

ALL SAINTS NEWS

12th April 2026
2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts is hard work during Eastertide

Since the arrival of *Common Worship*, the Sunday lectionary between Easter and Pentecost (based on the Revised Common Lectionary) prescribes readings from the Acts of the Apostles at the principal Sunday service.

These are meant to replace an Old Testament reading during Eastertide, which means that, if there are three readings at a Sunday eucharist, they are all from the New Testament. Even if there is to be only one reading before the Gospel, Acts has precedence. (An Old Testament option is provided, somewhat grudgingly, but even if this is used it must not supplant the Acts reading).

There is an obvious logic to reading the early chapters of Acts in Eastertide, as the Church lives out its Easter hope and looks forward to the coming of the Holy Spirit.

But, although it makes sense in thematic terms, I find it hard work liturgically. The problem is the clash of two often strong (and sometimes long) narrative passages coming one after the other: Acts and then a Gospel; either one of the resurrection appearances of Jesus, or a passage on resurrection life from John. You want to listen to those: they really matter.

Acts needs space to be heard well, which is why I find that I am more likely to attend to it when it is read in the course of the daily office than when it is crowded into a Sunday eucharist.

It is not that I don't appreciate Acts: in purely literary terms, it is probably one of the best compositions in the Bible, skilfully crafted to tell its story of the Spirit's work in the Early Church. It also wonderfully reflects the Mediterranean urban world in which Christianity emerged and spread, giving a vivid insight into ordinary secular life, commerce, travel, law, and gossip, as well as the dangers of fire and shipwreck. Thematically, it both completes the mission of Jesus from Luke's Gospel, and provides a careful apologetic for the mission of Paul, who, at the end of the story, is in Rome, still free, though awaiting trial.

Contact us

Office 01179741355
Web www.allsaintsclifton.org
Email office@allsaintsclifton.org

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

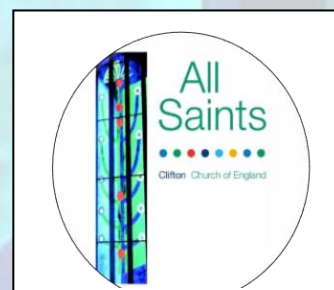
Vicar Fr. Charles Sutton

Mobile 07785912663

Associate Priest Fr Paul Hawkins



Home 0117 9078088
Email charleses@me.com



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.

I know that there are those for whom the Acts of the Apostles is a blueprint for the mission of the Church today, and who might jump at the chance for a programmatic exposition of the narrative in preaching. I don't read Acts in that way, but I do see anticipations and warnings of how the Spirit works through human frailty to form communities shaped by the gospel. I don't always like the results — one thinks of Ananias and Sapphira — but we need to know the worst if we are to emulate the best.

So, I want to do justice to the Acts of the Apostles, but I am afraid that, on Sunday mornings between Easter and Pentecost, it all rushes past in a bit of a blur.

Angela Tilby, Church Times



Thank You!



A great deal of work goes into the organization and delivery of Lent, Holy Week, the Triduum and Easter. Fr Charles has had many comments from 'regulars' and our visitors talking about how special this period has been to them.

Liturgy, music, flowers, presentations..... The sense of welcome, the atmosphere of the church, the openness to all, the level of participation.....

All of this is because of all of us! Thank you!

APCM and Church Representation

The APCM

Will take place on Sunday 26th April after Parish Mass (in the Randall Room) with a sandwich lunch provided. All documents relating to the APCM are available on the ASC Website or may be requested from the Parish Office.

We also have elections this year:

- Four PCC members (as usual)
- Two Deanery Synod Lay Representatives (it is the start of a new triennial)

If you are interested in these roles then please speak to a churchwarden.

The Purpose of the APCM

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) is a legally required yearly meeting in the Church of England, acting as a crucial gathering for local church governance, accountability, and planning. It must take place between January 1 and May 31 each year to review the past year's activities and elect for certain roles.

Key Purposes of the APCM:

- **Review and Report:** To receive reports on the electoral roll, parish activities, and the financial statements of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the previous year.
- **Governance and Elections:** To elect lay representatives to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and Deanery Synod, and to appoint an independent examiner or auditor for the accounts.
- **Building Report:** To receive a report on the maintenance, repairs, and condition of the church building, contents, and churchyard.
- **Safeguarding:** To confirm that the PCC has complied with its duty to have "due regard" to safeguarding guidance for children and vulnerable adults.

