

ALL SAINTS NEWS

10th September 2023
Trinity 14

Reverend Charles Lowder The Slum Vicar

Oxford Movement Priest in London: Commemoration 9th September

Lowder's Early Life



Born in 1820 into the family of a banker, Charles Lowder had a conventional upbringing and education. At Oxford University, he decided to take Holy Orders, was appointed deacon in 1843, and began his progression through the ranks of the Church of England.

Contemporaries described Lowder as being on the arrogant side and fond of assuming powers that were not his. Others said he was persnickety—that is focussing on unimportant details and fussy. In his 2018 book, [A Field Guide to the English Clergy](#), the Rev. Fergus Butler-Gallie writes that Lowder “spent his entire career ignoring the advice of his friends, colleagues, and superiors, and doing, essentially, whatever he damn well pleased.”

High Church vs. Low Church

Lowder took a position as curate at St. Barnabas Church, Pimlico in London's East End. The church was a centre of Anglo-Catholic worship whose rituals were very close to Roman Catholic expressions of faith. This meant daily Communion with all the ornate vestments, prayer twice a day, incense, and other influences from Rome. This form of Christianity, known derisively as “smells and bells,” was unpopular in Britain and did not sit well with the more austere Church of England.

This is where we meet a Mr. Westerton and Rev. Lowder's brush with the law. Westerton did not like the influence of Rome and put himself forward as a candidate for churchwarden at St. Barnabas. He hired a man to carry a sandwich board outside the church emblazoned with “Vote Westerton.”

In retaliation, Rev. Lowder paid some choir boys to throw rotten eggs at the board man. The magistrates took a dim view of this and fined the priest £2. Lowder's bishop also disapproved and suspended him for six weeks.

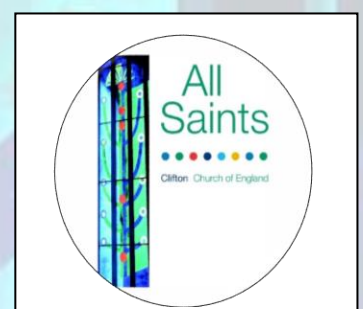
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Society of the Holy Cross

Lowder spent his downtime reading and taking to heart *Vie de Saint Vincent de Paul* by Louis Abelly. The 17th-century French priest had devoted his life to helping the poor. Charles Lowder concluded that Britain was in desperate need of clergy willing to perform the same services to the poor, so, in February 1855, he became a founding member of the Society of the Holy Cross.

Known by its Latin name, *Societas Sanctae Crucis* (SSC), the group's purpose was to provide mutual support to Anglo-Catholic priests whose flirtations with Roman Catholicism brought criticism down on them. Lowder and other SSC members took their ministries into the poorest areas of London's East End.

The Slums of East London

With the Industrial Revolution, people flooded into Britain's cities, where there were employment opportunities. The jobs they found were poorly paid, dangerous, and insecure. The housing was overcrowded, squalid, and unsanitary.

The East End of London, in boroughs such as Limehouse, Mile End, and Whitechapel, was foul-smelling and crime-infested. Malnutrition and disease ensured that life expectancies were short.

It was in this hellish place that Charles Lowder chose to work.

St. George's in the East

Wapping was a notorious neighbourhood and the centre of the London Docks. A local history calls the area in the middle of the 19th century "a ghetto of poverty. The population, swelled each day by incoming sailors of every race and nation, was dependent for its economic survival on casual dock labour and prostitution."

On Ash Wednesday, 1856, Charles Lowder took up a position at the church of St. George's in the East, but things did not go smoothly for him. He was heckled during his sermons, prostitutes danced among the pews, and unpleasant missiles were launched, including a dead cat on one occasion. But, Reverend Lowder persisted. He built a little chapel and taught children to read and write in an area that had no school. Then, in 1866, he completed the building of a bigger church, St. Peter's, London Docks. The day after the consecration, an outbreak of cholera walloped the East End.

London's Cholera Epidemics



A COURT FOR KING CHOLERA.

The filth of London's East End caused several outbreaks of cholera. A resident of the area with a rudimentary grasp of English wrote to *The Times* complaining "*We live in muck and filth. We aint got no privez, no dust bins, no water splies and no drain or suer in the whole place. If the Colera comes, Lord help us.*"

As it happened, the Lord's helper, Charles Lowder, was there to step in when others ran for safety during the cholera epidemic of 1866. Through his stubborn streak, he raised money for medical supplies and recruited volunteers to care for the dying. He worked tirelessly in the slums to relieve the anguish of the people.

In 1929, Reverend H.F.B. Mackay wrote in *Saints and Leaders*:

"When, at length, the cholera vanished, it left Lowder completely master of the field. Nobody wanted to attack him or his methods any more. As he was seen time after time, carrying some cholera-stricken child in his arms to the hospital, the people began to call him 'Father.' Thus was the title 'Father' won for the secular clergy; it is a title which they will retain only so long as they are true to his ideal."

There were no more bricks thrown through his church windows; there were no more insults hurled at him in the street. Father Lowder was now recognized for his compassion, and he was loved.

Congregants by the hundreds turned out for Communion. Children became literate. The poverty-stricken population of Wapping was beginning to lift itself out of the mire.

When Charles Lowder died in 1880, police, who had once protected him from angry mobs, now were needed to hold back the crowds of weeping mourners.

The Annual DAC Conference 2023 'The Importance of Welcome'

The visit of the National Conference to All Saints was a great success!

Key features of the feedback where:

- The 'wow' impact when people came into the building
- Participants saying how good the welcome was from the 'host' team
- Sense of very real sacred space provided by All Saints for worship and prayer
- Keeping the doors open 'all day every day'
- This church being: a place for worship, an icon for community memory and a focus for social activity

Thank you, 'Host Team', for participating so effectively in this event!

