

ALL SAINTS NEWS

17th August 2025
9th Sunday of Trinity



THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

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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.

Last Friday was 15 August, which is the day dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary; in the Orthodox Church it is known as The Dormition of the Holy Mother of God, in the Roman Catholic Church it is The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven, and in the Anglican Church is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

‘...In her Assumption the Immaculate Virgin, preserved from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things, so that she might be the more fully conformed to her Son, the Lord of lords and conqueror of sin and death. The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin is a singular participation in her Son’s resurrection and an anticipation of the resurrection of other Christians.’ *(from the Catechism of the Catholic Church)*

The Roman Catholic church teaches that Mary was taken up into heaven body and soul. For some this is a very difficult concept. So what does Mary’s Assumption mean to us? It helps to see that Mary is the perfect Christian and so is the perfect example for both men and women. We need to enflesh ourselves in Mary’s fleshly faith for the Word to continue to be made flesh in our lives.

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

In Mary’s body, as mother of Jesus, we see Flesh and Spirit united. Our Sacramental worship should be earthed and balanced in the material and the spiritual. We are all called to be Mothers of God, to birth the Word. Mary was not a blind believer, she said No as well as Yes. She challenged.

Rowan Williams said in a sermon once that,

‘She is the first explicit believer in Jesus: from her womb flows the river of life and when we echo her ‘yes’ the freshness of God flows from the centre of our being too.’

‘in giving birth you kept your virginity; in your dormition you did not leave the world, O Mother of God, but were joined to the source of Life. You conceived the Living God and, by your prayers, will deliver our souls from death.’ (prayer from the Byzantine Liturgy for the Feast of the Dormition)

In the usual reading for today from Revelation we see the pregnant woman, symbolising Mary/the Church pregnant with the Gospel message.

In some ancient liturgies she was addressed as ‘neck of the Body’, which may seem a little odd to us today, but as Christ is the head of his Body the Church and she, (who as a member of the Church by her own unique connection with him and the way she was prepared for it) has ‘got there first’. She is the link between the old and the new. She may be the means by which we see into the darkness which lies beyond this life.¹ May we give birth to that message as we receive the Sacrament at Mass, then go out into the world carrying Christ within us. We are all called to be Mothers of God, to birth the Word.

The Assumption embodies a great woman who has suffered and is taken up, God has raised her up. May we think about our commitment to Justice and Peace. She gives hope for all of us.



The illustration here is of an Eastern Orthodox icon of the Falling Asleep of the Mother of God.

In the icon Mary lies on her deathbed, surrounded by the Apostles, and Jesus stands next to her holding in his arms what looks like a swaddled child

This is Mary's soul, which he is receiving into its rest.

It is a poignant turning around of the familiar image of Mary hugging the infant Jesus; here is the Son embracing his Mother's 'new born' life; because that is what has happened. Mary has begun her life afresh in the closer company of Jesus.

Here she is at the end of her life and at the beginning of her new life, a helpless child again. She can say and do nothing; she doesn't have to; she is simply welcomed by Christ's love.

She doesn't need a monument recording her triumphs, she doesn't have to present her credentials at the gate of heaven.

Like the Psalmist in psalm 131 she can say, 'My soul is even as a weaned child'.

And perhaps that is the song the Virgin sang as she was embraced by her Son in death.

May it also be our song as we are embraced by Our Lord in death.

Liz Badman Lay Minister

¹ John de Satge *Christ and the Human Prospect: The Unity of Existence here and hereafter*. Pub SPCK 1978

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Services for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be held on Friday 15th at 10 am and on Sunday 17th at 10.30 am





All
Saints
Clifton Church of England

ALL SAINT'S CLIFTON

Community Cream Teas

Saturday 19th July 19th AND Saturday 23rd August
3.00-5.00pm

Come and join us for a
cuppa, and a delicious
home-made scone with jam
and cream! No need to book
- just come along!



For more information, contact our Parish Office on:
office@allsaintsclifton.org or 0117 974 1355

The next Community Cream Tea is on Saturday 23rd of August between 3 and 5pm. The latest venture in a series of outreach events run by the Church and Community Team this is an opportunity to invite friends and neighbours to All Saints and enjoy a free cream tea.

