

The Parish of All Saints with St Saviour
Weston-super-Mare
Winter Newsletter



'While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.' - Genesis 8:22

What's instantly striking about so many winter images is the lack of colour, and yet, as I write, we're surrounded by the glorious colours of autumn trees, and even in the coming months we'll be rejoicing in the scarlet berries, the flash of colour from the robins in our gardens, the purple of emerging crocuses, and of course the magnificent stately shapes of trees in our parks and gardens, only revealed when they let go of their leaves and stand darkly against the pale winter skies. God's created world is infinitely surprising.

Warmest greetings to you all, and to all our friends at St John's, Clevedon. What a lot has happened since the last newsletter! We've had visiting clergy, a baptism and confirmation, a full survey done on the church by our new architect, a 'Last night of the Proms' to rival the Albert Hall, and an absolutely terrific Patronal Festival, to name but a few! There's an palpable sense of good cheer and optimism at All Saints as we see change continuing to happen.

We always love to welcome visiting clergy, and what a joy it was when Bishop Michael Langrish came to baptise and confirm Josh and Jade on the 20th August, with their three boys as part of our church family. We'll be looking forward to more visits from Bishop Michael later in the year, as we shall from Fr Darren Smith, whose heart was well and truly stolen by baby Esther after Mass on Sunday 10th September.

In fact September was a significant month in many different ways, not least of which was the visit from our new architect, Jonathan Saunders on Friday 8th to survey the church in preparation for the hugely important quinquennial report. We are so grateful to Alan Yeates and Terry for their extensive background work informing and liaising with Jonathan Saunders.

The first statement of the report's summary read thus:

'The church is in excellent overall condition as a consequence of committed daily care'. We all know who carries out that daily care, often far from glamorous, and our heartfelt thanks go to Janice for her constant nurture of our church and halls, and to the flower arrangers who bless All Saints with beautiful displays.



Just a day after Jonathan's survey the church was filled with people, flags and stirring music as we sang 'Land of Hope and Glory' and all the Proms favourites, thanks to Paul Beechey, the Weston Light Orchestra, Richard Lennox and soloist Zoe Maitland. We were pleased to raise £743 for church funds and £100 from the raffle to support the Luhimba project in Tanzania, one of our three main outreach charities.



These beautiful flowers enhanced our Harvest Festival celebration on 1st October. Harvest Festivals in churches throughout the land have changed beyond recognition now, as Father Brendan mentioned in his sermon. Now, more than ever before, we're aware of our duty to protect the natural world as we witness the damage done when greed and profit eclipse morality.



We're also keenly aware of the desperate need in Weston to support families struggling to keep pace with rising costs, so we were delighted to be able to collect 87.40kg of donations for the foodbank, thanks to the generosity of our congregation, and to Janice, who loaded her car and delivered it all to Weston Foodbank.

Our outreach takes many forms, and the weekly coffee church on Wednesday mornings continues to draw people in for informal worship and fellowship. We're very grateful to Fr Chris, who plays for us each week, all from memory, and to the leaders who prepare some very interesting talks, each with a unique perspective.

White and gold adorned a full church on our Patronal Festival at the end of October, when we were joined by the Revd Canon Nicola Stanley, Canon Pastor and Vice Dean of Bristol Cathedral, who preached a wonderful sermon on Saints,



including Christina the Astonishing!



It was lovely to be able to get to know Nicola after Mass, and we hope to see her again soon.

Our concert season continues to bring people into the church, and to contribute to the general fund. Following the 'Last Night' we enjoyed 'An English Serenade', which saw the Costanzi Consort join forces with Trinity Singers for a splendid evening of English music, from Byrd to Vaughan Williams. We have Vocalise's concert of Christmas songs to look forward to on the 8th December, Andrea Monk's piano pupils on the 10th, and an afternoon concert given by Weston Choral - 'Sure on this Shining Night' on the 16th. All concert details are on the website.