The Three Meetings

The APCM is often held alongside the **Annual Meeting of Parishioners**, which has a more limited purpose: the election of churchwardens for the upcoming year.

While the **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** is for people on the church electoral roll, the meeting to elect churchwardens is open to all residents of the parish, regardless of their church attendance.

And the **Parochial Church Council** Meeting concludes the process by confirming certain responsibilities.

Lay Representation on Diocesan Synod

In addition to PCC and Deanery Synod there is also the Diocesan Synod. This is made up with the House of Bishops, the elected House of Clergy and elected House of Laity.

The House of Laity are elected from each of the five Deaneries within the Diocese. This year, in Bristol West, we have three 'Casual Vacancies' for the duration of one year. To be an elected member you need to be on the Electoral Roll of any parish within the Deanery (but not necessarily a member of Deanery Synod).

If anyone would like to have the experience of attending Diocesan Synod and participating in the business of this group for the coming year (three meetings). Then please have a conversation with Fr Charles (as Area Dean) or Helen Clifton (as Deanery Lay Chair).

Mainly Slow Organ Music

11 to 12 25th of April

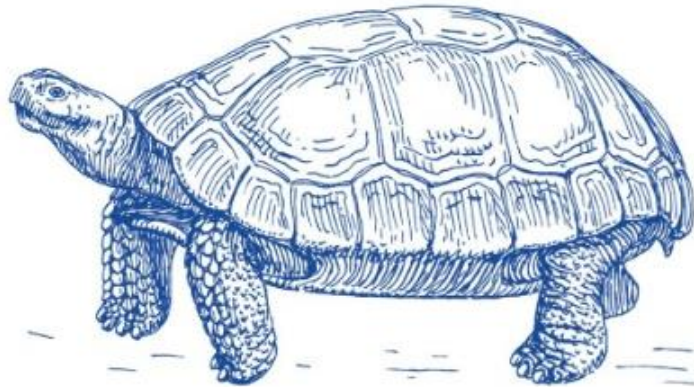
Part of Huw Morgan's mainly slow organ music series.

Free Admission

Monthly(ish) concerts of mainly slow organ music performed mainly in Bristol by Huw Morgan. Free to all (though there'll be a collection plate at the back if you're feeling generous). Bring a coffee, come and go as you please!

For full information see the mainly slow organ music website

mainly slow organ music



All Saints Book Group

Wed 20th May 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 May 2026 meeting will be:

The Land in Winter
By Andrew Miller

Future Dates (all Wednesdays)
22 Jul; 23 Sept; 25 Nov 2026



All Saints Society THE BAR AGM

Sunday 19th April

12.15pm

in the Randall Room

All members welcome

Election of officers
Reports & Accounts
Prices
Donations from profits

*Come along and take part in the running
of this important part of All Saints life*

All Saints Parish Retreat Llangasty House - Friday 15 to Sunday 17 May 2026



This year's Parish Retreat will be led by Fr Charles. The theme, very appropriately for today, will be based upon '***From Blindness to Vision***'.

We will engage in reflection on moving from blindness to sight, recognising the opportunity for spiritual transformation from our shared humanly impaired vision, toward a divine enlightenment through Christ and in creation.

In this spiritual place we have space to open the "eyes of faith" and perceive God's truth, grace, and presence in everyday life and the fullness of creation. (Have a read of today's Gospel: John 9).



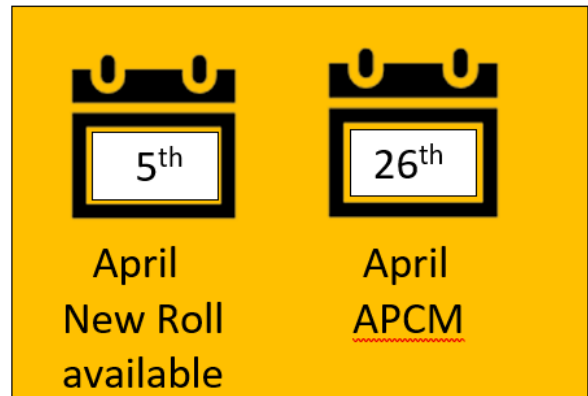
APCM and revising the Electoral Roll

The APCM will be held on Sunday 26th of April 2026 in the Randall Room.

