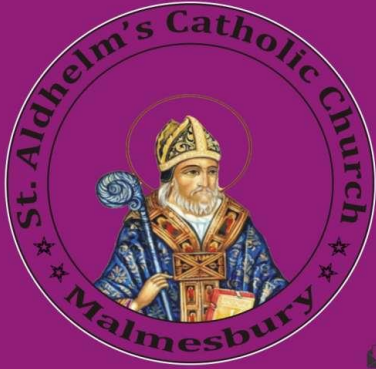


St. Aldhelm's Newsletter



Father Thomas Kulandaisamy MSFS
Deacon Steve Boughton



- www.saintaldhelms.com



- <https://www.facebook.com/saintaldhelm>



- Aldhelms RC Malmesbury



- malmesbury.staldhelm@cliftondiocese.com



- 01666 822195

26 Cross Hayes, Malmesbury, Wilts, SN16 9BG

III Sunday of Advent, 14 December 2025

Live Webcam Link for all our Masses

churchservices.tv/malm

To Make your Weekly Contribution Online

<https://www.saintaldhelms.com/donate>

New Parish Hall Project

saintaldhelms.com/new-

Wednesday Word

www.wednesdayword.org

St Joseph's School Website

[st-josephs-malmesbury.](http://st-josephs-malmesbury)

HAPPY ADVENT SEASON



[Rosary prayers Oct24.docx](#)



[Reflections for the
Mysteries of The Rosary
Oct24 \(1\).docx](#)

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Aldhelm's,

We hope you are ok wherever you are. We are delighted to be in touch with you through this newsletter.

We extend a warm welcome to all visitors and thank you for joining us in celebrating the Lord's love for us in the Holy Eucharist. There are no strangers here, just new friends you have not yet met!

Readings Summarised

Today's readings centre on the theme of rejoicing in God's saving action. Isaiah encourages the exiled Jews in Babylon to rejoice because God is about to liberate them and bring them home. The Responsorial Psalm echoes this hope as we sing "Lord, come and save us!" In the second reading, St James urges the early Christians to remain joyful and patient as they await the imminent return of Christ. The Gospel begins with Jesus inviting John the Baptist, who is imprisoned and burdened by doubts, to rejoice by letting go of mistaken expectations about the Messiah and recognising Jesus' healing and preaching as the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy. In the second part, Matthew shows Jesus paying exceptional tribute to John, praising his prophetic courage and affirming him as the Messiah's herald and the greatest of the prophets. Jesus calls the crowd to rejoice in John's greatness and faithful witness.

Christmas Offering

As you are aware, Christmas and Easter offerings go towards the upkeep and maintenance of the priest in the parish. Here are ways you can make this offering: You can write a cheque made payable to 'Thomas Kulandaisamy', or you can also insert cash into any envelope or the envelopes kept at the church porch for this purpose and deliver it through Presbytery door, or brought with you when you come to any of the Christmas masses or any other mass and put in the collection bags. Alternatively, you can use our Dona payment method using our website or the machine in the church porch: saintaldhelms.com/dona Thank you in advance for your support and contribution.

Christmas Cards

Christmas cards featuring our parish church, beautifully designed by Anna Longridge, are now available. You can purchase them from the display in the church porch, perfect for sending Christmas greetings to family and friends!

Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated on Monday, 22nd December, at 6:00 pm. Please do take this opportunity to prepare yourselves spiritually for the celebration of Christmas.

St. Joseph's School News

New Headteacher Appointed - governors were successful recently in recruiting a new headteacher for St. Joseph's. Mr. Nick Morrell is currently deputy head at Beaudesert Park school in Michinhampton and prior to that held the same post at Westminster Cathedral Choir school. He is also a trustee of Clifton Diocese on the Schools and Colleges committee. He will be taking up post after the February half term.

RE Inspection - St. Joseph's was recently inspected by Clifton Diocese and is delighted to report that the overall grading for the school was 'Good'. The school was graded 'Outstanding' in the category of Catholic Life and Mission. Congratulations to staff, governors and pupils for this very positive outcome.

End of Term Mass - this will be held in church on Wednesday 17th December at 10am. All parishioners as well as parents of children at the school are warmly invited to join pupils and staff.

Collection figures

Loose	£139.51
Env NGA	£ 30.00
Env GA	£ 30.00
Home Missions	£ 251.70
Repository	£ 6.50

Spiritual Adoption of Unborn Babies

As Christmas is approaching so is the birth of our spiritually adopted children. We will celebrate this very special occasion on Sunday, 28th December at 10.00 Mass which will be offered for the intention of our new born babies and their families. Everyone is welcome to join us to thank God for these lives and pray for their future. With this Mass we end our Spiritual Adoption programme for this year. If you would like to hear more about the subject contact Dora on 07448573976 or e-mail: dorota.smer@gmail.com

Retrouvaille helps marriages. It can bring hope and healing to relationships.

