

ALL SAINTS NEWS

8th March 2026
3rd Sunday of Lent

Sunday Themes in Lent – Third Sunday in Lent The Water of Life

Fr Clive, just before the start of Lent, drew our attention to the meaning and themes of Lent. The first was 'Temptation;', last Sunday was 'Salvation through Faith'. You can see his article and the subsequent articles on the ASC Website, if look for the ASC News for the *Sunday before Lent, First Sunday of Lent and Second Sunday of Lent*.

The relationship between 'Faith' and 'Works' is a strongly debated subject in theological thought. Rather than being viewed as opposites it is more beneficial to consider them as inseparable partners.

The concept of the "Water of Life" is a profound and recurring theme throughout the Bible, symbolizing spiritual sustenance, eternal life, and the cleansing power of God. This imagery is deeply rooted in both the Old and New Testaments, reflecting God's provision and the promise of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Old Testament Foundations

The imagery of water as a life-giving and purifying force is established early in the Scriptures. In Genesis, water is a fundamental element of creation, essential for sustaining life. The prophet Isaiah speaks of water in a spiritual sense, portraying it as a symbol of God's provision and blessing: "With joy you will draw water from the springs of salvation" Isaiah 12:3. This verse highlights the joy and salvation that come from God's provision, foreshadowing the spiritual fulfilment found in Christ.



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.

New Testament Fulfilment

In the New Testament, the theme of the Water of Life is brought to its full meaning through the person and work of Jesus Christ. In the Gospel of John, Jesus explicitly identifies Himself as the source of this living water. During His encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well, He declares, "Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up to eternal life" (Today's Gospel John 4:14). Here, Jesus offers spiritual satisfaction and eternal life, contrasting the temporary satisfaction of physical water with the eternal fulfilment found in Him.

Further, in John, Jesus invites all who are thirsty to come to Him and drink, promising that "rivers of living water will flow from within them." This invitation is extended to all, emphasizing the universal offer of salvation and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, who empowers and sustains believers.



The Book of Revelation

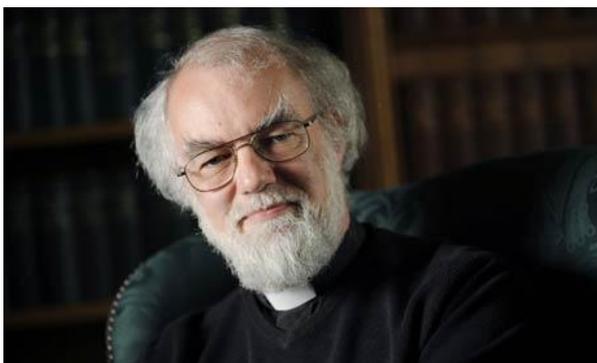
The culmination of the Water of Life theme is found in the Book of Revelation, where it is depicted as part of the new creation. In Revelation (21:6), God proclaims, "To the thirsty I will give freely from the spring of the water of life." This promise is reiterated (22:1-2), where the river of the water of life flows from the throne of God and the Lamb, symbolizing the eternal life and unending blessings available to those who are in Christ.

Theological Significance

The Water of Life represents the essential and life-giving nature of God's grace and salvation. It underscores the sufficiency of Christ to meet the deepest needs of the human soul, offering eternal life and spiritual renewal. This theme also highlights the role of the Holy Spirit, who indwells believers and continually refreshes and sustains them in their spiritual journey.

Diary Date for November 2026!

Sunday 1st November 2026 All Saints Day



On All Saints Day 2026 we will be joined by **The Right Reverend and Right Honourable Lord Williams of Oystermouth** – none other than Rowan Williams.

He will Preach and Preside at the Parish Mass.

Dr Rowan Douglas Williams, Baron Williams of Oystermouth, PC, FBA, FRSL, FLSW (m. 1968), is a Welsh Anglican bishop and former Archbishop of Canterbury.

He was born in Swansea, South Wales on 14 June 1950 and was educated at Dynevor School in Swansea. Later, he came up to Christ's College where he read Theology. He studied for his doctorate, on the theology of Vladimir Lossky, a leading figure in Russian twentieth-century religious thought, at Wadham College Oxford, taking his DPhil in 1975. After two years as a lecturer at the College of the Resurrection, near Leeds, he was ordained deacon in Ely Cathedral before returning to Cambridge.

