

ALL SAINTS NEWS

26th June 2026
4th Sunday of Trinity

In Praise of Retired Clergy!

Somehow, at the point of having been Ordained as Priest for forty-five years, being on the cusp of retirement and having served as Area Dean for seven years. Now seems a good point to reflect on the importance of retired clergy. Especially, as Area Dean I relied heavily on the help and support of our retired brothers and sisters,

A REPORT published in October 2024 showed retired clergy to be the largest group among ordained ministers in the Church of England. They outnumber licensed clergy in every diocese — in some, by a factor of more than two. This is true for the Diocese of Bristol.

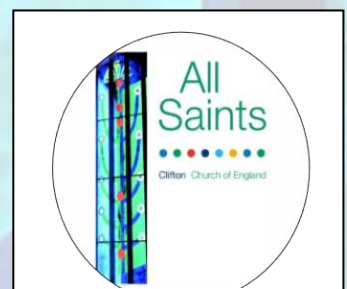
Taken together, in 2024, the number of clergy pensioners and their spouses, plus retired self-supporting ministers, approaches 25,000. This was outlined by Revd Julian Hubbard in the Diocese of Guildford. He was the author of the report *The Role and Work of Retired Clergy Officers in the Dioceses of the Church of England*. Forty-one out of the 42 dioceses responded to a survey of what that ministry comprised, which revealed a wide variation, depending on size, geography, and culture.

There was variation even in the title given to the post, or the understanding of it. Some were “officers”, indicating someone with a position of authority in the organisation; others “advisers”, denoting someone with knowledge to be consulted; and others “chaplains”, emphasising spiritual and pastoral responsibilities. A ministry that evolved out of the episcopal pastoral oversight of retired clergy had latterly been drawn towards organisational concerns such as questions over safeguarding, permission to officiate, deployment, fitness to practise, and strategic aims, the report suggested.

Almost all the Retired Clergy Officers (RCOs) are unpaid. In 28 dioceses, RCO is not a member of any diocesan work group, department, or structure. In 38 cases, they have no annual budget for retired clergy work. Eighteen out of 37 responses to questions about job descriptions revealed that eight had none, while others were out of date, not agreed, or had been written informally by the post-holders themselves.

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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.

The report found that, in most cases, the role and work of RCOs was not grounded in diocesan strategy, or indeed any stated wider aim. "The general position of RCOs in most dioceses appears to be outside its structures and networks and tangential to its counsels," the report concludes. It found a wide variation in working terms and conditions.

The report further floats the question: "What contribution might the Church need and hope for from retired clergy in the present context, and what needs for care and welfare might retired clergy and their partners present over the next?"

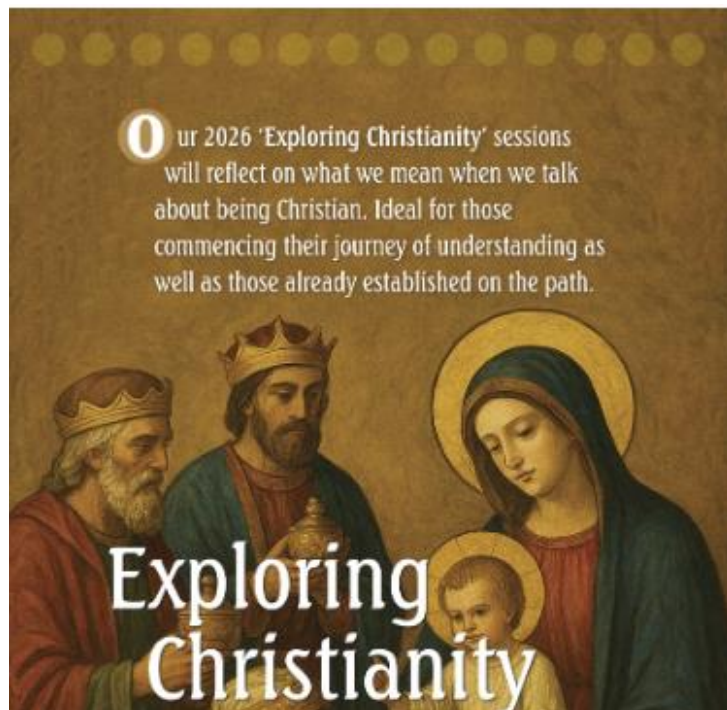
Anecdotal evidence suggests that one quarter of all services in the CofE are being taken by retired clergy, who, in addition, provide an unspecified quantity of other types of ministry. That leads the report to conclude: "It seems obvious from the data that retired clergy have a vital part to play, given the current gap in resources now and for the foreseeable future.