Threads through Creation

25th August to 4th October

'Threads through Creation' is a spectacular sequence of twelve huge textile panels. It's an exuberant retelling of the creation story in the book of Genesis, a retelling which many visitors will find both moving and breath taking. Viewers are treated to a wonderful variety of colours, shapes, patterns – and of course lots of creatures!

The exhibition is one of the largest textile projects by a single artist, ever. It took Jacqui nearly three years to complete. It follows on from 'Threads through Revelation', her first huge exhibition which visited 14 cathedrals from 2016 to 2018, and was displayed at Victoria in September 2024 to huge positive acclaim.

Saturday 20th September at 3.00pm

Jacqui Parkinson will be giving a talk on her work

Saturday 4th October at 7.30pm

"In the Beginning..." a reflective evening of music, readings and meditations to accompany Jacqui Parkinson's Threads through Creation.

We welcome everyone, people of all faiths and none to this exhibition and the two events.

Victoria Methodist Church, 1A Whiteladies Rd, BS8 1NU
vic-methodist-bristol.org.uk



Threads through Creation

a spectacular display of textile art
by Jacqui Parkinson

Victoria Methodist Church
25th August to 4th October

ADMISSION FREE

Mon/Weds/Fri 11am - 4pm

Tues/Thurs/Sat 11am - 6pm



1A Whiteladies Rd, BS8 1NU | vic-methodist-bristol.org.uk

News from the Bishop's Office



Dear friends,

On Saturday 30 August 2025 we will say farewell to Bishop Viv at a special service in Bristol Cathedral at 3pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend this service which will be followed by light refreshments. Please feel to share this invitation with your congregation.

To assist with planning, we ask that all guests book in no later than 20 August 2025 via:

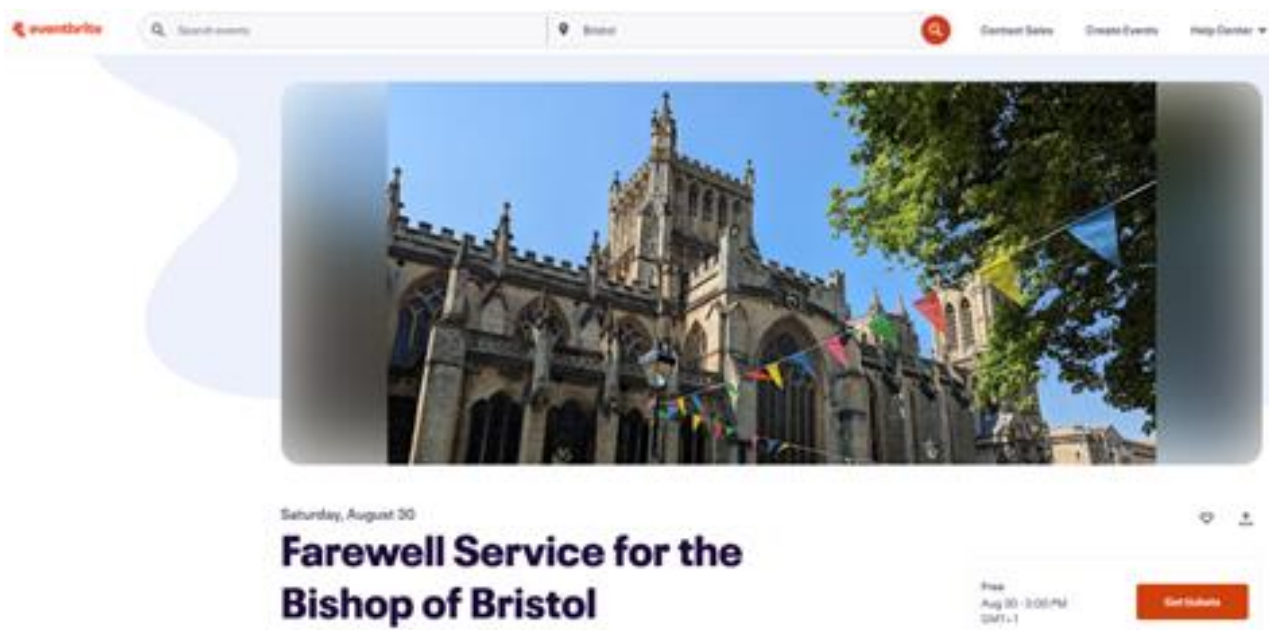
[Sign up to attend the service here](#)

The College of Canons (Residentiary, Honorary and Ecumenical) will be robing and processing for which instructions will be issued.

