

# ALL SAINTS NEWS

8<sup>th</sup> January 2023  
The Baptism of Christ  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Epiphany

## Living in Love and Faith

### Christian Teaching about matters of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage

*Reflection and Action - Fr Paul Roberts*

The Church of England has reached a very significant point. The third and final meeting of Bishops is happening on January 17 (2023) to agree proposals for the way ahead for human relationships and sexuality in the CofE.

To briefly recap: at the Lambeth Conference Archbishop Justin made a powerful speech in which it was acknowledged for the first time that traditional and progressive views alike on sexuality are held by people who 'have not arrived lightly at their ideas, are not careless about Scripture, do not reject Christ'. All have come to their differing views on sexuality 'after long prayer, deep study, and reflection on understandings of human nature'. He received a standing ovation. This felt ground-breaking and the basis for a way forward.

Within the Church, a survey that followed the LLF discussions indicated a clear desire for change. The reports after the first Bishops' residential in early November revealed 'that many bishops recognise that a change of policy is needed.'

I have many conservative friends who I know are not able to agree with folk like me. Nevertheless, among them, I find a recognition that we cannot stay where we are: it would be pastorally and missionally disastrous. Some would, for example, be willing to accept a church that allowed ministers and churches to 'opt in' to offering a blessing, if others are allowed not to - without sanction. Versions of this have worked well in New Zealand and Canada.

But other voices are strongly resisting any change. That is their right. But they do not reflect the wider mood. So it is important that voices supporting change are heard by the bishops in the next week or so. Whilst I support equal marriage, I think as a way forward \*the minimum\* must be to offer blessing in church after a civil marriage. (Those who know their liturgical history will know that in the early centuries of the Church, this was the normal mode of marking a Christian marriage anyway.)

May I please urge you, if, like me, you believe there must be change, to write to Bishop Viv to say so. Please assure her of your prayers. Please encourage others you know to do the same and ensure folk in our churches are aware and praying.

*Fr Paul*

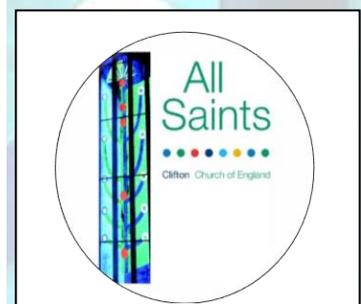
#### Contact us

Office 01179741355  
Web [www.allsaintsclifton.org](http://www.allsaintsclifton.org)  
Email [office@allsaintsclifton.org](mailto:office@allsaintsclifton.org)  
Address 68 Pembroke Road, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 3ED

Vicar Fr. Charles Sutton  
Mobile 07785912663  
Associate Priest Fr Paul Hawkins



Home 0117 9078088  
Email [charleses@me.com](mailto:charleses@me.com)



## The Season of Epiphany

The Feast of the Epiphany is observed on January 6th. It goes by other names in various church traditions. Epiphany comes from a Greek word meaning, “showing forth, appearance, manifestation, revelation.” On January 6th we recognize the Manifestation, or revelation, of Christ to the Gentiles—the good news that Jesus revealed God to all people.

Epiphany is the climax of the Christmas Season and the Twelve Days of Christmas, which are counted from December 25th until January 5th. The day before Epiphany is the twelfth day of Christmas, and is sometimes called Twelfth Night, an occasion for feasting in some cultures. In the Netherlands the rowdy and boisterous celebrations of Twelfth Night were so out of hand they were banned by the church.

The Feast of the Epiphany is followed by the “Sundays after the Epiphany”. The length of this season of Epiphany varies from four to nine Sundays, depending on the date of Easter for that year. A piece of Episcopal trivia – the last Sunday of the Epiphany season is called “The Last Sunday after the Epiphany” not the seventh Sunday after Epiphany!

The season of Epiphany has several important Holy Days within it. The first Sunday after the Epiphany is The Baptism of Our Lord. January 18th is The Confession of St. Peter; the 25th is the Conversion of St. Paul; and February 2nd is the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple (also known as Candlemas – this is the traditional time to remove the Christmas decorations). Some minor feast days are Martin Luther King, Jr. (martyr) on January 15th (though observed in most states on January 19th); John Chrysostom (Bishop) on the 27th; Thomas Aquinas (Priest and Friar) on the 28th; Absalom Jones (Priest) on February 13th; and Martin Luther (Reformer,) on February 18th.

