

ALL SAINTS NEWS

22nd February 2026
1st Sunday of Lent

A Comparative Approach to Temptation

The alignment of Festivals across the Abrahamic Faiths

The period around Easter (typically falling in February, March and April) has an alignment of major festivals across the Abrahamic Faiths. These seasons, Passover, Easter and Ramadan, are focused on similar major themes; sacrifice, liberation, renewal and a shared heritage.

Our Jewish brothers and sisters celebrate the Passover (Pesach) with an eight-day festival commemorating the exodus of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Much of the ritual is based upon the family meals (Seders) which involve eating specific foods and not sharing unleavened bread within the home.

As Christians we spend the forty days of Lent (plus Sundays) in fasting, learning, prayer and repentance as we prepare for Good Friday and Easter Day. On Maundy Thursday we re-enact the Last Supper in our liturgy, this is understood to be the Passover Seder.

Meanwhile, our Islamic brothers and sisters share a month of fasting, prayer and reflection during which they abstain from food and drink from dawn until dusk. This is Ramadan which commemorates the revelation of the Quran.

One of the common themes that runs through all three seasons is the opportunity to reflect on our usual human focus of *'who we are'* and instead remind ourselves of *'whose we are'*.

And also, amongst the many things we do during Lent, it is also, perhaps, an opportunity to recognise the harmony which exists between our Abrahamic faith communities.

What about Temptation Across Abrahamic Faiths?

Last week, Fr Clive reminded us that the theme for the First Sunday of Lent is 'Temptation'.

Again, across the Abrahamic Faiths there is similarity. All three, in scripture, share the common story of the Garden of Eden with the foundation understanding of what it means to turn away from God, prioritise ourselves and the frailty of human nature.

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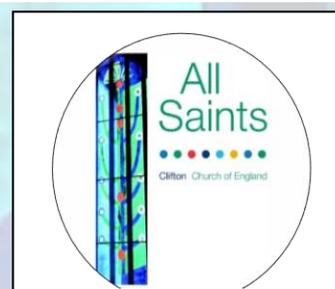
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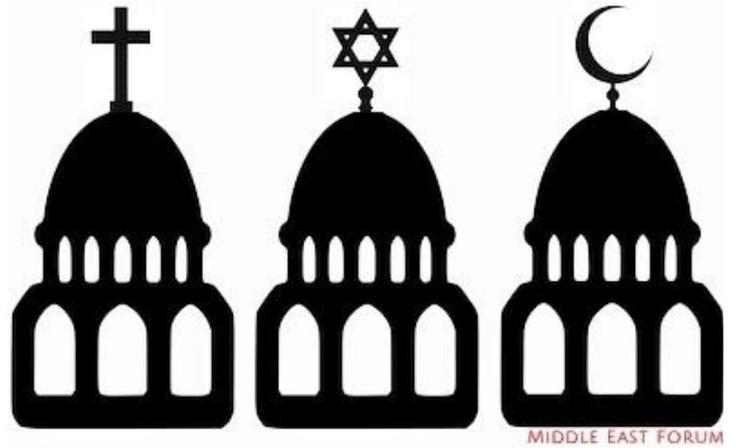
The views and opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the All Saints Church community.

More specifically, in Judaism, this is facing the 'evil inclination' (the yetzer hara), this is the temptation to act selfishly to satisfy personal desires.

It operates at an individual level but, significantly in Judaism has a collective element associated with power and greed. In Christianity this is often seen as a more personal struggle (reflected in today's Gospel with Jesus' temptation in the wilderness) where, prompted by the 'evil one' we are separated from God.

In Islam the temptation arises from Satan, the evil one (Shaytan), whispering to our 'lower selves' (nafs). This is one of the greatest battles, the internal struggle to put desire aside and submit to God's will.

All three faiths recognise an 'external' force (or an aspect of 'self') and the human capacity to turn from temptation individually and collectively.



How about Temptation Across Other Faiths?

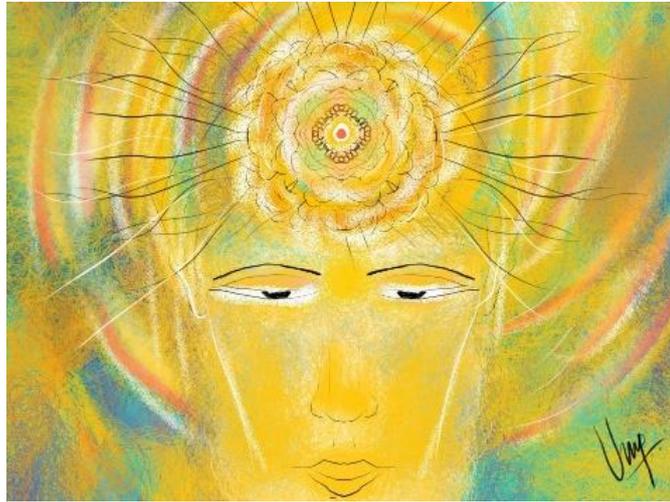
Temptation seems to be a universal concept across all faiths. Humanity is inclined to allow itself (individually and collectively) to turn away from the divine, violate moral principles and succumb to desire. At the same time, whilst recognising this as a negative force Faiths tend to see the positive rejection of these temptations as building blocks of belief and leading to spiritual growth.

