

ALL SAINTS NEWS

24th May 2026
Pentecost

PARISH RETREAT 2026 *'From Blindness to Vision'*

On the afternoon of 15 May sixteen intrepid retreatants made their way down narrow country lanes to Llangasty for our annual Parish Retreat. It was a privilege to have Fr Charles as our retreat conductor.

On arrival we relaxed and found our rooms, then met in the sitting room at 6pm with Janet, who looks after the retreat house. The cook was off sick, so Janet would be cooking as well as looking after us. The food was excellent. Most of us had come by car, Brendan bravely came by public transport walking the last few miles from Bwlch through the lanes.

This year we had some new faces amongst us, four of whom had never been on retreat before, silent or otherwise. As always, the retreat revolved around the daily offices led by the laity, daily mass, and five addresses, with lots of time to read and go for walks. The countryside is beautiful and the retreat house is at the end of a maze of single track lanes, so it is very peaceful. Also, as always, the retreat was silent.

The weather was not very nice, wet, windy and very cold most of the time, though some braver souls went for a walk on Saturday afternoon and Vicky went wild swimming in Llangorse Lake!

Silence began after supper on the Friday evening, and ended before lunch on the Sunday.

'From Blindness to Vision'

With the title of *'From Blindness to Vision'* we knew we were heading for a treat. The retreat was based around reflections on the Gospel of John, Chapter Nine. Fr Charles followed an 'Arc of Thought' building from earth, looking toward heaven and settling on a place where heaven and earth touch in sacrament.

The themes of the five addresses were deliberately a little enigmatic:

Cosmic Wonder – Darkness is not the end of sight. *John 9.1-5*

Shared Humanity – All Humanity is searching. *John 9.8-9*

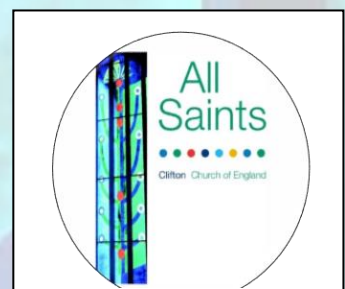
Evolutionary Hope – We may be growing toward deeper awareness. *John 9.5-7*

Personal Stability – Christ is our confidence on the way. *John 9.35-38*

Mystery Embraced – Vision becomes wonder before creation. *John 9. 24-28*

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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.

Each 'address' followed the same pattern, *Prayer, Lectio, reflection, question to take away and reflect and closing prayer.*

1. The first session on Friday evening was illustrated with an image of Joan Miro's lithograph *Ceramiques*. Fr Charles reminded us that when we see stars at night we see, through space and time, stars that existed thousands of millions years ago. In the darkens of night we see further and more deeply than at any other time. Julian of Norwich, in the darkness of suffering, saw beyond her illness; meditating on the crucifix she was embraced in God's love (Grace). The question we were left to think about was:

What has darkness taught us that we wouldn't have learned otherwise?

2. On Saturday morning we thought about 'Shared Humanity', the universal search for meaning and purpose, and the Creator Being. Using the image was of stencil art, people's hands, from the Kimberley region of Australia, Fr Charles reflected on their meaning. Reminding us that they probably date back 30,000 years. Were the people making a mark in creation; saying look '*this is me*'; engaged in ritual; or marking territory? All humanity through time has found the need to search for something beyond ourselves. Different faiths and beliefs have different ways of seeing God. Fr Charles told us of a significant project, the Rock Sanctuary, on the Rock of Gibraltar, where there will be an education and growing awareness programme, based in Religious Pluralism. He reminded us that God is searching for us as we are searching for God. The question for this session:

Where in my life are the situations in my search for God?

3. The afternoon was given over to free time, for walking, reading, sleeping..... After tea we gathered for a third time and in this session we thought about 'Evolving Hope'. The image was of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, who was a Jesuit, scientist, palaeontologist who said, '*Driven by the forces of love, the fragments of the world seek each other so that the world may come to being*'
Fr Charles reminded us of verse six of John's ninth chapter where it says that Jesus '*spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread mud on the man's eyes*'. This brings us to the act of Creation – where God formed humanity out of dust and the breath that came from his mouth. Fr Charles raised the evolutionary question that perhaps our path is toward full consciousness, where we become fully aware of God, and that Love at the centre of all, holding all together – the 'Great Awakening'. As yet, we do not have the intellectual capacity to understand and embrace all that God gives in Creation. The question for this session:

What are the ways that growing consciousness brings us closer to God?

