

ALL SAINTS NEWS

22nd December 2024
4th Sunday of Advent



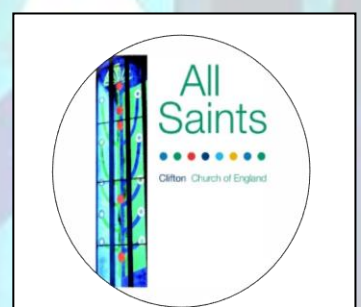
'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.'

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Follow the Star for 2024

'Calm and Bright'

December can feel like chaos – full of social events, services, Christmas presents to buy, never-ending to-do lists and the pressure to create the perfect Christmas. But in the midst of this chaos, churches offer an opportunity to find peace.



Follow the Star: Calm and Bright is the Church of England's booklet for Christmas 2024, designed to be given away at Christmas services and events. Taking inspiration from the world-famous carol 'Silent Night', it invites us to step into the still centre of the Christmas story where 'All is calm, All is bright'.

Sammi Tooze, from the Diocese of York, offers a meditation for each day from Christmas Eve to the Eve of Epiphany (5 January), with a reflection, challenge and prayer based on a short Bible reading, designed to help us find moments of calm as well as bright joy through the season.

Available in the Atrium

These Meditations for the Twelve Days of Christmas are available in a booklet that can be picked up in the Atrium

Today, Sixth of the O Antiphons

O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations)

*'O King whom all the peoples desire
You are the cornerstone which makes all one.
O come and save us whom you made from clay.'*

Reflection from a Dominican Sister:

What is my desire? Do I really have desire for this King, as today's 'O Antiphon' proclaimed?

'O King whom all the peoples' desire'

The desire for God is part of what we are.

Christmas time offers for us a lot of wishes... But as soon as we open the gifts there will be a inevitable sense of disappointment. 'Is that it?' the small child asks when all the presents have been unwrapped. The desire remains even if you get what you asked for, and especially, if you get what you asked for! The longing is unsatisfied...

Much later the child learned the lesson of Augustine and come to know that there is a space inside us that nothing but the uncontained God can fill.

I remember when in my 16th year I spend a night at the Disco, and next morning was not able to get up for Sunday Mass, later on my confessor asked me "Do you know why you spent all night at Disco?" I say: 'No, I really do not know why.' He answered: ' Because GOD LOVES YOU SO MUCH! You have in your heart a big desire for Him. You spent a whole night to feed your desire for God, but only God can do it."

It was a revelation for me, it changed a lot in my life. I do not mean that I stopped to dance. No, my relation with God went deeper and I started to dance with Him, as at last Sunday we heard from Zephaniah 3.14-18: 'He will dance with shouts of joy for you'. God is still dancing!

'Man can fully discover himself only in a sincere giving of himself.' We find ourselves only through making a gift of ourselves to God, who is our complete fulfilment.

St. Tomas Aquinas does not claim to prove that God will satisfy your soul. But he does prove that 'God alone can satisfy'. That is, he proves that nothing but God, the real God, and the God of love can satisfy your deepest longing, and God can do this.

But God gives us freedom to make a true, good choice! You have nothing to lose, only your pride and misery

