

ALL SAINTS NEWS

23rd March 2025
3rd Sunday of Lent

Articles of Faith: A book, a blindfold and magnifying glass, and a table

BY TERRY WAITE

Terry Waite reflects on items that have been important to his faith journey



MY LOVE of books goes back more than 80 years, to when I was about five years old. I had started to attend Sunday school, and received a prize that was presented by our parish priest at the morning service. I recollect my name being called out, and, leaving the pew, I marched up the aisle, swinging my arms just like the soldiers I had seen marching past our house. I couldn't understand why some of the congregation were laughing! The book was *The Three Little Kittens*, and I still have it today.

Today, our house in the country is full of books, and there is one writer who, in recent years, has had a profound effect on my understanding of the spiritual life. Ian McGilchrist is a neuroscientist as well as a polymath. His two volumes, curiously entitled *The Matter With Things*, provide — as one reviewer puts it — “a devastating repudiation of the strident, banal orthodoxy that says it is childish to believe that the world is alive with wonder and mystery”. McGilchrist provides a rational and reasoned understanding of the spiritual life. Although the two volumes are expensive, they are worth every penny.

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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.

Throughout my life, I have also been impressed by the great Russian writers, and the rituals and symbols of the Orthodox Church. Many years ago, I presented my local parish church, All Saints', Blackheath, with a Russian icon of the Madonna and Child. I regret that today many church services resemble a tea party rather than an act that touches the hem of mystery and opens up a new depth of spiritual experience.

MORE than 30 years ago, while seeking the release of hostages, I myself was taken hostage, and spent almost five years in strict solitary confinement. For more than three years, I had no reading material whatsoever, and it was then that I began to write in my head. When anyone came into my cell, I had to pull a blindfold over my eyes, and so I saw no one for almost five years. Eventually, I was allowed to have one or two books, and was given a small magnifying glass with which to read them.

On release, I was elected to a fellowship at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, where I began to write the book that I had started in captivity, *Taken on Trust*. When I was freed, I managed to slip the blindfold and magnifying glass into my pocket, and I took them with me to Trinity Hall. Once I had completed the manuscript, I put the two items into an envelope, and handed them to the college. Today, they are housed in the college library as a souvenir of a time when, by some miracle, I was able to transform the darkness of captivity into the light of freedom.

IN THE kitchen of our house in rural Suffolk, there is a small oak dining table. It must have been made more than 100 years ago, and is as sturdy as it ever was. It is precious to me; for this was the very table at which I sat with my brother, sister, and parents for many a family Christmas. I have vivid memories of Christmas Day when, for the one and only time in the year, a roasted chicken took pride of place. The table brings back many positive memories, and provides me with a material link to the past, and my family, where, unconsciously, I was receiving an education in values that have sustained me throughout my life.

So, there it is: a book by a writer who has helped me enormously in understanding the importance of the spiritual life and the functioning of the right hemisphere of the brain; two simple items that became symbols of transformation; and an ordinary kitchen table that brings back memories of values absorbed unconsciously, many years ago.

Sir Terry Waite is an author and human-rights activist.

21ST FEBRUARY 2025 THE CHURCH TIMES



**FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD
TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

Tuesday 25th March 2025

7.00 pm

BOOKINGS NOW OPEN.....

.....For the annual **Parish Retreat at Llangasty Retreat House: Friday 23-Sun 25 May 2025 led by Mthr Nicola Stanley.** Numbers are limited, so to ensure your place, **book now** by putting your name on the sign-up sheet in the church porch, and/or send an email to Helen (helen@helensutton.com) or Liz (liz.badman@virginmedia.com). For more information, see:

<https://tinyurl.com/Parish-Retreat-2025>



Lent Charities in a Season of Self-Denial

This Lent we are hoping to help two small local charities through collecting the proceeds of our seasonal self-denial. The charities have been chosen because they provide uncomplicated but life-improving support to people who are the least well equipped to articulate their needs. The charities are:



i. [Bristol Children's Charity](#) who provide basics such as beds and bedding for children who have none, specialist equipment for children living with disabilities or basic white goods for families moving into unfurnished accommodation.

ii. [Bristol Refugee Rights](#) support new arrivals to the city to settle in, make friends, receive language support and lessons, bring young children out to a crèche and play area, eat in a café, have a free haircut, get help with legal processes and most importantly, feel they are valued.

Bristol Refugee Rights
Safety • Solidarity • Action for Change



Please put your cash donations in the steel box under the tower in a gift aid envelope marked Lent Collection, or through the card machine but do also mark up a gift aid envelope.

Racial Justice

Save the Date:

In partnership with the Diocese of Oxford and supported by the Racial Justice Unit, the Diocese of Bristol invites you to a transformative day of dialogue, learning, and worship focused on nurturing UK Minority Ethnic vocations and discipleship across our Southwest Regional Dioceses.

Date: Friday, 28th March 2025

Time: 10:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Venue: St Michael's Centre, Bradley Stoke, Bristol, BS34 8PD

**BEING BUILT TOGETHER
(SOUTHWEST REGION)**

**MINORITY ETHNIC VOCATIONS –
THE CIRCLE OF DISCIPLESHIP**

Conference

Join us for a transformative conference exploring UK Minority Ethnic vocations and discipleship, as well as youth discipleship, across the Southwest, featuring keynote speaker **Rosemarie Davidson**, National Minority Ethnic Vocations Officer.

Hosted by the Diocese of Bristol in partnership with the Diocese of Oxford and the Racial Justice Unit.



