

# ALL SAINTS NEWS

7<sup>th</sup> December 2025  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent

## There is a Flower      *'There is a floure sprung of a tre'*

This fifteenth-century poem is by John Audelay. He died c. 1426 and was an English priest and poet from Haughmond Abbey in Shropshire; he is one of the few English poets of the period whose name is known.

The earliest biographical record of Audelay places him in London in 1417, when he was part of the household of Richard, 7th Baron Strange of Knockin. Strange was made to do public penance for his involvement in a brawl at *St Dunstan in the East* church on Easter Sunday in which a parishioner was killed. Strange was accompanied on his penance by Audelay, his chaplain. Audelay had not only taken part in the penance, but had been present at the incident itself! It has been suggested that the penitential character of Audelay's poetry may have been influenced by his desire to atone for his involvement in Strange's public shame: as the family's chaplain he would have felt particular responsibility.

However, Audley is best remembered for his collection of devotional carols, one of which is *'There is a flower'*.

*There is a floure sprung of a tre,  
The rote therof is called Jesse,  
A floure of pryce;  
Ther is non seche in paradise.*

*There is a flower sprung from a tree,  
The root thereof is called Jesse,  
A flower of great worth;  
There is no other such in paradise.*

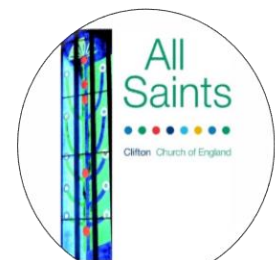
## Sir John Rutter

This poem was used in a composition by John Rutter who turned 80 this past week. As a consequence he was the Radio 3 Composer of the Week and was interviewed by Tom Service in 'Music Matter'. In the interview he talks across many subjects and these included his faith and his selection of religious music. And, indeed, this particular poem.

The poem references the "O Antiphon: Root of Jesse" (*O Radix Jesse*) a traditional Advent chant, often sung on December 19, referencing Jesus as the Messiah, the "root" from the family tree (or "shoot") of Jesse (King David's father). The Messiah will be a sign for nations, he will bring salvation, silence kings and draw prayers from peoples. It emphasizes Christ as the grounding, hopeful centre, connecting humanity's story to God's promise, a symbol of stability in uncertain times, a calling for deliverance

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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.

**'O Root of Jesse!' The Third Day of the 'O Antiphon Series'**  
(and sung at our **Advent Carol Service** last Sunday)

O Root of Jesse, who stands as a sign for the nations;  
before you kings will shut their mouths,  
to you the nations will make their prayer:  
Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.

## Root of Jesse



Medieval Christian craftsmen and artists created wonderful Jesse trees, the sleeping Jesse at the base with a tree growing out of his loins and on each branch those ancestors of Christ opening out like leaves until we reach the final flowering of Mary with her child Jesus.

Some Jesse trees can be found in manuscripts but there still remain wonderful examples in stained glass and wood and stone carving. Canterbury Cathedral has one fragment of a panel dating from 1150. In Dorchester Abbey, Oxfordshire, there is a wonderful north window which combines carved stone images with remaining fragments of medieval glass. In St Mary's priory, Abergavenny, a most beautiful wooden 15th century Jesse figure is all that remains of the tree!

The Gospel genealogies of Jesus trace his descent from Jesse the father of David. This is to show the fulfilment of Micah's prophecy, that the Messiah came from David's royal house and lineage and would be born in David's city, Bethlehem (Micah 5.2). The ancient world was fascinated by the genealogy of Kings, because a direct and confirmed lineage proved their right to rule. It's no wonder that dynastic battles were fought over legitimacy rights, for any suggestion that the person claiming the throne was illegitimate usually meant conflict!

Today we are not so fixed on these claims as our ancestors were, for Christians a new and universal family is constituted, where all are one in Christ (Gal 3.28.) Nevertheless, this antiphon acts as a catalyst to help us find our ancestry as children of creation.

In two quotes from Isaiah an image of strong roots and strong growth helps us understand how we too are part of the tree of Jesse. The prophet talks about the shoot that shall come from the stock of Jesse, from which a branch will grow full of fruit (Is 11.1) On that day when the earth will be 'filled with the knowledge of the lord as the waters cover the sea', 'the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for all the peoples, the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious'(Is 11.9,10).

