

ALL SAINTS NEWS

11th October 2026
19th Sunday of Trinity

College of Bishops: 'Christian Wisdom and Artificial Intelligence'

In **September 2026** the College of Bishops (Church of England) met in Oxford for a four-day residential meeting to explore the theological, ethical, and practical impacts of rapid AI development on human dignity, work, childhood, education, and public life.



Much of the annual four-day residential meeting of the College of Bishops, in Oxford, was given over to exploring the subject of '**Christian Wisdom and Artificial Intelligence**'. Bishops heard from and spoke to academics from Oxford, Cambridge and Durham Universities, as well as experts working in the fields of legislation, AI research and development.

Baroness Kidron, crossbench Peer and advisor to the Institute for Ethics in AI at Oxford University, stressed the need to publicly discuss the ethics of AI, noting the questions are not just technological but go to the heart of the value of human work and creation.

The Bishops discussed how the Church of England can help create space for considered debate on something that is beginning to shape childhood, education, politics and public life.

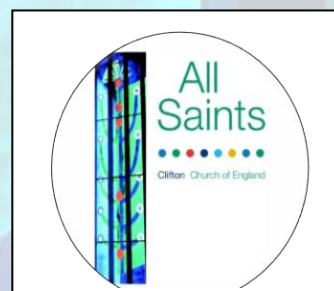
The College heard about AI's specific impact on young people, with many unclear about where their futures lay in an AI dominated workplace. Lady Kidron spoke of the positive benefits of emerging technologies but also questioned the business model that is designing some AI products.

She highlighted a recent AI competition for young people in which the winners included an app designed by students to help a non-verbal classmate communicate, and a programme measuring waste from ships plotted against predicted tides to help guide the subsequent beach clean-up operations.

"AI development is not a zero-sum game between turning our back on tech that can be harnessed for social good and a race to develop more and more powerful models," she said.

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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.

Speakers continually returned to the themes of oversight and decision making, noting that that much of scientific research and development was previously undertaken in public institutions with ethical oversight but now happened in private companies. They encouraged Bishops to think about how we can ensure AI develops to solve the problems we need to solve, rather than developing the technology first and then seeing what it can do.

Professor Gina Neff of the Minderoo Centre for Technology and Democracy at Cambridge urged the Church to address how “AI is being built to feel Godlike to millions of people: always listening, always affirming, seemingly all knowing.”

“This is arriving just as trust in our institutions is thinning and people’s sense of security in who they are, what they do and what is true is under strain. The Church is one of the last institutions with the standing to help them, and the window is short.” She encouraged the Bishops to give clear theological and pastoral guidance on AI relationships, equip clergy on the front line and push in the House of Lords for real duties of care.



The Archbishop of Canterbury chaired a discussion on theological resourcing in relation to AI with Cardinal Michael Czerny, part of the Inter-Dicasterial Commission on Artificial Intelligence established by Pope Leo, and **former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams**.

The Cardinal spoke of the Church’s concern for the dignity of every human being, saying it was a “relatively very recent discovery that we are responsible for the world we live in” and that it was “one of the great challenges of Christian life and Christian evangelization...to help our people to live their responsibility as the makers of society in a Christian way.”

He encouraged the Bishops to relate all they had heard to their own areas of work. “Don’t leave here thinking of Silicon Valley but leave here thinking of your Dioceses,” he said.

Prof Karen Kilby argued strongly for the involvement of the Church in future discussions around AI, reminding the bishops that the Church has always been engaged with the new things that are developing in society telling them: “The social, economic, and technological spheres are indeed the church’s business.”

She added: “The question is not whether we develop and use technology, but how, and to what end, and with what vision of the world for humanity and for the good we’re seeking.

“And this is something where there is a choice.... we cannot cast ourselves as passive spectators, we cannot suppose that technology develops according to an inevitable law of its own nature.

“And if we look at what seems to be happening around this technology, we see the accumulation of power of the few, growing inequality, the pursuit of profit at all costs.”

