

ALL SAINTS NEWS

11th January 2026
The Baptism of Christ

The Baptism of Christ

Andrea del Verrocchio and his pupil Leonardo da Vinci

'The Baptism of Christ' is a painting finished around 1475 in the studio of the Italian Renaissance painter Andrea del Verrocchio and generally ascribed to him and his pupil Leonardo da Vinci. Some art historians discern the hands of other members of Verrocchio's workshop in the painting as well.



The picture depicts the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist as recorded in the Biblical Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke.

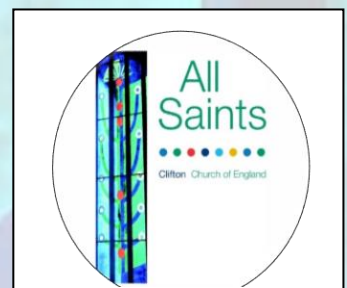
The angel to the left is recorded as having been painted by the youthful Leonardo, a fact which has excited so much special comment and mythology, that the importance and value of the picture as a whole and within the oeuvre of Verrocchio is often overlooked.

Modern critics also attribute much of the landscape in the background and the figure of Christ to Leonardo da Vinci as well. The painting is housed in the Uffizi Gallery in Florence.

Andrea del Verrocchio was a sculptor, goldsmith, and painter who ran a large and successful workshop in Florence in the second half of the 15th Century. Among his apprentices and close associates were the painters Botticelli, Botticini, Lorenzo di Credi, and Leonardo da Vinci. Verrocchio was not himself a prolific painter and very few pictures are attributed to his hand, his fame lying chiefly in his sculptured works.

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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.

Verrocchio's paintings, as are typical of Florentine works of that date, are in tempera on wooden panel. The technique of painting artworks in oil paint, previously used in Italy only for durable items like parade shields, was introduced to Florence by Dutch and Flemish painters and their imported works at around the date that this painting was created.



The painting 'The Baptism of Christ' was, according to Antonio Billi (1515), commissioned by the Church of S. Salvi, and was later transferred to the Vallumbrosan Sisterhood in Santa Verdiana. In 1810 it entered the collection of the Accademia and passed to the Uffizi in 1959. In the 16th Century the work was discussed in Giorgio Vasari's 'Lives of the Painters' in the biographies of both Verrocchio and Leonardo da Vinci.

Evelyn De Morgan

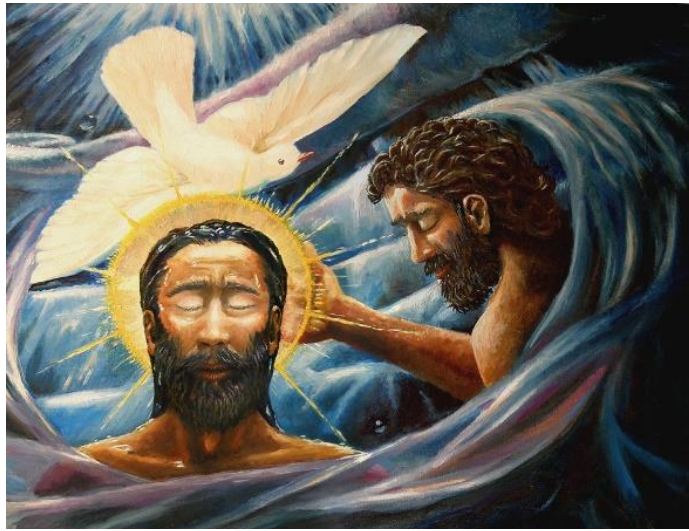
This study of the Baptism was created in watercolour on board by the English artist **Evelyn De Morgan** (30 August 1855 – 2 May 1919), she was associated early in her career with the later phase of the Pre-Raphaelite Movement and worked in a range of styles.

Her paintings tend to be figural, foregrounding the female body through the use of spiritual, mythological, and allegorical themes. They rely on a range of metaphors (such as light and darkness, transformation, and bondage) to express what several scholars have identified as spiritualist and feminist content with social commentary.