Candlemas (from Candle Mass), on February 2nd, takes its name from the candles carried at the celebration of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. It celebrates a ritual of Jewish law related to first-born sons. Luke 2 (21-40) tells us how Mary and Joseph carried out this ritual, and how Anna and Simeon honoured the baby Jesus as the promised Messiah. White is the colour for the Feast of the Epiphany and the days up to and including the next Sunday, which is the Baptism of our Lord.

The best-known symbols of Epiphany are the ‘three wise men’ and ‘the star’. The story of the magi is found only in Matthew (2:1-12). Magi were people who studied the movement of the stars to interpret their meaning. They were Gentiles, not Jews and we should remember that number and gender is not specified in scripture. The single star that the magi followed recalls the manifestation of Christ to the world. Themes of Epiphany are Baptism, Jesus is the light of the world who helps us to see better, Jesus came into the world for all people; and discipleship. The study of spiritual gifts is also very appropriate in Epiphany because of the connections between Baptism, the gifts of the Magi and discipleship.





## Aelred of Rievaulx (1110 – 1167)

Feast Day 12 January

### A NATIVE NORTHERNER

Aelred was born in 1110 to Anglo-Saxon parents. His father, Eilaf, was hereditary priest of the church of St Andrew, Hexham, which was associated with some of the great Anglo-Saxon saints of Northumbria, to whom Aelred was deeply devoted throughout his life. A talented and pious boy, at about the age of 14 he entered the service of King David I of Scotland. Aelred rose to become the king's seneschal, or steward, undertaking diplomatic missions on his behalf. It was during a mission to Archbishop Thurstan of York in 1134 that Aelred learned of Rievaulx Abbey. Reforming Cistercian monks had arrived there just two years earlier under the leadership of Abbot William. The rigour of the monks' life inspired Aelred to seek admission to the community.

### AELED THE MONK

Aelred rapidly adjusted to the monastic life. Walter Daniel describes how he excelled at prayer, study and manual labour – the three pillars of the monastic day. His experience at the royal court of Scotland also proved valuable to Abbot William, who in 1142 chose Aelred to act as an emissary to the pope in Rome.

On his return to Rievaulx, Aelred was appointed as the abbey's novice master, with responsibility for the care and instruction of young men preparing for life within the cloister. Aelred wrote a guide for novices, *The Mirror of Charity*. It vividly evokes the physical hardships and spiritual rewards of life as a Cistercian monk:

*Our food is scanty, our garments rough; our drink is from the stream and our sleep upon our book. Under our tired limbs there is a hard mat; when sleep is sweetest we must rise at a bell's bidding ... self-will has no scope; there is no moment for idleness or dissipation ... Everywhere peace, everywhere serenity, and a marvellous freedom from the tumult of the world.*

### ABBOT OF RIEVAULX

In 1143, Aelred was appointed abbot of Revesby Abbey, a newly founded Cistercian monastery in Lincolnshire. However, he was destined to greater things and in 1147 was recalled to Rievaulx to serve as its third abbot. Over the next 20 years, the already thriving monastery became a religious, cultural and economic powerhouse.

According to Walter Daniel, Aelred 'doubled everything', the size of the community reaching 640 men. The name of Rievaulx became famous at the royal courts of England, France and Scotland and to popes in Rome. The monastery attracted recruits from across Europe. These included men who had struggled to settle at other monasteries. In Aelred, they found a loving and compassionate father and were able to fulfil their monastic vocation. Walter Daniel and his brother monks held their abbot in such esteem that they called him 'our Aelred'.

Aelred oversaw the construction of many of the abbey's buildings, including its enormous church, chapter house, novices' chamber, monks' infirmary and cloister. The latter was at the heart of the monastery and was a place of silence and contemplation. Aelred's own words give an idea of the spiritual contentment of Rievaulx's monks in their cloister:

The day before yesterday, as I was walking the round of the cloister of the monastery, the brethren were sitting around forming as it were a most loving crown ... I found no-one whom I did not love, and no-one by whom, I felt sure, I was not loved. I felt such joy that it surpassed all the delights of the world.

The Mirror of Charity

### **AUTHOR AND PREACHER**

As well as being an inspirational monastic leader, Aelred was also a prolific author. His writings include saints' lives, histories, guides to the monastic life and theological works. Thirteen works by Aelred are known to survive and his writings feature prominently in a late 12th-century catalogue of Rievaulx's library. He is best known for his book *On Spiritual Friendship*, which presents an ideal of friendship that people still find inspirational to this day.

