ALL SAINTS NEWS

22nd November 2026
Christ the King

The Festival of Christ the King: Why it matters today

The Festival of Christ the King, celebrated on the final Sunday before Advent, brings the Church's year to its conclusion by proclaiming Christ as Lord of all creation, all peoples and all history. It is a feast which invites us to consider what it means to live under the kingship of Christ, and how his kingdom challenges the values and priorities of the world around us.

Instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925, the feast came at a time of growing nationalism, political extremism and the increasing power of secular ideologies. His intention was to remind the world that no earthly ruler, government or political system could claim ultimate authority. Christ alone is King, and his kingdom is founded not upon domination, wealth or military strength, but upon truth, justice, mercy and love.



For an Anglo-Catholic tradition, here at ASC, this feast has a particular richness. In the Eucharist we encounter Christ, not as a distant or abstract monarch, but as the living Lord who gives himself to us. The altar becomes a sign of his kingdom, where heaven and earth meet and where we are drawn into the mystery of his presence. His kingship is revealed most profoundly not through a crown of gold, but through the crown of thorns and the sacrifice of the Cross.

And this has a profound message for our own time. In a world marked by war, political division, the resurgence of nationalism, economic inequality and uncertainty about the future, the feast reminds us that our ultimate allegiance belongs neither to a nation nor to an ideology, but to Christ. His kingdom offers a radically different vision of power: one in which the poor are honoured, the vulnerable protected, strangers welcomed and enemies loved.

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A PROUD DEMENTIA AWARE ORGANISATION

All Saints Clifton Church of England

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.

To celebrate Christ the King is therefore not simply to acknowledge his authority, but to ask whether our own lives reflect the values of his kingdom. Are we prepared to challenge injustice, work for peace and show compassion where there is indifference?

As we approach Advent, this feast also points us towards the coming of Christ, whose kingdom is already among us, yet awaits its fulfilment. We end the Church's year by proclaiming that, despite the turmoil and uncertainties of our world, Christ is King, and his kingdom of love, justice and peace will have no end.

Remembrance Sunday at Early Worship - Remembrance and 'The road Less Travelled'

From the Prophet: Isaiah (chapters 36 to 39) concerning King Hezekiah

The news media confront us with threats, division, and violence of many kinds, and recently, suggestions that we need to remind ourselves of what war is really like and prepare accordingly. Do you ever wonder how our society would react to a declaration of war today?

On Remembrance Sunday, what I know of my family 's experiences comes to mind: my grandmothers, waving their husbands off to war and left at home with small children, my parents, married in March 1940, with my father soon departing to the RAF. War for many families must have required much hope, patience, and trust in God. And what of those who took a different attitude to war?

Hope, patience and trust in God are emphasised in chapters 36 to 39. Here the Book of Isaiah shifts from poetry to prose, becoming an historical record of King Hezekiah of Judah, who was an exact contemporary of Isaiah, ruling a kingdom which faced threats from other regional powers. Hezekiah receives commendation for being faithful to God's principles, in both public rule and his private life - a faith put to the test when the Assyrian envoy stood at the gates, shouting insults, trying to break morale. Hezekiah turned not to his army but to God, choosing hope, patience and trust in the Lord, Through the guidance of Isaiah, the Assyrian threat passed. When Hezekiah fell mortally ill, he prayed, and again his trust was rewarded. In chapter 39, we hear that the rising power of Babylon sent envoys to congratulate Hezekiah on his recovery. This time, succumbing to euphoria and pride, Hezekiah displayed his wealth to the visitors. Isaiah delivers a sharp, rebuke. He warns Hezekiah that this will have consequences. The immediate Assyrian crisis might have passed but the threat would now come from Babylon. The challenge to maintain hope, patience, and trust in God, particularly in the face of threat, is always with us. The wartime years of people who took 'the road less travelled' are seldom heard of but many did make a valuable contribution. Here is one I shall also remember at this time.



When I was about nine, I was given a book, signed by the author himself. He was our neighbour and, at school, my English teacher. In 1957, the BBC broadcast a Children's Hour serial based on this same book. The story follows four refugee children adrift in the chaos of Europe in 1945. Despite complaints from adults about exposing a young audience to unnecessary brutalities, the story became a turning point in children's literature and television. It didn't patronise its audience; it offered an honest depiction of the horrors of war and the impact on children who live through it.

Recently, finding a modern edition of the book I read biographical details about the author I had not previously known. He was a Quaker, a member of the Peace Pledge Union – a Conscientious Objector. So, in 1940, he stood before a tribunal.