One vital element of a healthy church is the pursuit of spiritual growth, which arises from discussion, prayer and reflection, and on Saturday 16th September Father Gary Ecclestone led the PCC in an inspiring conversation, beginning with Mass and then, taking the 8 essential qualities of a healthy church as a starting point, focussing on All Saints' church- our achievements so



far, and the challenges still facing us. We're very grateful to Fr Gary for helping us to develop our vision of mission and outreach. Also grateful for the delicious sandwiches and fruit provided by Fr Brendan, which rounded off the morning! We now welcome Joan Beer as joint church warden with Ray Armstrong.

This newsletter gives us an opportunity to express our thanks to all those who enhance our worship, run the office, read our Scriptures, volunteer on our various rotas, help out with cleaning or clearing away, or simply pray for us. Your support is much valued. It's easy to forget to thank people in the day-to-day bustle of life, so here's an accolade to Father Stuart and Father Andrew Allen, who continue to provide uplifting Eucharistic services for us, to the servers, the choir and Robert. And of course to Father Brendan, whose commitment to the spiritual health and growth of All Saints is unequivocal. Thank you, all of you!

Our halls are very well patronised with an absolute wealth of community activities available, so if you feel like taking up a new hobby, there's everything from old-time dancing to Mahjong, scrabble and art. All details are on the back of this leaflet.

Whilst our new King led the nation in remembrance at the Cenotaph,



we held our own Remembrance Sunday Mass with Father Brendan speaking about the animosity and suspicion that walls and barriers bring about, and the need not just for a ceasefire in Ukraine and the Middle East, but for courageous, visionary peace-building, with love at its very core. The poignancy of *The Last Post*, beautifully played by

Sam, was incredibly moving, and Myra's beautiful flower arrangement held a poppy for every name on the church's memorial boards.

And so we prepare for Advent - a time of reflection and prayer, when we renew the experience of waiting and longing for the Messiah within the sacramental life of the church. We are a welcoming and loving community, and we hope very much that you will come to share our welcome in the services leading up to Christmas.

Father Brendan writes:

Dear friends,
Christmas celebrates the astonishing truth that the Word of God, who was with God in the beginning, became flesh in Jesus Christ our Lord, through the willing co-operation of Mary, the Mother of the Lord. He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall:
With the poor and mean and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

This coming of God in Jesus invites us to make a response, to welcome the love of God into our hearts and minds, and to be made new by it. Christmas is the call to us to become more Christ-like and it reveals the profound truth that 'God is Christ-like and in him is no un-Christ-likeness at all' as Archbishop Michael Ramsey puts it.

Friends, this Newsletter tells you of the new beginnings our Church community is making. Advent is a new beginning, the beginning of the Christian New Year.

I am conscious that for many understandable reasons some have fallen away from the practise of their faith. Let me just say to you that we are there for you. That we want you to be part of our community. That we want to celebrate the astonishing truth that God 'was made man in Palestine, and lives today in bread and wine' (John Betjeman) with you, because this truth changes everything and it can change us too.

With my prayers and warmest wishes,
Fr Brendan

And on 6th January Fr Brendan invites everyone to Tea at the Vicarage 2-5pm. St John's Vicarage is 1 St John's Road, Clevedon, BS21 7TG. There is ample parking on the roads around the church and house.

SERVICES in Advent and at Christmas

All Saints Church Weekday mass **10.00am**
every Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday

St Saviour's Hall Coffee Church Wednesday Dec 6th, 13th & 20th
resumes in January 2024 **11am**

All Saints Church 1st Sunday in Advent 3rd December **10.30am** Parish
Mass And later on at **4pm** Advent Carol Service

At St John's Clevedon **5.30pm** 'From Darkness to Light' - a service of
music and readings with Henbury Singers and friends directed by
Andrew Kirk

All Saints Church 2nd Sunday in Advent 10th Dec **10.30am** Parish Mass

All Saints Church **Carols by Candlelight** Wednesday 13th Dec at
7.00pm - A traditional Carol Service that retells the Christmas story
Harmonia Sacra: Director Peter Leech with Matthew Nicholls, Organ
and Bristol Brass Admission is free with a collection for Weston-super-
Mare RNLI

At St John's Clevedon Saturday 16th December
10am-12.30pm Advent Quiet Morning
10am Mass, three talks on Prayer by Fr Brendan at 10.45, 11.15, 11.45,
12.15pm Benediction

