

ALL SAINTS NEWS

19th April 2026
3rd Sunday of Easter

Luke 24: 25-27 – Some cryptic verses.

Among the most cryptic verses of the New Testament are surely Luke 24:25-27. We are told that our Lord speaks to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus about 'things about himself in all the scriptures' and that their hearts 'burnt within them' (verse 32) as he opened up the scriptures to them.

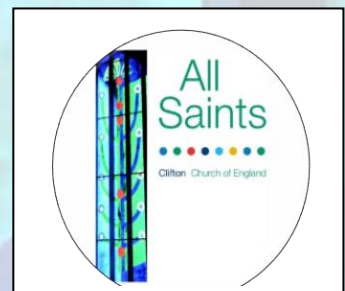
How tantalising and frustrating that St Luke does not tell us what Jesus teaches here about the OT, about how it sheds light on his own ministry! For nowhere in those scriptures is there an explicit prophecy that the longed for Messiah would come to glory through suffering, to resurrection through a humiliating execution. If that had been the case, then our Lord's disciples would not have been taken by such complete surprise by his passion and resurrection.

So what in the OT foreshadows and sheds light on the events of Holy Week and Easter, the unpacking of which so excited those two disciples on the Emmaus road?

First, **God's loving purpose for all humankind.** There it is near the beginning of the Bible, in Genesis, at the climax of the flood myth: *I have set my (rain)bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.....This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.* (Genesis 9:13-17). We see this again, for example, in the comic but also moving tale of Jonah, where the final verse makes clear the universal purposes of God: *Should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?* (Jonah 4:11). The Book of Leviticus tells the people of God *You shall not oppress the alien.... You shall love the alien as yourself.* (Leviticus 19:33-34). And the prophet Isaiah tells them *I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.* (Isaiah 49:6). This repeated OT theme lies at the heart of our Lord's ministry.

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Secondly, our Lord would surely have drawn attention in the history of his people to the repeated **pattern of suffering that is part of the vocation of the people of God in a sinful world**. There is the suffering caused, for example, by the tyranny of oppressive rulers and empires (see Daniel ch 7); there is the suffering caused by our own and others' wrongdoing ((Hosea 5:8-13); also vicarious suffering on behalf of others (see the suffering servant songs of Isaiah chs 40-55). Again, this repeated OT pattern foreshadows the passion of Christ.

And, thirdly, this leads on to a crucial pattern in God's dealing with his people as recorded in the OT, perhaps the most important OT theme, the **movements from slavery to freedom, from humiliation to restoration, from death to life**. There are repeated examples of this in the OT, most importantly the story of the Exodus, but also notably the catastrophic destruction of Jerusalem in 587BC, which was followed eventually by the return of the people of God to the Holy City. The same pattern of experience is reflected in Jonah: *I called to the Lord our of my distress, and he answered me.....deliverance belongs to the Lord* (Jonah 2:1-9). Or one might think of Job's renewed vision of God that emerges out of his trials: *For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth.* (Job 19:25), or Hosea's call to repentance: *He will heal us....he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him* (Hosea 6:1-2).

So there are these repeated themes and patterns in the history of the ancient people of faith, as recorded in the OT, that foreshadow and shed light on the meaning of the ministry, passion, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, themes and patterns of human experience that perhaps helped the two disciples on the Emmaus road to see that the longing for the coming of the Christ, the Messiah, had indeed happened in Jesus Christ, who said of himself, *I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself* (John 12:32).

Fr Paul Hawkins



Helen has created some stunning collages of the Church during Palm Sunday and the Easter Services.

They are on the website and on display in the Atrium.

APCM and Church Representation

The APCM

Will take place on Sunday 26 April after Parish Mass (in the Randall Room) with a sandwich lunch provided. All documents relating to the APCM are available on the ASC Website or may be requested from the Parish Office.

We also have elections this year:

- Four PCC members (as usual)
- Two Deanery Synod Lay Representatives (it is the start of a new triennial)

If you are interested in these roles then please speak to a churchwarden.

The Purpose of the APCM

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) is a legally required yearly meeting in the Church of England, acting as a crucial gathering for local church governance, accountability, and planning. It must take place between January 1 and May 31 each year to review the past year's activities and elect for certain roles.

Key Purposes of the APCM:

- **Review and Report:** To receive reports on the electoral roll, parish activities, and the financial statements of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the previous year.
- **Governance and Elections:** To elect lay representatives to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and Deanery Synod, and to appoint an independent examiner or auditor for the accounts.
- **Building Report:** To receive a report on the maintenance, repairs, and condition of the church building, contents, and churchyard.
- **Safeguarding:** To confirm that the PCC has complied with its duty to have "due regard" to safeguarding guidance for children and vulnerable adults.

