

# ALL SAINTS NEWS

5<sup>th</sup> January 2025  
The Epiphany  
(Christmas Two)

## *Epiphany Poem*

The red king  
Came to a great water. He said,  
Here the journey ends.  
No keel or skipper on this shore.

The yellow king  
Halted under a hill. He said,  
Turn the camels round.  
Beyond, ice summits only.

The black king  
Knocked on a city gate. He said,  
All roads stop here.  
These are gravestones, no inn.

The three kings  
Met under a dry star.  
There, at midnight,  
The star began its singing.

The three kings  
Suffered salt, snow, skulls.  
They suffered the silence  
Before the first word.

*George Mackay Brown*



**George Mackay Brown** (1921-1996) was one of the greatest Scottish poets of the 20th century. He was born into extreme poverty, lived his entire life, and died in the village of Stromness in the remote

## Contact us

Office 01179741355  
Web [www.allsaintsclifton.org](http://www.allsaintsclifton.org)  
Email [office@allsaintsclifton.org](mailto:office@allsaintsclifton.org)  
Address 68 Pembroke Road, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 3ED



Vicar Fr. Charles Sutton  
Mobile 07785912663  
Associate Priest Fr Paul Hawkins

Home 0117 9078088  
Email [charleses@me.com](mailto:charleses@me.com)



Orkney islands. Throughout his life Brown struggled with severe physical and mental health issues. In 1961, he converted to the Catholic Church. His work eventually enjoyed international acclaim. The American poet Robert Lowell travelled to Orkney to meet Brown. Seamus Heaney said Brown's works transformed life by "passing everything through the eye of the needle of Orkney." *Dan Clendenin*

## A Christmas message from the Bishops of Bristol and Swindon

Transforming Church. Together



Bishop Viv and Bishop Neil share with you their Christmas video message to all the worshipping communities within the Diocese of Bristol. It comes with their deep gratitude for your ministry in this season and throughout the year.

From all at the Diocese of Bristol, we wish you a blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Yours in Christ

**The Rt Revd Vivienne Faulk**  
**Bishop of Bristol**

**The Rt Revd Neil Warwick**  
**Bishop of Swindon**

# “A House Divided Against Itself Cannot Stand.” (C.F. Psalm 90.)

First some wise words of Pope Francis, relevant for the crisis in the upper echelons of our church: “Moral issues should be set in the context of a pastoral discernment, filled with merciful love that is ever-ready to understand, forgive, accompany, hope and above all integrate...” (Amoris Laetitia.)

The recent media sourced scandal concerning historic abuse and safeguarding failures in the church, resulting in the archbishop’s resignation (which I regret,) and subsequent (what appear to be) attempts, serially, to hold bishops’ (and former bishops’) feet to the fire, as well as the clear injustice done to the former bishop of Lincoln – abetted from within and without the church, should give us pause. A few principles need reiterating: -

