

ALL SAINTS NEWS

23rd June 2024
Trinity 4 Pr 7

Charles has asked us, your three summer ordinands at All Saints, to provide some thoughts to open this week's All Saints News. In a week with three feast days, we thought it might be appropriate for each of us to look at one.

The Feast Day of St Peter and St Paul



On the 29th June, the Church celebrates the Feast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. Both apostles are commemorated separately in January – Saint Peter on the 18th memorialising his confession of Jesus and Lord, and Saint Paul on the 25th memorialising his conversion. However, this festival is in remembrance of their martyrdom in Rome around 64AD.

Some argue that these are the two most important apostles who are both very active as we read the New Testament – it's fair to say that their lives and ministry have had a massive impact of Christianity through their lives, death and beyond. Peter's witness was particularly important to the Christian movement within the Jewish religion, while Paul was instrumental in spreading the Gospel to the Gentiles.

Following Jesus' death and resurrection, Peter became the leader of the Jewish Christians. During Jesus' life Peter was one of his closest disciples, present at all the key events and following Jesus' crucifixion he was instrumental in holding the disciples together. The Gospels seem to suggest that he was often the spokesman for the disciples and may have held a special position of authority over them. Along with James the Just and John the Evangelist, Peter is portrayed as one of the chief pillars of the church. After James was placed in charge of the Church at Jerusalem, Peter began the missionary phase of his life and eventually became the Bishop of Rome.

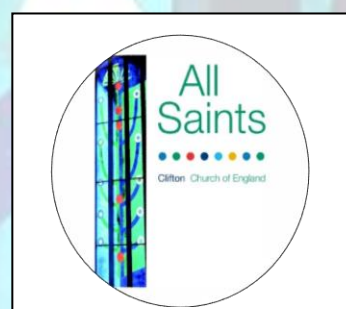
While Peter was the leader of the Jewish Christians, it was Paul who acted as one of the prime missionaries to the Gentiles, possibly because many of the Christian Jews who had previously

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encountered him as a persecutor did not trust him or his motives. Thirteen of the twenty-seven books of the New Testament are attributed to Paul's authorship (although this is always up for debate amongst theologians!), and his writings contribute greatly to today's accepted Christian theology.

Christian tradition suggests that both Peter and Paul were martyred in Rome around AD 64 under the orders of Emperor Nero. Eusebius of Caesarea suggested that Peter was crucified upside down. It is suggested that St. Peter's Basilica was built over the place where Peter died, and in 2013, bone fragments from the First Century were discovered there. According to legend, Paul was beheaded, and his body is said to have been buried outside the walls of Rome. In 2002, a tomb was found outside the Basilica of Saint Paul that appears to be authentically his.

These two Saints, together, probably did more to spread the Christian religion than any other two individuals. Their efforts to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and their willingness to sacrifice their lives for the sake of their Lord should be examples for all Christians to follow.

Emily Lissaman, Ordinand

St John the Baptist and R.S. Thomas: Priest, Prophet, Poet.

Perhaps a fitting reflection the feast day of the birth of John the Baptist is to ponder where we might be hearing the prophetic voice in our own time? I find this voice most present in the arts and the works of poet and Church of Wales priest R.S. Thomas are something I frequently return to. From the wilderness of the rural communities of North Wales in which he served Thomas articulated, through poetry, many of the questions we find ourselves asking in the search for meaning and truth. If we search for God and feel Him near at hand, only then to blink and find Him gone then Thomas' work persuades us that we are not alone in this experience of faith – this poet and prophet has been there before us. Thomas's son, Gwydion, recalls his father's sermons, in which he would "drone on" to absurd lengths about the evil of refrigerators, washing machines, televisions and other modern devices, to a congregation that could barely afford them. Thomas preached that they were all part of the temptation of scrambling after gadgets rather than attending to more spiritual needs. "It was the Machine, you see," he explains.