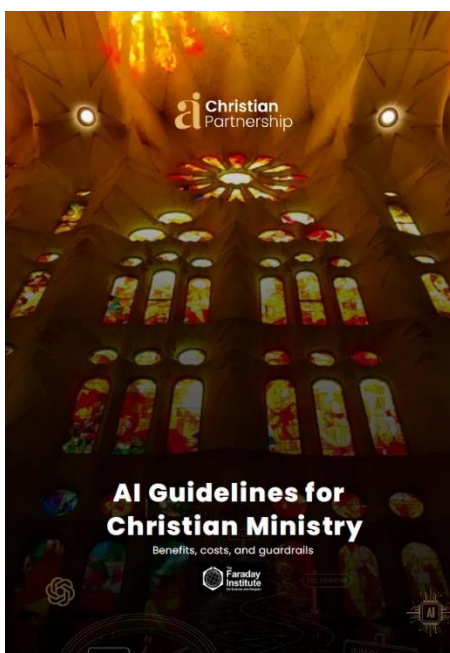
Bishop Steven Croft, the former Bishop of Oxford who focussed on AI for 10 years while in the House of Lords, said: “The most important thing the church can bring to the conversation is the emphasis on human dignity and human community.

"And to bear witness to that in this digital age in which people are losing touch with that human-to-human interaction.

"In an era of social media there has never been more loneliness, in this particular era people are losing contact with their roots and sense of purpose.

"This is a moment in which the church needs to be confident in proclaiming the Christian faith and the good news of Jesus that God became a person in Jesus Christ to draw us into the love and life of God."

Download your Copy



Download a copy of the *AI Guidelines for Christian Ministry* at: <https://aichristian.org/guidelines/>

More Welcomers/Sidespeople Needed

We need a few more sides people to welcome people to the Parish Mass and to carry out organisational and tidying duties during and after.

Please see Mary Benton if you can help.



Ivor Gurney: Placing Poetry and Making Music

A morning sharing the story of the Gloucester WW1 poet and composer through war letters, poems and music curated by Chris Hillman

Saturday November 7th 10am - 1pm – All Saints Sacristy

At the Three Choirs Festival in Gloucester back in 1910 a strange and beautiful composition was first performed; it was The Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis by Ralph Vaughan Williams. At that performance was a young man from Gloucester, Ivor Gurney. Hearing this piece of music Gurney and his close friend Herbert Howells walked the streets of the city in a state of delirious happiness. Gurney vowed to become a composer himself. Not long after, Gurney took up his place at the Royal College of Music alongside Howells.

At the same time he was realising his talent for composing music he was also discovering that his mind and his moods were not always what he wanted them to be.

Ivor Gurney's musical education was put on hold by the events of the First World War; at first on account of his poor eyesight he was turned down for the army but soon the huge loss of life of young men meant recruitment was not so picky.

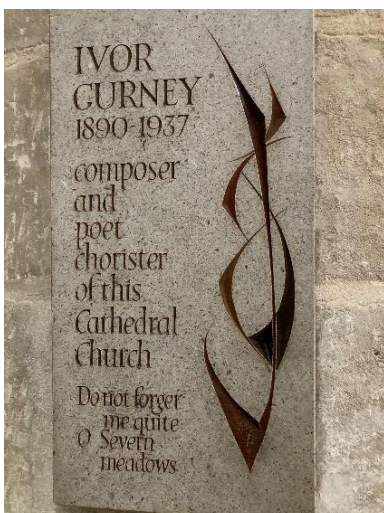


Gurney who was especially talented setting poetry to music soon discovered he too had a gift for writing poetry and this seemed to provide him with something like self-therapy as he tried to make sense of the brutality and strange beauties of war. Poppies and poets both seem to emerge from the French fields.

Little did I dream, England, that you bore me
Under the Cotswold hills, beside the water meadows,
To do you dreadful service, here, beyond your borders
And your enfolding seas.

