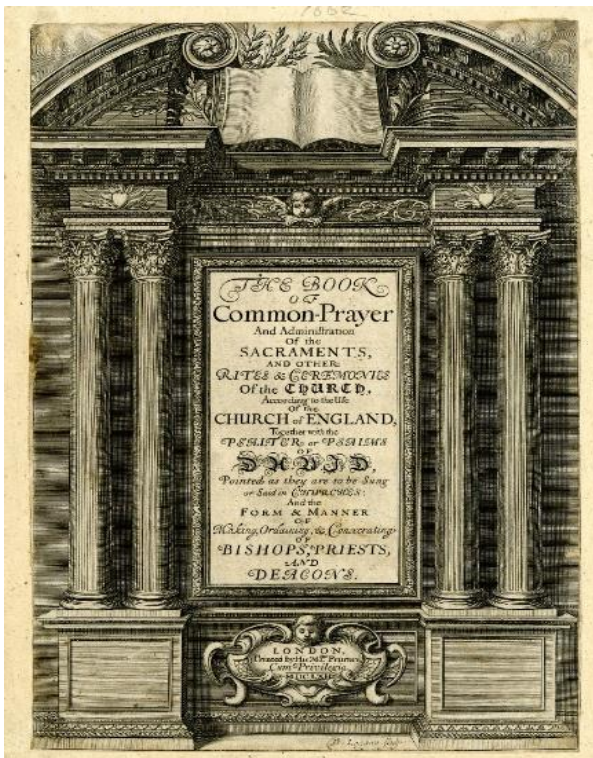


ALL SAINTS NEWS

27th September 2026
17th Sunday of Trinity

The Book of Common Prayer and the importance of Morning and Evening Prayer

One of the reasons why the Book of Common Prayer has been so important in the life of the Church of England, and other Anglican churches, is because of the importance that worship and liturgy have played and continue to play in those churches.



The ancient principle of *lex orandi, lex credendi* (the law of prayer is the law of belief, or a freer translation, *how you pray is how you believe*), has become a guiding principle in the development of the theology of the Church of England, and can help to explain the importance that the Book of Common Prayer has played in the life of the church.

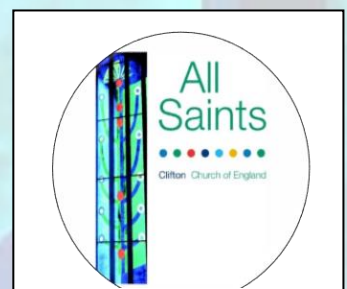
This means that how we worship should not just be a reflection of personal preferences, but ultimately it should be an expression of our faith in God. The faith that we hold together as the Body of Christ. That is why Anglicans historically have viewed the Book of Common Prayer and subsequent prayer books or liturgical books with such importance, and why it has often led to such heated debates.

Thomas Cranmer and the First BCP

Thomas Cranmer, who was Archbishop of Canterbury during the reign of Henry VIII, compiled the first Book of Common Prayer in 1549, and it is fair to say that this Prayer Book reflected a more moderate form of Protestantism than what was happening in other parts of Europe at the time. Cranmer was not as radical as some other reformers, and he sought to align his Prayer Book with not just the Bible, but also with the theology and practices of the Early Church. The Prayer Book reflected Cranmer's commitment both to reforming the liturgy and to preserving several ancient practices and ceremonies. This tension between reform and continuity has shaped Anglican worship and theology ever since.

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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.

Perhaps one of the most important things that Cranmer did was to translate the liturgy into English, rather than keeping it in Latin, which would have been the norm up until then. He wanted to bring the Scriptures to the people. In the preface that he wrote to the first version of the Book of Common Prayer from 1549, he made his vision clear. There he stated that it was his desire that the Bible should be read over once a year in church and that it should be read in English so that not only the Clergy could understand it but also ordinary people, so that they *“should continually profit more and more in the knowledge of God, and be the more inflamed with the love of his true religion”*.

The Daily Office

One of the ways to do that, to give ordinary people more access to the scriptures in the Book of Common Prayer, was through what is usually called the Daily Offices, Morning and Evening Prayer, also called Matins and Evensong. These prayers could be prayed both at church and at home. At the heart of these offices is the recitation of the Psalms. The Psalms have a long history of being used in Christian worship, and, of course, in Jewish worship. You can say that the book of Psalms, the Psalter, is the prayer book of the Christian and Jewish faith. These prayers were used in the monasteries during the time of the English Reformation, and Cranmer sought to make them available to ordinary Christians. Clergy and those of us who are training for Ordination are expected to pray Morning and Evening Prayer every day.

