

ALL SAINTS NEWS

21st November 2025
Christ the King

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A World in Turmoil – Background to the Festival of Christ the King

The 1920s was a decade marked by stark contrasts and global uncertainties. World War I (1914–1918) had ended, leaving the world to piece together the fragments of human suffering and loss. Adding to this sorrow was the 1918 Influenza Pandemic (the ‘Spanish Flu’) which claimed the lives of approximately 40 million people worldwide. We might think about the uncertainties of COVID-19 in 2020, but this can’t even compare to the bleak spirit of the 1920s.

There was hope for peace amid the chaos, but it remained fragile and uncertain.

Think of the rate of change at this time! Scientific breakthroughs and technological innovations characterized this era, earning it the nickname “the Roaring Twenties.” The invention of radio, television, automobiles (thanks to Henry Ford), and airplanes transformed society. Yet, these advancements often led to misplaced confidence in materialism, sidelining virtues like temperance and morality. Consumerism thrived, and spiritual values were neglected. Perhaps this is akin to the AI revolution now – and the fear of the AI bubble burst! The 1920s dealt with radical technological changes and many in society were not equipped to handle these developments.

On the political front, the thirst for power was unmistakable. Joseph Stalin rose to power in Communist Russia. Benito Mussolini became Italy’s fascist leader. Mexico’s President Plutarco Elias Calles sparked a civil war, the Cristero War, by oppressing Catholics. Adolf Hitler published *Mein Kampf* in 1925, laying the foundations for the Nazi regime’s descent into authoritarianism. It was a time marked by chaos and dangerous ambition, where humanity wrestled with the question of where true authority resides. Again, perhaps a reflection on the current political tensions.

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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 Establishment of the Feast



Amid the turmoil, Pope Pius XI acted as a voice of moral clarity. The Church's prophetic role through the office of the papacy soared. On December 11, 1925, Pope Pius XI issued his encyclical *Quas Primas* from St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. In it he declared the universal observance of the Feast of Christ the King.

The pope sought to remind the world that Christ alone is the true King. His response to the 'spirit of the times,' a term he used to describe a particular period's prevailing attitudes and beliefs, was profound. He asserted Christ's eternal reign as an antidote to the power-hungry leaders of his day.

King of what Kingdom?

Christ's kingship stands in stark contrast to worldly notions of monarchy. Jesus eloquently addressed this distinction when he said, "*My kingship is not of this world*" (John 18:36). His kingdom is not defined by political power or earthly wealth but by spiritual sovereignty. This profound contrast is a source of enlightenment about the true nature of Christ's reign.



The path to Christ's throne passed through suffering and sacrifice. His crown was made of thorns, his sceptre was justice and mercy, his throne was the Cross, and his royal palace was Golgotha. He reigns in all hearts from this place of ultimate humility and love. The Apostle Paul affirms this in Philippians 2:8-11, declaring that every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

The kingdom of Christ is universal, encompassing all creation—visible and invisible. It is a realm of righteousness, peace, and joy where conflicts are reconciled and divisions healed. In this divine kingdom, the weak stand alongside the strong as equals, and all peoples and races form a loving family in him. This emphasis on the universal nature of Christ's kingdom makes the audience feel included and part of a loving family.

May this feast inspire us to live as faithful children of Christ our King, allowing his love and justice to shape our lives and the world around us. May leaders in this world learn from Christ - who reigns not through hate or force but through love and peace.

Advent Sunday 30 November – Fr Charles

Fr Charles will, as Area Dean, be supporting a colleague and officiating at St Alban's Westbury Park. He will be back for the Advent Carol Service at 5.00pm.



concert matinée All Saints Church Pembroke Rd Clifton

Saturday
December 6th
4.00 pm

Stephanie Gilbert & Julie Browne
flutes
Corinna Ferguson violin
Stephen Browne piano

Bach

Keyboard Concerto in D minor
Brandenburg Concerto No 4

retiring collection **tea and cake**

ASC Vestment Care!