From 1977, he spent nine years in academic and parish work in Cambridge: first at Westcott House, being ordained Priest in 1978, and from 1980 as Curate at St George's, Chesterton. In 1983 he was appointed as a lecturer in Divinity in the University, and the following year became Dean and Chaplain of Clare College. 1986 saw a return to Oxford now as Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity and Canon of Christ Church; he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1989, and became a fellow of the British Academy in 1990. He is also an accomplished poet and translator.

Williams is acknowledged internationally as an outstanding theological writer, scholar and teacher. He has been involved in many theological, ecumenical and educational commissions. He has written extensively across a very wide range of related fields of professional study such as philosophy, theology (especially early and patristic Christianity), spirituality and religious aesthetics. He has also written throughout his career on moral, ethical and social topics.

At the end of 2012 Williams stepped down as Archbishop of Canterbury and moved to a new role as Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge. In 2013 he was appointed Chancellor of the University of South Wales. He also delivered the Gifford Lectures at the University of Edinburgh in 2013. Justin Welby succeeded him in the chair of St Augustine on 9 November 2012, being enthroned in March 2013. On 26 December 2012, 10 Downing St announced Williams' elevation to the peerage as a Life Baron, so that he could continue to speak in the Upper House of Parliament. Following the creation of his title on 8 January and its gazetting on 11 January 2013, he was introduced to the temporal benches of the House of Lords as Baron Williams of Oystermouth on 15 January 2013, sitting as a crossbencher.

Wednesday Lectio Divina

Each Wednesday during Lent there is a Lectio in the Richard Chapel at 3.00pm. Each will focus on the Gospel reading for the following Sunday. This last week was the Samaritan Woman at the Well of Jacob and the Water of Life.

Lectio Divina (Latin for "Divine Reading") is a traditional Christian monastic practice of slow, contemplative, and prayerful reading of Scripture, aimed at fostering communion with God. It moves beyond intellectual study to transform the Bible into a "living word" through four distinct, meditative steps: reading, meditation, prayer, and contemplation.

The Four Steps:

- **Lectio (Read):** Slowly reading a, typically short, passage of Scripture multiple times, letting the words resonate.
- **Meditatio (Meditate):** Reflecting on the passage to understand how it speaks to one's heart and life.
- **Oratio (Pray):** A personal, spontaneous conversation with God based on the reflections.
- **Contemplatio (Contemplate):** Resting in silence to listen to God and experience His presence.

The origin of the practice was with early Benedictine communities and was encouraged by saints like Gregory of Nyssa and Benedict of Nursia. It has a very clear purpose. Untroubled by issues of context, interpretation, history, and literary criticism it provides an opportunity to listen to God's Word. It is used to deepen a relationship with God, allowing the Word to shape the reader inwardly.

Electoral Roll

The Church Electoral Roll is the official register of lay membership in a Church of England parish, enabling members to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), stand for the Parochial Church Council (PCC), and take part in church governance. It requires applicants to be baptized, aged 16 or over, and either reside in the parish or have attended regularly (once a month-ish) for at least six months.

Last year we were required to start the roll from 'new'. This means that everyone had to rejoin. This is a regular event to ensure the Roll is up-to-date and properly maintained.

As mentioned, **the purpose** is to function as the voting register for the parish, allowing members to participate in decision-making and elect representatives to the PCC, Deanery, Diocesan and General Synods.

It also carries **significance!** The size of the roll reflects the active, committed membership, which impacts the representation on church councils but also informs future decisions about the life of the parish. With a mind to the future vacancy we need to recognise this significance!

You can apply by completing the form available in the Atrium and online or via the church office and submitting it to the electoral roll officer (Wendy) or a Churchwarden.

concert matinee All Saints Church Pembroke Rd Clifton

Saturday
March 7th 4.00 pm

Music from
Georgian England

John Davenport Harpsichord Meg Rees Soprano

retiring collection tea and cake



Photo: Andy Scott. Licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International License.

