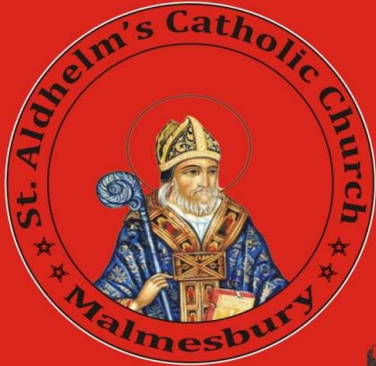


St. Aldhelm's Newsletter



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

Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, 14 Sep 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)


>> philippians 4:13 <<

I can do all things through Christ
which strengtheneth me.

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.

 [Rosary prayers Oct24.docx](#)

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

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 this Sunday

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, celebrated on 14 September, is one of the twelve great feasts honouring Christ. It recalls the dedication of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in 335, where the relics of the true cross, discovered by St Helena in 326, were first installed. The relic was later seized by the Persians in 614 but restored by Emperor Heraclius in 630. The cross quickly became an object of veneration, with early liturgies allowing the faithful to bow, touch, and kiss it. To this day, both Eastern and Western Churches celebrate this feast, the latter adopting it in the seventh century. Scripture readings highlight the significance of the cross: Numbers recounts God healing Israel through the bronze serpent; Philippians proclaims Christ's humility and obedience unto death; and John recalls Jesus' words to Nicodemus, explaining that, like the serpent lifted in the desert, He would be lifted up to bring salvation.

Collection Figures

Loose	£153.34
Env NGA	£ 21.00
Env GA	£ 10.00
Tiles	£ 75.00

25th Wedding Anniversary

We warmly congratulate Mary and Kieron Lillis on the occasion of their 25th Wedding Anniversary on 16th September. A Mass will be offered for their intentions on Sunday, 14th September at 10 am. May the Lord continue to bless their marriage with joy, peace, and many more years together.

Volunteers Needed – Our 'Holy Scrubbers'

A big thank you to David and Josie, who kindly lead the church cleaning team. They've long been affectionately known as our "scrubbers", but did you know they've recently been renamed the "Holy Scrubbers" (with invisible halos included)?

They could really do with a few more helping hands. If some young families were able to join in, it would be especially welcome, many hands make light work. If you'd like to help or find out more, please have a chat with David or Josie (01666826266). God bless them for their cheerful service

Mission Appeal – 13/14 September at St Aldhelm's

Next weekend, we welcome one of the **Missionary Sisters of England and Wales**, who will be visiting our parish as part of a diocesan-wide appeal across the St Aldhelm Deaneries.

The Sisters represent women religious from England and Wales who have been sent out in mission to different parts of the world. They will share a short reflection at the end of Mass, speaking about their work and the mission projects they support — including their own ministry with vulnerable and disabled children in London, and their retreat centre in Gloucestershire.

This is a wonderful opportunity to hear firsthand about the Church's missionary work and to support it in a small but meaningful way. A retiring collection will be taken after Mass to support the Sisters and the many missionary communities they represent. Your kindness and generosity will be deeply appreciated.

Prayers for Mary Familton

Your prayers are kindly requested for the good health of Mary Familton, one of our long-standing parishioners, who has not been too well recently. Mary, who is currently at Athelstan Care Home, celebrated her 104th birthday on Monday, 8th September. Please keep her and her family in your prayers at this time.

A note about parish hall build

During the build you are asked not to interfere with any of the builders fencing or equipment. In addition, please do not communicate directly with the builders or Mr. Nurden. If you have any urgent items that need to be communicated to them, please call Terry Fox or Brian Cuming. Day to day the build is controlled by our architect.

! Confirmation Update

After advertising and inviting applications for the Sacrament of Confirmation in May 2026, we sadly do not yet have enough candidates to form a group. With this in mind, we will postpone the next Confirmation programme until May 2027. We hope to reach the required number by then. Thank you for your understanding, and please keep our young parishioners in your prayers.

Formation Day for singing and music in liturgy

Holy Rood parish in Swindon have invited Jo Boyce with CJM Music to lead a formation day on all things to do with singing and music in mass and the liturgy. Jo is an extremely experienced musician and liturgist who works full time in church ministry. We'd like to extend the welcome to those of you involved in parish music ministry and music at mass in schools.

