

ALL SAINTS NEWS

31st August 2025
11th Sunday of Trinity

John Bunyan – Writer and Nonconformist Preacher 1628 – 1688, Church of England Lesser Festival - 30 August

John Bunyan was born in Elstow, near Bedford, in 1628, the son of Thomas Bunyan and Margaret Bentley. He followed his father into the tinker's trade but rebelled against God and 'had but few equals, both for cursing, swearing, lying, and blaspheming the holy name of God'. As a teenager, he joined Cromwell's New Model Army but continued his rebellious ways. His life was saved on one occasion when a fellow-soldier took his place at the siege of Leicester, and 'as he stood sentinel, he was shot in the head with a musket bullet and died'.

Discharged from the army after three years, Bunyan married a God-fearing woman (whose name is unknown) in 1648, who brought two books to the marriage: *The Plain Man's Pathway to Heaven* (Arthur Dent) and *The Practice of Piety* (Lewis Bayly). These convicted Bunyan of his sin and he made attempts to reform his life. But he realised that he was lost and without Christ. Then he came into contact with a group of women whose 'joyous conversation about the new birth and Christ deeply impressed him'. In 1651 the women introduced him to their pastor in Bedford, John Gifford, who was instrumental in leading Bunyan to repentance and faith.



That same year he moved to Bedford with his wife and four children, including Mary, his firstborn, who had been blind from birth. He was baptised by immersion in the River Ouse in 1653. Appointed a deacon of Gifford's church, Bunyan's testimony was used to lead several people to conversion. By 1655 Bunyan was himself preaching to various congregations in Bedford, and hundreds came to hear him. John Owen said of him that he would gladly exchange all his learning for Bunyan's power of touching men's hearts.

Contact us

Office 01179741355
Web www.allsaintsclifton.org
Email office@allsaintsclifton.org
Address 68 Pembroke Road, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 3ED



Vicar Fr. Charles Sutton
Mobile 07785912663
Associate Priest Fr Paul Hawkins

Home 0117 9078088
Email charleses@me.com

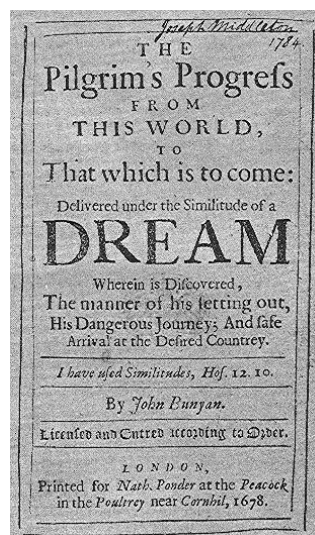


The views and opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the All Saints Church community.

In the following years, Bunyan began publishing books and became established as a reputable Puritan writer, but around this time, his first wife died. He remarried in 1659, a godly young woman named Elizabeth, who was to be a staunch advocate for her husband during his imprisonments – for in 1660 Bunyan was arrested for preaching without official permission from King Charles II; he was to spend the next 12½ years in Bedford County Gaol.

Although a time of much suffering, Bunyan's years in prison were productive, for he wrote extensively, with only the Bible and Foxe's *Book of Martyrs* beside him, publishing such titles as *Christian Behaviour*, *The Holy City* and *A Defence of the Doctrine of Justification*. Of particular significance for his life-story was *Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners*, which chronicled his life up to the time of his imprisonment.

He was eventually released in 1672, and took up his pastorate in Bedford, having been appointed by the congregation the preceding January. After some fruitful years of ministry, in March of 1675 Bunyan was again imprisoned for preaching publicly without a license. It was during this imprisonment that he began the first part of his most famous book, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, which was to sell more than 100,000 copies in its first ten years in print. He was released in 1677.



The images Bunyan used in *The Pilgrim's Progress* are reflections of images from his own world: the 'strait gate' being a version of the wicket gate at Elstow Abbey church; the 'Slough of Despond' is a reflection of Squitch Fen, a wet and mossy area near his cottage in Harrowden; the 'Delectable Mountains' are an image of the Chiltern Hills surrounding Bedfordshire.


Bunyan's work, in particular *The Pilgrim's Progress*, has reached a wide audience through stage, film, TV, and radio productions. An opera based on *The Pilgrim's Progress* by Ralph Vaughan Williams, which Williams referred to as a 'Morality', was first performed at the Royal Opera House in 1951 as part of the Festival of Britain (and revived in 2012 by the ENO).