(Strange Service, July 1916)

Gurney returned home in 1917 having been gassed. After the war he returned to study music but alongside composition he was trying to find ways to manage his deteriorating mental health. The discipline of the army had helped but the war did not - how could it?

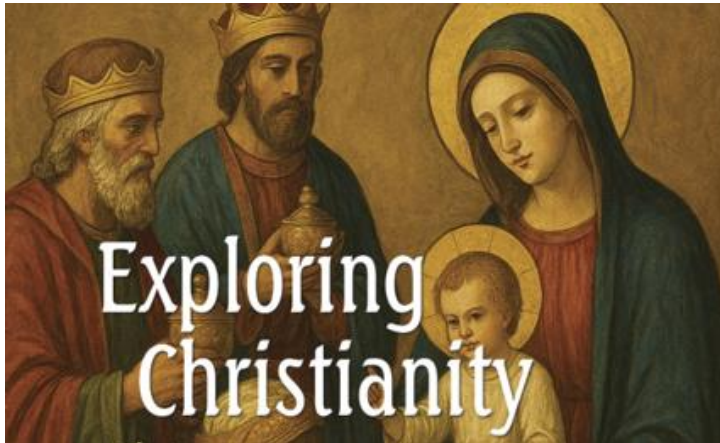


Walking and writing were his ways to try and stave off the voices in his head but before too long his suicidal intent led him to being sent to the City of London Mental Hospital in Dartford. Throughout his years there he wrote poetry trying to make sense of both the trauma of the war and memories of his beloved Gloucestershire.

He died in 1937 and his legacy seemed to die with him. Then strangely at the end of the last century with the help of family members and the musical community he was given his due place as a poet and a composer of worth. Perhaps shame at how we treated mental patients and the shame we felt about mental patients kept his legacy locked away. Thankfully society has become more honest and more compassionate in regard to mental health.

So now we have this rich legacy of Ivor Gurney; his poems, his music, his love of nature, of hills, valleys and rivers and questions about how we understand and care for those who struggle to keep mind and mood in good order.

Saturday November 7th 10am - 1pm – All Saints Sacristy



The next three sessions of this popular group start this Sunday

11th October -

Fr Paul Hawkins explores the topic of Prayer

Followed by -

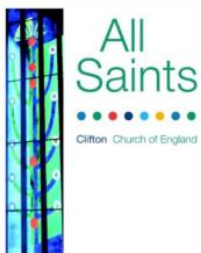
25th October

Fr Paul Roberts explores Anglicanism

15th November

Mthr Nicola Stanley explores the Sacraments

A sandwich lunch is provided



Walks For Everyone!

Saturday 17th October
- Arnos Vale to Temple Quarter

Meet at the bus stop on the east side of Whiteladies Road (opposite Boots) at 10:30 to catch a bus to the Brecknock Road stop on the Wells Road, Knowle.

From there we will enter Arnos Vale Cemetery (from the uphill side this time) and walk down past the Cross of Sacrifice and the sailors' graves to the Bath Road and onwards over the newly-refurbished Sparke-Evans Bridge and along the riverside path to the new Sloane Robinson university building.

We will snoop around the new development before returning to Clifton on the no 8 or the train.



Taizé at All Saints

Sunday, 18th, 5.00 pm

Please come and enjoy a cup of tea (or coffee) followed by a simple, meditative service based on the worship practised by the ecumenical Taizé community in France (www.taize.fr).

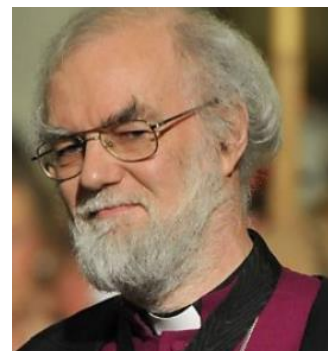
Everyone is welcome - all those who have a Christian faith and those who struggle to believe.

