

ALL SAINTS NEWS

20th September 2026
16th Sunday of Trinity

The Common Lectionary: Hearing the Whole Story of Scripture

In two recent sermons I have briefly talked about the 'Common Lectionary'. This, the Lectionary, identifies all the readings that cover Sundays and Festivals, and weekdays for Morning and Evening Prayer and for Mass. The original 'common' lectionary was assembled in 1983 to enable all denominations to share the readings in an organised and structured way. All denominations include: The Anglican Communion, Lutheran Church, Roman Catholic Church (mostly), Methodist, United Reformed and the list continues.... (Presbyterians, Unitarian Universalist, Polish National, and so on).



I particularly like the notion that as the sun spans the globe, we Christians are using the same scripture to direct our thoughts and prayer; some an hour behind, others an hour ahead. I also like the discipline of the Lectionary. It requires us to think, year in year out, so anyone in the Ministry Team needs to reflect on the readings and decide the direction and theme of any sermon or homily. This is very different to some other churches who decide on a 'topic', usually a favourite one, to 'instruct' parishioners over a favoured subject.

This is not the approach we use at ASC. As the years change, we allow ourselves to be informed by scripture, as the Lectionary offers and directs.

My reason for writing these notes is that having talked about this subject in a couple of sermons I received a lot of questions and comments. Consequently, I think it's probably worthwhile providing this overview.

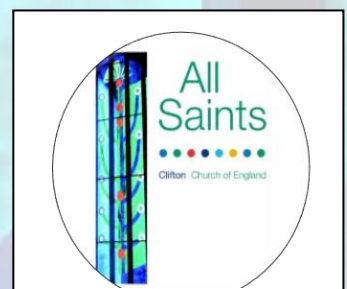
What do we do – with the whole Church?

At every celebration of the Eucharist at All Saints, we hear the Scriptures proclaimed. This is not simply a collection of readings chosen for convenience, but part of a carefully ordered pattern known as the Common Lectionary. It enables the Church, Sunday by Sunday and day by day, to encounter the great story of God's dealings with his people and, above all, the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Sunday Lectionary follows a three-year cycle – Years A, B and C. Each year has a principal Gospel: Matthew in Year A, Mark in Year B, and Luke in Year C. John's Gospel is woven into all three years, especially at the great seasons

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 Priests	Fr Paul Hawkins Mthr Nicola Stanley	



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.

of Lent and Easter and on important festivals. Over this three-year journey we therefore encounter a substantial proportion of the Gospels and are continually drawn back to Christ. During each year the Gospel readings, in broad terms, follow the life of Christ and then, in Ordinary Time, the teaching of Christ.

The basic difference

Year	Principal Gospel	General character of Old Testament readings
Year A	Matthew	Particularly strong emphasis on Genesis, Exodus and the story of Israel , often reflecting themes in Matthew
Year B	Mark	A somewhat more continuous journey through the Old Testament , with substantial material from the historical and prophetic books
Year C	Luke	Particularly strong emphasis on the prophets, wisdom literature and themes of justice, mercy and God's universal salvation

The weekday Lectionary follows a two-year cycle – Year 1 and Year 2. The weekday readings provide a further opportunity to hear Scripture and often take us into books and passages which cannot easily be accommodated within the Sunday cycle. For those who attend weekday Mass, this means that the Church's diet of Scripture becomes considerably richer.

Ordinary Time, Related and Continuous Readings

This is particularly noticeable in **Ordinary Time**. The word "ordinary" can be misleading. It does not mean unimportant or commonplace. It refers to the ordered or numbered Sundays of the year. Liturgically, this is the time when, having celebrated the great mysteries of Christ's birth, death, resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit, we are invited to consider what it means to live out our Christian discipleship.

The readings during Ordinary Time may be **related** to one another, with the Old Testament and Epistle chosen to illuminate the Gospel and its themes. At other times we encounter **continuous readings**, where we work our way through a biblical book or section over successive Sundays. This latter approach is especially valuable because it prevents us from taking verses out of context and allows us to appreciate the development of a biblical writer's thought. We, at ASC, follow the 'related' construction (unless an invited preacher requires continuous).

This pattern reflects something deeply Catholic about our worship. We do not come to Mass simply to hear a favourite passage or a reading that happens to suit us. We place ourselves under the discipline and richness of the whole of Scripture. The Lectionary carries us through the seasons of the Christian year and continually brings us back to Christ.

The Sentences



In addition to the four readings, we also have two 'Sentences' within the Parish Mass. These are the 'Opening Antiphon' or sentence at the start of Mass, and the Post-Communion Sentence. These are usually taken from the readings of the day or are directly related to them or the theme of the season.

