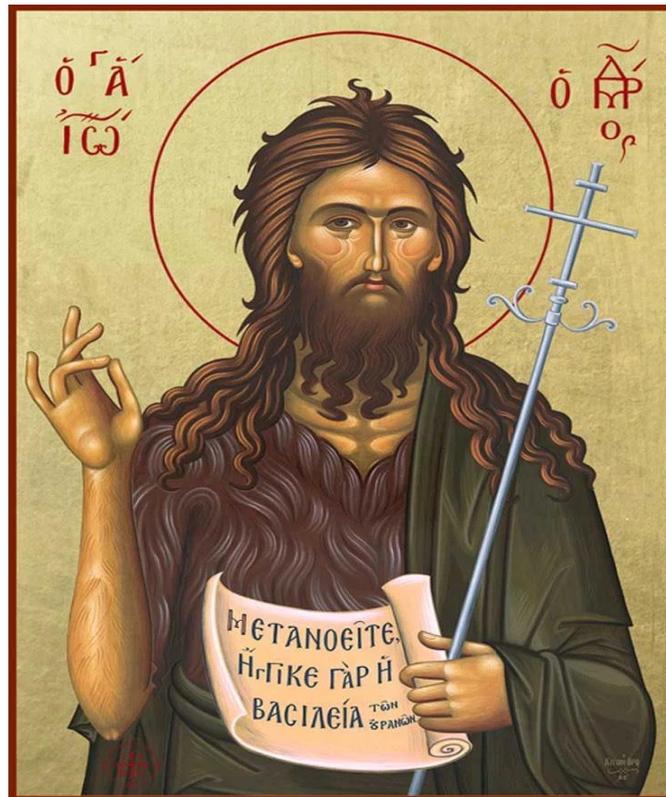


ALL SAINTS NEWS

25th June 2023
Trinity 3 Pr 7



John the Baptist *Feast Day: 24th June*

One of the most influential men in all of history is this man who lived in the desert. Who ate locusts and wild honey, wore clothes from camel's hair with a leather belt, and lived for one purpose alone – to point others to Jesus Christ - John the Baptist.

You've probably heard stories of him, or know some interesting facts about his life and ministry. But in this age where so many are driven to seek hard after success, recognition and fame, his life seems to be in direct contrast to how the world calls us to live out today. The passion that fueled his life compels us to look more closely and to learn from the heart of this wise, powerful soul.

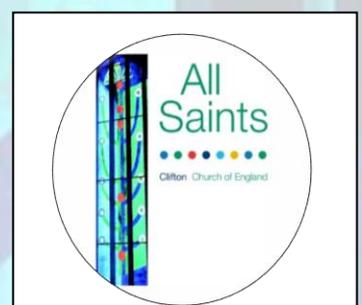
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Below are 5 features of John's life which can offer us something for our lives today.

God calls John

God knew exactly when John needed to be born, though it didn't make sense to his parents at the time, Elizabeth and Zechariah. But God had a purpose for John. He knew that John needed to be the forerunner of Christ at this specific time in history. He even planned the family John was born into, being a relative to Jesus himself! In that very significant visit of Mary to Elizabeth's home to announce her own miraculous pregnancy, the Bible says that *"the baby leaped in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit"* (Luke 1:41). Even before his birth, John's purpose was being aligned. God was calling.

God has a specific calling and purpose for our lives today.

John was obedient

Zechariah had a time of doubting, but ultimately embraced the clear calling on John's life and honored the words given to him and Elizabeth by the angel Gabriel. The Bible says Zechariah prophesied these words over his precious child, *"And you my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High, for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins..."* (Luke 1:76-77) The passage goes on to say that John *"...grew and became strong in spirit and he lived in the desert until he appeared publicly to Israel"* (v. 80). John stepped in to his calling and led a life of obedience. He took time to grow spiritually and to focus on God to prepare for his ministry. In doing so he was able to speak with great passion and clarity for the people of that day.

We are invited to join in with what God is doing, despite our weaknesses.