Still, Thomas was raising a deep and unanswered question: What is life for? Is it simply to consume more and more, and divert ourselves with ever more elaborate entertainments and gadgetry? What will this do to our souls? He recognised the 'machine' as an existential threat to the community, the village, the natural world and the gospel. Certainly this seems a fitting and poignant critique of the era of social media and the smartphone, yet we must be reminded that Thomas was writing these reflections fifty years ago, before the dawn of the computer age. He had a reputation, which perhaps he cultivated, of being not always charitable and sometimes awkward and taciturn. Critics described him as "formidable, bad-tempered, and apparently humourless", which I find interestingly similar to artistic portrayals of St John. There is also a Biblical sense to which the prophets are regarded as irritants and troublemakers. Elijah is described as the 'troubler of Israel' while Jeremiah and Isaiah continually reflect on the poor reception of their prophecy.

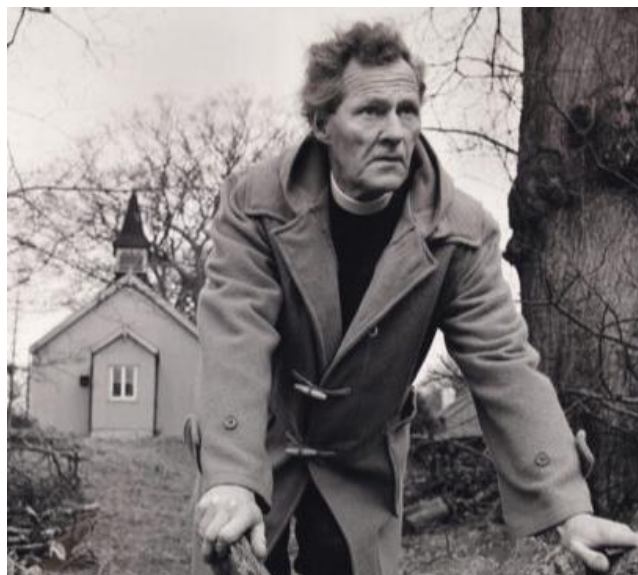
It seems to me that this 'wild-man' priest of Aberdaron was preparing the way for our age, a voice in the wilderness in the school of St John the Baptist, both loved and reviled, who calls to us to surrender not to the 'machine' but to Christ in service to our communities and to natural world.

Other

It was perfect. He could do
Nothing about it. Its waters
Were as clear as his own eye. The grass
Was his breath. The mystery
Of the dark earth was what went on
In himself. He loved and
Hated it with a parent's
Conceit, admiring his own
Work, resenting its
Independence. There were trysts
In the greenwood at which
He was not welcome. Youths and girls
Fondling the pages of
A strange book, awakened
His envy. The mind achieved
What the heart could not. He began planning
The destruction of the long peace
Of the place. The machine appeared
In the distance, singing to itself
Of money. Its song was the web
They were caught in, men and women
Together. Then villages were as flies
To be sucked empty.
God secreted
A tear. Enough, enough
He commanded, but the machine
Looked at him and went on singing.

- *R.S. Thomas, H'ym, 1972.*

George Brett, Ordinand



The Feast of Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons

Friday will be the feast day of Irenaeus of Lyons, one of the church fathers, who lived from c.130 to c.200. Born in Smyrna, a coastal city in modern-day Turkey, he travelled to Lyons where he became a missionary, a presbyter and eventually the bishop. He was linked to the apostles through his teacher Polycarp who is said to have been one of the last people alive who was taught by a living apostle: John. Like many of the church's early thinkers Irenaeus was engaged in the battle against Gnosticism, a polytheistic mystery cult of the early church which had radically different ideas about Yahweh's identity to those of the mainstream church.



In fighting Gnosticism, Irenaeus faced a challenge: the early church had yet to pin down the firm notions it has today of orthodox theology. If you think there is a broad range of views in the church today you should look at some of the ideas that were flying around in the second century! Irenaeus actually popularised the term “heresy” as a way of referring to ideas that we understand to be incorrect about God. That’s not a constructive term to use in our debates today but as the church was still forming its ideas, Irenaeus was a key player in developing concepts of right theology, usually set *against* those ideas which the church realised were definitely wrong.