In August 1688, after successfully mediating in a disagreement between a father and son, as he was riding from Reading in Berkshire to London, Bunyan caught a cold and developed a fever. He died at the house of his friend John Strudwick, a grocer and Chandler on Snow Hill in Holborn.

Edited version from 'Banner of Truth Trust' magazine: A 'reformed, Calvinistic, conservative evangelical' organisation aligned with the 1646 'Westminster Confession of Faith'.

The Westminster Confession is the standard doctrine of the Church of Scotland





• • • **Friends Together** •

at All Saints, Clifton

A Dementia accessible café **for all**.
Support, guidance, information and friendship
with tea, coffee and cake included.

Join us for...

- Reminiscence activities
- Support, guidance, and information
- Tea, coffee, cake
- Fun, laughter – and friendship!


WHERE? The Randall Room, All Saints Church

WHEN? 1st Thursday of **every** month

TIME? 10.00am–12.00pm

Café Dates 2025 ALWAYS THE 1ST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

2 nd January	1 st May	4 th September
6 th February	5 th June	2 nd October
6 th March	3 rd July	6 th November
3 rd April	7 th August	4 th December



**Bristol Dementia
Action Alliance**

All Saints, Clifton supports the work of BDAA to make
Bristol a dementia aware city. For more information
about the work of BDAA see their website bdaa.org.uk

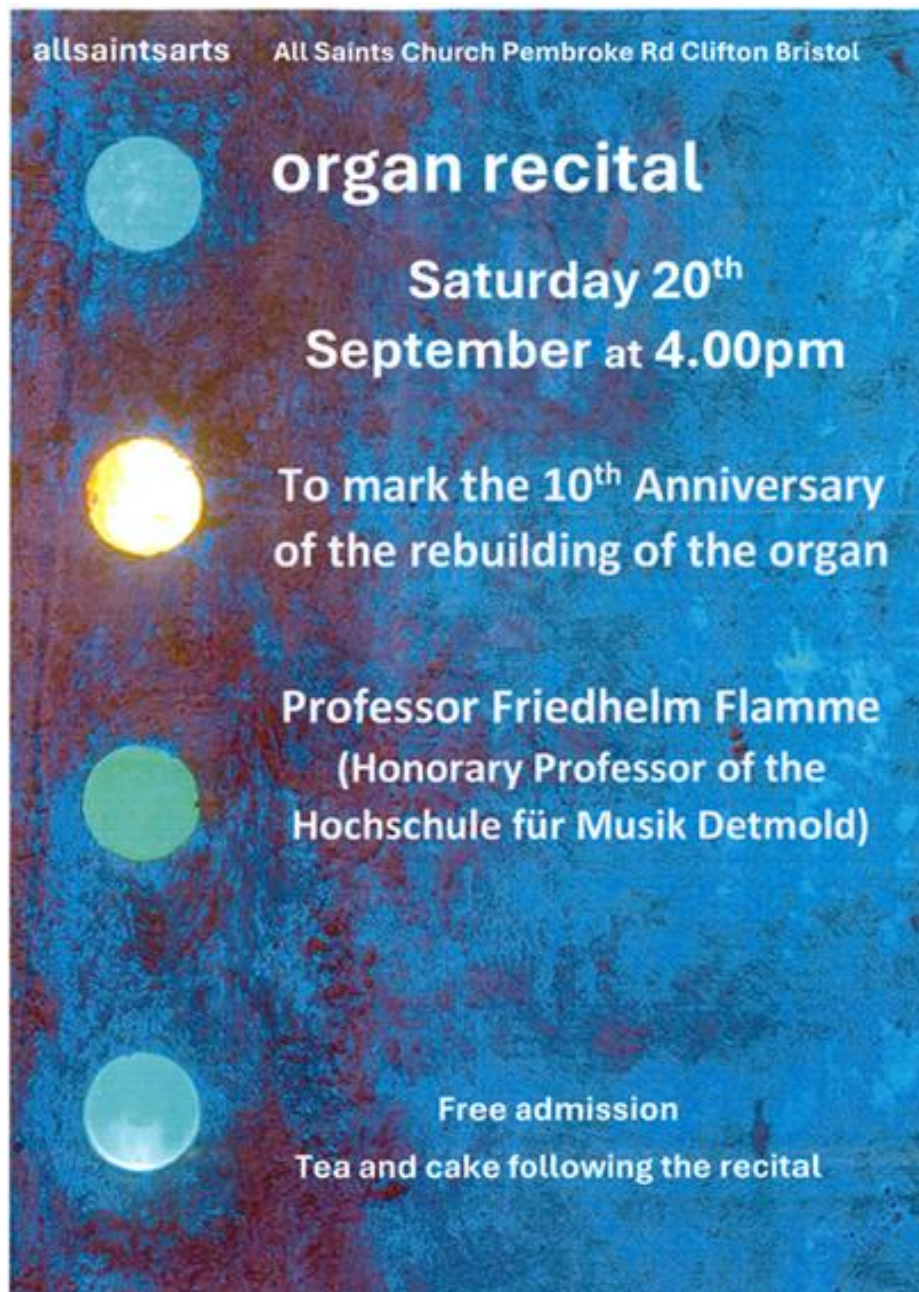
For further information, please call All Saints Parish Office
on 0117 974 1355 or see the website for latest updates.