Next date: 12th February 2026.

retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296983

Parish History Book – Copies Available

Last weekend, we formally released our new parish history book at all Masses, and each parish family received a complimentary copy. If you were unable to be with us, please don't worry, copies are available for you to collect from the porch.

Additional copies are also available for a suggested donation of £10 to help cover printing and publication costs, and any extra contributions are gratefully appreciated. The book makes a thoughtful Christmas gift, especially for family and friends with ties to our parish. Thank you for your support, and

we hope you enjoy this special record of our parish story.

Mrs Regina Danek RIP

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Mrs Regina Danek, RIP. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family at this time. Her funeral service will take place on Tuesday, 16th December, at 11:00 am at St Aldhelm's.

Missio Red Boxes: If you have money in your Red Box please bring it in to be emptied well before Christmas so that the amount can be credited to this year's total.

Alpha Course, Volunteers Welcome

Plans are underway for an Alpha course running from January to March/April 2026, with Wednesday evening sessions (venue in central Malmesbury to be confirmed). Alpha is a relaxed and welcoming series of sessions exploring the basics of the Christian faith, where people can share questions, enjoy conversation, and reflect together over a simple meal.

The Abbey and Hope Church coordinators are working together to bring this to our town, and we are now inviting volunteers to support the course. We especially need help with catering and with prayer support. Rod will be coordinating the catering team, so if you can offer assistance with food preparation or serving on any of the evenings, your help would be greatly appreciated. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Rod: 0782 7777 988/ rodmccormick100@gmail.com.

Bishop Nicholas Hudson installed as the new Bishop of Plymouth

The Right Reverend Nicholas Hudson was installed as the Bishop of Plymouth at the Cathedral Church of St Mary and St Boniface, Plymouth, on the Patronal Feast Day of St Cuthbert Mayne, Saturday 25 November 2025.

Senior Catholic clergy, including His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía, Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, the Most Reverend John Wilson, Metropolitan Archbishop of Southwark and archbishops and bishops from England and Wales attended the Installation Mass.

The Bull of Appointment from Pope Leo XIV highlighted the Church's confidence in the appointment of Bishop Hudson: bccew.org.uk/rt-rev-ni

Recommended to use sign up for Christmas Masses

To help us manage numbers safely across all four Christmas Masses, and to follow our health and safety guidelines, we thought it would be helpful to use our sign-up feature.

Please be assured that signing up is not a requirement to come to Mass, everyone is most welcome. It is simply a way for us to gauge numbers, distribute attendance more evenly, and avoid crowding, especially as the Children's Mass and the 10am Mass on Christmas Day are usually very full.

If you are able, we kindly encourage you to consider one of the other Mass times. This will help us keep everyone comfortable, especially as access to the choir loft is limited while our hall project is underway and we can only accommodate a certain number in the church at any one Mass under health and safety regulations.

Below are the Mass times and the sign-up nuttons. If you can use the sign up button, it would be a great help to us in planning and ensuring a smooth and joyful celebration for all. We look forward to welcoming you and your family at the Christmas Masses this year.

Christmas Masses	Sign Up
Children's carols 5pm, Christmas Vigil Mass 5.30pm	
Carols by candlelight 7.30pm, Mass of midnight at 8pm	
25th Dec, Mass of Dawn at 8.30am	
25th Dec, Mass during the day at 10am	

Christmas Eve - Youth Carol Service 5pm and Mass 5.30pm

As we prepare ourselves during this time of Advent to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we'd be delighted to

welcome you to the Christmas Eve Carol Service 5pm and Mass 5.30pm, animated by young people of the parish.

Young people are particularly invited to share their joyful presence by participating in any of the roles below, for either the Carol Service or Mass or possibly both.

When parents initially sign up, their name and linked email will be used in place of the first young person they wish to sign up; additional names of siblings may then be added. Sign up for any role as a reader, musician or singer, should be complete by Sunday 14th December, allowing for timely distribution of readings and music and rehearsal at home.

Please also sign up any younger children who would simply like to carry a tea light (battery operated) to the altar during the offertory procession, so they are not missed out on the night.

This year we particularly need young musicians and singers!

Altar servers are always welcome to serve at any Mass.

Please note, there will be a rehearsal:

Sunday 21st December 11am (after 10am Mass).