Praying the Psalms

What makes the Psalms so suitable for regular recitation and meditation is I believe because they reflect all kinds of emotions that we can experience, they feel very real, and they certainly don't hold anything back! It can be a very helpful thing to prayerfully reflect on all the things that we feel, whether that be joy, hope, anger, loneliness, despair, etc, and to offer it all up to God in prayer. Another thing that makes praying the Psalms so special is that we can simply enter into the life of prayer of the church throughout the centuries. The rhythm of prayer, the cycle of prayer, of Morning and Evening Prayer, is ongoing and has been going on for hundreds of years, and we are simply invited to join in. We don't need to bring anything in particular to these prayers, instead, we can just enter in as we are. It doesn't really matter how we feel, if we feel far away from God, or close to God, or unsure about what we feel, the Psalms are there to remind us of God's continual presence with us, his people.

Praying with the Psalms over time, *“getting pickled in the psalms”*, as a Benedictine monk once told me, can give us an increased sense of humility. Humility before God, humility before ourselves. Recognising that we are not the first people who might feel a sense of anger or disappointment, joy, lament, etc. The more I think about it, the more I see humility as perhaps the most important thing in our Christian life. Because it mirrors the life of Christ himself, who humbled himself, taking the form of a servant, when he became like one of us.

This is also beautifully reflected in *The Magnificat*, Mary's song of praise, a Cantic from Luke's Gospel, that is prayed every evening at Evening Prayer in the Anglican Church, the Roman Catholic Church and in other churches. Mary, the mother of our Lord, praises God and says that God *“scattered the proud in their conceit”* and that he is *“casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.”* This reminds us daily of the importance of humbling ourselves before God.

It's all there in Morning and Evening Prayer, and we, if we make them part of our prayer life, will be constantly reminded of this reality, and we will be constantly reminded that God is with us through all the ups and downs of life. Through the joys and sorrows, through grief and praise. God's presence is constantly with us. He will not abandon us, and praying the Psalms and Canticles during Morning and Evening Prayer reminds us of that reality.

David Lanstrom



This Sunday's 10.30 am Mass will celebrate St Michael and All Angels

Evensong will be held at 5 pm



**A Funeral service
for
Georgina Harford**

will take place

**on Saturday
3rd of October 2026
at 2.30 pm
RIP**

If you are hoping to come to Georgina's funeral please use the link below to let her family know.

<https://georgina-harford.vercel.app/>

The family request that you wear something that makes you smile and confirm that children are very welcome.

Paul and Sandy Gale — Golden Wedding Anniversary

Paul and Sandy are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary!

They were married at St Andrew's Church, Compton Dundon, Somerset, on 25th September 1976. They are the proud parents of three daughters and grandparents to five grandsons.

Everyone is warmly invited to join Paul and Sandy for a small celebration in the Randall Room after today's Mass.



Walsingham 2027

Save the date !

The Walsingham pilgrimage for 2027 will be from Monday 30th August to Friday 3rd September. Booking will be open in the New Year.



Due to circumstances beyond our control we are unable to re site the accessible toilet.

