

ALL SAINTS NEWS

20th July 2025
5th Sunday of Trinity



“HEAR the word of the Lord!” When the prophets utter that command, they are not speaking as themselves, but as the Lord. They are not passing on their judgements about God. They are, in that context, God himself passing judgment.

Here, Luke tells how Mary “sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to what he was saying”. When her sister, Martha, grumbles about that fact, Jesus teaches Martha that listening to the Lord’s word is the most important thing anyone can do. It is more important than guest-friendship, that system of obligation and expectation which drove Martha into busy-ness. It was so powerful that it once led Lot to barter his own daughters to protect his guests (Genesis 19.8).

In English, we can distinguish between “listening” and “hearing”. We may experience audition (the receiving of auditory signals); we can also shift from receiving a signal to acting on it. In this way, both “hear” and “listen” can shade into “heeding”, even “obeying”.

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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.

When we “hear” the word of the Lord, it should always be in this broader sense of “hearing-and-heeding”. The prophetic call “Hear the word of the Lord” commands our attention and fixes it on the message being imparted. All this work is done, in Greek, by one verb: *akouo* can refer to hearing, listening, and heeding. Hearing the Lord’s word properly should lead to obeying the Lord’s word.

What was Jesus saying, to which Mary paid such heed, and which Martha was missing out on? Luke does not tell us. The last recorded teaching before this encounter was the parable of the Good Samaritan. After it, Jesus “entered a village” where Martha welcomed him into her home. Perhaps he spoke in more detail, there in the sisters’ house, about being a good neighbour. Or he may have been preparing the ground for teaching how to pray, which Luke describes immediately after this passage.

Once we see this Gospel in context, set between the Good Samaritan and the Lord’s Prayer, an opportunity comes up to see it as an exegesis of the preceding parable: about behaving as a good neighbour, being practical, kind, and considerate. Martha’s invitation to the Lord to enter her home — and the trouble that she goes to when busying herself on her guest’s behalf — could be a real-life example of the practical kindness offered by the Samaritan.

But the Samaritan was commended for being a good neighbour. What is there in Martha’s actions which leads to criticism of her practical kindness? She has been a good neighbour to Jesus (and probably some of his followers) by welcoming him. Presumably she did so because of teachings that she had heard and heeded earlier. Now, though, she has stopped hearing and heeding the word of the Lord.

Her hospitality is commendable. But it is not the highest form of “heeding” the Lord. I feel sad on Martha’s behalf, because she makes me think of the countless armies of faithful women (historically, it has mostly been women) who set the scene for the Lord’s word to be heard by others, while missing out on hearing it themselves: those nippers-out and switchers-on of urns for post-service hot drinks, and other behind-the-scenes helpers. The hearing of some, in church, tends to depend on the sacrificial missing-out of others — usually with the same ungrateful result.

Wait a minute. Did I just call Jesus ungrateful? I think I did. Time to reformulate —fast. There is a positive message to be found in the episode. But we need to expand the scene imaginatively, if we are to discern it. That will get us further than reading it as some abstract antagonism between action and contemplation.

Imagining what people need and then providing it is a good thing. A warm welcome, plentiful food and drink, and a comfortable bed are blessings indeed. But hospitality can become oppressive. Too much fuss is a burdensome form of solicitude, really about the self: “Look at me and my wonderful attentiveness!” Like restaurant staff trained to hover, asking, at ten-minute intervals, “How is everything?”

Martha invited Jesus because she wanted to hear him. Perhaps her desire to display her attentiveness became an end in itself. She tried to show her love by doing things for Jesus. All he really wanted was for her to value herself, by hearing the word of the Lord.