This will be a contemplative service in a relaxed, candlelit setting, with beautiful chants, prayerful silence, and short readings. Taizé chants are repeated many times to help quiet the mind and enable reflection. You are free to join in with the singing or drop out at any point.

Tea will be served from **4.30 pm**. The Taizé service starts at **5.00 pm** and will last around 45 minutes.

(image copyright © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé, France)

All Saints Day - Sunday 1st November



Our festival day will be even more special this year, with Bishop Rowen as our guest preacher, and also it will be Fr Charles' last All Saints Day before retirement next year.

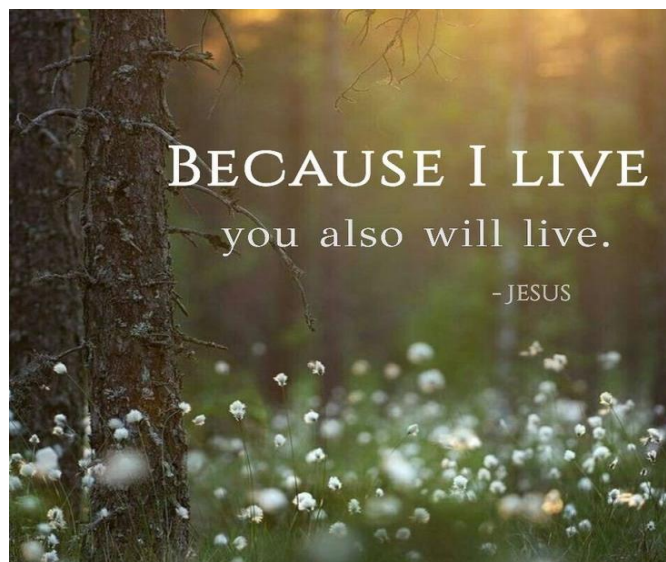
We will be providing refreshments after Mass for everyone, in church, because of the building works. We need offers of help to provide finger food. Please speak to Janice Hopkins or Mary Benton if you can help.

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 Sara Maitland Jessica Smith Sue Gaylard-Hughes

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

Andrew Densham Victoria Barry Rogerson (Bp) William Ching Georgina Harford Jenny Rogers

Years' Minds - this week we remember:

Jennifer Machin Mildred Shute Josephine Whittaker Neville Sharpley Ruby Badman Mary Densham Adrian Wright Marguerite Nshamaje Marian Groves

ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

Mon 12	Elizabeth Fry, Prison Reformer, 1845 Pray for those who work to improve conditions inside prison, establish effective penal systems and find alternatives to incarceration.
Tue 13	Edward the Confessor Edward appointed 'worldly' men to senior church positions. He favoured those who were not 'products' of the church in senior roles. Pray for clergy who are in senior roles and all members of the House of Bishops
Wed 14	Mass 10.00 am Remember in our prayers veterinary practices – surgeons and nurses. Both small and large animal. Remember their importance to maintaining the health of our pets (for some the only companions) to the health of farm animals our source of food
Thurs 15	Teresa of Avila, Teacher 1582. Born in Spain, Teresa entered a Carmelite convent when she was eighteen, and later earned a reputation as a mystic, reformer, and writer. <i>Pray for those who share the work and writing of Teresa of Avila in order to help others in their search for God.</i>
Fri 16	Mass 10.00 am Nicholas Ridley and Hugh Latimer, bishops, martyrs, 1555. The children's TV programme Blue Peter was first broadcast on this day in 1958! Pray for all those who work to educate, entertain and influence children in varied media, that they might seek to contribute to their joy and flourishing.
Sat 17	Ignatius Bp of Antioch 107 "I am God's wheat, and I shall be ground by the teeth of beasts, that I may become the pure bread of Christ." Ignatius of Antioch
Sunday 18	20th Sunday after Trinity Luke the Evangelist St. Luke the Evangelist and Physician to set forth in the gospel the love and the healing power of your Son. In faithfully detailing the humanity of Jesus, he also showed the divinity of Jesus and His genuine compassion for all human beings. 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