Date: Saturday 4th October 2025

Time: 11- 5ish

Venue: Holy Rood Primary School, Upham Road, Swindon SN3

For more details or to register, please contact Marguerite 07505 368

218/laudatemusicgroup@gmail.com

MARRIAGE HELP - Retrouvaille helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage. Next dates: 17th-19th Oct. retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 0788 7296983

Education Mass: The Diocesan annual Education Mass will be celebrated this year on Education Sunday. The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Bosco at SS Peter & Paul Cathedral, Bristol, at 6.00pm on Sunday **14 September**. The singing will be led by the pupils of Downside School. Everyone is welcome to attend this special Mass, particularly teachers, pupils, governors & anyone else who is involved in our schools & colleges in any way. Catholic education is a wonderful achievement – and so should be celebrated!

Singles Coffee Time: 10am till 12.00am on Saturday 13th September, Malmesbury Abbey

It is a chance to join a new group of single people - who for whatever reason find themselves on their own.

The group, instigated by a few from Hope Church, are meeting for the first time to chat and to think of things to do socially together - such as going out for walks, going to the theatre or an event, or just meeting for coffee or lunch together!

Do just come along and say Hi if this is something that interests you. Members of the other churches in Malmesbury are also invited.

SECOND COLLECTION, HOME MISSION SUNDAY , 21 September 2025

On Home Mission Sunday we pray for the work of evangelisation in our countries and reflect on our response to the Lord's invitation to share our faith. Parishes are invited to have a second collection for the work of the Home Mission desk of the Catholic Bishops' Conference which exists to support evangelisation nationally. The staff advise dioceses, parishes, movements, and Catholic organisations and offer a range of resources.

Ordination of Remi Thivet to the Permanent Diaconate, Saturday 20th September

After four years of preparation and formation, Remi Thivet will be ordained a permanent deacon at Clifton Cathedral on Saturday 20th September at 11am.

We have organised a coach to take parishioners to the ordination, with around 45 seats available. The coach will depart from here at 9.15am, allowing plenty of time to arrive, settle in. If those who sign up can be ready in the churchyard by 9am, it will greatly help with boarding and preparations.

If you wish to travel on the coach, please sign up only if you are certain you can attend, so as to avoid confusion or last-minute cancellations (except of course for serious reasons). Please keep Remi, Frances, little Agathe and Clément in your prayers as they prepare for this beautiful moment in their lives and the life of the Church.

[Sign Up](#)

[20th Sep Sat 11am](#)

Thanksgiving Mass for Rem, Sunday 28th September, 10am

We will celebrate a Thanksgiving Mass for Remi on Sunday 28th September at 10am, followed by a reception at the Town Hall. Once again, we would be grateful if you could sign up for the reception so we can plan accordingly. Your presence will be a great encouragement to Remi and his family, and a visible sign of our love, gratitude and support as a parish community.

[Thanksgiving mass and reception](#)

[Sign Up](#)

[28th Sep Sun 11.45am](#)