"And at a time of chronic straitened ministry resources, the gifts and experience of retired clergy in all forms of ministry, including taking services, should be at a premium. It cannot be assumed that retired clergy will inevitably step up to help. The ministry data show that in the year after retirement, only 34 per cent of clergy take up PTO. Their average age is 74.9 years, and the cohort of retired clergy and their partners in any diocese includes some of advanced age.

Here in Bristol West we rely heavily upon the willingness of our PTOs to support parishes that are in vacancy, where the incumbent is ill, away or on EDML (Sabbatical), or where there's a particular need. From our own team, here at ASC, we provide support across the Deanery and the Archdeaconry on a regular basis.

Thank you to all our retired clergy who so willingly provide this support.

(Data from the report authored by The Revd Julian Hubbard, Retired Clergy Officer in Guildford diocese)



Exploring Christianity

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

July 12 The Sacraments

July 26 Heresies

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



Taizé at All Saints

Sunday, 5th July, 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)

An Invitation to visit the Julian Trust.

The Julian Trust (2026 Lent Giving)

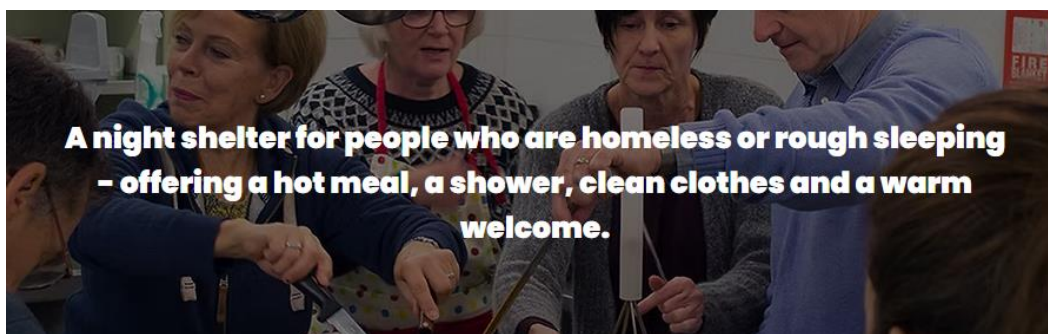


Thank you all very much for your generous donations to the Julian Trust.

If anyone would like to visit the Julian Trust premises, I will be very happy to collect you and take you there. It would, of course, be in the daytime when our guests are not present.

If you would like to undertake a visit, please speak to me at church or call on 01275 814002 and please, please leave a message.

Vera Sanders



**A night shelter for people who are homeless or rough sleeping
- offering a hot meal, a shower, clean clothes and a warm
welcome.**



Sunday 28th June

10.30am Parish Mass

Father Charles Sutton celebrates the
45th anniversary of his Ordination as Priest

Please stay afterwards for refreshments.



As You Like It – Illyria

Wednesday 26th August 2026 – 7pm

Yeo Valley Organic Garden, Blagdon

Magnus Gordon will be touring the UK with the repertory company Illyria to perform "As You Like It".

The performances are outdoor, starting on July 3rd in Cornwall and ending up in the Netherlands on September 6th.

The nearest venue to All Saints is Yeo Valley Organic Garden on 26th August but you can find all dates and venues on illyriatourdates.co.uk/asyoulikeit2026.htm

Tickets can be purchased from the Illyria website. Bring a picnic and enjoy an entertaining evening out!