John walked in the desert

John embraced a simple life, as already alluded to. He lived off locusts and wild honey and wore the most basic of clothing. He lived in the desert. It can't have been easy. And yet the clarity of his call and the strength of the Lord enabled him to survive and live in these conditions. Because whilst it wasn't easy, there was nothing else to distract him from this focus. The metaphor of living in the desert may apply to our own lives in having lost something or someone held dear: be it work, a loved one, good health, a happy home... sadly we all experience desert times. John's life in the desert is a reminder of God's presence everywhere, in all seasons of life. And it is a reminder that God matters more than what others think of us, because he is not just present for a cup of tea, but is and will remain with us in it all.

God gives us the power to keep our heart and minds set on Christ, even in desert days.

John pointed to Jesus

John's mission was clear. He proclaimed the coming of the kingdom of heaven, called people to repentance before the Lord and baptised them. He remained in the Desert of Judea and people came to him from Jerusalem, all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. However, he preached of nothing to do with himself. He preached of a Saviour who was coming, saying to those that came to him: *"I baptise you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."* (Matthew 3:11) All that John said and did was in order to point to Jesus. He was a man of great humility, deeming himself unworthy of carrying Jesus' sandals, and yet even Jesus came to John in order to be baptised.

Our mission in this life is to point others to Christ.



John was courageous

John was not afraid of the religious or political leaders of his day. He saw beyond their exterior into the deeper heart, seeing how far away from God they were. He didn't live to people-please but spoke the truth with clarity and passion; simply that all are in need of forgiveness. This truth led to John being imprisoned and ultimately being killed.

There were times in his imprisonment that even John, this great man of God, doubted if God was there. He wondered if Jesus was really the Messiah, the One who had come to set us free. Why was Jesus not setting him free? Yet, even in John's darkest hour, his very imprisonment paved a way for the One who truly sets us free.

Yet, even in John's darkest hour, his very imprisonment paved a way for the One who truly sets us free. And even in the heartless, cruel plot, John's death was not in vain. For to live for Christ, to speak truth, to point others to Him, is never in vain.

John completed his mission, to point others to our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Even when things don't make sense, even in the midst of suffering, tragedy, great loss, and even in death, Christ indeed is our Lord and King.

No matter what battles we face in this world, there is always true and unending freedom through Christ. He alone is our Hope and Deliverer.

[Some words taken from writings on John the Baptist by Debbie McDaniel]

Written by Lizzie Brothwood and Sophie Brown. Ordinands on placement at All Saints.



Thursday 29th June 2023

St Peter and St Paul, Apostles

Festival Mass

7.30pm

All Saints Arts 2023



Organ Matinées 2023
All at 4.00pm

- Sat 20th May – Matthew Redman
- Sat 24th June – James Drinkwater
- Sat 19th August – Andrew Kirk
- Sat 16th Sept – Tim & Henry Morris

Free Entry
Retiring Collection (cash or card)
Refreshments served after the concert

www.allsaintsclifton.org

The ASC Saturday morning Walks for Everyone are on the 2nd Saturday of every month.



Our next Walk is on Saturday 8th July.

Meet at ASC for a prompt 10.45 start.

Tim Dowling will take us for a walk around the meadow areas on the Downs.

Contact: georginaharford@hotmail.com 07767 746168



Pictures from
'An English Country Garden.'



The first of three Flower design to Music events was a resounding success attended by an enthusiastic audience. Some, flower arrangers eager to learn more about sustainable arranging others, enjoying the spectacle of beautiful flowers with a wonderful musical accompaniment.

Next event **Saturday August 12th**
Summer Flowers and Music.



Dedication Festival
2nd July 2023

Celebrate All Saints' 155th Anniversary
and
the 56th anniversary of the consecration and dedication
of this church.

Bring a picnic for your friends and family to eat in the All Saints garden and enjoy a glass of Pimms from the Bar, cash only please.