- 1) All forms of abuse are odious and wrong and need to be exposed and brought to account, precisely because they snatch away and make painful to oneself one’s memories, one’s past, and therefore who one is. The deepest damage is done to the individual. Smyth’s case is nevertheless off the scale. All victims of abuse, anywhere and at any time are owed by the wider community - and deserve everyone’s support and prayers. They must always be listened to and never silenced, but victimhood does not of itself, however, confer on them a measure of moral authority.
- 2) The Church is a Divine Society which incarnates herself in the human community. As such she is also an imperfect and sinful human society redeemed, day to day, by dutiful witness and the grace of her sacraments. We profess our faith in “One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church,” and we think of that as mediated by an *institution* by means of sacraments. That is wrong. In fact, the Church is a(the) Sacrament of Jesus Christ, that manifests herself in imperfect and sinful institutions. There can be no doubt that the Church of England’s handling of historic abuse, from the top, has been appalling and inadequate, from the Smyth case, to the “goings on” at Blackburn, to a recently publicised historic case concerning a publicly named cleric. Though we must remember that this is complicated by changing attitudes and perceptions in society over time, towards safeguarding; and also, as born witness to by many, on the ground, at parish level, there has been increasing “best practice.”
- 3) Abuse (sexual or physical, or both) is all about power. Wherever there is an imbalance of power ingrained abuse enters in, but abuse also lurks and prevails in the nooks and dark places of any institution where the exploitative domination of people or individuals can take physical or emotional or other forms. It is quite simply evil incarnating itself in the world and in this case, it has a human face.
- 4) Everyone should be aware that the Church of England is not one nation-wide institution with a CEO type figure (+Canterbury) who should take the rap for institutional failure (Here the “Business model” does not fit) - each diocese (parish even??) has a degree of autonomy as well as answerability. Everyone therefore needs to tailor and target their criticisms, albeit of woeful failures, appropriately and fairly.
- 5) The Church – all of us – is called to be the Body of Christ, gathered around the living God in the world. That is to say that She/we must be a repentant and forgiving body from the lowest right through to the highest – and that, in the end, is why I am so grateful to be part of the Church of England - someone like me - and grateful too for our church settlement, in this nation, dating from 1534: and proud of its faithfulness to tradition combined with openness to modernity.

Fr. Paul Tiernan

**NB. The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the ASC community.**

## *Thank You*

The Ministry Team and all who, in many and various ways, enable the life of All Saints would like to thank the All Saints Endowment Trust for their kind gifts this Christmas.

## **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.

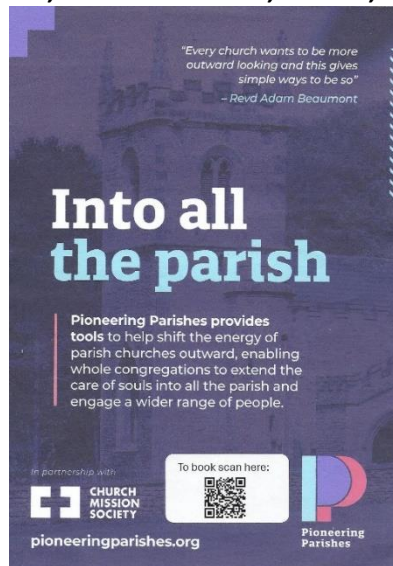


**Follow the Star: Calm and Bright** is the Church of England's booklet for Christmas 2024, designed to be given away at Christmas services and events. Taking inspiration from the world-famous carol 'Silent Night', it invites us to step into the still centre of the Christmas story where 'All is calm,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

# 'Into All the Parish'

Saturday 25 January 2025, Christ Church, Downend Road, Bristol, 10 am – 3 pm.



**Pioneering Parishes** provides tools and ideas of how to unlock the creative energy in your parish/es and find new ways to engage with God's spirit and those unconnected to your church. All welcome, ordained and lay, leaders and members, church teams and individuals!

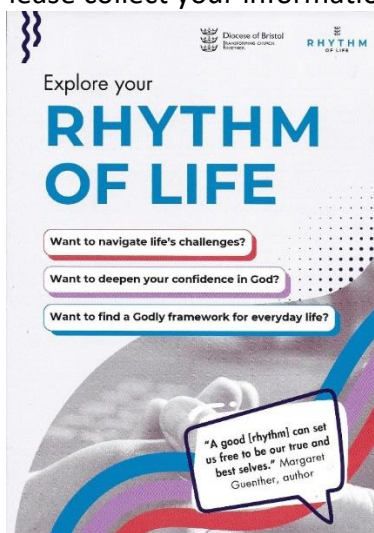
Pioneering Parishes are offering to work for a year with a number of churches in the Diocese to facilitate and support learning through courses and resources, focusing on:

- learning to pay attention to the culture around us
- helping congregations discern who they are called to be for God and their local community
- offering tools, skills, postures and practices to support steady culture change
- growing a healthy ecology of church; further extending the care of souls into all the parish

## The Rhythm of Life

### Programme of Exploration for 2025

During the course of 2025 there will be opportunity to Explore the Rhythm of Life with monthly taster sessions online. Additionally, there will be opportunities for Retreats and Pilgrimages over the year. Please collect your information booklet from within the Atrium, or directly from Fr Charles or Wendy.