St Michael's Centre, North Rd, Bristol BS34 8PD

28TH | MARCH | 2025

10:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Formal Invitation with Registration Details to Follow



All Saints
Clifton Church of England



Parish Lunch



Join us in the Randall Room after Mass for
Mothering Sunday Parish Lunch
Sunday 30th March @ 12.30pm

A delicious home-cooked 3-course meal
(main, pudding, cheese & biscuits)

Vegetarian/vegan/gluten free can be accommodated if requested in advance

Cash Bar

Tickets: £6 each

On sale in church from Sunday 9th March

Contact Janice: jbookins57@yahoo.co.uk

OR

All Saints Parish Office
0817 974 8255, www.allsaintsclifton.org



A New Electoral Roll for 2025

Under Church Representation Rules each Church must compile a completely new Electoral Roll every six years.

In order to be entitled to hold positions as officers of the church, attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) or take part in its proceedings, a new application form should be completed by every member of the congregation.

Please complete the Application form in the Atrium and either place it in the envelope provided or leave it in the Parish Office.

Contact details are retained securely and used for the Electoral Roll.

The closure date for the new Electoral Roll is 2nd April 2025. The completed Roll, names only, will be displayed from 6th of April 2025 and the Parish Office should be notified of any corrections.

Thank you

Nomination forms for the election of members of the PCC, Deanery Synod and the role of Churchwarden are also available in the Atrium. If you would like a nomination form by e mail, please contact the Parish Office.

Parish Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

Pilgrimage Dates: Monday 6 – Friday 10 October 2025. *Save the Date*



During the autumn there will be a series of sessions exploring the place and significance of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the life of the Church and in the prayer and discipline of individual Christians.

This will be led by Mthr Nicola.

It will include an opportunity for a Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham.

Further details to follow in due course.



LENT CONVERSATIONS 2025

FACETS OF VIOLENCE—PATHS TO PEACE

Tuesday 25th March Tyndale Baptist Church, BS8 2QG

David Wiles, former CEO of the Frontier Youth Trust

Stories from the edge: faith is spelt RISK!

Thursday 3rd April Redland Park United Reformed Church, BS6 6SA

Revd Karen Sethuraman Soul Space, N Ireland

Who is my Neighbour?

Thursday 10th April at Victoria Methodist Church, BS8 1NU

John Cooper, Director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation

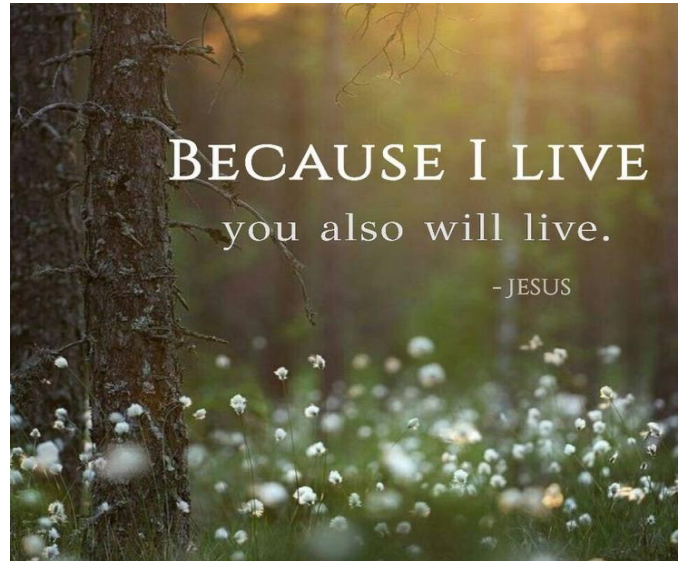
The fierce urgency of Peace

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 the O'Sullivan family Susie King Arthur Cleaver Vyard Angel Wray Nicky Epina Oussama and Claire Sader Sarah James Cooper Jean Bradford Adam Chivers

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 Zoe Punyer

Saturday

The Departed

Stephen Jordon Maureen Badman Pat LePetit Richard Ashby Jean Knott Olivia Griffiths Ann Wardrop John Badman

Years' Minds - this week we remember:

Moya Tandy Mary Harris Catherine McLean George Deverson John Hawley Cynthia Lloyd Kathleen Tucker Gwen Jewell Jack Metford

The flower arrangements this week reflect the theme of Growth, Purity and Transformation.

ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

Mon 24	Walter Hilton of Thurgarton, Augustinian Canon, Mystic, 1396 Paul Couturier, Priest, Ecumenist, 1953 Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, Martyr, 1980 Paul Couturier - French priest who was instrumental in establishing Week of Prayer for Christian Unity; studied under Dom Lambert Beauduin and Pierre Teilhard de Chardin.
Tue 25	The Annunciation We beseech you, O Lord, pour your grace into our hearts, that as we have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his cross and passion we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection
Wed 26	Mass 10.00am Harriet Monsell 1883 Pray for the Community of St John the Baptist (found by Harriet Monsell in 1852). Pray for the work of Ripon College, Cuddesdon, the theological college where the sisters are now located, and its students and staff.
Thurs 27	Pray for those employed in the frozen food industry (techniques developed by Clarence Birdseye). Pray for those who are dependent upon simple meals frozen and stored at home because they are housebound for whatever reason.
Fri 28	Mass 10.00am "Weeds are flowers too, once you get to know them." A A Milne. Pray for those members of society who seem to be 'out of place' – those for whom no one cares; those who are overlooked; those who are weeded out; those who don't fit the plan.
Sat 29	Pray for musicians, especially pianists. For a moment celebrate the piano and everything around it: performers, composers, piano builders, tuners, movers and most important, the listeners.
Sunday 30	4th Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal. 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.