We invite you to join us
for our half termly

Lunchtime Concert

Wednesday 28th June, 1.00pm
All Saints Church, Pembroke Road
Featuring soloists in Years 10 and 12

Open to parents, staff and the public.
For more information, contact Mrs Johnson, mjohnson@cliftonhigh.co.uk

Wednesday 28th June at 1.00pm

The last of this academic year's
Lunchtime Concerts
performed by young people
from
Clifton High School



**allsaintsarts
2023
All Saints
Church
Pembroke Rd**

**Saturday July 1st
4pm**

Ulrich Heinen
cello
formerly principal cello
City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra
with
John Humphries
piano

Bach - Schumann - Dvorak - Debussy

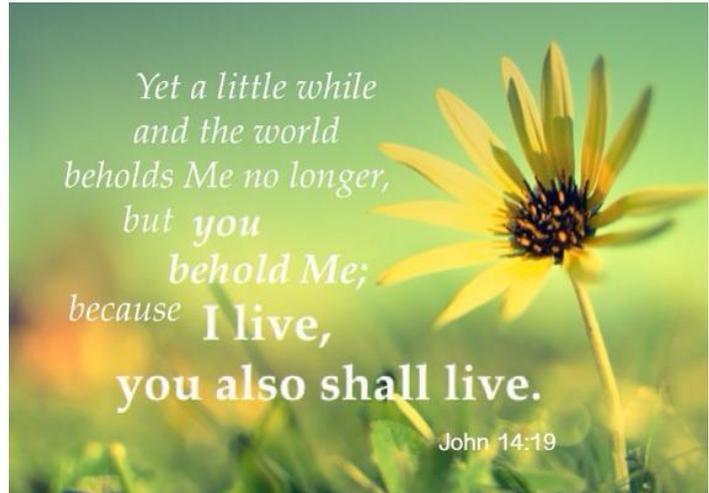
admission to concert matinées is free **retiring collection**
refreshments after the concert

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, Jocelyn and Jack Neal Gordon, Joyce Shepherd, Cynthia Ashford Sarah Bradley Sue Hilliar Steve Cooper Ruth Marson Ryan Lindsey Joanne Cooper Mary Greenacre Jocelyn and Jack Charlotte Essex Lorna Osbon Nadine Benn Andrew Casimir

Monday

Tuesday. Diana Verity

Wednesday , Katrina and Katherine King, Philip Miles, Samantha Tucker, Hugh Farry Shamin Azad

Thursday

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

Saturday

The Departed

Malcolm Davis Jeanne Callow Mileno Graca Rory Young Ros Hawkins Ron Gale Valerie Donkin Hugh Barron Chris Benton Hussein Lucus Helen Campbell Arnold Tyson

Years' Minds - this week we remember

Joan Tierney Robert Pyne (Pr) Cornelia O' Regan Susan Barnard Thomas Wiedemann Roy Shepherd Peter Hellier Gordon Lishman Harold Harding

ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Mon 26 | Pray for all those engaged in creating and promoting popular music. Song writers, composers, musicians, 'disc-jockeys', marketers, critics and TV contestants. All who have a power to influence the attitudes and behaviours of young people – that they may do this to the best of their ability. |
| Tue 27 | Cyril, Bishop, teacher of the faith, 444. Pray for those working in areas of religious polarization, that faith may become a point of human reconciliation and unity, rather than division. |
| Wed 28 | Mass 10.00am Irenaeus, bishop, teacher of the faith C. 200. Pray for those who teach in departments and colleges of theology, both as an academic discipline alone and in the training of priests. Pray for students at Trinity, especially those on placement with us this summer and those we will meet in the Autumn. |
| Thurs 29 | Mass 7.30pm Peter and Paul, Apostles. Pray for those who lead the church in mission and management, including those who work at Church House in Westminster. |
| Fri 30 | Mass 10.00am Pray for those who find this media allows them to lift spirit, communicate positively, find help and support. Pray also for those who are bullied or become overly focused on themselves. Social media has the power to do good and harm. |
| Sat 1 July | Henry, John and Henry Venn the Younger, Evangelical Divines, 1797, 1813, 1873 As the summer progresses thousands of people would have gathered for festivals and events to celebrate the arts, music and literature in all their diversity. |
| Sunday 2 | Dedication Sunday Trinity 4 Pr 8 We thank God for the witness of this place and its people over the last 155 years; and we pray for its continuing mission and ministry in the years to come. 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