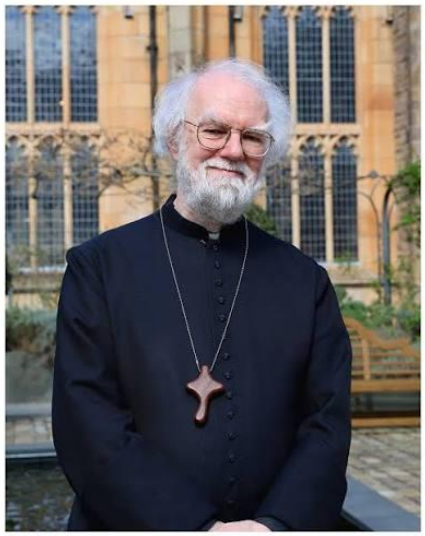
The judge accepted the sincerity of his faith and released him, on three strict conditions: he must continue to teach (then at Dudley Boys Grammar); he must serve as an air raid warden; and he must surrender his car for the duration of the war, lending it to the Friends Ambulance Unit (*a Quaker organisation operating in war zones across Europe and the Middle East rescuing and caring for the injured and displaced).* Hope, patience, and trust must have been daily needs on that 'road less travelled.' The attitude to CO's was not quite as hostile as in 1914, but probably social and professional life was not easy to navigate. When he moved to our Sussex village in 1946, none of this was ever mentioned. Ian Serraillier lived his values quietly. Combatant or not, he made his contribution in both war and peacetime.

Deeply affected by a 1947 UNESCO publication titled *Children of Europe*, a harrowing collection of photographs documenting the plight of millions of displaced, orphaned children, he was further inspired by his own challenging childhood, his travels across Europe, the work of the Red Cross, and the opening of the Pestalozzi Village in Switzerland, as a home for European war orphans. The themes of *The Silver Sword,* published in 1956, are still painfully relevant as we witness modern waves of displacement, and families torn apart by conflict.

Hezekiah 's story emphasises that security does not necessarily come from wealth, human power, or armaments The resilience that can carry people through wars and other challenges is anchored in the virtues of hope, patience and trust in God.

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Following the Visit of Father Rowan



On All Saints Day we enjoyed the company of Fr Rowan, Lord Rowan Williams, he travelled into Bristol from home in Cardiff. Rather than paying his expenses and providing him with a gift to recognise his visit he requested that we make a donation to '**Justice Defenders'**. This is a charity that he supports. And this we have done.

Justice Defenders

There are more than 3 million people in prison worldwide have not been convicted of a crime. The work of Justice Defenders is to close the global justice gap, it begins inside prisons, where the consequences of injustice are felt most severely. Those who need justice most are the least likely to access it. And those with lived experience of the criminal justice system are the least likely to be heard.

Together with their partners, they provide legal education, training, and practice within prison communities. People in prison and prison staff study law together through accredited universities, qualify as paralegals and lawyers, and defend themselves and their peers in court.

Their work does not end at a law degree graduation or a release from prison. They continue to mentor graduates who share their expertise with justice systems across the globe.
By transforming prisons into places of learning and service, Justice Defenders are building a movement that reimagines justice from the inside out.

