

ALL SAINTS NEWS

1st February 2026
The Presentation of Christ
Candlemas

Presentation of Christ in the Temple Giotto 1266 - 1337



The Painting:

This painting is one of many key works of art that capture this event. It depicts the moment when Simeon and the prophetess Anna (at the right) recognize the infant Jesus as the saviour. The Christ Child reaches across the altar towards his mother in a natural gesture. Giotto's ability to create believable space within the picture and his skill at depicting emotion made him one of the most famous artists of his time.

The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston MA

The Significance:

This festival marks the conclusion of the Epiphany Season, and our return to 'Ordinary Time'. It is the final act of revelation in Epiphany in which Simeon identifies the infant Jesus as the 'light for revelation to the Gentiles' and the glory of Israel in the fulfilment of God's promise.

The event also shows obedience to Jewish law, regarding the rite of purification and redemption of the firstborn. It could also be said that the event demonstrates humility and submission to divine will, in that despite being the Son of God, Jesus is presented in accordance with the law.

Perhaps also we see a prophetic foretelling in the words of Simeon as he sees that Jesus will bring salvation but also cause the suffering of Mary ('a sword will pierce your own soul').

'Candlemas'; and, of course, candles are blessed and processed to symbolise both the light that has come into the world but also our call as the church to radiate this light.



Contact us

Office 01179741355

Web www.allsaintsclifton.org

Email office@allsaintsclifton.org

Address 68 Pembroke Road, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 3ED

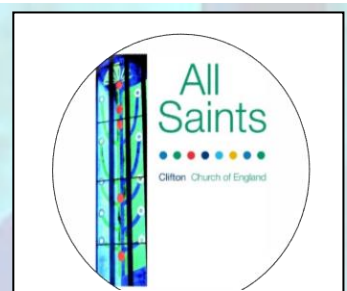
Vicar Fr. Charles Sutton

Home 0117 9078088

Mobile 07785912663

Email charleses@me.com

Associate Priest Fr Paul Hawkins



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.

Confirmation and Baptism

Historically, in the Early Church, baptism and confirmation was a single, unified rite of Christian initiation. Adult converts received washing, anointing, and the laying on of hands simultaneously to signify purification and the reception of the Holy Spirit. Over time, as infant baptism became common, the rites separated, with confirmation delayed and reserved for a bishop to seal the initial baptismal grace with the gifts of the Spirit.

Baptism marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives, the first step in response to God's love. For all involved, particularly the candidates but also and sponsors (and, for children, parents and godparents) it is a joyful moment. It is one when we rejoice in what God has done for us in Christ, making serious promises and declaring the faith.

The wider community of the local church and friends welcome the new Christian, promising support and prayer for the future. Hearing and doing these things provide an opportunity for all to remember our own baptism and reflect on the progress we have made on that journey, which is now to be shared with this new member of the Church.

Confirmation is a special church service in which a person confirms the promises made when they were baptized. A young person or adult will affirm these promises and commit to following Jesus Christ.

At a confirmation service, we make these promises for ourselves. Friends and family, as well as the local worshipping community, gather to promise to support and pray for us. Confirmation requires the presence of a bishop who will lay their hands on the candidate's head and ask God's Holy Spirit to give the strength and commitment to live God's way for the rest of the person's life.

Preparation for Baptism and Confirmation

At the moment there are quite a few adults and young people thinking about becoming baptised and/or confirmed. We recognize that not everyone follows the same path in this journey! So, over the next period we will be offering individual pathways, and also groups for adults and, of course, young people to explore the journey to Baptism and Confirmation.

If you are already on this journey, we will have contacted you recently. If we haven't contacted you, and you would like to move forward to Baptism or Confirmation then please email or call Fr Charles (or one of the Ministry Team) or have a conversation with one of us whilst at church.

Stewardship Campaign

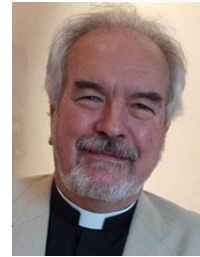
During this year we will engage in a Stewardship Campaign. We recognise that giving is part of our Christian faith, as:

- giving is a response to the giving of a generous God
- giving enables mission and ministry
- giving helps people to feel that they, and their gifts, are valued by the church

Giving is therefore first and foremost not a matter of practicality, but part of our everyday faith and discipleship – our journey of following Christ. We will form a Stewardship Team who will work with us to consider our giving of:

- Time
 - Treasure
 - Talents
- to the benefit of the life and mission of All Saints.

**The 2026 Parish Retreat Llangasty Retreat House,
Fri 15th to Sun 17th May 2025
Led by The Reverend Charles Sutton, Vicar All Saints, Clifton**



After another very successful Parish Retreat at Llangasty in May 2025, we're delighted to announce that we shall once again be holding the 2026 retreat at Llangasty from **Friday 15th to Sunday 18th May 2025**.

Our retreat leader this year is the Reverend Charles Sutton, Vicar of All Saints, Clifton.

The cost is around £230 for the whole weekend and includes accommodation and all meals - breakfast/lunch and dinner. As always, the retreat will follow a scheduled programme based around the daily offices and a number of presentations.

