

ALL SAINTS NEWS

19th January 2025
Epiphany 2

Reflection on a Season of Revelation

By Ruth Haley Barton

The Mystery of Christ With Us

Just like Christmastide is a season of twelve days, Epiphany is a season of the church year stretching from January 6 to the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. Three events in particular are associated with this season: the visit of the wise men from the east, the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River along with his temptation in the wilderness, and the turning of the water into wine. Reflecting on these events, launches us into a season of seeking manifestations of God's presence in our ordinary lives as well.

In Christian tradition, the weeks between the Incarnation and the Resurrection are called Ordinary Time because we are not celebrating any particular mystery of our faith but rather the mystery of Christ with us in all aspects of our lives. Yet ordinary time is far from being unimportant or uninteresting. The Incarnation—God with us in the flesh—transforms every aspect of our human experience into a place of encounter with the Holy One. It takes more than a day or a week to fully live into this reality; it takes practice to learn how to recognize it.

As Joan Chittister writes, "The time between Christmas and Lent, and the time between Pentecost and Advent [are] known as Ordinary Time, time outside the seasons of the two great feasts of the church. Time to rest in the contemplation of those centres of the faith that are the lodestones of our souls...in this period that is between the two poles of the life of Jesus, we get to pause awhile. To take it all in. To make the connection between that life, that reality, and our own. Ordinary time gives us time to contemplate the intersection between the life of Jesus and our own...In the liturgical year we live the life of Jesus day after day until one day it becomes our own." (Joan Chittister; The Liturgical Year).

Things Get Really Exciting

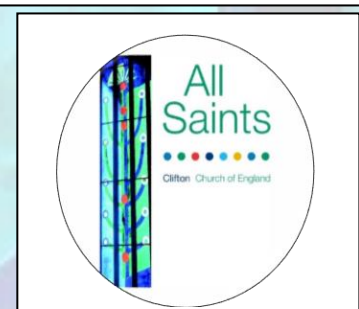
Some people find themselves in an emotional slump after the intense waiting of Advent, which culminates with Christmas, and then is followed immediately by celebrations associated with the chronological New Year. This let-down is understandable given the adrenalin-pumping pace of the holidays. It can feel like everything we looked forward to is now behind us and all that lies ahead is cold weather (for some) and getting back to work.

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The views and opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the All Saints Church community.

The celebration of Epiphany—with its emphasis on how God reveals the mystery of divine presence in the midst of our ordinary lives—can actually fill us with anticipation. Epiphany reminds us that Ordinary Time is a season when things can get really exciting as we reflect on the “extraordinarily ordinary” aspects of Jesus’ birth story; it encourages us to renew our determination to seek God in the ordinary aspects of our own lives as well.

Don’t Want to Miss a Thing

There is a Christian Ignatian practice that can help us with this. It is called the *examen of consciousness*—that is, our consciousness of God with us as David models for us in Psalm 139:1-12. This prayer practice is so very simple because all we have to do is take a few minutes at the end of every day to review the events of that day asking God to show us evidence of the Divine Presence we might have missed. You may prefer to take a few minutes in the morning to look back on the previous 24 hours, but either way we are creating space for God to reveal evidence of his presence, his activity and his glory so we don’t miss anything.

As we reflect on every aspect of the day—waking, showering and dressing, eating, commuting, relating with others, difficulties and challenges at work, moments of pleasure and pain, consolation and desolation, decision-making, interacting with the news and needs of the world, concluding a day spent working at home or returning home, the evening spent with housemates or family, crawling into the comfort of our bed at night—we can ask God, “Reveal yourself to me. Show me where you were present, making the ordinary extraordinary. I don’t want to miss a thing.”

This is a prayer God loves to answer.

The Extraordinary Ordinary

In my experience, God always uses this heart-felt request to heighten my awareness of divine presence in the ordinary moments of my life. This so consistent with another meaning of the word epiphany—and that is, “a sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of something....an intuitive grasp of reality.” I don’t know about you but I feel like I need that more now than ever—to perceive and to grasp the essential nature of things in this topsy-turvy world we’re living in right now.

When we incorporate this simple prayer practice into our daily routine, Ordinary Time becomes anything but ordinary! It becomes a season of enlightenment when we see things for what they really are, we see God for who God really is, and we see what God is up to and we can join God in God’s work. That’s when things get really exciting!

*When the song of the angels is stilled
when the star in the sky is gone
when the kings and princes are home
when the shepherds are back with their flocks
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost
to heal the broken
to feed the hungry
to release the prisoner
to rebuild the nations
to bring peace among the people
to make music in the heart.*

Howard Thurman (1899 – 1981)

'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!

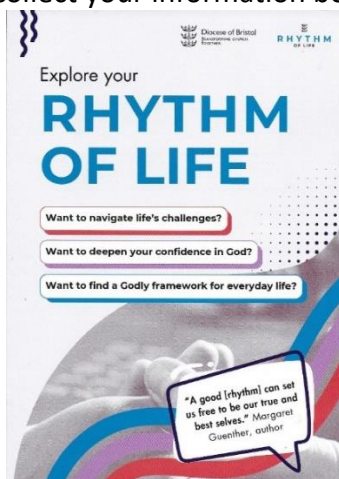
Pioneering Parishes are offering to work for a year with a number of churches in the Diocese to facilitate and support learning through courses and resources, focusing on:

- 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.





United Society Partners in the Gospel(USPG) is the Anglican mission agency supported by All Saints. They are holding a Regional Lunch for supporters from across the Southwest and Wales here at All Saints on Thursday January 30th (12noon - 2pm): an opportunity to learn of and be encouraged by the good work of USPG'S partners around the Anglican Communion.