In Summary

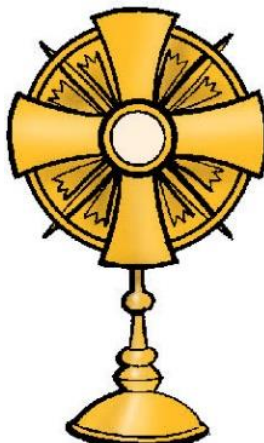
At All Saints, with our rich Anglo-Catholic tradition of worship, the **Word proclaimed and the Sacrament celebrated belong together**. The Lectionary reminds us that the Eucharist is not merely something we attend: it is part of a continuing journey in which Scripture forms us, the liturgy shapes us, and Christ feeds us for our life and service in the world.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Sometimes this is called 'Adoration' is more accurately known as the "Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament". It is the act of reverently removing the Blessed Sacrament from the tabernacle and placing it in a monstrance on an altar where the worshipping community are able to be present and pray or reflect. Exposition has a long history and is a solemn liturgical ritual of the Church.

Whilst the Exposition takes place over an hour, worshippers may come and go, remaining in the Presence for as long as they wish – or the full hour.

Saturday 10th October at 5.00pm
Saturday 14th November at 5.00pm
Saturday 12th December at 5.00pm



Healing Mass

At the moment we have one Healing Mass each month. Everything is just the same as the Sunday parish Mass, but whilst people are receiving Communion there is an opportunity to receive Anointing and Laying on of Hands in the Richard Chapel. This provides an opportunity to remind ourselves of the presence of God in our lives, to reflect that we all have challenges in life and to ask God for our physical, emotional, mental and spiritual restoration.

Healing Mass will take place on:

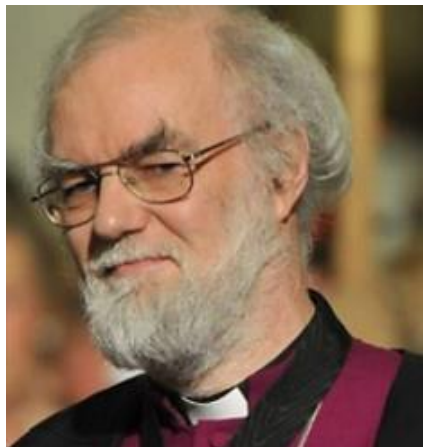
Sunday 20th September at Parish Mass
Sunday 18th October at Parish Mass
Sunday 15th November at Parish Mass
Sunday 20th December at Parish Mass



All Saints Day 2026 Sunday 1st November

9.00am Early Worship Eucharist

10.30am Festival Parish Mass with Rowan Williams, Baron Williams of Oystermouth bishop, theologian and poet, who served as the 104th Archbishop of Canterbury from 2002 to 2012.



All Saints Book Group - Raising Hare, by Chloe Dalton

September's meeting -Wednesday 23rd 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Join our bi-monthly book group in the Sacristy of All Saints.

A new book brings readers together for lively discussions and great company every other month.

This month... *Raising Hare* by Chloe Dalton



Next book group will be 25th November 2026



Walsingham 2027

Save the date !

The Walsingham pilgrimage for 2027 will be from Monday 30th August to Friday 3rd September.

Booking in the New Year.

Honouring the oldest member of the parish

On Saturday, 19th September, Bristol's own dinosaur, *Thecodontosaurus*, will be celebrated with a CHIS blue plaque. These plaques are usually awarded to people, marking where noted citizens once resided, but our own dinosaur could also be seen as a noted earlier citizen... very early, in fact Triassic and perhaps 210 million years ago. The first *Thecodontosaurus* fossils were found in 1834 in the quarries along the north side of Worrall Road, and some of the fossils from beside Quarry Steps, at the east end, near Blackboy Hill.

The plaque will be unveiled on Saturday 19th September at 11 AM during an event attended by the Lord Lieutenant of Bristol, Peaches Golding, and with a short explanation by Mike Benton.

All are welcome to attend.