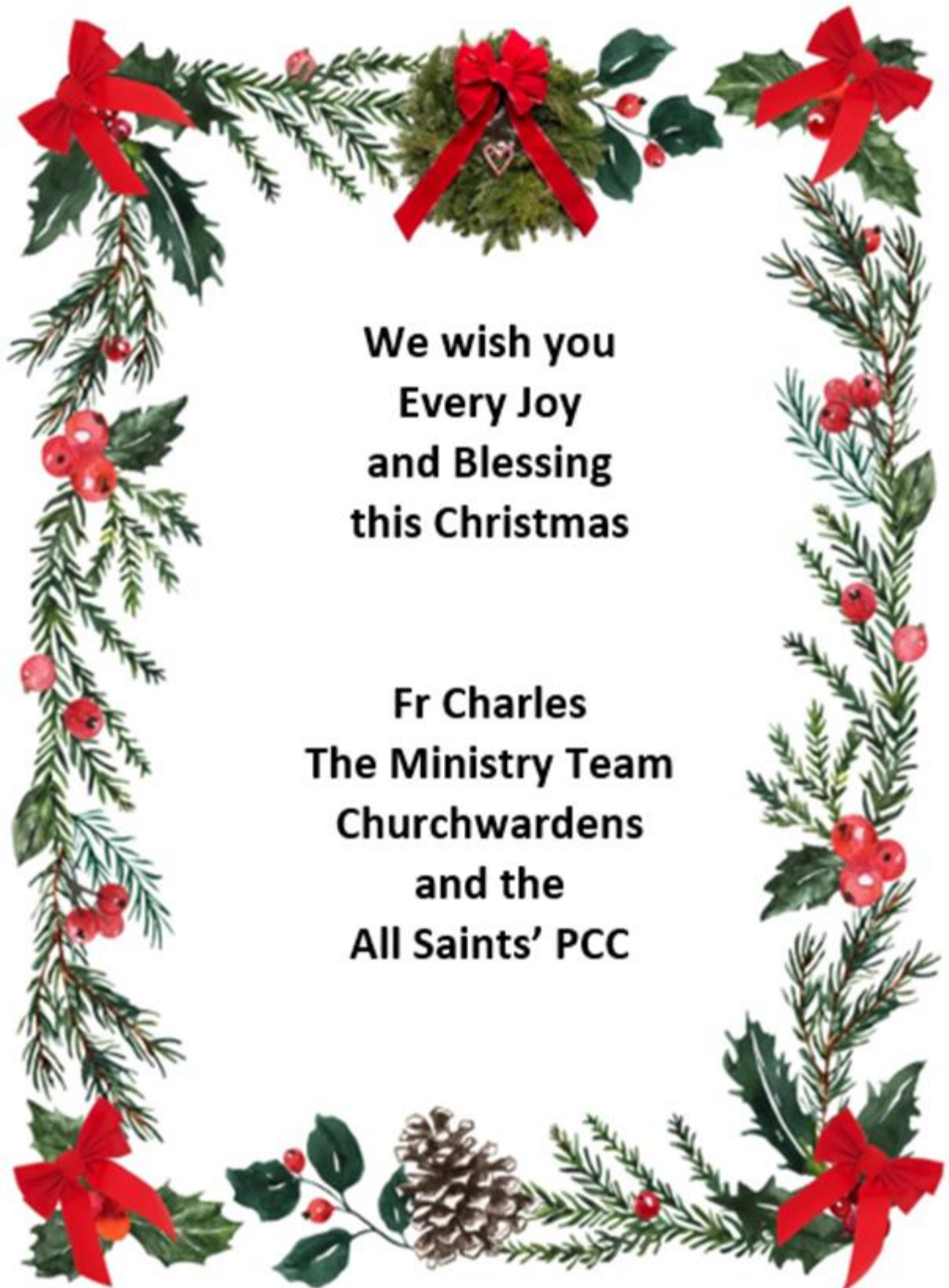
'There is only one thing needful' (Lk 10. 38-42). Your life can be ONE. You can be ONE. In speaking to Martha, Christ speaks to all of us. He sees us in her, and He wants to liberate us out of her illusion, and her worries, and led us into Mary's 'one thing needful'. He is the One we need to seek, and find, and meet and love, and serve in all things. Because everything we seek, every good, every happiness, every joy, every perfection, is in Him.

ASC Christmas Charities 2024



This year the Christmas Charities will be **Emmaus** Bristol and, internationally, the **Christian Aid** appeal for families fleeing from conflict.

- ★ **Emmaus Bristol:** Provide a home, support, training and work experience for up to 30 formerly homeless men and women (known as Companions) in Bristol as well as family homes for those in housing need and move-on homes.
- ★ **Christian Aid: Christmas Appeal - Families Fleeing Conflict.** When families are forced to leave everything behind and every essential is unaffordable, the support programme we deliver with our partners, Smile Again Africa Development Organisation is a vital lifeline. For one mother, Shede, it offers a rare chance to feed her youngest daughter, Saida, and granddaughter, Mariem, both aged six, a nutritious meal. No one chooses to be a refugee, but together, we can support families to forge a new life while they wait for the end of war.