Just to look at two alternative views of temptation in other faiths; Buddhism and Hinduism.



In Buddhism the personification of temptation is Mara, a demon figure (who may be an internal distraction rather than literal) who represents delusion, desire and death.

In many ways, akin to Jesus, Siddhartha (who became Buddha) whilst meditating at length (in the wilderness) is tempted by the three daughters of Mara. Their temptations are desire, fear and doubt. Siddhartha overcomes these through meditation on wisdom and the recognition of the interconnectedness of all things.



Hindus believe that people have free will and can select their own actions. However, with free will comes responsibility so all people are accountable for their own actions.

Help comes by way of Brahman (seen as 'That' from which all existence proceeds and to which all will return) the divine force that can guide people's choices.

The temptation is 'Maya', an illusion that causes people to forget what truly matters. The illusion is that the material world (money, things, fame) and worldly success lead to selfishness, greed and arrogance. The guidance from Brahman comes in the form of meditation, prayer, serving others and the study of scripture

What do we carry away from this?

- ★ Temptation is a universal experience. Not a sin in itself but an unavoidable consequence of being human. The resistance of temptation may be seen to enable spiritual growth.
- ★ The source of temptation is complicated. It may be personified as a force of some nature – satanic or demonic; or as a product of society itself; or an aspect of an internal struggle with human desire or one's very self.
- ★ Resistance to temptation comes from prayer, meditation, serving others and the study of scripture. And also, importantly, listening to God.
- ★ The consequence of yielding to temptation is separation from God and an personal or collective decay in the recognition of the values of a God who loves creation.



It was good to see the church full for Aidan and Shilpita's wedding. They would like to thank all those who attended and also Fr Charles, Simon Davison, Vicky Gordon, John Davenport and the choir, along with so many others, who made it a special day



LENT
prayer, fasting,
almsgiving and
celebratory
events

Lent Events ²⁶ @ All Saints

18TH FEB – 2ND APRIL

Our 40 day season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving begins on Ash Wednesday 18th February and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday, 2nd April 2026.

Exploring Christianity ²⁶ - a space for the curious

SUN 1 MAR 'Christianity and other Faiths'

SUN 8 MAR 'Death and Dying'

SUN 29 MAR 'The Meaning of the Cross'

SUN 7 JUN 'Anglo Catholicism'

SUN 21 JUN 'God in the Old Testament'

SUN 12 JUL 'The Sacraments'

SUN 26 JUL 'Heresies'

Sundays in The Randall Room @ All Saints
12:30-1:30pm • Lunch provided

Lent Conversations ²⁶ Matters of Life and Death - Health and Faith

WED 4 MAR At Alma Church, St John's Rd

THU 12 MAR At Cotham Parish Church, Cotham Rd

WED 18 MAR At Tyndale Baptist Church

WED 25 MAR At Redland Friends Meeting House

Refreshments @ 7.00pm
Conversations @ 7.30pm

Lectio Divina for Lent ²⁶ Scripture and Prayer - The Lent Gospel Readings

WED 4 MAR WED 11 MAR

WED 18 MAR WED 25 MAR

In The Richard Chapel at 3.00pm

All Saints

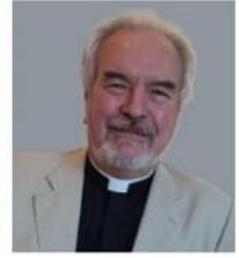
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Clifton Church of England

STILL A FEW PLACES LEFT.....

.....for the 2026 All Saints Parish Retreat

Llangasty Retreat House, Friday 15th to Sunday 17th May 2026



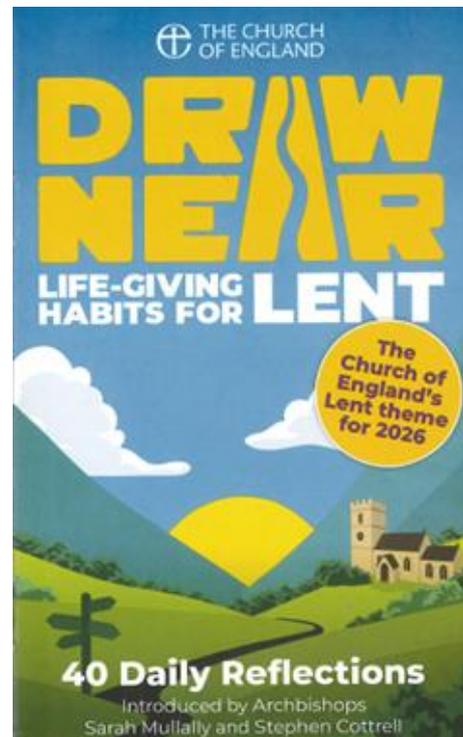
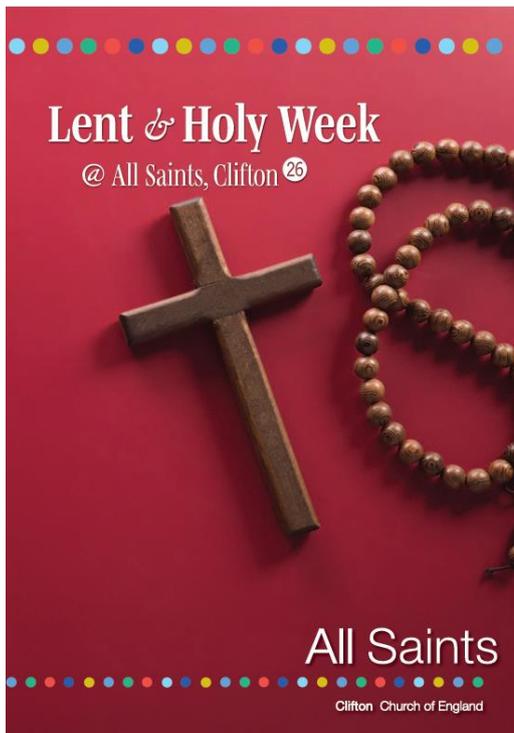
After another very successful Parish Retreat at Llangasty in May last year, we're delighted to announce that we shall once again be holding the 2026 retreat at Llangasty from **Friday 15th to Sunday 17th May 2026**.