Calling all those who can sew - and anyone who can't currently sew but is interested!

Every Thursday at 10.30 am we will be meeting to consider how best to repair some of All Saints' beautiful vestments. The copes (embroidered cloaks) need special padded hangers, so we will be starting with the easy task of cutting calico to pad a coat hanger. Coffee and biscuits will of course be provided!

Please talk with Mthr Nicola or email (nvs@mosaicpublishing.co.uk) if you have any queries or questions.



Saturday 29th November

10 am to 3 pm

With any mention of the Blessed Virgin Mary having virtually disappeared in much of the Anglican Church after the reformation, today the study of Mary is finally gaining in popularity.

Over four sessions, two in the morning and two in the afternoon, we will consider the crucially important role of the Mother of God, covering the topics: What's in a name?, Mary in the Bible, Mary in art and prayer, Marian Shrines.

This workshop will be lead by Mthr Nicola Stanley, Lunch is included.

Please book a space by email to office@allsaintsclifton.org stating any dietary needs.



Exploring Christianity

Four sessions on Sundays over the winter period, starting at 12.30 and finishing at 1.30pm.

Located in the Sacristy and lunch provided.

The purpose of these sessions is to explore what we mean when we talk about being Christian. It will be ideal for those commencing their journey of understanding as well as those already established on the path.

CS Lewis wrote: *'Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and, if true, of infinite importance. The one thing it cannot be is moderately important.'*

Dates: Sunday 7th December. In 2026, Sunday 4th January Sunday 1st February



Make a beautiful Christmas Wreath to welcome friends and family into your home during the festive period.

Two dates are available

Saturday 6th December 10 to 12
and Monday 8th December 2 to 4

All equipment will be provided and no experience is necessary.

Support from the All Saints Flower Team will ensure you go home with a stunning creation.

Refreshments available
£50 per person

Please sign up using the Eventbrite link below

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christmas-wreath-workshop-led-by-the-all-saints-flower-team-tickets-1969119572649?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=wsa&aff=ebdsshwebmobile>



Traidcraft stall-final sale!

At the parish lunch on 23rd November

The Fairtrade organisation you have supported for over 30 years at All Saints has now sadly ceased trading. This is your last chance to stock up on beautiful, unique products

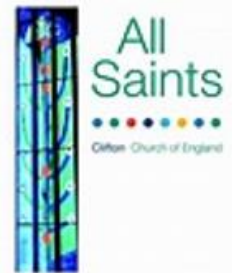
Support Ethical Shopping

By purchasing Fairtrade products, you support ethical practices and positively impact communities around the world.

Promoting Justice and Sustainability

All proceeds will go to support our Sudanese students-

Everything must go- bring your cash and grab a bargain!



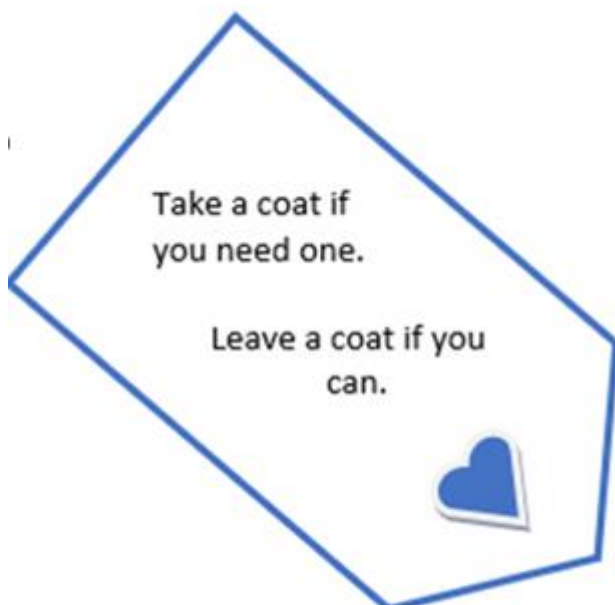
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This winter All Saints will be running a Warm coats for Winter initiative.

