

ALL SAINTS NEWS

28th December 2025
The Holy Innocents



A very happy
New Year
2026

May the New Year keep us in good health, bring peace, and a growing
hope for a better world.

Wishing you every Blessing in 2026

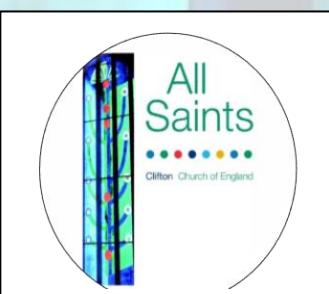
Fr Charles, The Ministry Team, Churchwardens and the All Saints' PCC

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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.

What is the Feast of the Holy Innocents?

Observed today, Sunday December 28, the Feast of the Holy Innocents honours the memory of the infants who were slaughtered by King Herod following the birth of Jesus. Though the Holy Family escaped Herod's wrath by fleeing into Egypt, the innocent baby boys of Bethlehem fell victim to his manic fear of losing power. Their death is likened to martyrs' deaths, and the Church considers them holy.

The Historical Account

After the birth of Jesus, the Magi saw an unusual star in the heavens that led them to Jerusalem, and at the palace of Herod, they inquired after the newborn king of the Jews. Herod consulted with the chiefs and scribes and sent the Magi to Bethlehem, asking them to return to him following their visit. However, after honouring the Christ Child, the Magi neglected to return to Herod, realizing his malicious intent against a perceived threat to his reign.

Matthew details the horror of the event in Chapter 2 of his gospel account:

Flight into Egypt



"When Herod realized that he had been deceived by the magi, he became furious. He ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had ascertained from the magi. Then was fulfilled what had been said through Jeremiah the prophet:

*'A voice was heard in Ramah,
sobbing and loud lamentation;
Rachel weeping for her children,
and she would not be consoled,
since they were no more.'"*

Prior to the massacre, the Holy Family was warned by an angel who appeared to Joseph in a dream, telling them to flee to Egypt. After safely residing in Egypt for a number of years, they returned to Israel to dwell in Nazareth.

This fulfilled the prophecy of Hosea 11:1, *"Out of Egypt I called my son,"* showing Jesus as the perfect son to fulfil God's covenant. He wasn't simply the Son of David or the Son of Mary – He is first and foremost the sinless Son of God.

The Need for a Righteous King



This tragic event demonstrates the need for a true and righteous king for God's people. At the time of the magi's journey, Judea was under the rule of the ruthless King Herod. Desperate to cling to power, he killed anyone he viewed as a threat – including many of his own family members. Herod's demand for dominance and disregard for his people's well-being ultimately drove him to commit the mass murder of innocent children.

In contrast, Jesus came as the true King, to restore order and give hope to a world struggling in the bonds of sin and death. He offers justice for those who have been wronged, and mercy for all who have sinned. He has perfect power over heaven and earth, and in His sacrifice, He triumphed over the oppressions perpetuated by a succession of imperfect earthly kings. He forgives our disobedience against His holy law and invites us to live as His adopted sons and daughters.

As we reflect on this feast day, we can rest in the comfort that Jesus came to bring justice to a fallen world. We look forward with hope to when He will return in power and glory. Romans 8:19, 22-25 describes:

"For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God... We know that all creation is groaning in labour pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that sees for itself is not hope. For who hopes for what one sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait with endurance."

When is Christmastide?

Christmastide is the liturgical season that spans from the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord (which we commonly call Christmas day, December 25) to Epiphany Eve (January 5, commonly called Twelfth Night, like the Shakespeare play) or, formally, Baptism of Christ. Having said this many parts of the Christian Church continue to maintain a variety of Christmas symbols until Candlemas (Presentation of Christ in the Temple, on 2 February).

So, the 12 days of Christmastide – though, remember, for the Church the season does not close until the Baptism of Christ (11 January).

In the Lectionary the days in **BOLD CAPITALS** are the Principal Feasts (some traditionalists will still refer to them as 'Red-Letter Days', of which there are seven) and other Festivals in **Small Bold Capitals**, these are all observed by the Anglican Communion and those denominations that use the 'Common Lectionary'.

The Twelve Days include:

1. **The NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST** (December 25, a Principal Feast)
2. **Stephen, Deacon and Martyr** (December 26)
3. **John, Apostle and Evangelist** (December 27)
4. **The Holy Innocents** (December 28)
5. Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr, 1170 (December 29)
6. December 30
7. John Wyclif, Priest and Translator of the Bible into English, 1394 (December 31)
8. **The Circumcision and Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ** (January 1)
9. Basil the Great, Bishop and Teacher, 379 and Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah, Bishop in South India, Evangelist, 1945 (January 2)
10. January 3
11. January 4 (Second Sunday of Christmas or **Epiphany** this year)
12. Epiphany Eve (January 5)

And, the **BAPTISM OF CHRIST** (11 January).

Thursday 1st January 11:00am – 12:30pm



All
Saints
Clifton Church of England



Walks For Everyone!

Guided walks on The Downs and other interesting areas of Bristol.
On the **SECOND Saturday morning of every month** – plus some Bank Holiday Monday walks.

Suitable for everyone, and well behaved dogs are welcome!

Our next walk will be.....