*No medicine is more valuable, none more efficacious, none better suited to the cure of all our temporal ills than a friend to whom we may turn for consolation in time of trouble, and with whom we may share our happiness in time of joy.*

*On Spiritual Friendship*

The abbot was also a talented preacher and in 1163 delivered a sermon at Westminster Abbey when the relics, or remains, of St Edward the Confessor were moved to a new shrine.

### **A GAY ICON**

Recently, some historians and theologians have found evidence in Aelred's writings to suggest that he was emotionally and physically attracted to other men. Aelred lived in a very male world and he is known to have been sexually experienced before becoming a monk, though whether this was with men or women is not recorded.

When training to be a monk, Aelred was so troubled by desires of the flesh that he would immerse himself in freezing water. However, he strictly adhered to his vow of chastity and he abhorred any form of sexual contact between monks. The love Aelred expressed for his monks in his writings was purely spiritual.

LGBTQ+ Christians find inspiration in Aelred's writings, holding the saint in special esteem, and debate about his sexuality continues. Aelred would doubtless have wished for this topic to be discussed in a spirit of friendship.



The ruins of Rievaulx Abbey on the River Rye in North Yorkshire.



# Foster a future life-changer!

## Could you be part of the journey of a future guide dog?

You could help our dogs by providing them with a loving home during the evening and transporting them to training school in the morning. A perfect role for a dog lover with some time on their hands.

“

We get to experience taking care of a dog, but without the expense that comes with owning one.

”

Gillian - Fosterer

Start your fosterer journey today at:

[guidedogs.org.uk/fosterer](http://guidedogs.org.uk/fosterer)



The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity in England and Wales (209617), Scotland (SC038979) and Isle of Man (1334). GDO364 09/22

## Be part of something amazing

Whoever you are, whatever you want to do, we've got something for you.

## Directly supporting people who have sight loss

Whether it's popping to the shops together or just strolling in the park, you could help give freedom, confidence and independence to someone with sight loss. Not bad for a few hours a week.

## Be part of something special

You'll join an amazing community and meet wonderful people. Not only could you build relationships that could last a lifetime, being a sighted guide is also a great way to get out and about, keep fit and healthy and boost your wellbeing.

## Gain memories that last a lifetime

When we say that volunteering with Guide Dogs is life-changing, we're not just talking about the people we support. You'll gain new skills, give back to your local community and create memories that you genuinely couldn't find anywhere else.



“

We hit it off straight away – luckily we both had the same interests. We would go to the cinema, cafes, go walking to the shops and things like that.

- Jan

Find out more at [guidedogs.org.uk/volunteer](http://guidedogs.org.uk/volunteer) or chat to us at [volunteer@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@guidedogs.org.uk)

The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity in England and Wales (209617), Scotland (SC038979) and Isle of Man (1334). GDO364 09/22

**All Saints**  
 Thursday evenings at...  
**THE ALMA**  
 Tavern & Theatre  
 Join us at the All Saints table in the Alma Tavern for a drink and a chat  
 Every Thursday at 8pm onwards

All Saints Parish Office  
 01227 874 5276: [www.allsauntsparish.org](http://www.allsauntsparish.org)

The Alma Tavern & Theatre  
 28-30 Alma Vale Road, Colyton, Bideford  
 01227 875 1075  
[www.almataverntheatre.co.uk](http://www.almataverntheatre.co.uk)

Don't forget Thursday Nights at the Alma Tavern.

Pop in for a drink, a chat and some company at the All Saints table any Thursday evening from 8.00pm.

## The All Saints Bar

Since post pandemic re-opening last June, the bar has played an important part in re-establishing the social life of All Saints. But why do we need the All Saints Society to run it some ask. Well the simple answer is that if you sell alcoholic drinks you need a licence. So, some years ago we set up the All Saints Society to apply for and hold a 'club licence' on behalf of the church in order legally to sell drinks. Anyone can join the society – annual subscriptions are £1.50 for new members and £1 for existing and are now due for 2023. Our volunteers operate the after mass Sunday bar, at parish lunches and after festival masses. Over the years bar profits have provided financial support to the church and such things as kitchen refurbishment. We have an AGM in April when members decide bar prices and what to do with profits. All are very welcome at the bar. We offer a varied range of alcoholic and soft drinks. Why not come up to the Randall Room after Mass and meet friends old and new. We very much look forward to seeing you. You are very welcome.