Thank you for your patience during the Atrium Project

All Saints Church, Pembroke Rd, Clifton, Bristol



'Coffee Concert' Saturday

October 3rd



11 am



refreshments at 10.30 am



Jane Jewel
cello

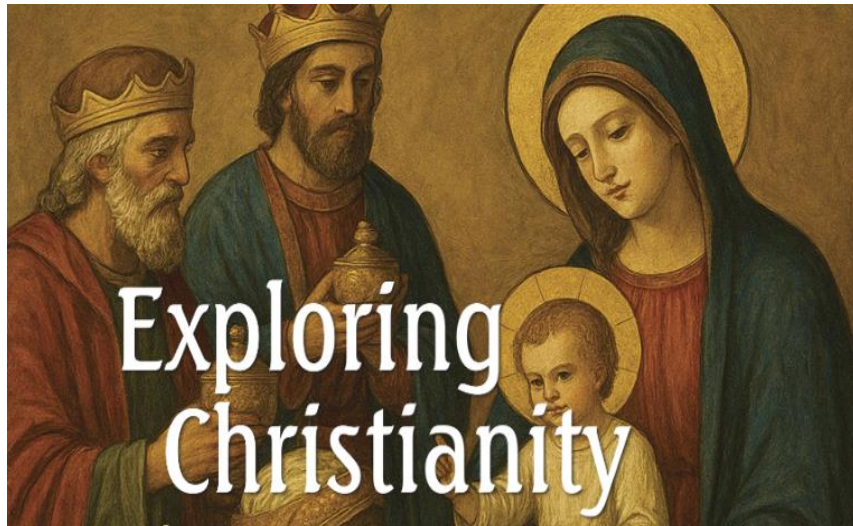
Helen Mills
piano



Rachmaninov 'Cello Sonata
Doménico Gabrieli & Kasputin



This concert replaces the previously
advertised *concert matinée*
for this date



The next three sessions of the popular group start on

11th October Fr Paul Hawkins explores the topic of Prayer

25th October Fr Paul Roberts explores Anglicanism

15th November Mthr Nicola Stanley explores the Sacraments

Followed by -



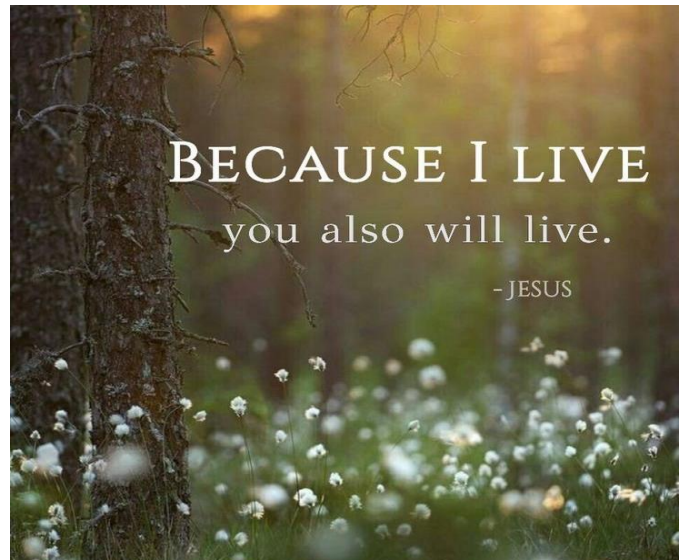
Beloved Cynthia Ashford will be 102 on Wednesday 30th. Congratulations and love to her.

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

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 Jenny Rogers

Years' Minds - this week we remember:

Molly Poole Barbara Gay Lorna Day Cyril Parker Frank Powell

ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

Mon 28	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.
Tue 29	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
Wed 30	Jerome Translator of Scriptures, Teacher 420 Pray for the translators of scripture and for all those who work to help us understand the place of scripture in our lives and faith. Jerome (347 – 420) translated the Bible into Latin (the Vulgate) and wrote commentaries on the Gospels.
Thurs October 1 st	Mass 10.00 am Remigius, Bishop of Rheims, Apostle of the Franks 533; Anthony Ashley Cooper, Lord Shaftesbury, Social Reformer 1885 Saint Remigius, or Remy was Bishop of Reims and Apostle of the Franks. On Christmas Day 496 he baptised Clovis I, King of the Franks, which turned his people to the Christian faith. Today we also remember Lord Shaftesbury, the "Poor Man's Earl" who campaigned tirelessly for the poor, especially in the area of education and welfare. His work establishing Ragged Schools became The Shaftesbury Society.
Fri 2	Mass 10.00 am Pray for those who worked through the night last night and will sleep today in order to do so again tonight: those working in hospitals, prisons, in hospitality and in industries demanding twenty-four hour working. Pray for their families and relationships, their safety, well-being and flourishing, in a challenging work schedule.
Sat 3	Bp George Bell, Chichester Peacemaker 1958 Friend of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and opponent of area bombing. Pray for civilians caught in wars and conflict, for the unthinking use of violence against civilian populations; remembering where this has happened in the past (Germany, Britain, Japan and Spain) and where it's happening now (in so many parts of the world, Syria and Sudan).
Sunday 4	18th Sunday after Trinity Grant, we beseech you, merciful Lord, to your faithful people, pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; 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