We look forward to welcoming people from worshipping communities across the Diocese of Bristol and beyond to give thanks for Bishop Viv's ministry amongst us.

Maria Quantock

Head of Office, Bishop of Bristol



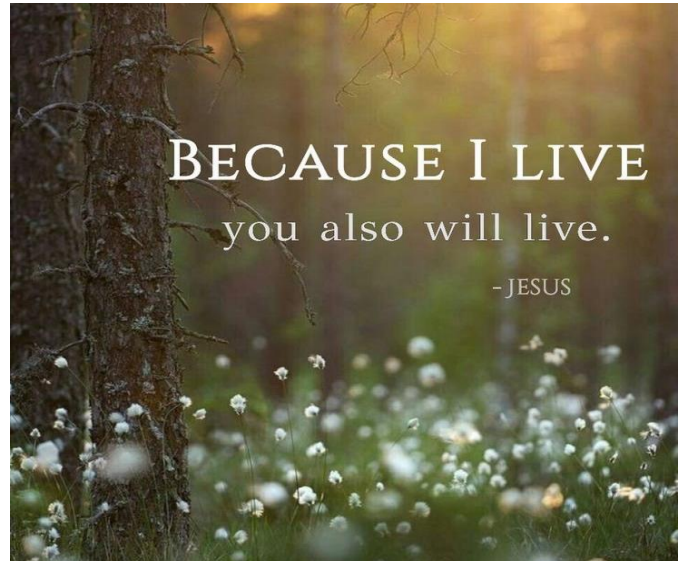
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/farewell-service-for-the-bishop-of-bristol-tickets>

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 Nicky Epina Sarah Jean Bradford Adam Chivers Andrew French Swarna Simpson Fr John Scott (Pr) Professor David Fenton Judy Torrens

Monday

Hugh Farry Sathia Aruliah Susie King Arthur Cleaver

Tuesday.

Pam Parker Oussama and Claire Sader

Wednesday

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

Thursday

Remie Clarke Lucille Osafo

Friday

Charlotte Hopkins, Caroline Semon, Nadine Benn The O'Sullivan family

Saturday

The Departed

Silvio Pegado Jo Greenbury Alisa Temple

Years' Minds - this week we remember:

Dorothy Nockolds Tom Duncan Kathleen Vyvyan- Jones Tom Sheridan Malcolm Dawson Sarah Hurst Barbara Rowlands Eileen Pedlar Ann Setton

ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

Mon 18	Pray for brewers and all those engaged in the brewing industry. Pray for the publicans and landlords in this parish, for the work of pubs in providing centres for community and meeting. In particular remember the work of and those who will work in the Alma Tavern
Tue 19	Young people and teachers on school and university holiday. Pray for our school, St Johns, children, teachers, staff and volunteers. Also all those families in the parish and our university staff and students.
Wed 20	Mass 10.00am Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux 1153 World Humanitarian Day is an opportunity to celebrate the spirit that inspires humanitarian work around the globe. Pray for the work undertaken by humanitarian organisations; that they are able to address the huge challenges they face.
Thurs 21	Pray for the work of the Salvation Army, it is an integral part of the Christian Church, although distinctive in government and practice. The Army's doctrine follows the mainstream of Christian belief and its articles of faith emphasise God's saving purposes. Its objects are 'the advancement of the Christian religion... of education, the relief of poverty, and other charitable objects beneficial to society or the community of mankind as a whole.
Fri 22	Mass 10.00am All of us have the power to make the world a better place. Today is an internationally recognised day to carry out acts of kindness, care and support. Pray that these behaviours do not need a 'special day' to be recognised, but are regular features of the way we live.
Sat 23	Pray for all those engaged in the entertainment industries – from actors to musicians, technicians to artists, and writers to film makers.
Sunday 24	<p>Trinity 10 Bartholomew the Apostle</p> <p>Almighty and everlasting God, who gave to your apostle Bartholomew grace truly to believe and to preach your Word: Grant that your Church may love what he believed and preach what he taught;</p> <p>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.