Janice Hopkins - Bar steward



**The ASC Walks are now on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month.**

Our next Walk is on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January**. It will be led by Tim Dowling, taking us up on the Downs. We will leave the church at **10.45**.

Our 11<sup>th</sup> February walk is with Clifton Down Community Association. It will be lead by Steve England, and we will go to Severn Beach on the train. There are always a lot of interesting things there in terms of wildlife, geology, local history etc.

**We will meet at Clifton Down station and take the 11am train to Severn Beach. CDCA will pay Steve but ask people to pay their own train fares.**

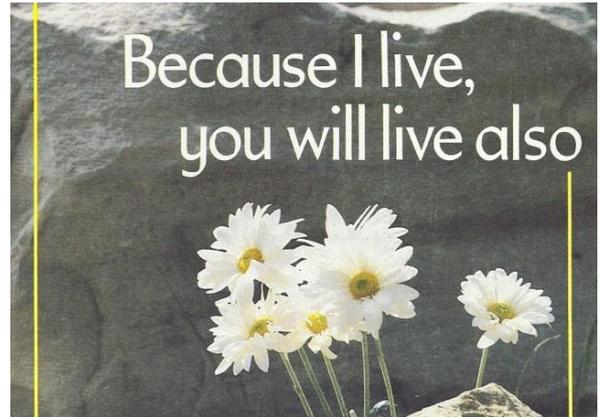
Contact: [georginaharford@hotmail.com](mailto:georginaharford@hotmail.com) 07767 746168

## 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 who we remember in our Prayers

**Sunday** Tabitha Clark, Ruth and Richard Harding, Katie Norman, Neal Gordon, Jean Callow, Joyce Shepherd, Cynthia Ashford Sarah Bradley Sue Hilliar Steve Cooper Ruth Marson Valerie Donkin Alexander and his family Ryan Lindsey

### **Monday**

**Tuesday.** Diana Verity

**Wednesday** , Katrina and Katherine King, Philip Miles, Samantha Tucker, Hugh Farry, Ros Hawkins

### **Thursday**

**Friday** Charlotte Hopkins, Andy & Gina Ford, Elisabeth Morgan, Caroline Semon

### **Saturday**

## The Departed

Drusilla Esam Peter Butterfield Molly Sharpley James Johnson-Brown  
Jane Selby Rio Fisher Audrey Huntley

## Years' Minds - this week we remember

Molly Micheal Cliff Hawkins Jack Ashford Elizabeth Ralph Anne Hurst Donald Hawley  
Mervyn Stockwood (Bp) Kenneth Biggs Clara Henderson

# ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

Mon 9	Pray for all those who work in the broadcasting industry. Television and radio (and on-line streaming) are hugely important in bringing news and entertainment to all. Pray for those whose main connection with others is through TV and radio.
Tue 10	<b>William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1645</b> Pray for the Church of England and the Anglican Communion. Laud, as well as being a supporter of more catholic practice, worked to generate uniformity on the Church. Pray for our divided Church and the challenging debates and decisions on human sexuality.
Wed 11	<b>Mass 10.00am Mary Slessor, Missionary in West Africa, 1915</b> Pray for all who work on behalf of Women's Rights. Even today equality, justice and safety are not guarded in law for women. Pray for Christians in Nigeria who experience some of the most violent persecution in the world.
Thurs 12	<b>Aelred of Hexham, Abbot of Rievaulx, 1167 Benedict Biscop, Abbot of Wearmouth, Scholar, 689</b> Pray for the industrial areas of the NE – Teesside and Tyne and Wear. Areas that have seen huge change over the last decades and will continue to do so as global need for chemicals, oil, shipping, mining and steel change.
Fri 13	<b>Mass 10.00am</b> Pray for all those who look toward the coming year and are planning for the future – for businesses, families, individuals, our Church and this diocese
Sat 14	Pray for cavers, potholers and speleologists. Caving as a sport and for research reasons is increasingly popular; many locations are now tourist sites. Remember also those engaged in mine exploration and archaeological research.
<b>Sunday 15</b>	<b>Epiphany 2</b>  Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory;  <b>Early Worship 9.00am</b> <b>Parish Mass 10.30</b>

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](mailto:office@allsaintsclifton.org)