Christmas Eve arrival timings:

Musicians: 4.30pm

Singers: 4.45pm

Readers for Carols and Mass: 4.30pm

Welcoming, Offertory Procession, or Offertory Collection: 4.45pm

Altar Servers: 4.30pm (Carols start 5pm)

We look forward to your participation in this joyful celebration!

[Christmas Eve - Youth Animated Carol Service 5pm and Mass 5.30pm](#)

[Sign Up](#)

24th December

[Altar Servers](#)

[Welcomers](#)

[Musicians](#)

[Singers](#)

[Readers of Carol Readings](#)

[Readers of Readings in Mass](#)

[Readers of Prayers of the Faithful \(in Mass\)](#)

[Lighting the Advent Wreath Candle](#)

[Taking up the Offertory Gifts of Altar Breads, Water and Wine](#)

[Taking up the Offertory Collection \(with parental support\)](#)

[Carrying a Tealight/Candle \(battery operated\) in Offertory Procession](#)

Masses Requested:

13 Oct Sat 6.30pm: Private Intention

14 Oct Sun 8.30am: Missa pro populo

14 Oct Sun 10am: For the living and the dead (offered by Catherine Doody)

Uncover the treasures of faith:

"Faith and charity go hand in hand. As we grow in understanding, so too do we grow in love, with a profound sense of God's love calling us to live and share that love with others. The relationship between faith and charity is not just theoretical; it manifests itself in how we act toward others. Faith allows us to see others as God sees them, and charity compels us to serve them in love, especially those most in need." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1822)

PS: Newsletter items to be in by Thursday noon (malmesbury.staldhelm@cliftondiocese.com)

With every blessing

Father Thomas, Deacon Steve, and Deacon Remi

DEPARTMENT FOR ADULT EDUCATION AND EVANGELISATION



A FUTURE full of

HOPE

LIGHT of Truth

*Clifton Diocese in
partnership with
'Light of Truth'
are offering
'What is Prayer?'*



Light of Truth

Catholic Faith Formation for Everyone

Join us on:

9 January 2026

*7pm to 8pm for an
online session where
we will discover what
prayer is, how to
pray and why it is
important to pray.*

*To register, please
click on the Zoom
link found on the
Light of Truth
website:
[www.lightoftruth.uk/
join](http://www.lightoftruth.uk/join)*



WHAT IS PRAYER?

 **CLIFTON
DIOCESE**
cliftondiocese.com

Safe Spaces



is an **independent** and
confidential support service
for adults who have been
abused by someone in the
Church.

If you have been affected,
however long ago, Safe Spaces
can support you.

Call our free helpline

 **0300 303 1056**

 **safespaces@firstlight.org.uk**

Opening hours
Mon- Fri- 9am-9pm
Sat- 9am-1pm
Sun- 1pm-5pm



WWW.SAFESPACESENGLANDANDWALES.ORG.UK

List of items you might consider contributing towards their purchase

As many of you know, our parish hall project is now underway. Although the builders have begun the work, progress has slowed slightly due to a delay in the steel delivery.

We are now at a stage where a few essential items, the practical, everyday things that will allow the hall to function smoothly from the moment it opens – will eventually need to be purchased. These items were understandably expected to be handled separately from the main build, and they are the sorts of things that turn a finished structure into a welcoming, working space for our parish community.

With this in mind, we wanted to reach out to you. Some parishioners prefer contributing towards specific items, and so we are sharing a list, with the cost of each. We'll be very grateful if you're able to sponsor an item in full, contribute towards part of it, or simply offer a small donation. Every contribution, however modest, makes a real difference. If you know of any friends, family members, or businesses who might like to support us, please do feel free to pass this message on.

As you can appreciate, it is often the final stretch that tests a community's resolve. Yet, for a parish of our size, it is truly inspiring to see how far we have come, through the hard work, generosity, and commitment of so many. Each one of you has played a part in bringing us to this moment, and for that we are profoundly grateful.

If you would like to talk about anything, ask a question, or clarify details, please do not hesitate to call, email, or simply reply to this message. And if you can help us spread the word, that too would be greatly appreciated. Thank you, from the heart, for your continued support, kindness, and faith in this project.

List of items you might consider contributing towards their purchase

Item	Cost
AV System	£5,752.00
Intruder alarm	£3,348.00
CCTV	£1,428.00
Live feed camera	£3,291.00
Vehicle charging point	£2,300.00
60 Chairs	£4,968.00
7 Tables	£ 858.00
Flat screen TV	£ 3,000.00
Extendable screen	£ 478.00
Projector and stand	£2,144.00
Committee room tables and chairs	£ 999.00
Carved wood statue of Our Lady and Child	£ 3,800.00
Sharp combination microwave oven	£ 399.00