Applications for the electoral roll are now closed.

The New Roll is available for inspection from Sunday 5th of April for 14 days.

Forms for the nomination of Churchwardens, elections to the PCC and election to Deanery Synod are available in the Atrium. Please put all nominations in the envelope provided and leave in the Parish office. Thank you.



Vestment Repairs

**A small group meet on Thursday mornings in the vestry from 10.30am.
We are checking the vestments, and repairing where necessary.**

Do come and join us and see if you would like to help.

**We reconvene after an Easter break on Thursday 30th April.
Look forward to seeing you.**

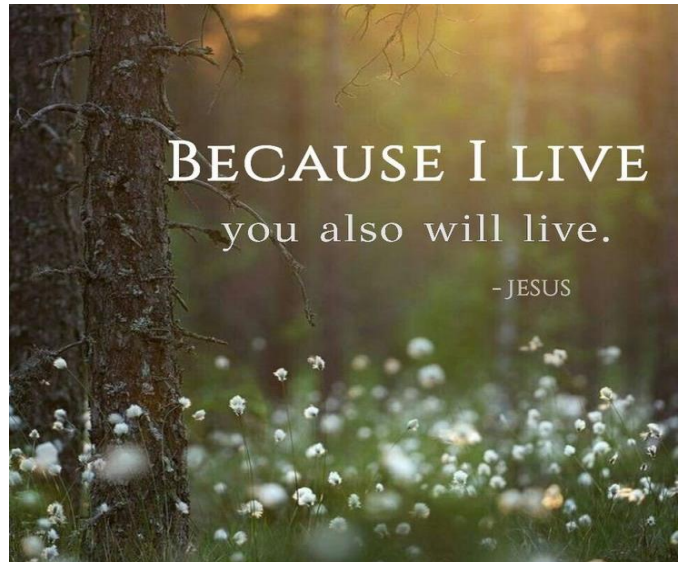


Prayers Requests

'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 Epina Sarah Jean Bradford Ossama & Clare Sader

Monday

Tuesday.

Wednesday

Katrina and Katherine King, Philip Miles, Samantha Tucker, Maureen Mumford
Jennie Williams

Thursday

Friday

Charlotte Hopkins, Caroline Semon, Nadine Benn The O'Sullivan family

Saturday

The Departed

Lucille Osafa Gwladys Hughes Antony Keyworth-Berridge Chris Griffin Jenny Oates
David Thompson Brian Davage

Years' Minds - this week we remember:

Peggy Cleeve Cynthia Glover - Lloyd Betty Carpenter Stephen Ostler

ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

Mon 6	Monday of Easter Week Pray for our planet. In particular all those who work to positively impact on the environmental and ecological issues we face at local and global level
Tue 7	Tuesday of Easter Week <i>"What a piece of work is man, How noble in reason, how infinite in faculty, In form and moving how express and admirable, In action how like an Angel, In apprehension how like a god, The beauty of the world, The paragon of animals."</i> (Talk like Shakespeare – and reflect on the wonder of humankind)
Wed 8	Wednesday of Easter Week Mass 10.00am Pray that the Church may 'rise up' (Isaiah 60:1) and take a positive lead in promoting reconciliation, both within communities where needed and between the nations of the world that in these uncertain times.
Thurs 9	Thursday of Easter Week Malaria is a mosquito-borne infectious disease that affects humans and other animals. Malaria causes symptoms that typically include fever, tiredness, vomiting, and headaches. In severe cases it can cause yellow skin, seizures, coma, or death. Symptoms usually begin ten to fifteen days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. In 2016, there were 216 million cases of malaria worldwide resulting in an estimated 445,000 to 731,000 deaths.
Fri 10	Friday of Easter Week Mass 10.00am Give thanks for the work of Earth Scientists (Charles Richter) in enabling us to understand our planet and its rhythms. Especially we pray for all those living in or caught up in what we term as 'natural disasters' (and their after effects).
Sat 11	Saturday of Easter Week Books have Power. Not simply to influence thinking and opinion but to increase awareness, excite and explore, communicate meaning and truth, shape a culture and so much more. Pray for authors and booksellers (especially our Independent book shops)
Sunday 12	2nd Sunday of Easter Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth 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