To learn more, visit: https://www.justice-defenders.org/

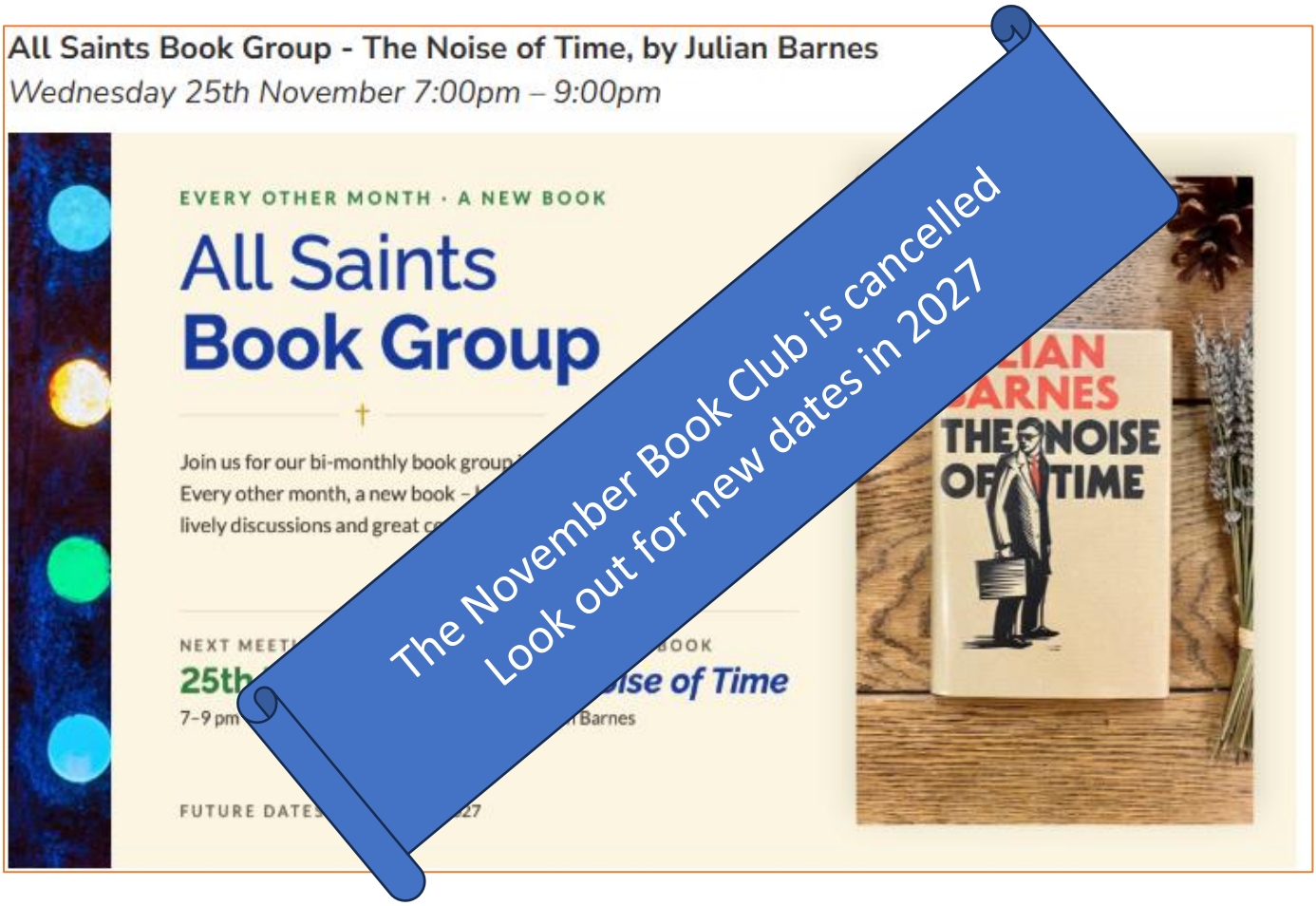

All Saints Church Clifton Bristol
concert matinee
Saturday
December 5th
4pm
Brandon String
Quartet
Mozart - Quartet in C K. 465
'The Dissonance'
Dvorak - Quartet in F
'The American'
retiring collection
refreshments



This year we will be running our very successful Warm Coat for Winter initiative again. We are looking for a coat rail to display them on. If you have a coat rail that we might borrow or that you can donate please email the office office@allsaintsclifton.org

Once we have a coat rail we will be able to accept donations of coats and jackets to redistribute to those in need. Due to lack of storage space we are not able to accept any other donations this year.





Those to Remember:

The lists for those to be remembered at the Requiem Masses will be available in the Richard Chapel during November.

'Remember' that weekday mass takes place in the Sacristy whilst the construction work is underway.

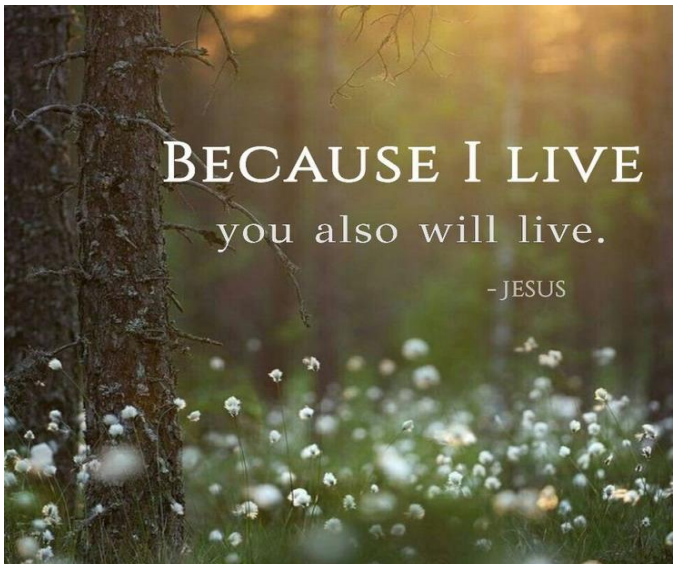
Day	Date	Event
Exposition of Blessed Sacrament	**Saturday 21**	**5.00pm Exposition (one hour)**
Christ the King	**Sunday 22**	**9.00am Early Worship** **10.30 Parish Mass**
Requiem Mass	**Friday 27**	**10.00am Mass**
Advent Sunday	**Sunday 29**	**9.00am Early Worship** **10.45am Parish Mass** **5.00pm Advent Carol Service**

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 Sara Maitland Jessica Smith Sue Gaylard-Hughes Alex Ross Nigel Legg

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 Alison Sowton
Saturday

The Departed

Andrew Densham Victoria Barry Rogerson (Bp) William Ching Georgina Harford Jenny Rogers Fiona Bristow Debbie Gibbs

Years’ Minds - this week we remember:

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

ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

Mon 23	**Clement Bishop of Rome 100** Pray for the worship and work of the Cathedral Church of Peter and Paul here in Clifton, the Bishop (Bp Declan) Dean (Fr Bosco), clergy and staff and all those who worship there. May we increasingly find ways to work together to the benefit of Christ's Church here on earth.
Tue 24	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".
Wed 25	**Mass 10.00 am Catherine of Alexandria, Martyr 4th C and Isaac Watts Hymn Writer 1748** Pray for those selecting the new Bishop of Bristol, may it be a time of growth and excitement for the diocese. Pray for the Bishop's Staff Team as they support this diocese.
Thurs 26	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 27	**Requiem Mass 10.00 am** 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*
Sat 28	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.
Sunday 29	**First Sunday of Advent Yr B begins** 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