The Merry Wives of Windsor



Magnus Gordon is touring with Illyria repertory company performing The Merry Wives of Windsor. They will be coming to Yeo Valley Organic Garden on Tuesday, August 19th and we thought it might be fun for a group from All Saints to attend. Vicky has more information and tickets and could talk to anyone after Mass on Sunday or can be contacted via victoriagordon@btinternet.com

The performance starts at 7pm (doors open at 6pm) and it is suggested that we take a chair or picnic rug and a picnic! The performance will go ahead whatever the weather! More info can be found on the Valley Arts website or google Illyria. Hopefully we can combine lifts.





The Vacancy in See Committee is a standing committee of Diocesan Synod, but only becomes active when the retirement of a diocesan bishop is announced.

The committee is made up of 27 people, including the Diocese's General Synod representatives, the Chairs of the House of Clergy and House of Laity, the Bishop of Swindon, Archdeacons and elected lay and clergy representatives from across the Diocese.

Once the committee is convened, it has two tasks – to write a Statement of Needs for the Diocese (a document similar to a parish profile) and to elect six of its members to sit on the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC) alongside six representatives from the National Church.

The Statement of Needs is drafted following considerable consultation across the Diocese, with which we hope as many people as possible will engage.

Your chance to influence the choice of the next Bishop of Bristol

As Bishop Viv retires at the end of August, the Diocese has opened a consultation about the next Bishop of Bristol, to assist the Vacancy in See Committee in drafting the statement of needs that will inform the selection of the new Bishop.

Everyone in the Diocese is encouraged to complete a brief survey on the diocesan website. There are questions on the strengths, opportunities and challenges for the church, and on the gifts, skills and qualities you think the new bishop should have. You can also suggest names of candidates you think should be considered.

The questionnaire may be found at www.tinyurl.com/bishopofbristol. It is open until 23:59 on Monday 21 July 2025. Please do complete the survey, so that our views are well represented



Parish Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

6th - 10th October 2025

There are just three places left for the Parish pilgrimage to Walsingham, 6th-10th Oct which will be led by Mthr Nicola

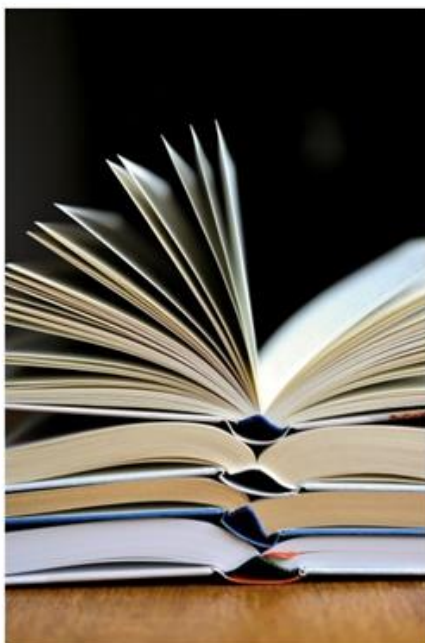
The cost will be £400 per person, for dinner, bed and breakfast (not including lunches). Double and single rooms available, costs are the same. Transport costs are additional (see below).

If you wish to go, please sign up on the list which is in the porch, by July 25th.

Walsingham require payment at least 60 days before the pilgrimage dates and for this reason we will have to ask you to make the payment by 1st August. Full information about payment will be given in due course to those who wish to come.

With regard to transport there will be a meeting for those who are coming which will include discussion about how we will get there. There may be some who are prepared to drive, and give lifts (on a shared cost basis) or people may wish to go independently, and it is reasonably easy to do this on public transport.

If you would like to discuss further do have a word with Mthr Nicola



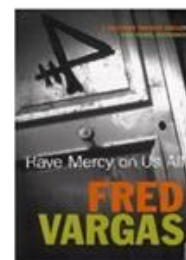
All Saints Book Group

Wed 24th September 2025, 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!