All Saints Church 3rd Sunday in Advent 17th Dec **10.30am** Parish Mass
At St John's Clevedon **5.30pm** **Lessons and Carols for Christmas**

All Saints Church 4th Sunday in Advent 24th Dec **10.30am**
Said Parish Mass
At St John's Clevedon, **4.00pm** Christingle Family Service

All Saints Church 11.00pm Midnight Mass and Blessing of the crib

All Saints Church Christmas Day 10.30am Sung Mass

EVENTS in Advent and at Christmas

At **St John's Clevedon** 2nd December **2pm to 4pm Christmas Fayre**

All Saints Church Friday 8th December **7.30pm**, Vocalise Choirs and Friends present '**Sing Song Merrily**'

St Saviour's Hall Saturday 9th December **10.30am Christmas Fayre**

At **St John's Clevedon** Saturday 9th December, **7.30pm Clevedon Choral Society Christmas Concert**: Charpentier's 'Messe de Minuit pour Noël' and music by Gustav Holst and others

All Saints Church Sunday 10th December **6pm** Andrea Monk Pupils give a **Christmas Piano Concert**

All Saints Church Saturday 16th December **3pm**, Weston Choral Christmas Music "**Sure on this Shining Night**" Carols, Readings and Messiah pieces, Accompanist Richard Lennox

STELLA MATUTINA

[Soliloquy as at 23.59 hrs on 31st December]

Shall I see another Christmass?

God knows!

Ruminative:

I see-

Pine needles and fairy lights,

Tinsel,

Granny stirring puddings

All amalgam and

Safe cocoon of family love.

Later on, when

We were a bit older

We went to adolescent parties:

I had a brief dalliance

Under a bed, with Jeanne,

During a game of "murder,"

Later still, when our own kids

Weren't quite grown-up, we

Celebrated with friends:-

Brussels sprouts and Barbie Dolls.

Now, children's children

Will probably repeat it all.

Many parents, loves and old friends

Celebrate in a Greater Light;

Nevertheless

The real hope in Christmass

Still enfolds us all-

Proud to be a Christian,

I rejoice to be part of it.
(Despite supermarket bonhomie)
There's a wealth of love
In the treasury,
To be distributed by us -
Sadly, there's fighting
Even as the angels sing;
However,
The greatest Love of all
Still reconciles, beneath a
Star in the East,
And whatever befalls, between
Now and next Christmass,
I mean to keep following
That star!

Peace and good neighbourhood.
A happy and BLESSED New Year!
Keith
(An old west-country greeting)

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The Anchor

St Saviour's and All Saints Hall Activity

The halls are used for community activities throughout the week.

St Saviour's Hall is mentioned first in details below.

Monday morning **Weston Art** Group meet. Meanwhile at All Saints **Axe Scouts Beaver** group meet in the hall early evening.

Tuesday's U3A run an afternoon **Mahjong** group on the 1st and 3rd week, and a **Folk Dance** group on the 2nd and 4th week. Also **Weston Scrabble Club** every Tuesday evening.

Wednesdays we have **Coffee Church** in the morning. A new Theatre Group Inspire meet late afternoon, every week for 4 to 17 year olds and the **Labour Party** meet every 1st Wednesday of the month in the evening, meanwhile **Axe Scouts Cubs** meet at All Saints Hall early evening.

On *Thursday* **Parkinson UK** Weston branch have their sessions at 2.30pm on the 1st Thursday in the month, on the 2nd Thursday in the month they have a people with Parkinson's drop-in, and a Carers drop-in on the 3rd Thursday in the month, Twice a month, in the evening, on the 2nd and 4th Thursday in the month **Weston Assembly** meet for old time dance.

Friday for the card players when the **Whist Club** meet in the afternoon.

Every *Saturday* afternoon **Chelis Theatre Company** for children, trains youngsters in drama, dance, singing and a whole host of other performing arts subjects.

Christmas Fayre BS23 2EN



Saturday 9th Dec
10.30am

St Saviour's Hall

Refreshments,
including Bacon Rolls and Seasonal
Snacks, Raffle, Stalls, FREE Entrance

Come along meet your friends, have a

chat

**Credit & Debit cards
accepted**