**We wish you
Every Joy
and Blessing
this Christmas**

**Fr Charles
The Ministry Team
Churchwardens
and the
All Saints' PCC**



Christmas Services

Christmas Carol service	Sunday 22 nd	6.00pm
Christmas Story	Christmas Eve	4.30 for 5.00pm
Midnight Mass	Christmas Eve	10.00pm
Christmas Day Eucharist with Carols		10.00am



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.*


The first Friends Together Café in 2025 will be held on the 2nd of January at 10am in the Randall Room. Everyone is welcome


The popular All Saints table at The Alma will return on the 9th of January 2025



Thursday evenings

At 8.00pm




All Saints Church
Pembroke Road
Clifton, Bristol

Christmas Eve

COME at 4.30pm for
hot chocolate and festive nibbles

Carols & Story
5.00 pm

The Christmas Story

A short service
for all ages
telling the story
of the first
Christmas, with
familiar carols
around the Crib



**Epiphany Shared Lunch Sunday 5th
January 2025 at 12.30pm**

**Please sign up on the sheet in the
Atrium during the Christmas period
and join the first shared Parish
meal of 2025.**

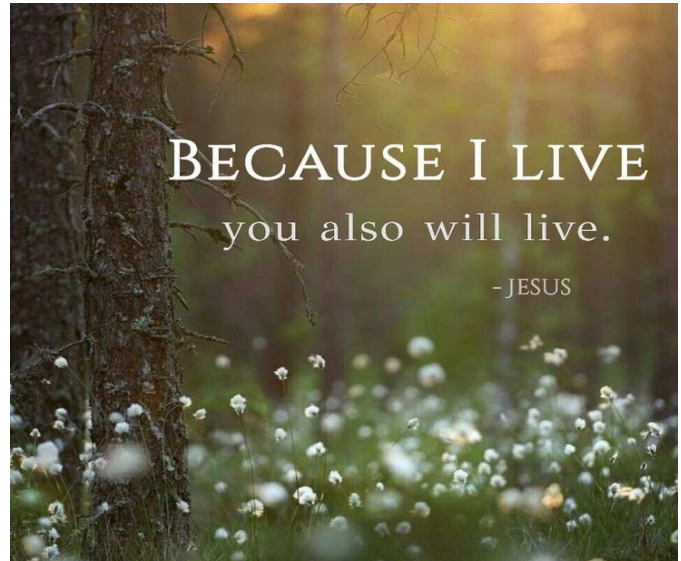
Cash Bar available

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 Jean Detheridge Jack O'Sullivan and family Susie King Arthur Cleaver Sebastian Kloss Vyard Angel Wray Nic Epinau Oussama and Claire Sader Sarah John Badman

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 John Badman

Saturday

The Departed

Myra York Raymond Clarke David Reed Christopher Trelawny Ross Elizabeth McKie Cher Maximen Nicholas Parker Stephen Jordon Maureen Badman

Years' Minds - this week we remember:

Leslie James Deborah James Caryl Fox Jim York Jo Drewett Hayden Rees Mae Skerrett Fred Nickalls Phoebe Oakley Garn

ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

Mon 23	O Emmanuel (O With Us is God) O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Saviour of all people: Come and set us free, Lord our God.
Tue 24	<p>Christmas Eve Almighty God, as we prepare with joy to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child, embrace the earth with your glory and be for us a living hope.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Early Worship 9.00am Parish Mass 10.30am</p> <p>Christmas Story 4.30pm for 5.00pm Christmas Midnight Mass 10.00pm</p>
Wed 25	<p>Christmas Day You have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit.</p> <p>Christmas Eucharist with Carols 10.00am</p>
Thurs 26	Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr We pray for all those who are in preparation for ordination and those who will be ordained this year. May they and your whole Church have a rich outpouring of God's grace. We pray also for their families, friends, for all those who support and encourage them on their journey and for those with whom they will serve.
Fri 27	Mass 10.00am John, Apostle and Evangelist We pray for our friends. John was the 'disciple whom Jesus loved', we pray for and give thanks for those who are close to us, whose opinions are important to us and for whom we care.
Sat 28	The Holy Innocents Remembering the infanticide of Herod the Great, we pray for all children who suffer death, injury and loss in the war zones of this world. A child, 'Nour', in Syria aged 6 described: "Nour was such a kind, friendly girl, but I watched her go crazy. She is always alone. She won't talk. She won't eat. She wakes the neighbours with nightmares. The fear stopped her mind. She is too shocked to have a personality anymore."
Sunday 29	<p>1st Sunday of Christmas Holy Family Father help us to live as the holy family, united in respect and love. Bring us the joy and peace of your eternal home. Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Early Worship 9.00am Parish Mass 10.30am</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 Officers - Caroline Davenport & Janice Callow at office@allsaintsclifton.org marked for the attention of the Safeguarding Officer.