Ironically, and in common with many of the church fathers, Irenaeus had a few ideas about Christianity which would be considered a long way from orthodox today. It also wasn't unheard of for him to twist history to fit his purposes. For instance, for Jesus to fully experience humanity Irenaeus thought he needed to have lived into old age. He insisted on this fully in the face of all the evidence that Jesus was crucified and ascended in his 30s. He also provided a list of bishops of Rome going back to Peter and Paul which seems to have been almost entirely made up.

Irenaeus' pillars of good Christian theology were scripture, the teaching of Christ, the activity of the Holy Spirit and the teaching of the church. In perhaps slightly different forms these are the same pillars that most Christians rest their faith on today. He taught, against the grain of the philosophers and the Gnostics alike, that God really could and did choose to become human, just like us, and die on a cross for us. In a world that wanted to take the physical out of Judaism, he taught of a physical Christ and a bodily resurrection, something we can all look forward to!

As we celebrate Irenaeus on Friday we can thank God for the saint's part in the long journey of building our understanding of the divine up to the present day and preserving the message of a living and dying Messiah.

James Furlong, Ordinand

We want to thank everyone at All Saints for welcoming us so warmly. It is a genuine pleasure to be here and learn from you all.



All Saints



Clifton Church of England

Dedication Sunday
'Bring & Share'
Parish Lunch



Join us after Mass for our
Dedication Sunday



'Bring & Share' Parish Lunch
Sunday 7th July @ 12.30pm

More details coming soon!



All Saints Parish Office
0117 974 1355; www.allsaintsclifton.org



Clifton High School

LUNCHTIME CONCERT

Wednesday 3rd July, 1.00pm
All Saints Church, Pembroke
Road, Clifton BS8 3ED





Dementia Awareness Training

Provided by Tony Hall, Bristol Dementia Action Alliance (BDAA)

When is the Awareness Training?

- ★ Thursday 27 June, in the Randall Room at 10.00am.
- ★ Contact Helen to book a place

All Saints is a Dementia Aware Organization

ASC is also the proud holder of the BDAA Gold Award. Our aim is to raise dementia awareness and understand wherever possible and to provide an inclusive and welcoming environment for all who live with dementia, their friends, family and carers.

Cynthia Ashford



One of the several blessings for Catholic Christians is that, if we're unable to be at Mass for reasons of infirmity, we may still have the Blessed Sacrament brought to us. This will sometimes be done by a priest, but may be done by specially licensed lay people. It's a very special grace, both for the giver and the recipient.

One of those who regularly receives this way is Cynthia Ashford, for whom we pray Sunday by Sunday. Now in her hundredth year, Cynthia is resident at a Bristol Care Home. The photos here were taken last week, the day after Myra York's funeral, and one of the little posies given to all who attended can be seen next to the pyx containing the Sacrament. The two women have been firm friends over the years, so this was a way for Cynthia not only to have Holy Communion but to have an extra focus of prayer for her departed friend.

Visits to Cynthia are a huge joy, both for her and her visitors. Her enthusiasm for the Sacrament is boundless; she communicates that with infectious devotion and gladness. She has been an All Saints worshipper for decades, with the Mothers' Union a special interest.

allsaintsarts concert matinée
All Saints Church Pembroke Rd Clifton

**Saturday
July 6th
4pm**

William Benham - violin
Chris Hedland -piano

Mozart Sonata in C K.296
works by
Rimsky-Korsakov
Granados
Debussy
Elgar
De Falla.



refining collection tea & cake



The Funeral of

Raymond Clarke
will be held at 11.00am
on
Monday 24th June 2024
at
All Saints, Clifton

The service will be followed by a reception in the Atrium



The Funeral of

David Reed
will be held at 2.00pm
on
Wednesday 26th June 2024
at
All Saints, Clifton

The service will be followed by a reception in the Atrium

RIP

Pray Your Part: General Election 2024



The General Election will be a moment for the nation to ask important questions about the future. Pray Your Part is an invitation from the bishops of the Church of England to encourage prayer and participation in the life of our nation and communities, both as voters and as citizens.

This 21-day journey of prayer and reflection (from Friday, 14 June until Election Day on 4 July) is designed for use in the run-up to the UK General Election. Each day explores a different theme, with a short Bible reading, reflection and prayer for a different aspect of our common life.