Don't miss the All Saints

HARVEST SUPPER

Supporting our Harvest charity

Friday 6th October

in the Parish Room

7.30pm


*Raffle * Quiz * Pay Bar*

Good food - good company

**A traditional Harvest Supper and
a great evening out**

TICKETS ON SALE

from 17 September after Mass. Adults £6.00 children free
or e-mail Janice at rjhopkins57@yahoo.co.uk



AVE MARIA

Music for the
Queen of Heaven

Guillaume de Machaut's
14th Century
Messe de Nostre Dame

With motets in honour of the
Virgin Mary
by
Ockeghem, Josquin,
Mouton, Lassus, Guerrero,
Dering and Sheppard

Nova

All Saints Church, Pembroke Road, Clifton BS8 3ED
Sunday September 24th at 8.00pm

Programmes at the door £10
Students £5; Accompanied Under-16s Free

Walks for Everyone



**Our next Walk is on
Saturday 9 September**

**Meet at ASC for a prompt 10.45
start.**

Tim Dowling will take us up onto the Downs. We will visit the Quarries to learn their history and to look at their trees and flowers.

Contact: georginaharford@hotmail.com 07767 746168



Bristol and West of England Friends

Join us for a variety of talks with glorious music at our new venue, The Apostle Room, Clifton Cathedral (Worcester Road entrance). **Visitors always welcome.**

Wednesday 20 September 2023

Parsifal

Dr David Bednall will explore some of the meanings, music, sheer beauty and overwhelming feeling of redemption at the heart of the enigma that is Wagner's final masterpiece



FREE Exhibition

15th September
6pm to 8pm
Reception

16th September
10 am to 4pm

17th 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 or office@allsaintsclifton.org
0117 9741355 for further detail.

All Saints Arts 2023



Organ Matinéés 2023

All at 4.00pm

• Sat 16th Sept – Tim & Henry Morris

Free Entry

Retiring Collection (cash or card)

Refreshments served after the concert

Candlelight Concerts in Bristol

+100 cities around the world.
+3M attendees.

Enjoy a host of concerts illuminated by candlelight and performed by live musicians in some of the most iconic venues in Bristol.

Candlelight concerts bring the magic of a live, multi-sensory musical experience to awe-inspiring locations like never seen before in Bristol. Get your tickets now to discover music at All Saints under the gentle glow of candlelight.

Candlelight: Hanz Zimmer's Best Works *Friday 22nd September 7:00pm – 8:00pm*

Candlelight: A Tribute to Taylor Swift *Friday 22nd September 9:00pm – 10:00pm*

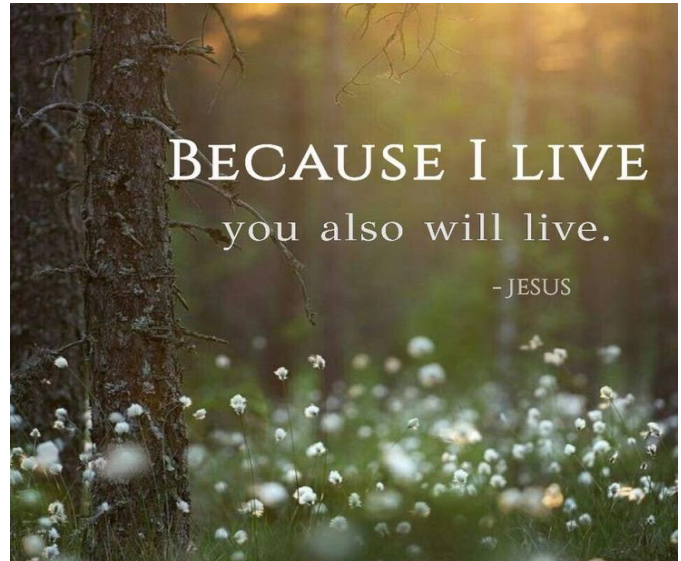
Tickets from £15 - to purchase, please visit the [Candlelight Concerts](https://www.candlelightconcerts.com) website

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 Sathia Aruliah

Monday

Tuesday.

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

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 Eileen Davies Len Hughes

Years' Minds - this week we remember

Eric Hurst Mildred Ford Brian Haigh Alice Hawkins

ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

Mon 11	Pray for those with suicidal thoughts and those who live and work with them. An estimated 800,000 people commit suicide each year (and 20 million attempt suicide). The WHO promotes the philosophy of 'Connect, Communicate, Care' which act to reduce the frequency.
Tue 12	Computer programmers and all who work in the ICT industry. May they work to develop hard and soft ware that serves the good of all creation. Especially we Remember those who are 'addicted' to their technological devices to the destruction of their social and 'real' life.
Wed 13	Mass 10.00am John Chrysostom 407 Pray for our brothers and sisters of faith who are Jewish or Muslim. May we develop common understandings and mutual regard that enables us fuller worship of The One God.
Thurs 14	Holy Cross Day Pray for prisoners and all who are in any way confined. Pray for those who suffer torture both physical and psychological. Remember it was through an instrument of torture that our Salvation was won.
Fri 15	Mass 10.00am Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage 258 Pray for those whose faith has been damaged because of experience or tragedy. Pray for those whose faith has declined over the years. Pray for those who are constantly challenging and changing. Pray for ourselves.
Sat 16	Ninian, Bishop of Galloway, Apostle to the Picts 432 Pray for the people of Scotland, the Episcopal Church in Scotland and the Church of Scotland (as well as the many and various forms that comprise the 'wee frees').
Sunday 17	15th Trinity God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service Early Worship 9.00am Parish Mass 10.30am

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

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 and Caroline Davenport
c2davbristol@hotmail.com