The Three Meetings

The APCM is often held alongside the **Annual Meeting of Parishioners**, which has a more limited purpose: the election of churchwardens for the upcoming year.

While the **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** is for people on the church electoral roll, the meeting to elect churchwardens is open to all residents of the parish, regardless of their church attendance.

And the **Parochial Church Council** Meeting concludes the process by confirming certain responsibilities.

Lay Representation on Diocesan Synod

In addition to PCC and Deanery Synod there is also the Diocesan Synod. This is made up with the House of Bishops, the elected House of Clergy and elected House of Laity.

The House of Laity are elected from each of the five Deaneries within the Diocese. This year, in Bristol West, we have three 'Casual Vacancies' for the duration of one year. To be an elected member you need to be on the Electoral Roll of any parish within the Deanery (but not necessarily a member of Deanery Synod).

If anyone would like to have the experience of attending Diocesan Synod and participating in the business of this group for the coming year (three meetings). The please have a conversation with Fr Charles (as Area Dean) or Helen Clifton (as Deanery Lay Chair).

Mainly Slow Organ Music

11 to 12 25th of April

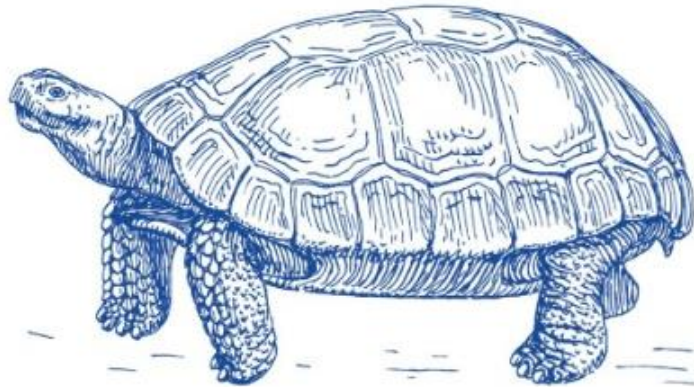
Part of Huw Morgan's mainly slow organ music series.

Free Admission

Monthly(ish) concerts of mainly slow organ music performed mainly in Bristol by Huw Morgan. Free to all (though there'll be a collection plate at the back if you're feeling generous). Bring a coffee, come and go as you please!

For full information see the mainly slow organ music website

mainly slow organ music



All Saints Book Group

Wed 20th May 2026, 7-9 pm
in the Sacristy

Join us for our bi-monthly book group in the Sacristy of All Saints. Every other month, a new book – bringing readers together for lively discussions and great company!

The book for our May 2026 meeting will be:

The Land in Winter
By Andrew Miller

Future Dates (all Wednesdays)
22 Jul; 23 Sept; 25 Nov 2026



All Saints Society THE BAR AGM

Sunday 19th April

12.15pm

in the Randall Room

All members welcome

Election of officers
Reports & Accounts
Prices
Donations from profits

*Come along and take part in the running
of this important part of All Saints life*

LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP

.....for the 2026 All Saints Parish Retreat

▲ Llangasty Retreat House, Friday 15th to Sunday 17th May 2026



After another very successful Parish Retreat at Llangasty in May last year, we're delighted to announce that we shall once again be holding the 2026 retreat at Llangasty from **Friday 15th to Sunday 17th May 2026**.



The cost is £250pp for the whole weekend, and includes accommodation and all meals. **There are only a few places left, so don't delay and book now by adding your name to the sign-up sheet in the Church porch OR by sending an email to Helen (helen@helensutton.com)**

A full information letter to all retreatants, including details of how to pay is being emailed w/c 20th April, with the full cost @ £250 due by Friday 1st May NB. This is non-refundable.

See the All Saints website for full information on this year's retreat via the QR code and link here: <https://tinyurl.com/2yyc8ynr>



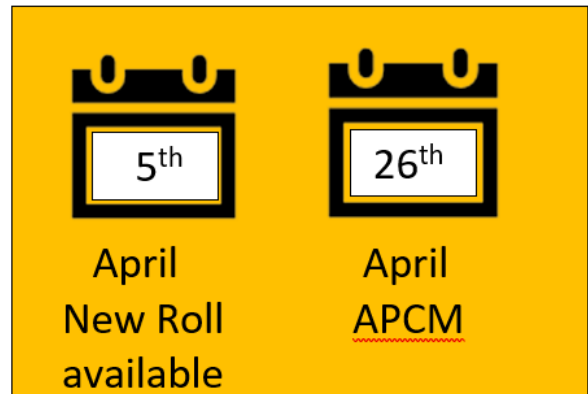
APCM and revising the Electoral Roll

The APCM will be held on Sunday 26th of April 2026 in the Randall Room.