More information can be found on the CofE website

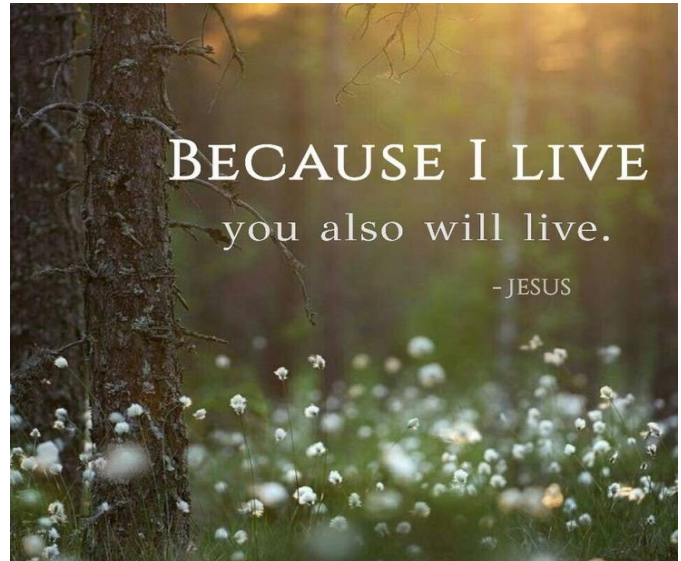
[Pray Your Part: General Election 2024 | The Church of England](#)

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 of the parish and our hearts whom we remember in our prayers:

Sunday

Tabitha Clark, Ruth and Richard Harding, Katie Norman, Neal Gordon, Joyce Shepherd, Cynthia Ashford Elisabeth Morgan Sathia Aruliah Sister Rosina Jean Detheridge Nicholas Parker John Badman Jack O'Sullivan and family Susie King Arthur Cleaver

Monday

Sue Hilliar Hugh Farry

Tuesday.

Ryan Lindsey George Lympelopoulos Pam Parker

Wednesday

Katrina and Katherine King, Philip Miles, Diana Verity, Samantha Tucker, Maureen Mumford

Thursday

Steve Cooper Barbera Freeman Remi Clarke

Friday

Charlotte Hopkins, Caroline Semon, Nicole Kaneza Nadine Benn

Saturday

Jenny Rogers

The Departed

Toby Leathwood Eric Lloyd-Davis Nick Atkinson Mario Toffolo Mary Greenacre Sholto MacTurk Peter Firth (Bp) Margaret Denmead Tony Collins William Keith Eltringham Myra York Sunny Gilheaney Raymond Clarke David Reed

Years' Minds - this week we remember:

Margery Caish John McKenna Gordon Eddy Joan Tierney Robert Pyne (Pr) Cornelia O' Regan Susan Barnard Thomas Wiedemann Roy Shepherd Peter Hellier

ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

Mon 24	Birth of John the Baptist Pray that the Church may have the courage of John the Baptist, so as to constantly speak the truth, boldly rebuke vice and patiently suffer for the truth's sake
Tue 25	Pray for all those engaged in creating and promoting popular music. Song writers, composers, musicians, 'disc-jockeys', marketers, critics and TV contestants. All who have a power to influence the attitudes and behaviours of young people – that they may do this to the best of their ability.
Wed 26	Mass 10.00am Pray for those working with refugees at international, national and local levels. Pray for welcome, understanding and friendship in local communities where refugees seek what might become "home."
Thurs 27	Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria - teacher of the faith, 444. Pray for those working in areas of religious polarization, that faith may become a point of human reconciliation and unity, rather than division.
Fri 28	Mass 10.00am Irenaeus, bishop, teacher of the faith C. 200. Pray for those who teach in departments and colleges of theology, both as an academic discipline alone and in the training of priests. Pray for students at Trinity, especially those on placement with us this summer and those we will meet in the Autumn.
Sat 29	Peter and Paul, Apostles. Pray for those who lead the church in mission and management, including those who work at Church House in Westminster.
Sunday 30	Trinity 5 Pr 8 Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name. Early Worship 9.00am 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 - Caroline Davenport
c2davbristol@hotmail.com
 Janice Callow – office@allsaintsclifton.org mark for the attention of the Safeguarding Officer.