All Saints and the Friends Together
Supporters are offering
Dementia Awareness Training

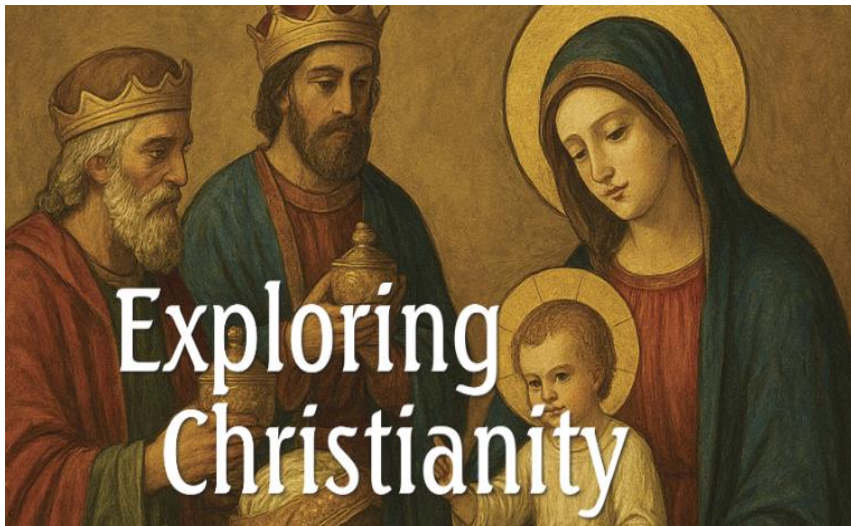
led by

Leanne Parkes
*Dementia and Older Persons
Mental Health Advisor
Diocese of Bristol*

24th September 2026
10 am until 12 noon
refreshments available
in the
Randall Room at All Saints.

Would you like to know more about
dementia and how to support people
living with dementia, please book a free
place by emailing

office@allsaintsclifton.org



The next three sessions of the popular group start on

Followed by -

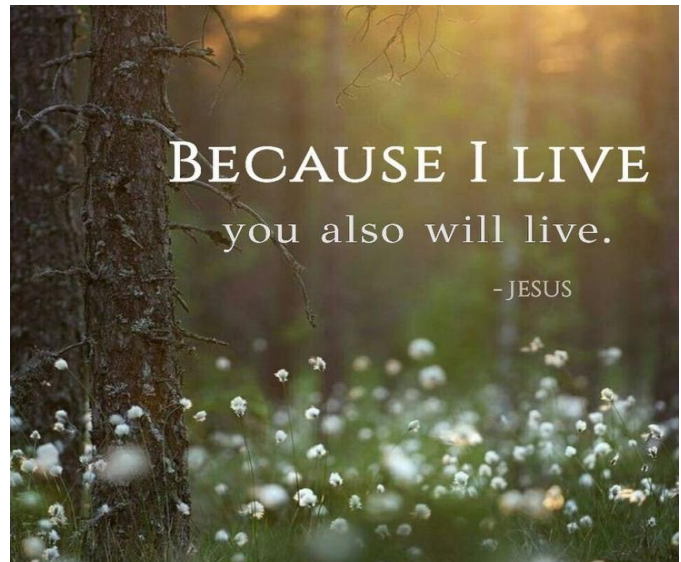
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|---------------------------|--|
| 11 th October | Fr Paul Hawkins explores the topic of Prayer |
| 25 th October | Fr Paul Roberts explores Anglicanism |
| 15 th November | Mthr Nicola Stanley explores the Sacraments |

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 Ossama & Clare Sader Debbie Gibbs Sara Maitland Jessica Smith Sue Gaylard-Hughes Jenny Rogers

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

Andrew Densham Victoria Barry Rogerson (Bp) William Ching Georgina Harford

Years' Minds - this week we remember:

Muriel Chant Julian Smith Rose Pulsford Jess Allam Madeline Dowling

ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

Mon 21	Matthew Apostle Give us grace to forsake the selfish pursuit of gain and the possessive love of riches that we may follow in the way of your Son Jesus Christ
Tue 22	Who is your neighbour? Pray for your literal neighbours, for those you sit close to in church and for the ability to respond to Jesus' teaching 'love your neighbour as yourself.'
Wed 23	Mass 10.00am Pray for women in business and at work. Sexism is still prevalent in the workplace and many roles subject to stereotyping. Pray for the work of woman priests in our church.
Thurs 24	Pray for those who go hungry. Not just in third world countries, but the increasing numbers in Poland, Germany, United States and United Kingdom.
Fri 25	Mass 10.00am Lancelot Andrew 1626 Sergi of Radonezh 1392 Pray for growth in understanding and links between the Orthodox and Anglican traditions. Remember the editors, authors and academics and the readership of the Journal 'Sobornost' and all who foster links between the churches.
Sat 26	Wilson Carlile 1942 Pray for and give thanks for the work of the Church Army. A mission-focused community of people who are transforming lives and communities through the work of evangelists, staff and supporters. We are committed to sharing the Christian faith through words and action in a variety of contexts across the British Isles.
Sunday 27	17th Sunday after Trinity Michael and All Angels Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face Michael and All Angels As your holy angels always serve you in heaven, so, at your command, they may help and defend us on earth 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