4. The last session on Saturday was at 8pm and followed by Compline. This time the image was an icon of Christ the Shepherd King who leads us in the green pasture, but also through the valley. The intellectual aspect of our faith is of fundamental importance. Doctrine provides pillars of faith. But our faith is not dependent upon our intellectual capability or our acceptance of doctrine. Each and every one of us has moments of doubt, fear, suffering; this is part of human existence. As the 'Blind Man' teaches us, in our dark questioning moments our response should be 'worship', a discipline that enables us to continue in a dark world. The question:

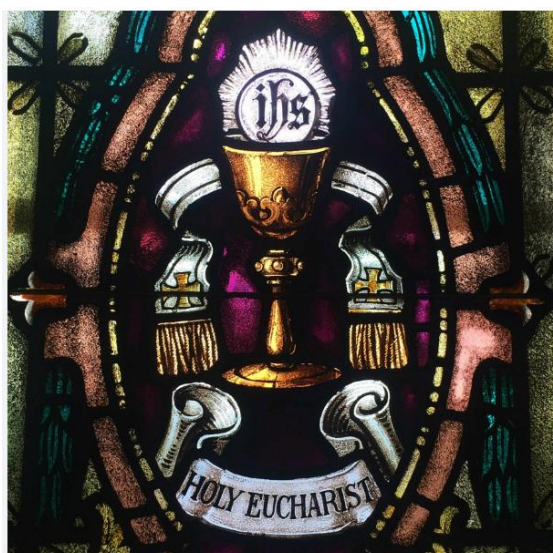
What would we change if our confidence was grounded not in knowledge, but in the knowledge of Christ's presence?

5. Our final session was after breakfast on Sunday morning. The image used by Fr Charles was Michaelangelo's Creation of Adam from the Sistine Chapel. Fr Charles talked of Creation and of Sacraments. In addition to the 'Sacraments' defined by the church there are those special personal moments when we have full knowledge that 'here' Heaven and Earth have touched. They are fleeting moments, but as such are Sacramental. Sacrament is something where we see God's loving touch, where the veil between here and beyond is thin. The question was:

Where in our lives do we see these sacramental moments?

After Midday Mass we came out of silence and went outside for a group photo. Then after a lively lunch we departed for home, leaving this lovely place refreshed, renewed, challenged and changed.

Liz Badman (I have relied on my rather brief notes for this report)



Corpus Christi Festival Mass

7.00 pm

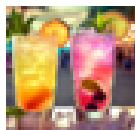
Thursday 4th Jun

Musical Memories

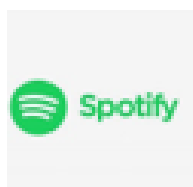
Thursday 28th May at 2.30 pm

A selection of musical memories
from 1955 & 1965+

Mocktails and nibbles



Discover how to build your own playlist for life.



All Saints Church, Pembroke Rd, Clifton, Bristol ~~BS8 3ED~~

0117 9741355

A new group for the young at
heart,

Musical Memories,

on Thursday 28th of May.

The Friends Together Team
invite you to relive music
from
the late 50's and early 60's.

The Atrium Development

The work on the atrium will begin on the 1st of June . The first piece of work will be removing the remaining asbestos from the pipework under the paving slabs between the kitchen and the main door entrance to the church.

As each piece of work progresses, it will be necessary to use different entrances to access the Church and the Randall Room. This regular section in the news will ensure that everyone will know what is happening and how to access services and events.



From June 3rd, for at least 14 days, the main church doors will be closed and entry to the Church, toilets and Randall room will be via the Richard Chapel doors.



All Saints was alive to the sound of the Early Music Festival earlier in May
Pictures courtesy of John Davenport



The distinguished cellist,
Ulrich Heinen,
performs Bach
Viola da Gamba Sonatas,
accompanied by John
Humphreys