All Saints

www.allsaintsclifton.org

The next meeting of the Friends
Together Café
will be on
Thursday 4th of September.

The café is open to everyone and offers
friendship, support, good conversation
and brilliant tea and cake.



Organ Restoration 10th Anniversary Recital by Professor Friedhelm Flamme

Friedhelm Flamme is a highly-respected organist with an award-winning discography, as well as being artistic director of the Vox Organi festival in Germany's beautiful Lower Saxony region, and a distinguished teacher.

Following multi-disciplinary studies at the Hochschule für Musik Detmold and Paderborn University, he achieved the highest German academic degree in Sacred Music, won an accolade for an outstanding performance with his artist diploma concert, and was awarded a PhD for his thesis on the pianist and composer Friedrich Gulda.

In 2018, Flamme was appointed Honorary Professor of the Hochschule für Musik Detmold. His recent recording on the CPO label of the complete works of Buxtehude has been met with universal acclaim.

Free admission; Tea and cake following the recital.

allsaintsarts

All Saints Church Pembroke Rd Clifton Bristol

organ recitals

Wednesdays in
September at 1.10pm

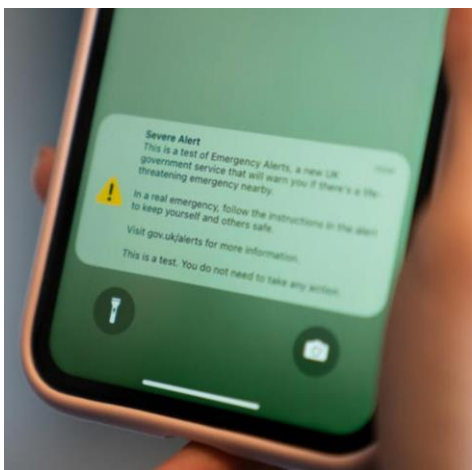
3rd Jude Young (St Peter's
Oxford)

10th Paul Walton* (Bristol
Cathedral)

17th Paul Walton* (Bristol
Cathedral)

24th Mark Lee (Bristol
Cathedral)

*All JS Bach programmes including one
trio sonata per recital.



Sunday September 7th at 3.00pm

A Siren will sound from your phone for approximately 10 seconds, your phone will also vibrate as Government test the Emergency procedures

Millions of mobile phones across the UK will blare a loud siren next weekend, as the government tests its Emergency Alert System (EAS). All 4G and 5G phones and tablets will sound the alarm at the same time, even if they are on silent, with a text message displayed on-screen explaining what is going on, in what will be the second major test of the system.

Minister Pat McFadden said: 'From major storms to wildfires, this system could save your life in an emergency.

'Just like the fire alarm in your house, it's important we test the system so that we know it will work if we need it. 'This test will be one of the biggest public safety exercises in our nation's history.

'Mark the date, spread the word and take a moment to think about how you would respond in a real emergency.'

Friends Together in 2026



The All Saints Friends Together, Dementia Friendly Café has been welcoming those living with dementia, their friends, family and carers to our free, monthly Café for nearly 10 years now!

Held on the first Thursday of every month from 10 am to 12 pm, in The Randall Room, and offering delicious homemade cakes and hot drinks, a dedicated team of volunteers provides support, companionship, conversation, and one-to-one help.