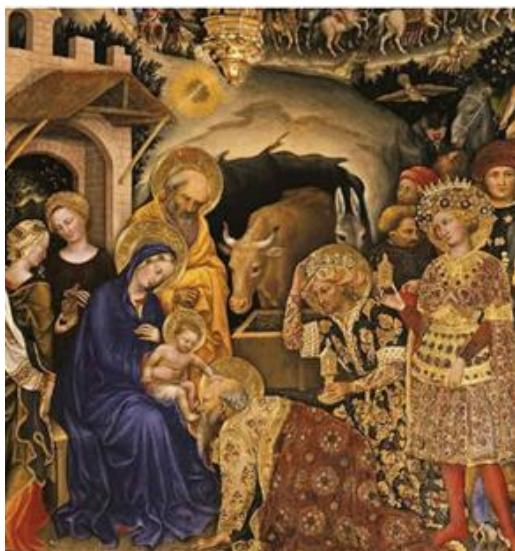
**NEW YEAR'S DAY
THURSDAY 1st JANUARY 2026**

A LOCAL WALK STARTING AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH
Walk off some of those Christmas calories, and join us for a
New Year's Day around the local area

Meet at All Saints Church at 11.00am



Any questions, contact: georginaharford@hotmail.com
07767 746168 (**text only**)



Tuesday 6th January 2026

Said Mass for Epiphany

6 pm



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

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.'*

Sessions are held on Sundays, starting at 12.30 and finishing at 1.30pm. Meeting in the Sacristy with lunch provided.

In 2026 the sessions are Sunday 4th January and Sunday 1st February

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



All Saints

Clifton Church of England



Parish Lunch



Join us in the Randall Room after Parish
Mass for a
'Bring & Share' Parish Lunch for Epiphany
Sunday 11th January 2026 @ 12.30pm

The first event in this year's All Saints' Social Calendar!

***Please sign up on the list in the Porch with your name and the dish
you'll be bringing to share – just to avoid duplication – and we'll all
share the feast!***

Cash Bar

**Bring a friend, or just come and share a delicious lunch with good
company**

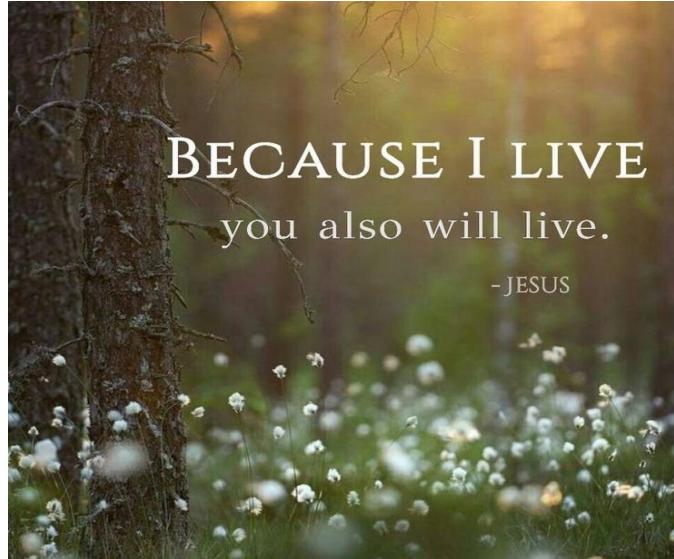
[All Saints Parish Office](mailto:All.Saints@allsaintsclifton.org)
0117 974 1355; www.allsaintsclifton.org

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 Gillian Clark Pepe Messel William and Lincoln Gwladys Hughes Sue GayLard – Hughes Lucy Briggs- Owen

Monday

Sathia Aruliah Susie King

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 Rhona Bennett Tim Draycott Arthur Cleaver

Years' Minds - this week we remember:

Mae Skerrett Fred Nickalls Phoebe Oakley Garn Lee Bons Tom Davison (Pr) Margaret Glasow Albert Edwin Jones Irit Lauven Geoffrey Sunderland (Pr)

ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

Mon 29	Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr, 1170. We pray for our new Archbishop designate, Dame Sarah Mullally. She will be the 106 th Archbishop and the first woman to hold the role.
Tue 30	God, thank you for a coming new year. May everyone in our family be willing to begin anew with a clean slate. We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another. As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time.
Wed 31	Mass 10.00am John Wycliffe, Reformer, 1384 We pray for those who are willing to speak out for what they believe is right: "Englishmen learn Christ's law best in English. Moses heard Gods law in his own tongue; so did Christ's apostles." And "I am ready to defend my convictions even unto death. I have followed the Sacred Scriptures and the holy doctors." John Wycliffe
Thurs 1 st January 2026	New Years Day Mass 12.00am Naming and Circumcision of Jesus Your Blessed Son was given the Name that is above every name: give us grace faithfully to bear his Name, to worship him in the freedom of the Spirit, and to proclaim him as the Saviour of the world.
Fri 2	Mass 10.00am Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishops, Teachers of the Faith, 379 and 389 Seraphim, Monk of Sarov, Spiritual Guide, 1833 Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah, Bishop in South India, Evangelist, 1945 "Acquire a peaceful spirit and thousands around you will be saved". Seraphim. "Every evil is a sickness of soul, but virtue offers the cause of its health". Basil "In India we wonder if you have sufficiently contemplated the grievous sin of perpetuating your divisions and denominational bitterness in these your daughter churches." Bishop Azariah
Sat 3	Pray for all who have a New Year's resolution and determination to get fit in 2026 asking that they may be able to keep their intention. Pray for the work of the NHS in reducing obesity, for those who are obese.
Sunday 4	Epiphany (transferred) Through the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face. 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