Our book for the **September** meeting will be:
Have Mercy on Us All
By Fred Vargas

And do make a note of future dates....
Wed 19th Nov & Wed 21st Jan 2026



organ recitals

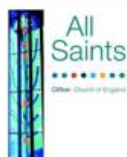
Wednesdays in July

at 1.10pm

23rd Gavin Phelps (Bath Abbey)

30th Peter Barley (St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick)

*All JS Bach programmes including one trio sonata per recital in July and September



ALL SAINT'S CLIFTON

Community Cream Teas

Saturday 19th July 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!



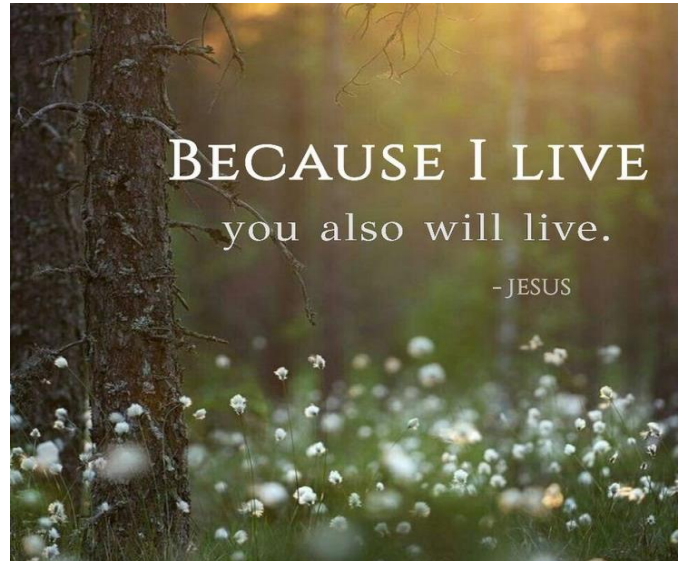
For more information, contact our Parish Office on:
office@allsaintsclifton.org or 0117 974 1355

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 Sathia Aruliah the O'Sullivan family Susie King Arthur Cleaver Vy and Angel Wray Nicky Epina Oussama and Claire Sader Sarah Jean Bradford Adam Chivers Lucille Osafa Andrew French Swarna Simpson Fr John Scott (Pr) Professor David Fenton Jessica Smith

Monday

Sue Hilliar Hugh Farry

Tuesday.

Ryan Lindsey George Lympelopoulos Pam Parker

Wednesday

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

Thursday

Steve Cooper Barbera Freeman Remie Clarke

Friday

Charlotte Hopkins, Caroline Semon, Nicole Kaneza Nadine Benn

Saturday

The Departed

Jean Detheridge Olivia Griffiths Ann Wardrop John Badman Charles Easmon Elisabeth Morgan Pope Francis Silvio Pegado Jo Greenbury Anthea Anthony (Pr) Rosalind Hinton

Years' Minds - this week we remember:

Raymond Tong Marlena Fitzner Diana Gloria Collins Margaret Hill Marilyn Bateman Michael Morgan Michael Ball Anne Hancock

ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

Mon 21	Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace
Tue 22	Mary Magdalene Mary cured of the seven demons and a constant companion of Jesus. Pray for all who suffer from mental illness, for woman who act as role models of faith, and remember it was Mary who was one of the first to whom the resurrected Jesus showed himself
Wed 23	Mass 10.00am International wild life charities, who work to conserve the richness of creation, halt suffering, maintain natural balance, and protect threatened species on land and in sea
Thurs 24	Pray for the work of the Cathedral in Bristol.
Fri 25	Mass 10.00am. James the Apostle Give thanks that Jesus calls us all to be disciples – the educated and the unlearned. Pray for those who have, or are subject, to fiery tempers
Sat 26	Anne and Joachim Parents of BVM Product of legend and the Gospel of James. However, Mary's parents, we believe, were good and faithful people who raised her with love and devotion to God. They serve as role models for parents. We pray for parents.
Sunday 27	Trinity 6 Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; <div> Early Worship 9.00am Parish Mass 10.30am </div>

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.