All Saints Church Clifton Bristol

concert matinée

Saturday

July 4th

4pm

Sophia McKett

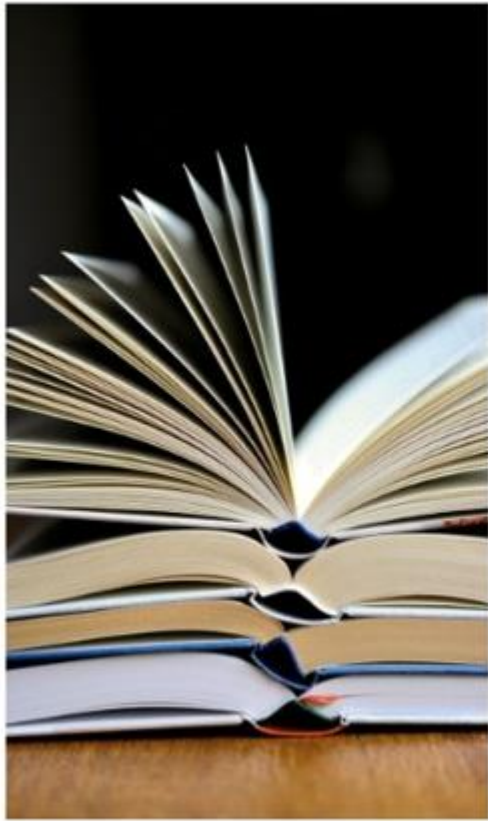
piano

Preludes and Impromptus

Schubert Debussy Rachmaninov

refreshments

retiring collection



All Saints Book Group

Wed 22nd July 2026, 7-9 pm

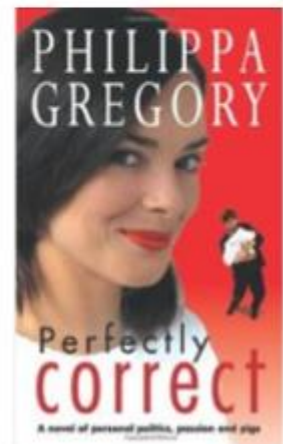
Join us for our bi-monthly All Saints' book group

Every other month, a new book – bringing readers together for lively discussions and great company!

The book for our July 2026 meeting will be:

Perfectly Correct
By Philippa Gregory

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



The Atrium Development

The slabs from the Atrium and courtyard are being crushed on site to provide hardcore for the building works.

At Tuesday's site meeting the contractor explained that all materials from the site go forward for potential recycling. This will include the glass and the aluminium window edging.

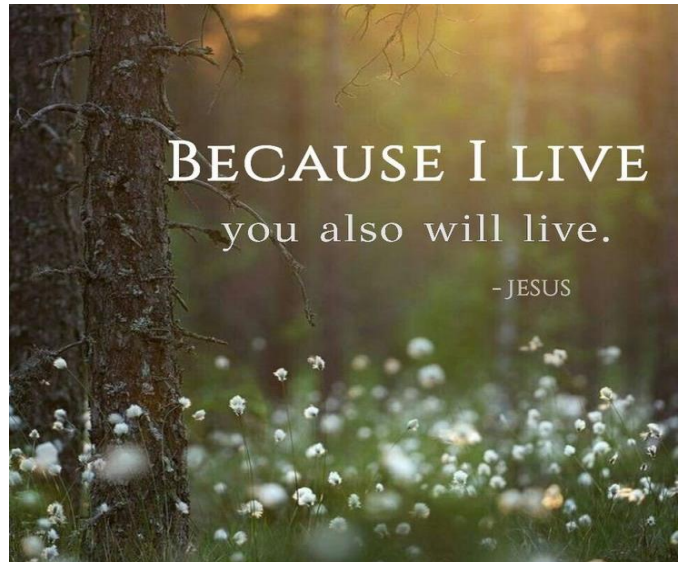
Recycling and reusing the building waste in this way supports the commitment of All Saints in reducing our carbon footprint at each opportunity

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 Judith Bramall Sue Gaylard-Hughes

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 Antony Keyworth-Berridge Chris Griffin Jenny Oates Brian Davage Jean Payne
Jeremy Younger (Pr)

Years' Minds - this week we remember:

Thomas Wiedemann Roy Shepherd Peter Hellier Gordon Lishman Harold Harding
Eliza Drewett Jean Weller Martin Henwood Gwen & Fred Iles Charles Cobb Paul Biddlecombe (Pr)
Rhona Ray Rosemary Bird

ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

Mon 29	Peter and Paul, Apostles. Almighty God, whose blessed apostles Peter and Paul glorified you in their death as in their life: grant that your Church, inspired by their teaching and example, and made one by your Spirit, may ever stand firm upon the one foundation,
Tue 30	Pray for those who will lose loved ones today, for those who offer them immediate support in their grief, and for organisations like CRUSE, who do so on an ongoing basis.
Wed July 1	Mass 10.00 am . Henry, John and Henry Venn Evangelical Divines Pray for our evangelical brothers and sisters in the C of E. The life and work of the Church Missionary Society
Thurs 2	As July and August stretch out ahead of us, all who will be on holiday in the coming months; and also those places that exist to serve the needs of tourists, remembering all who work in the many tourist focused businesses
Fri 3	Mass 10.00 am . Thomas the Apostle Pray for those who find it hard to believe, those who search for meaning in life, those who look for signs that they might believe. For ourselves in our own times of doubt
Sat 4	Ours is a world full of unresolved conflict; internationally, locally and in our homes. Pray for peace of mind and peace with others
Sunday 5	Trinity 5 Dedication Festival Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of our Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people. 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