

ALL SAINTS NEWS

31st December 2023
Christmas 1
Holy Family

Happy New Year 2024



May the New Year keep us in good health, bring peace, and a growing hope for a better world.

Wishing you every Blessing in 2024

Fr Charles
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Churchwardens
and the All Saints' PCC

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Ælfric's Sermon for New Year's Day

Ælfric was a Benedictine monk from Winchester who moved to Cerne Abbey in Dorset as a teacher in 987 CE and wrote two books in Old English, not Latin, each containing forty homilies to be read as sermons in the English Roman Catholic churches. He left the abbey in 1005 to become Abbot at Keynsham but died around 1010 at the age of 55. His homilies were copied and read out in English churches long after his death and after the arrival of William of Normandy in 1066.



'We have often heard that people call this day 'year's day', as the first day in the course of the year, but we do not find any explanation in Christian books as to why this day should be appointed the beginning of the year. The ancient Romans, in pagan days, began the calendar of the year on this day; the Jewish people began at the spring equinox, the Greeks at the summer solstice, and the Egyptians began the calendar of their year at harvest. Now our calendar begins on this day, according to the Roman practice, not for any holy reason, but because of ancient custom. Some of our service books begin at the Advent of the Lord, but nonetheless that is not the beginning of our year. There is no reason for it being this day, although our calendars continue to put it in this place.

It is most rightly thought that the beginning of the year should be appointed to the day when the Almighty Creator fixed the sun, moon, and stars and the beginning of all time; that is the day on which the Jewish people begin the calculation of their year, as the leader Moses wrote in the book of the law. Indeed, God said to Moses about that month: "This month is the beginning of the months, and it is the first in the months of the year". Now the Jewish people observe the first day of the year on the spring equinox, because on that day the times of the year were appointed. The eighteenth day of the month which we call March, which you call 'Hlyda', was the first day of this world. On that day God created light and morning and evening. Then three days went by without time being measured, because the stars were not created until the fourth day. On the fourth day the Almighty created all the stars and the seasons of the year, and said they were to mark days and years. Now the Jewish people begin their year on the day when all times were created, that is on the fourth day after the creation of the world. The teacher Bede calculates with great accuracy that this day is the 12th calends of April [i.e. 21 March], the day which we celebrate in honour of the holy man Benedict because of his great virtues. Indeed, the earth also shows by the shoots which are then quickened again that this is the time which should most rightly be the year's beginning, when the earth was created.



Now foolish men practise divination by many kinds of sorcery on this day, in great error, according to heathen customs contrary to their Christian faith, so that they may prolong their lives or their health; but in doing that they anger the Almighty Creator. Many people are also so greatly wrapped in error that they plan their journeys according to the moon and their deeds by the days, and will not let blood on a Monday because it is the beginning of the week - but Monday is not the beginning of the week, it is the second; Sunday is first in creation, in order, and in honour.

Some foolish people also say that there are some kinds of cattle which one should not bless; they say that if they are blessed they go wrong, but are made obedient by cursing. And so they use God's gifts to their injury, without blessing, with the devil's curses.

All blessing comes from God, and cursing from the devil. God made all creation, and the devil cannot create anything; he is an inciter to evil, a worker of falsehoods, originator of sins and deceiver of souls. Any part of creation which seems perverse has been created as a punishment for sins. Holy men often lived in the desert among fierce wolves and lions, among all kinds of animals and serpents, and nothing was able to harm them; they tore horned snakes apart with their bare hands and easily killed great dragons without any harm, through the power of God.

Woe to those people who make use of God's creation without his blessing, with the devil's sorceries, when the teacher of the nations, Paul, said, "Whatever you do in word or deed, do it always in the name of the Lord, giving thanks to the Almighty Father through his Son". That man's Christian faith is worth nothing, who spends his life in devilish sorceries; he has the appearance of a Christian, but is in fact a wretched heathen. As the same apostle said of such people, "I fear that I laboured in vain when I brought you to God, now that you keep days and months with vain divination".

A Clerk of Oxford

Follow the Star: Join the Song

The Twelve Days of Christmas with the Church of England



You are invited to pick up a copy of the Follow the Star booklet and take it home to use.

For each day from Christmas Eve to the Eve of Epiphany (5 January), he offers a short reading from the Bible, a reflection challenging you to see the Christmas story afresh, an invitation to wonder what this Christmas means in your own life, and a prayer to help you treasure this story in your heart.

Richard Carter, has created the 12 days of Reflections and invites you to hear and respond to the angels' invitation to gather in the presence of the newborn Jesus.

You can also download the App (free!) from Apple App Store or Goggle Play.

The Christmas Charity

All Saints Pop-Up Food Station



Despite the assumptions often made about those who live in 'leafy Clifton' there is real need amongst many who live within our local and wider community. These are people who might live on the Downs, in shop fronts along Whiteladies Road, under the RC Cathedral or in and around the churches and offices in Clifton, Redland and Cotham. It also includes those who live in rental or provided accommodation on the very edge of need driven by poverty. And it most certainly includes those whose needs cover a wide range of other issues; mental health and addiction to name but two.

Clifton is not an area that could be defined as deprived. Clifton is an area in which there is a significant number of people who do fit the deprived definition.