A coat rack has been placed by the Food Point encouraging people to take a coat if they need one, and for those who are generous and able, to leave a coat if they can.

Due to the current extremely low temperatures the initiative is starting this weekend and will run through December, January, and February.

We are looking for warm coats for men, women and children. Please can you check the coat rack occasionally and if you have any suitable garments just add them to the rack.

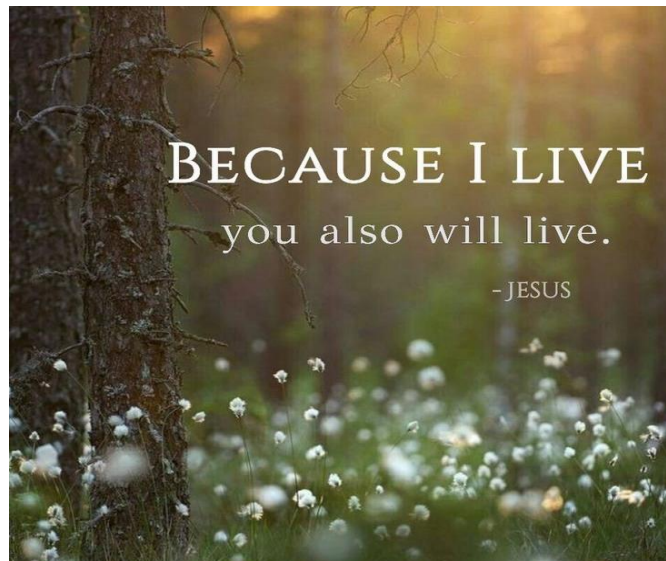


Prayers Requests

'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 Epinay Sarah Jean Bradford Andrew French Swarna Simpson Jenny Oates Sister Rosie Martin Rogers John Pedlar Gillian Clark Pepe Messel

Monday

Sathia Aruliah Susie King Arthur Cleaver

Tuesday.

Pam Parker Oussama and Claire Sader

Wednesday

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

Thursday

Remie Clarke

Friday

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

Saturday

The Departed

Hugh Farry Lucille Osafa Mary Whittington Diana Verity

Years' Minds - this week we remember:

Ray Racy Peter Thompson Sophia Williams Tom Bateman Beryl Kemp Freddie Temple(Bp)
Christine Wooles Lovinia Miller Derek Portman

ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

Mon 24	Pray for the All Saints PCC and sub-committees and action groups. May we, over this coming year work to live out our Christian life, individually and collectively, as partners in the missio Dei
Tue 25	Catherine of Alexandria, Martyr 4th C and Isaac Watts Hymn Writer 1748 Pray for Bishop Neal as he oversees the Diocese before the appointment of the new Bishop of Bristol. Pray for the Bishop's Staff Team as they lead this diocese during a time of change
Wed 26	Mass 10.00 am Give thanks for the huge range of gifts and talents that people have. Give thanks for your own gifts and capabilities - do not compare with any other. As Oscar Wilde said "Be yourself, everyone else is already taken".
Thurs 27	Pray for all police officers "Understand, our police officers put their lives on the line for us every single day. They've got a tough job to do to maintain public safety and hold accountable those who break the law." Barak Obama
Fri 28	Requiem Mass 10.00 am Pray for the work of All Saints Arts. Pray for the many and various performers, the events (concerts and exhibitions), the members of the audience and those who provide the refreshments. Pray for our Directors of Music, John Davenport and Huw Morgan, and all those who work with them.
Sat 29	Thanksgiving Day for the Missionary Work of the Church Pray for the work of Alcoholics Anonymous, a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. Pray for the people who attend the ASC AA meetings.
Sunday 30	1st Sunday of Advent Yr A Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal Early Worship 9.00am Parish Mass 10.30 am

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 safeguarding@allsaintsclifton.org