## ASC Christmas Charities



Thank you to everyone who donated to the Christmas charities this year, a sum of £2115 was raised. The All Saints Trustees have kindly agreed to match fund all donations which means that a gift of over £2000 can be given to both Christian Aid and Emmaus House in support of their work

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



**Epiphany Shared Lunch Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>  
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.**

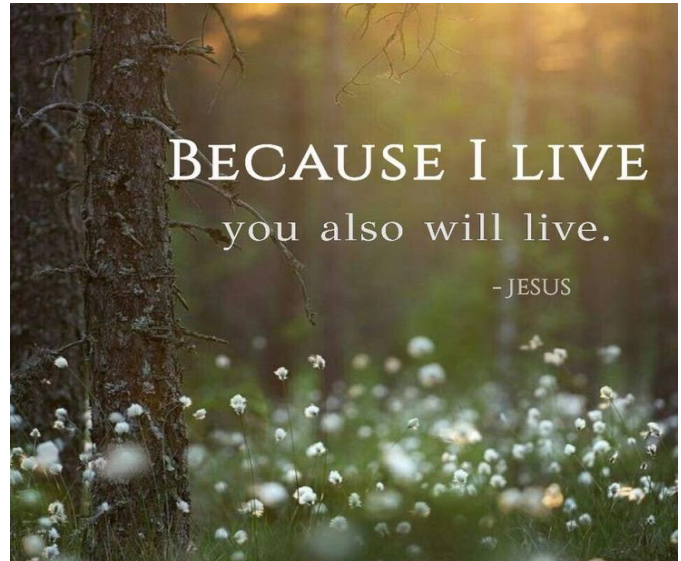
**Cash Bar available**

## 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 Epinay Oussama and Claire Sader Sarah

### 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

Stephen Jordon Maureen Badman

### Years' Minds - this week we remember:

Iris Morton Rachel Stilliard Jeanette Seager Derek Jay Molly Micheal Cliff Hawkins Jack Ashford Elizabeth Ralph Anne Hurst Donald Hawley

# ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

Mon 6	<b>The Epiphany</b> 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.
Tue 7	<b>Orthodox Christmas Day</b> Pray for our brother and sister Christians who, in some part of the Orthodox Church, celebrate the Nativity of Christ today. Pray also for Earth Scientists who study all aspects related to planet earth. May their work inform us so that we are better able to care for creation
Wed 8	<b>Mass 10.00am</b> Pray for Physicists and also Earth Scientists who study all aspects related to planet earth. May their work inform us so that we are better able to care for creation. (Today is Rotation of the Earth Day and we remember Leon Foucault and his pendulum)
Thurs 9	Pray for all those who work in the broadcasting industry. Television and radio (and on-line streaming) are hugely important in bringing news and entertainment to all. Pray for those whose main connection with others is through TV and radio.
Fri 10	<b>Mass 10.00am William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1645</b> Pray for the Church of England and the Anglican Communion. Laud, as well as being a supporter of more catholic practice, worked to generate uniformity on the Church. Pray for our divided Church and the challenging debates and decisions on human sexuality.
Sat 11	<b>Mary Slessor, Missionary in West Africa, 1915</b> Pray for all who work on behalf of Women's Rights. Even today equality, justice and safety are not guarded in law for women. Pray for Christians in Nigeria who experience some of the most violent persecution in the world.
<b>Sunday 12</b>	<b>Epiphany 1 Baptism of Christ</b>  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.  <b>Early Worship 9.00am</b> <b>Parish Mass 10.30</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 Officers - Caroline Davenport & Janice Callow at [office@allsaintsclifton.org](mailto:office@allsaintsclifton.org) marked for the attention of the Safeguarding Officer.