The cost is **£250pp for the whole weekend, and includes accommodation and all meals**. There are only a few places left, so don't delay and **book now** by adding your name/contact details to the sign-up sheet in the Church porch OR by sending an email to Helen (helen@helensutton.com)

NB. The full cost @ £250 will be due by Friday 1st May & is non-refundable. Information emails/letters will be sent out a week beforehand, with full payment information and the programme for the weekend.

See the All Saints website for full information on this year's retreat via the QR code and link here: <https://tinyurl.com/2yyc8ynr>



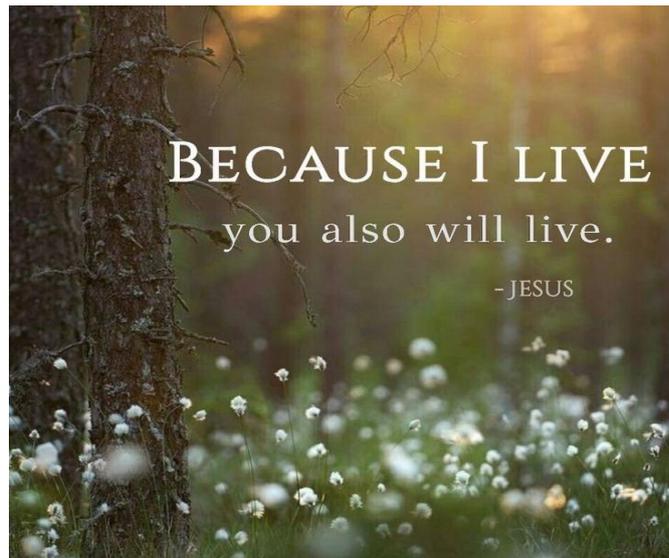
The Lent and Holy Week at All Saints leaflet and The Church of England's theme booklet for Lent 2026, **Draw Near: Life-giving habits for Lent**, are available in the Atrium.

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 William and Lincoln Debbie Gibbs Sue GayLard – Hughes Aiden Downton Lucy Briggs- Owen Sara Maitland Jenny Jennings

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 Chris Griffin

Years' Minds - this week we remember:

Camilla Laszlo Christopher Savery Jean Adelaide

ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

Mon 23	Fairtrade, as a charity organization, encourages people to donate on this day and help raise awareness of the injustices of the trade system. Try to purchase ethically produced food and pray for an increasingly just world.
Tue 24	Pray for astronomers – academic and amateur, observational and theoretical. Those who work to develop our knowledge beyond our earth, to help us understand creation and time. Pray for those who work on the land, especially arable farmers and cultivators of spices and herbs, that are used for culinary or health practices. Pray for those who use or work with plants to the good effect of humankind. Giving thanks for the richness of creation
Wed 25	Mass 10.00am Remember in prayer all those you love and who are important to you. Remember also the unloved – those for whom no one cares. Remember those who work as politicians who are sometimes the subject of hate, may they work for the good of society. Pray that they may be informed by the values of justice, mercy and peace, working for the common good.
Thurs 26	Pray for all Carers (of the sick, elderly, those in need). Give thanks for the support they give to loved ones, the benefit they provide to the economy; how they sustain the NHS, and work to benefit all of society. Pray for those carers who have no choice and for those who feel they are not valued or recognised, and that their role is not understood.
Fri 27	Mass 10.00am George Herbert Priest & Poet 1633 Pray for all who live with any of the conditions associated with dementia. Pray for the carers of those who live with the condition, for the medical staff who provide comfort and support, for researchers who seek new ways to combat the condition. Remember those charities who address the challenge of this condition.
Sat 28	Pray for those for whom today will be long and difficult: those who are in pain. lonely, who are waiting, grieving, depressed or anxious.
Sunday March 1	The second Sunday of Lent David, Bp of Menevia, Patron of Wales 601 Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; 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