Because we are grafted on to Christ, our task is to continually bear good fruit, Jesus uses this type of metaphor for good works and acts, but we have also something more poignant to consider.

This root image links us to creation, to the 'stardust' which forms the heart of matter and life. O Radix Jesse challenges us to care, with loving concern, for all life's growth and do everything we can to prevent harm to living creatures and our planet.



**Exploring Christianity**

What do we mean when we say we are Christians?

- If this is a question which interests you, there are 4 opportunities over this winter designed to explore the answers.
- Ideal for those who have recently started their journey, as well as those further along the way.

Topics: Jesus Christ, Use and misuse of the Bible, Christian Worship, Christian Living

Dates: 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov, 7<sup>th</sup> Dec, 4<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. Time: 12.30-1.30. Place: Sacristy. Sandwich lunch provided. No need to book, all are welcome.

## Exploring Christianity

Four sessions on Sundays over the winter period, starting at 12.30 and finishing at 1.30pm.

Located in the Sacristy and lunch provided.

The purpose of these sessions is to explore what we mean when we talk about being Christian. It will be ideal for those commencing their journey of understanding as well as those already established on the path.

**CS Lewis wrote:** 'Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and, if true, of infinite importance. The one thing it cannot be is moderately important.'

**Dates:** Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December. In 2026, Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February

## ASC Walks everyone, and their dog, welcome



**Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Via Julia**

**Follow in some of the footsteps of the Roman army as it marched from Aqua Sulis (Bath) to Wales.**

**This is a downhill path, but parts are stony and wet. Be prepared.**

**Meet at Downs Water Tower at 10.45, return by train to Clifton Down.**

[georginaharford@hotmail.com](mailto:georginaharford@hotmail.com) 07767746168

## Warm coats for Winter

Take a coat if you need one.

Leave a coat if you can.



The coat rack has been very popular and is now looking a little empty.

Please donate a coat this weekend if you can.

Thank you



concert matinée All Saints Church Pembroke Rd Clifton

Saturday  
December 6th  
4.00 pm

Stephanie Gilbert & Julie Browne  
flutes  
Corinna Ferguson violin  
Stephen Browne piano

**Bach**

Keyboard Concerto in D minor  
Brandenburg Concerto No 4

retiring collection

tea and cake



**Wonderful Christmas Time**

A celebration of festive music for all

St George's Bristol

Sunday 7th December  
Concert starts at 7pm

Tickets from £15  
Buy tickets from the St George's website or scan the QR code

**CITY VOICES BRISTOL**

**GREAT WESTERN**

ALL SAINTS FLOWER TEAM

## Christmas Wreath Workshop

Join us to create a stunning Christmas wreath to welcome guests to your home during the festive season.

SAT 6<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 10.00<sup>am</sup> - 12<sup>noon</sup>

MON 8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2.00<sup>pm</sup> - 4.00<sup>pm</sup>

All equipment provided • No experience required  
Free tea, coffee & cake • £50 per person

**All Saints**  
Church of England

[www.all-saints-clifton.org](http://www.all-saints-clifton.org)

Join *Cantanti*  
for an afternoon of  
joyful words and  
music to celebrate the  
Christmas season

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December,  
4pm

Admission free  
Retiring collection

All Saints Church  
Pembroke Road  
BS8 3ED





Winter Art Exhibition in the Atrium

**'A Sense of Place'**  
By the All Saints Artists

Please support the All Saints Artists  
showing their work in the Atrium.

Some works are for sale

A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT  
IN AID OF BRISTOL NW FOODBANK

# 'WE THREE CHOIRS'

FEATURING QEHB COMMUNITY  
CHOIR, THE BRISTOL GROOVE CHOIR  
& BRISTOL VOICES

**SAT 13 DEC** | **18.00 - 20.00**  
DOORS OPEN 17.30

SNACKS - BAR - RAFFLE PRIZES

ALL SAINTS CHURCH,  
PEMBROKE ROAD, CLIFTON BS8  
3ED

ADULTS £10, STUDENTS £8, CHILDREN £5, U5S FREE  
(PLUS BOOKING FEE)

**QR Code**

**All Saints**  
Catholic Church of England

**QEHB**  
Bristol  
Community Choir

**Bristol North West Foodbank**  
Together with Trussard

**THE BRISTOL GROOVE**  
Bristol Groove

**BRISTOL VOICES**  
Bristol Voices



**The Philip Henry Vaughan Mission House Charity.**

This charity consists of five members of All Saints church who meet twice a year (May and November) to consider grant applications from Charities which comply with the conditions of the Trust.