For more information and to book your place, please see the notice in the porch.



Friends Together²⁶
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 each month EXCEPT JANUARY

TIME ? 10.00am-12.00pm

Café Dates²⁶ THE 1ST THURSDAY EACH MONTH EXCEPT JANUARY

No January Café	7 th May	3 rd September
5 th February	4 th June	1 st October
5 th March	2 nd July	5 th November
2 nd April	6 th August	3 rd 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



Taizé for Lent at All Saints

Sunday, 15th February, 5.00 pm

Please come and enjoy a cup of tea (or coffee) followed by a simple, meditative service based on the worship practised by the ecumenical Taizé community in France (www.taize.fr).

Everyone is welcome - all those who have a Christian faith and those who struggle to believe.

This will be a contemplative service in a relaxed, candlelit setting, with beautiful chants, prayerful silence, and short readings. Taizé chants are repeated many times to help quiet the mind and enable reflection. You are free to join in with the singing or drop out at any point.

Tea will be served from **4.30 pm**. The Taizé service starts at **5.00 pm** and will last around 45 minutes.

(image copyright © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé, France)



Walsingham 2026 31st August to 4th September

Join a pilgrimage, lead by Mthr. Nicola to the shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham.

There is a sign up sheet in the porch.

If you would like to know more, please be in touch with Mthr Nicola or Caroline Melvin

nvs@mosaicpublishing.co.uk

caroline.melvin@btinternet.com

Cost: £350 for 4 nights, half board (not including transport costs) Deposits of £40 per person due on 10th March 2026





All Saints
Clifton Church of England

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 next meeting is on Sunday 1st of February .

Walks For Everyone – Greenbank and Eastville Park

Saturday 14th February 10:15am – 1:00pm



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!

Following our popular walk at Arnos Vale, this is a visit another of the city's necropolises. We will take the 09:58 train from Clifton Down to Stapleton Road and walk gently uphill from there to Greenbank and possibly onwards and round Eastville Park and back through the Royate Hill nature reserve should people be feeling vigorous.



Clifton
High
School

LUNCHTIME CONCERT



Clifton High School Lunchtime Concert
Wednesday 11th February
1:00pm – 2:00pm


All Saints Church, Clifton, Bristol concert matinée



Saturday
February 14th
4pm

Music for
Valentine's
Day

Richard Lennox
piano



retiring collection

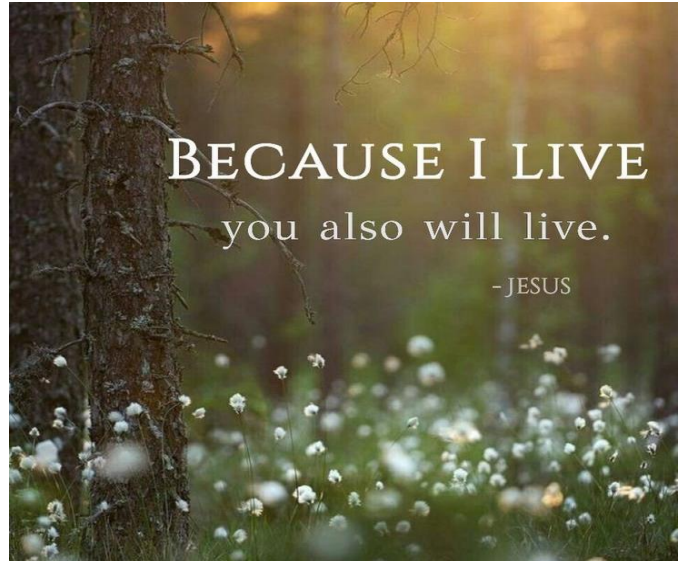
tea and cake

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 Sue GayLard – Hughes Aiden Downton Lucy Briggs- Owen Sara Maitland Clive Welham (Pr)

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 Gwladys Hughes Antony Keyworth-Berridge Alice Teitz

Years' Minds - this week we remember:

Dennis Squires Ann Monro Pat Sterling Louis Bono Robbie Aitken Ruth Sutton Malcolm Bentley Alison Watson

ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

Mon 2	Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) Ordinary Time begins
Tue 3	Pray for dentists and dental hygienists; our university school of Oral and Dental Science - staff and students. Our dentists and those suffering from oral/dental disease and pain.
Wed 4	Mass 10.00am Gilbert of Sempringham 1189 Pray for religious communities – in particular the Sisters of the Church and the Franciscans
Thurs 5	Pray for those who do difficult, dirty or dangerous jobs for the daily well-being of others: especially those working in refuse collection, sanitation and public health roles
Fri 6	Mass 10.00am Martyrs of Japan 1597 Persecuted Christians through world – from the 26 crucified in Japan in 1597, those massacred in India (Orissa) in 2008, those now in Africa and Middle East.
Sat 7	We pray, Father, that you continue to bless Charles our King, that under him we may be wisely governed and the Church continue to serve you. Pray for all in power and authority that they may be just and wise and serve the highest values to the benefit of creation and humankind.
Sunday 8	Two before Lent Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children Early Worship 9.00am Parish Mass 10.30 Choral Evensong 5pm

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