The Pop-Up Food Station under the tower provided a selection of food stuff and hygiene products to those who make use of it. It is rarely abused and often topped up several times a day. Topping up is randomised so that no pattern of refill is established and those who come have roughly equal chances of finding items regardless of the time they arrive.

Content comes from gifts given by the church community which often come from extra elements within the delivered shopping or trips to the supermarket; deliveries from the ***Sisters of the Church*** (in St Pauls); and, when reserves run out, deliveries made straight to church.

Financial gifts given this Christmas will go straight to that part of our account reserved for the purchase of food items and hygiene products for the Pop-Up Food Station.

A National Trend

This Christmas it is expected that there will be approximately more than 40,000 people who will be homeless, compared with last year. This 14% increase has been obtained from official figures and freedom of information requests (Guardian 14 December 2023).

Additionally, in the last year there has been a 26% increase in rough sleeping and 140,000 children are currently living in temporary homes. (Shelter – the housing charity).

These are disturbing numbers.

ASC Walks – everyone welcome

New Year's Day leg-stretch



Beat the Bounds of the Downs.

**The walk will take us all round the edge
of the Downs.**

Meet outside the Church, to leave at 11am.

We should be back by about 1pm, and of course anyone can go home earlier.

Dogs are most welcome.

This is not a Guided Walk, just a chance to stretch our legs.

Led by Georgina Harford georginaharford@hotmail.com

Bring and Share Lunch for Epiphany January 14th 2024



The very first event of the All Saints 2024 social calendar.

A Bring and share lunch for the Epiphany Celebration on Sunday 14th January 2024.

Please book the date in your new diary and ask your family and friends.

More information to follow soon



Friends Together

@ All Saints, Clifton

A Dementia accessible café – for **all**.
Support, guidance, information and friendship.
Tea, coffee and home-made 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 2024

ALWAYS THE 1st THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • THURSDAY 4 th January | • THURSDAY 2 nd July |
| • THURSDAY 1 st February | • THURSDAY 1 st August |
| • THURSDAY 7 th March | • THURSDAY 5 th September |
| • THURSDAY 4 th April | • THURSDAY 3 rd October |
| • THURSDAY 2 nd May | • THURSDAY 7 th November |
| • THURSDAY 6 th June | • THURSDAY 5 th December |



A PROUD DEMENTIA
AWARE ORGANISATION

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



"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"



A PROUD DEMENTIA
AWARE ORGANISATION

All Saints, Clifton has achieved Bristol Dementia
Action Alliance Gold Award status in 2023

900k

there are over 900,000 people living with dementia in the UK

5000

an estimated 5,000 of which are living in Bristol

5%

of people under 65 years old have young-onset dementia

Friends Together Café

First Thursday of every month: 10am-12pm

All Saints Church Ferrisbrooke Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8 3ED
ADMISSION FREE | allsaintsclifton.org

All Saints

www.allsaintsclifton.org

Clifton Church of England

Friends Together - Dementia Friendly Café

Thursday 4th January 10:00am – 12:00pm

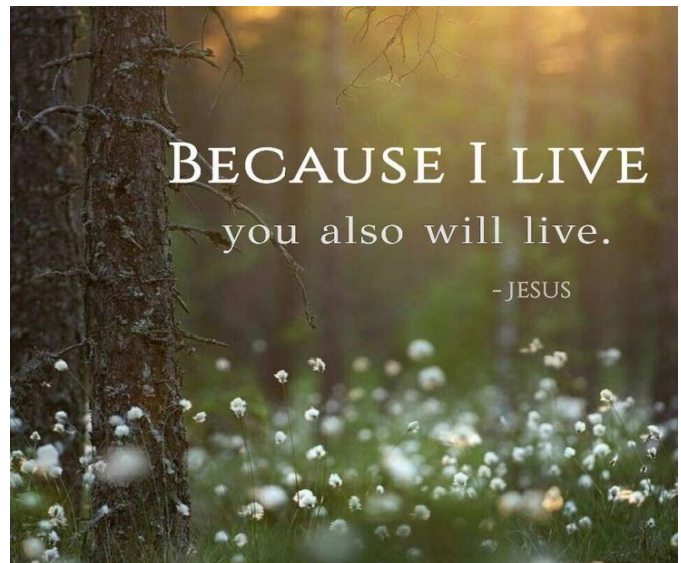
- A dementia accessible Café where *everyone* is welcome.
- Support, guidance, information and friendship
- Tea, coffee and delicious home-made cake!

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 June Matthews Sathia Aruliah Ryan Lindsey

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

Joanne Wilkins Eileen Davies Len Hughes John Morley-Bunker (Pr) Albert Loveday Ruth Burrows O.M.C Erna Sacof Betty Shaw Nick Ball (Pr) Richard Sleaford Irene Cameron

Years' Minds - this week we remember

Tom Davison (Pr) Margaret Glasow Albert Edwin Jones Irit Lauen
Geoffrey Sunderland (Pr) Freda Smith Mavis Heller Jill Racy Iris Morton Rachel Stilliard
Jeanette Seager

ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

Mon 1	<p>New Years Day Mass 12 noon Naming and Circumcision of Jesus</p> <p>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.</p>
Tue 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</p> <p><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." Bishop Azariah</i></p>
Wed 3	<p>Mass 10.00am 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>
Thurs 4	<p>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>
Fri 5	<p>Mass 10.00am 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>
Sat 6	<p>The Epiphany 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>
Sunday 7	<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

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