Nova

A FEAST OF TALLIS

DIRECTED BY
HUW MORGAN

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH,
PEMBROKE ROAD, BRISTOL BS8 3ED

6pm, Sunday
8th March
2026

IF YE LOVE ME // O SACRUM CONVIVIUM //
WHY FUM'TH IN FIGHT // GAUDE GLORIOSA
& A RANGE OF OTHER WORKS FROM ACROSS
THE ERAS OF HIS CAREER

Programmes at the door £10; students £5; accompanied under-16s free



All
Saints

Clifton Church of England



Parish Lunch



Join us in the Randall Room after Mass for
Mothering Sunday Parish Lunch

Sunday 15th March @ 12.30pm

A delicious home-cooked 3-course meal
(main, pudding, cheese & biscuits)

Vegetarian/vegan/gluten free can be accommodated if requested in advance

Cash Bar

Tickets: £7 each

On sale in church from Sunday 1st March

Contact Janice: rjhopkins57@yahoo.co.uk

OR

All Saints Parish Office
0117 974 1355: www.allsaintsclt.co.uk

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.....



SATURDAY 14th MARCH 2026

**A History Walk - discovering Mediaeval Bristol
Churches, and a graveyard; The Nails; the only private
house still standing, and the Chapter House of the
Augustinian Priory.**



Meet **at 10:30** at St. Peter's Church near Castle Park.
Nearest bus stop on Wine Street (for Buses 1, 2 & 8).
We'll end up near the bus stop on College Green.

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



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 Coltham Parish Church, Coltham 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
Clifton Church of England

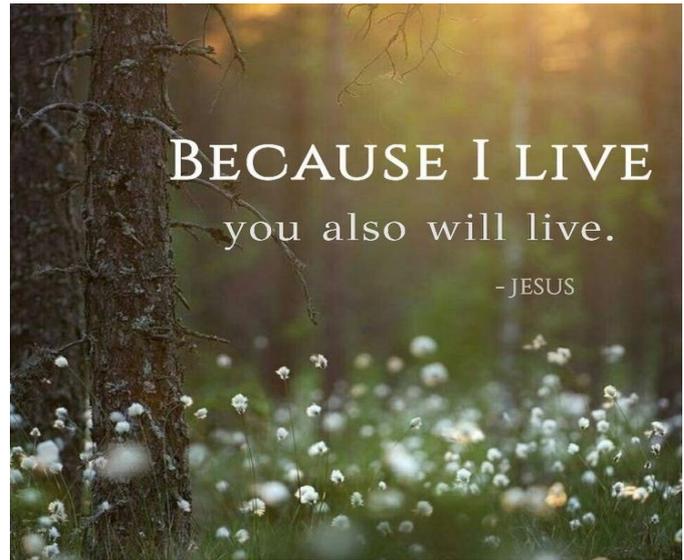
www.allsaintsclifton.org

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 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 Chris Griffin

Years' Minds - this week we remember:

Philip Bird Nina Florence Thorp Kim Pople

ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

Mon 9	Pray for all engaged in the tobacco industry. But especially those who work to help people break the habit, those working and researching for better health, smokers and those who are trying to give up.
Tue 10	Pray for the work and ministry of the Sisters of the Church – both globally and here in Bristol. Pray for the 'Loaves and Fishes' Project, the volunteers and the clients.
Wed 11	Mass 10 am Pray for those who suffer from kidney disease, those who care for them and are specialist in this field. Kidney donors and researchers into these diseases
Thurs 12	Pray for all who work as Domestic Engineers, in particular plumbers. Remember in prayer older people who live in fear of things going wrong in their houses, and who fear the visit of a stranger to put things right.
Fri 13	Mass 10 am Praying for all who live within the Abrahamic Faiths. May a better understanding develop between Christians, Jews and Muslims. Our role, as people of Faith, is not to 'prove' the existence of God, but to lead people to grow in their faith.
Sat 14	Pray for Entomologists. Those who study insects not only as an academic subject but also those who work to reduce impact of invertebrate spread of disease, especially those carried by insects – mosquitoes (malaria) tsetse flies (sleeping sickness), ticks (Lyme disease).
Sunday 15	4th Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal 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