The Café is a key element of our community outreach at All Saints and its success has contributed to All Saints being awarded a 'Dementia Aware Organisation Gold Award' *for the third year running* by [Bristol Dementia Action Alliance \(BDAA\)](https://www.bdaa.org.uk/).

As we head towards 2026, we're now looking for help running and co-ordinating Friends Together moving forwards. There are a number of roles available, and previous experience of those living with dementia is not a requirement, so if anyone is interested in finding out more, then contact **Helen Sutton** on **07802 256315** or helen@helensutton.com.

For more information on the All Saints Friends Together Café, do have a look at the ASC website page: <https://tinyurl.com/Friends-Together-Cafe>

Thank you!

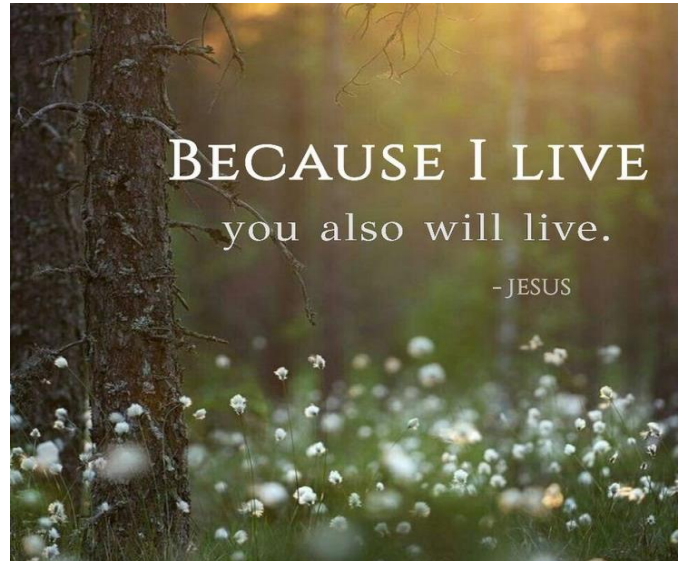


Prayers Requests

'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 Epina Sarah Jean Bradford Adam Chivers Andrew French Swarna Simpson

Monday

Hugh Farry Sathia Aruliah Susie King Arthur Cleaver

Tuesday.

Pam Parker Oussama and Claire Sader

Wednesday

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

Thursday

Remie Clarke Lucille Osafa

Friday

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

Saturday

The Departed

Silvio Pegado Jo Greenbury Alisa Temple Judy Torrens Armin von Doneck

Years' Minds - this week we remember:

John Brennand Kenneth Smith Margaret Shatford Bryony Cronney Denie Howard

ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

Mon September 1	Giles of Provence 710 Pray for those struck by sudden and unexpected misery. For those who face trauma and grief that makes them want to hide from this world.
Tue 2	Martyrs of Papua New Guinea 1901 and 1942 These martyrs were murdered savagely by the invading Japanese in WWII. They took a decision to stay and continue the mission work as 'fools for Christ's sake'
Wed 3	Mass 10.00am Gregory the Great, Bp of Rome 604 Pray for all who maintain the tradition of liturgy and yet keep it relevant for the time. Gregory was known as the 'father of Christian worship' because of his revision of worship in his day. Pray for all those worshippers across the world and of different denominations that use the same readings and forms of worship each and every day.
Thurs 4	Birinus , Bishop of Dorchester Pray for those who live in 'new' towns and communities. Places without history that have become established villages or towns. in 1960 Berinsfield (after todays commemorated Saint) was the first English village built on virgin land for 200 years. Berinsfield became the 'dumping ground' for those considered difficult by Oxford City Council. Pray also for challenged and challenging families.
Fri 5	Mass 10.00am International Day of Charity. Pray for the work of charities, their foundation, employees, volunteers and donors. Remember their causes. In particular pray for a charity of your own choice. First day of term. Pray for students, staff and teachers at all our schools – especially St John's Primary School.
Sat 6	Allen Gardiner 1851 Sailor, Missionary and Martyr. Before his death he wrote in prayer <i>"Lord, at your feet I humbly fall, And I give you all I have, All that your love requires. To lack is best, For all is yours, Take care of me in this hour of test. Do not let me have the thoughts of a Complainer. Make me feel your power which gives life And I will learn to praise you while carrying your cross.</i>
Sunday 7	Trinity 12 Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve 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 office@allsaintsclifton.org marked for the attention of the Safeguarding Officer.