The Baptism of Christ in Art

Many artists have produced works to capture the Baptism of Christ and provide meaning and insights. Works tend to follow a pattern; Jesus stands in the Jordan while angels hold his garment on one side and John the Baptist pours water on his head. A dove descends from on high. Above the dove, especially in more recent images, there may be a human figure or hand representing the Father. In some very early examples Jesus may be pictured as much smaller than John.

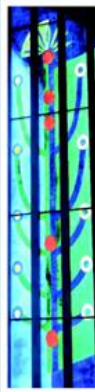
What else might the artist show?



1. **Do we see a combination of two elements or moments in time?** For example: Baptism and then the descent of the Holy Spirit. And also, John's words: *'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?'*, and then Jesus' response *'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.'* Does the combination of the two-time elements work to underline the nature of Christ's humanity and his obedience to God's will? Or again, aspects included within the painting that link the Baptism to the Resurrection? Dolphins present in the water of Jordan reflect the myth of dolphins saving sailors, a myth used in the early church to parallel Christ as Saviour with dolphins carrying souls to the after life.
2. **From Christ's humanity to the cleansing of all humanity.** Many artists have attempted to show that in the Baptism of Christ humanity itself was cleansed in the river Jordan. This is often shown by filling the river with other figures – who may represent the soldiers of Pharaoh in the Red Sea, or those lost in Noah's Flood. And again, shown through those on the bank preparing to enter the water for their own salvation through Baptism. The sins of humankind are washed away.



3. **Liturgical practice is often reflected.** Early paintings reflect the method of Baptism being full immersion with the baptized person naked or nearly naked (in a perizoma). The rite may then have progressed to include 'sprinkling', the pouring of water over the candidate's head. And then on to the more common approach now, in which 'sprinkling' has largely replaced immersion. What does seem to have been important is that the water is moving, either as a current or in a poured stream.



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](#)

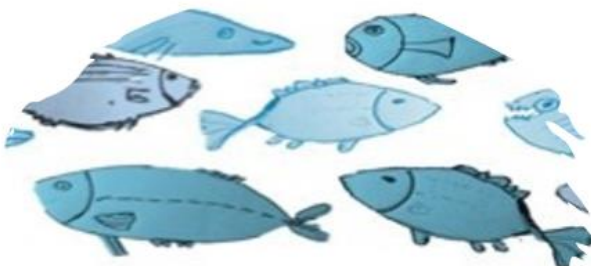
0117 974 1355; www.allsaintsclifton.org



Early Worship Every Sunday at 9.00am

Take a moment

- 30 minutes, even when there is Communion (1st and 3rd week)
- Structured but informal
- Live music, 4 minute reflection
- Suitable for families, and anyone who likes a shorter, simpler service
- Friendly, community feel
- *A moment of reflection to start the week*





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.

The next meeting is on Sunday 1st of February .

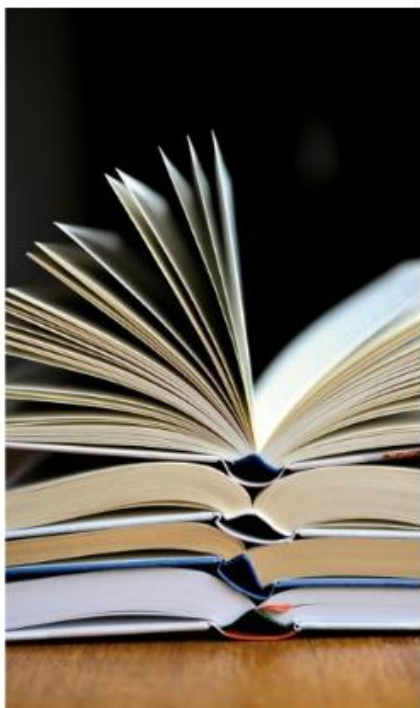
Warm coats for Winter



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



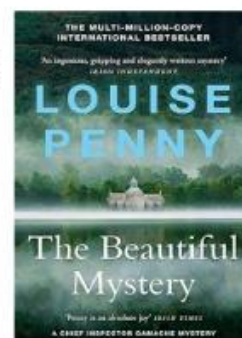
All Saints Book Group

Wed 21st January 2026, 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!