Members of All Saints are warmly invited to attend. We need to know numbers, so please let Fr Paul (H) if you would like to come.

Bristol Safe Families and Home For Good - An Invitation

 <p>Have you ever thought of fostering? — Could you volunteer to bring support & belonging to a local family?</p> <p>Find out more, come and be ENVISIONED!</p>	 <p>Have you ever thought of fostering? — Could you volunteer to bring support & belonging to a local family?</p> <p>Find out more, come and be ENVISIONED!</p>
<p>Hope Chapel, Bristol 28 January 2025 7.30 - 9pm Hope Chapel Hill, Hotwells, Bristol BS8 4ND</p>	<p>Redlands Church, Bristol 18 February 2025 7.30 - 9pm Redland Green Rd, Redland, Bristol BS6 7HE</p>
<p>https://homeforgood.org.uk/events/</p>	<p>https://homeforgood.org.uk/events/</p>



All Saints



Clifton Church of England



Fundraising Parish Lunch Sunday 23rd February @ 12.30pm

Join us in the Randall Room after Parish Mass for a

Fundraising Sudanese-themed Parish Lunch

All proceeds to go towards supporting the education of our
Sudanese students

A delicious home-cooked Sudanese-themed buffet
Including vegetarian and vegan options (GF can be accommodated if requested in advance)



Cash Bar & RAFFLE



Tickets £10

On sale in church from Sunday 2nd February

All Saints Parish Office

0117 974 1355; www.allsaintsclifton.org

'Please bring along any raffle prizes for the Fundraising Lunch on the day, or hand in to the Parish Office in advance. If you're unable to attend on the 23rd, then you can make a separate donation via the donation envelopes in church, clearly writing 'Sudanese Students' on the envelope, together with the amount of your donation and drop into the donations' box in the church porch. You can also pay via the card reader, again marking up an empty envelope accordingly'

Ruth Harding would like everyone to know that a short ceremony of interment of ashes for Lionel Reeves will be held on Saturday 18th of January at Holy Trinity Church, Westbury on Trym at 11.30am in the garden near the Parish office. All are welcome.

concert matinée

All Saints Church Pembroke Rd Clifton Bristol

Saturday
February 1st
4pm

Music for two pianos
with
Nigel Nash & Kate Woodman



St Antony Variations
Brahms
Four-piece Suite
Richard Rodney Bennett
Variations on Lilliburlero
Madeleine Dring

retiring collection

tea and cake



Candlemas Evensong

Sunday 2nd February at 6.00pm

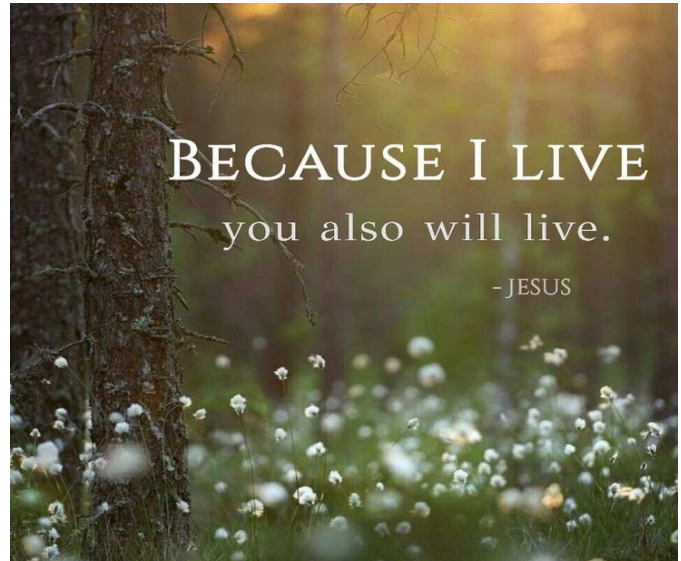
with
The All Saints Choir

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 James Cooper Jean Bradford

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:

Dennis Cleeve Sian Ivey Graham Llewelin Tanner Dennis Skinner (Pr) Pamela Royce Catherine Jones Evelyn Adams Ian Westmacott (Pr) Tony Lea-Hair

ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

Mon 20	Richard Rolle of Hampole, Spiritual Writer, 1349 Remember in prayer those special parts of creation – the Arctic and Antarctic. Pray that we may address the issues of climate change effectively. Pray also for those who live lives of prayer and work to deepen our spiritual insight.
Tue 21	Agnes, Child Martyr at Rome, 304 Pray for children who suffer at the front line – of violence, war, family crisis, rape and abuse. Those who work for and amongst them. Pray also for those young people who suffer from abnormalities of perception of their own body shape or weight.
Wed 22	Mass 10.00am Vincent of Saragossa, Deacon, first Martyr of Spain 304 Pray for children who suffer at the front line – of violence, war, family crisis, rape and abuse. Those who work for and amongst them. Pray also for those young people who suffer from abnormalities of perception of their own body shape or weight.
Thurs 23	Pray for those who are unable to speak, those who stammer, those who find it a challenge to put thoughts to words. Those frustrated because their ideas and thoughts are locked away and difficult to communicate.
Fri 24	Mass 10.00am Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva, Teacher of the Faith, 1622 Pray for those who work in the food industry and in particular with fish. From deep-sea life threatening fishing to fishmongers. Including conservationists and scientists
Sat 25	Conversion of Paul (Tu B'Shevat) Pray for those who live in, work with, and research trees, forests and woods. Pray for those who work with wood. Pray for fruit farmers.
Sunday 26	Epiphany 3 The Conversion of Paul (transferred) Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power Early Worship 9.00am Parish Mass 10.30

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.