concert matinée

All Saints Church Clifton, Bristol

Saturday
June 6th
4pm

Bach:
Gamba
Sonatas

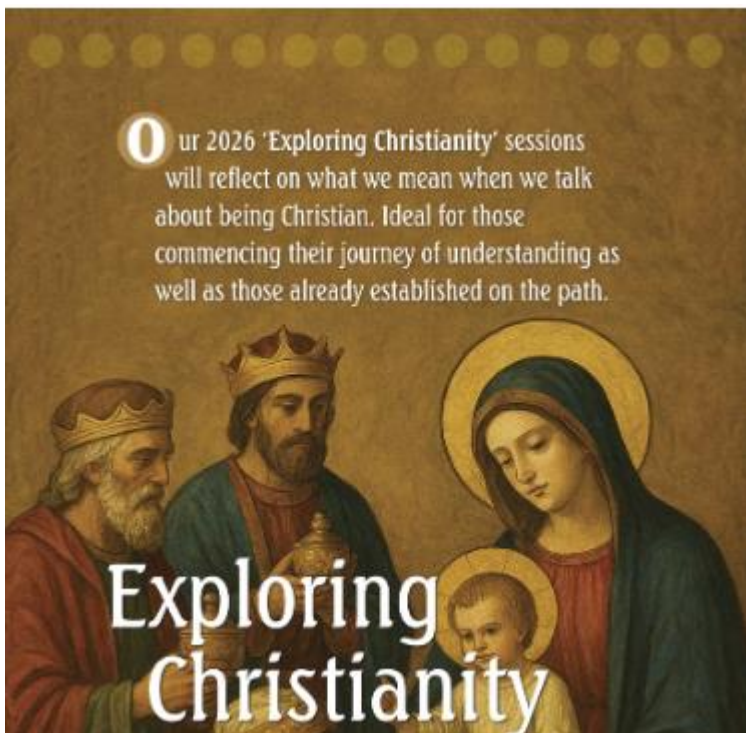
Ulrich Heinen :
cello

John Humphreys :
piano

retiring collection

tea and cakes

Our 2026 'Exploring Christianity' sessions will reflect on what we mean when we talk about being Christian. Ideal for those commencing their journey of understanding as well as those already established on the path.



A further series of Exploring Christianity is approaching:

12.30 - 1.30 (with sandwiches) in the Randall Room after Mass on Sundays :

- June 7 Anglo-Catholicism
- June 21 God in the Old Testament
- July 12 The Sacraments
- July 26 Heresies

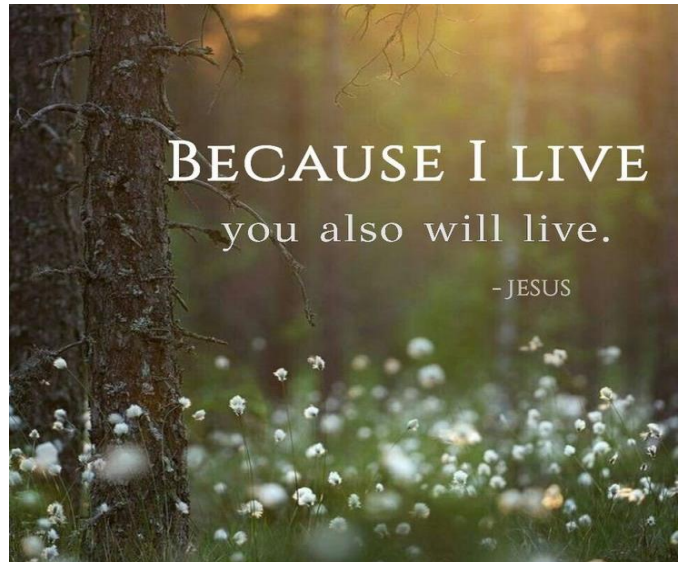
All welcome, at whatever stage of the journey of faith.

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 Debbie Gibbs Sara Maitland Jessica Smith

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 Brian Davage

Years' Minds - this week we remember:

Eric Bird Maurice Tucker Pr Elizabeth Davies Peter Cobb Pr Violet Marshall Henry Burrough Kenneth Phelan Raymond Clarke Beryl Hemming Myfanwy Davenport

ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

Mon 25	Venerable Bede 735 O Christ, our Morning Star, Splendour of Light Eternal, shining with the glory of the rainbow, come and waken us from the greyness of our apathy, and renew in us your gift of hope. Amen (The Venerable Bede)
Tue 26	Augustine of Canterbury 605 We thank you God that you are here – with us now. In the sacrament, in my brothers and sisters and in this house of God.
Wed 27	Mass 10.00am Pray for the work of Amnesty International - which campaigns to bring an end to human abuse. Look at the Amnesty International Website today and simply remember them and all these issues in your prayers
Thurs 28	Lanfranc 1089 Pray for religious communities – Benedictines and Franciscans. But today especially for Sisters of the Church here in Bristol
Fri 29	Mass 10.00am Pray for all those who are stressed or bullied at work, those who are underpaid or live in fear of losing their job. Pray for those who would like to work but can't find a job or are physically or mentally unable to work.
Sat 30	Josephine Butler 1906 Joan of Arc 1431 Feminist and social reformer. Pray for the prostitutes of Bristol, and those who work in the fields of venereal diseases and aids.
Sunday 31	Trinity Sunday On this Trinity Sunday, pray for a deeper embrace of the mystery of the Trinity in churches and an outworking of that embrace in terms of the offer of love and grace in local communities. 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