The book for our **January 2026** meeting will be:

The Beautiful Mystery
By Louise Penny



Community Barn Dance

Fundraiser for Trinity Lunch Club
Holy Trinity Church, Hotwells
Friday 30th January, 7-10pm

With Live Band and Caller
Licensed Bar

Tickets £15 - includes a ploughman's supper

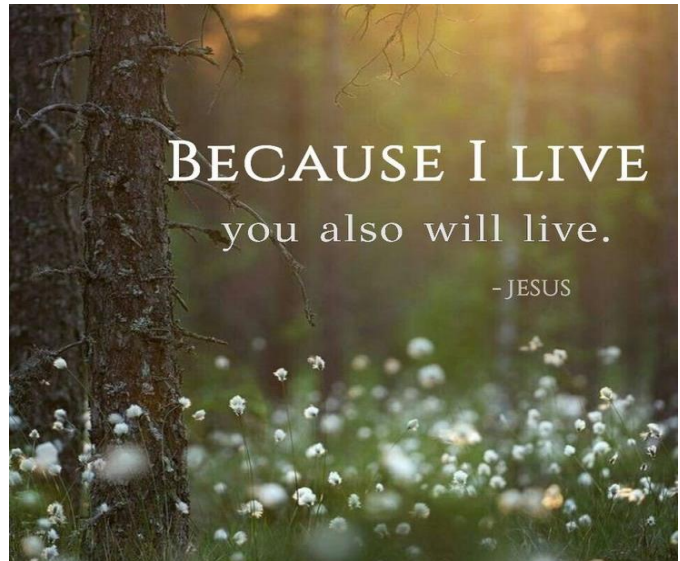
For more information and tickets please click the QR code or visit the church office on Thursdays between 8am and 4pm

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 Aiden Downton 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 Jennie Williams

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 Jonathan Welland

Years' Minds - this week we remember:

Donald Hawley Mervyn Stockwood(Bp) Kenneth Biggs Clara Henderson George Meade – King Alma Powell Rosalind Brennand

ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

Mon 12	Aelred of Hexham 1167 Abbot of Hexham and Rievaulx; monasteries in the North of England, those engaged in the political life of Britain providing advice and guidance based on their Christian beliefs.
Tue 13	Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, Teacher of the Faith, 367 Kentigern (Mungo), Missionary Bishop in Strathclyde and Cumbria, 603 George Fox, Founder of the Society of Friends (the Quakers), 1691 Pray for brother and sister Christians who are 'Quakers'. Quakers are renowned for their active campaigning for economic justice, peace, sustainability and human rights – may the whole church become an increasingly active voice on these subjects.
Wed 14	Mass 10.00am Pray for all those who work in the broadcasting industry. Television and radio (and on-line streaming) are hugely important in bringing news and entertainment to all. Pray for those whose main connection with others is through TV and radio.
Thurs 15	Pray for cavers, potholers and speleologists. Caving as a sport and for research reasons is increasingly popular; many locations are now tourist sites. Remember also those engaged in mine exploration and archaeological research.
Fri 16	Mass 10.00am Religious Freedom Day Pray for the work of the world's religions and religious organizations that bring good to the world. Thank God that Religious Freedom exists in many parts of our world. Pray for those who suffer persecution - and for those who deliver such persecution.
Sat 17	Antony of Egypt, Hermit, Abbot, 356 Charles Gore, Bishop, Founder of the Community of the Resurrection, 1932 Pray for the life and work of the Community of the Resurrection, and for the College of the Resurrection. Give thanks for the life and work of Brother Andrew (John Norton) – at ASC and in South Africa with the Community.
Sunday 18	Epiphany 2 In Christ You make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory. Early Worship 9.00am Parish Mass 10.30

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