray for the people of this country whose lives will be affected in many ways by the momentous decisions that are made."</i>
Sat 9	Pray for and give thanks for parents; remembering those who desperately want children but are unable to have them, those who have children but are unable to care for them. For foster parents and all who work to ensure children have a parent.
<b>Sunday 10</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> Trinity Pr 18</b>  Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth.  <b>Early Worship 9.00am Parish Mass 10.30am</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)

We are committed to safeguarding children, young people, victims of domestic abuse and vulnerable adults.

If you have any Safeguarding concerns please contact :  
 The Parish Safeguarding Officer - Stephen O'Keefe  
[stephen.c.okeefe@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.c.okeefe@gmail.com) and Caroline Davenport  
[c2davbristol@hotmail.com](mailto:c2davbristol@hotmail.com)