Recently we were pleased to grant £500 towards the All Saints Food Bank. The box provides a well used source of food for those in need.

Linda Trude- Secretary to the Vaughan Trust

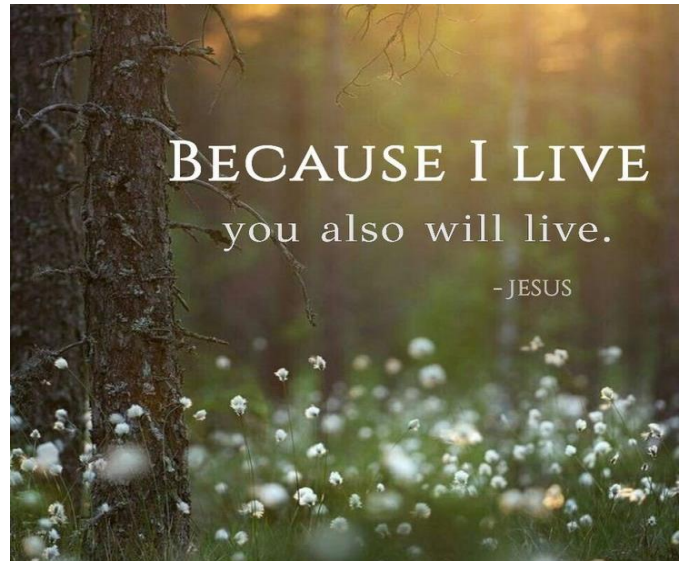


## Prayers Requests

'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 Andrew French Swarna Simpson Jenny Oates Sister Rosie Martin Rogers John Pedlar Gillian Clark Pepe Messel William and Lincoln

### Monday

Sathia Aruliah Susie King Arthur Cleaver

### Tuesday.

Pam Parker Oussama and Claire Sader

### Wednesday

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

### Thursday

Remie Clarke

### Friday

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

### Saturday

## The Departed

Hugh Farry Lucille Osafa Mary Whittington Diana Verity

## Years' Minds - this week we remember:

Hilda Smith Peter Sturdy Sister Rhona CSMV Elsie Flay Andrew (John) Norton CRPr  
Kathleen Smith John Marsh Paul Hancock May Brunsden Doreen Joan Tong Peter Bradford

# ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

Mon 8	<b>The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b> We give thanks for the gift above all gifts, that God became man, the Word became Flesh, in the person of Jesus Christ for our salvation. At this time of Advent we pray that we may prepare ourselves for the Feast of the Nativity and be enabled to see the incarnate presence in the faces of our brothers and sisters.
Tue 9	Corruption is dishonest or unethical conduct of those in authority. We pray for victims of corruption and for those who work in roles of prevention. We pray for those in authority that they may not be tempted by personal objectives.
Wed 10	<b>Mass 10.00am</b> Human rights day. Help us to uphold the values that are so central to whom we are: human beings created B'tzelem Elohim - in the image of God. Help us to recognize that the inherent dignity of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. The inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family are the foundations of freedom, justice and peace in the world.
Thurs 11	Corruption is dishonest or unethical conduct of those in authority. We pray for victims of corruption and for those who work in roles of prevention. We pray for those in authority that they may not be tempted by personal objectives.
Fri 12	<b>Mass 10.00am</b> We pray for the people of Mexico. Trump actively campaigned against Mexico's national interests and has caused an existing rift to enlarge. We pray for Mexican immigrants who fear mass deportations. (Today is Poinsettia Day).
Sat 13	<b>Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse, 304 Samuel Johnson, Moralist, 1784</b> Pray for those who suffer visual impairment or loss. Issues concerned with sight are hugely disabling and often put individuals on the periphery of society. Pray for all who work to reduce the suffering, research the causes, provide medical treatment and campaign for change for positive impact.
<b>Sunday 14</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>  O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;  <b>Early Worship 9.00am Parish Mass 10.30am</b>

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](mailto: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](mailto:safeguarding@allsaintsclifton.org)