Applications for the electoral roll are now closed.

The New Roll is available for inspection from Sunday 5th of April for 14 days.

Forms for the nomination of Churchwardens, elections to the PCC and election to Deanery Synod are available in the Atrium. Please put all nominations in the envelope provided and leave in the Parish office. Thank you.



concert matinee All Saints Church Clifton Bristol

Saturday
May 2nd
4pm

Niall Hoskin (baritone)
Stephen Browne (piano)

Beethoven
'An die ferne Geliebte'
(To the distant beloved)

Schumann
'Dichtertliebe'
(A poet's love)

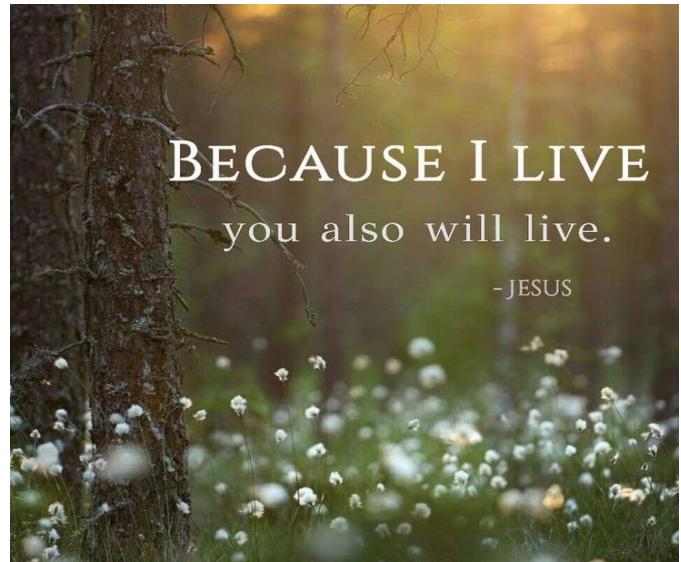
retiring collection tea and cake

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 Ossama & Clare Sader Debbie Gibbs

Monday

Tuesday.

Wednesday

Katrina and Katherine King, Philip Miles, Samantha Tucker, Maureen Mumford
Jennie Williams

Thursday

Friday

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

Saturday

The Departed

Lucille Osafo Gwladys Hughes Antony Keyworth-Berridge Chris Griffin Jenny Oates
David Thompson Brian Davage

Years' Minds - this week we remember:

Tom Hodge Charles Clarke Beryl Dean Marguerite Walker Helen Roberts
Bunny Vile Mary Oakley

ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

Mon 20	Pray for all who volunteer to give the gift of their time, experience or knowledge for the good of others. This has particular relevance during this time of the global pandemic. It's not only the comfortable middle-class who volunteer, people volunteer from every walk of life, from all ethnic and religious backgrounds and from none; some are wealthy, many are extremely poor. Yet they give time and energy to support and enable others.
Tue 21	Anselm, Abbot of Le Bec Archbishop of Canterbury 1109. Pray for theologians and those who help understand our faith and the purpose of our existence. Giving thanks for Anselm, originator of the ontological argument for existence of God, and 'satisfaction theory' of atonement.
Wed 22	Mass 10.00am Pray for Administrative Professionals. These are the individuals who enable organizations large and small to operate day in and day out. They are the overlooked and unappreciated secretaries, assistants, receptionists, PAs and EAs and other staff without whom organisations wouldn't beorganised.
Thurs 23	George, Martyr, Patron of England 304 A soldier of Palestinian/Greek origins and member of the Praetorian Guard. Sentenced to death for his Christian faith. Venerated by Christians and Muslims (commonly known as El Khudder and possibly buried in the mosque of Nabi Jurjis). Became an heroic figure in England during and after the Crusades and established by Edward III with the 'Most Noble Order of the Garter'
Fri 24	Mass 10.00am Pray for scholars of poetry and plays of the 17 th Century. Today is talk like Shakespeare Day – a reminder of how influential he (and other poets and playwrights) are and have been in the shaping of our culture.
Sat 25	Mark The Evangelist Mark's identity not clear. But, putting authorship aside, the power of the first Gospel and the symbol of the Lion – roaring out the Good News. Pray that we at All Saints may 'Roar out the Gospel'
Sunday 26	4th Sunday of Easter Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Early Worship 9.00am Parish Mass 10.30am

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