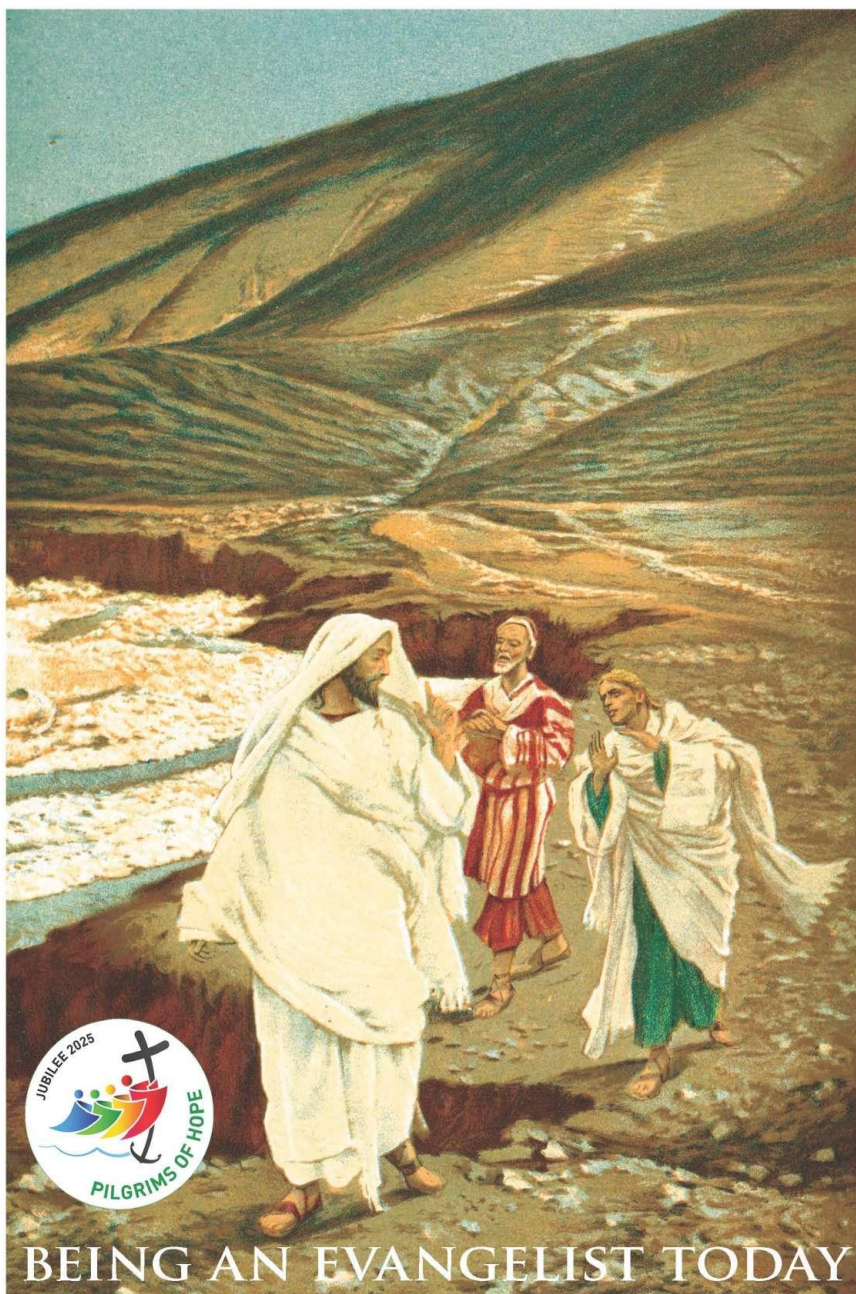
DEPARTMENT FOR ADULT EDUCATION AND EVANGELISATION



A FUTURE full of

HOPE

FORMATION DAY



BEING AN EVANGELIST TODAY

THE TOOLS REQUIRED TO BE A JOYFUL WITNESS OF JESUS

Our annual Formation Day will take place on **11 October** at **St. Brendan's College, Brislington**, with Mgr John Armitage (Parish Priest, Former Rector of the National Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham and Master of the Guild of Our Lady of Ransom) as our keynote speaker. He will be reflecting on the theme of **'Being an Evangelist Today: the tools required to be a joyful witness of Jesus'**.

In addition, there will be several workshop options for you to attend. You may choose two workshops when booking your ticket. Please bring a packed lunch for the day.

You can register on the Clifton Diocesan website (latest news) or on the Eventbrite link:

diocesanformationday.eventbrite.co.uk



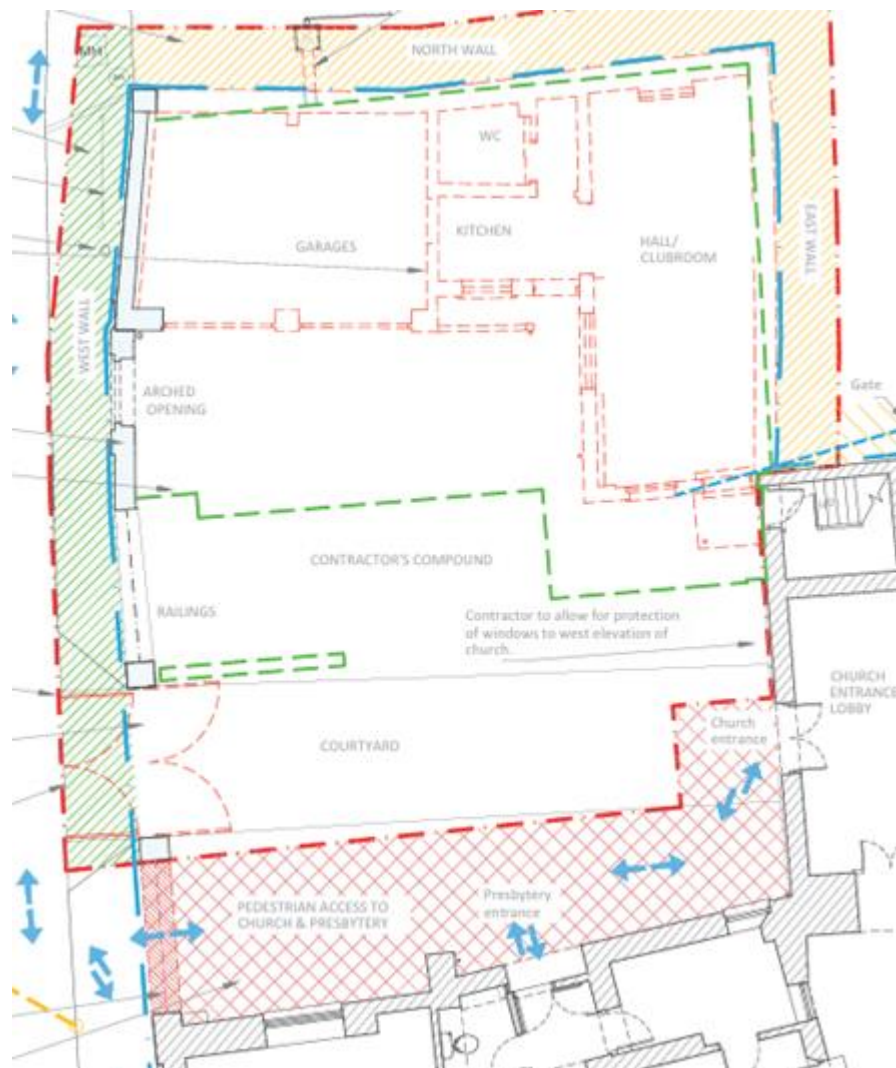
HALL UPDATE 21st August 2025

We are pleased to report that good progress has been made with our parish hall project, and we have met the conditions from the diocese to allow us to start the build. We have resolved the VAT issue with HMRC. Raised sufficient funds to make a start and agreed a firm price with the contractor.

Yesterday the 20th of August we have had formal approval to proceed. We still need £40,000 so we will continue to fundraise through events, our applications to donors and grant giving bodies. We will also continue to [sell tiles for the roof](#).

It is planned to start the build on the 1st September. We will at that stage lose the use of the clubroom and garages. Access to the choir loft will also not be available during the build.

We will lose most of the courtyard to the contractor during the build. Our access to the church will be via a path cut down adjacent to the presbytery shown crosshatched in red on the diagram below. The church will be open as usual. In addition we must be prepared dust and the noise in the courtyard.



Masses Requested:

13 Sep Sat 6.30pm: For the repose of the soul of Peggy (Margaret) Westman RIP (offered by Simon Westman)

14 Sep Sun 8.30am: Missa pro populo

14 Sep Sun 10am: For the intentions of Kieron and Mary Lillis as they celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary

19 Sep Fri 10am: For the intentions of MSFS priests who are in Annecy for Salesian Formation Program (offered by Sheila Stephens)

Uncover the treasures of faith:

"The Church's faith is the response to the grace of God who reveals himself in Jesus Christ. The faith of the Church is a communal faith. It is the common inheritance of the People of God who make up the Church." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 166*)

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

Please do join us for coffee on Sunday after 10am mass, and on Thursdays after 10am mass.

With every blessing

Father Thomas and Deacon Steve

Retreat Handouts for Weekly Reflection

During our annual retreat this year our preacher kindly provided a set of handouts, one for each talk, designed to support our personal reflection and prayer. Just sharing with you here in case you find them helpful for your own reflection and meditation.

Anger

'Calm your anger, and forget your rage
Do not fret, it only leads to evil
For those who do evil shall perish
The patient shall inherit the land.'
Psalm 36

'The nature of anger is such that when it is given room [brought out into the light]
it languishes and perishes, but if openly exhibited it burns more and more.'
John Cassian

'Turbid anger is calmed by singing of Psalms, by patience and by almsgiving.'
Evagrius Ponticus

'I was angry with my friend
I told my wrath
My wrath did end.
I was angry with my foe
I told it not.
My wrath did grow.'
William Blake

'When you have real eyes,
you realise,
where the real lies.'
Richard Rohr OFM

'Jesus, as the Lamb of God, takes [sin] away by transforming it, by taking it inside of him and not giving it back. An image can be helpful in explaining this: What Jesus did in his death, in the way he died in love, is analogous to what a water filter does. It takes in water that contains impurities, dirt, toxins, and occasional poisons. The filter does not simply let the water flow through it, as does an electrical cord; rather the water filter holds the dirt and toxins inside of itself and gives back only the pure water. In simple language, Jesus took away the sin of the world by taking in hatred and giving back love; by taking in anger and giving out graciousness; by taking in envy and giving back blessing; by taking in bitterness and giving out warmth; by taking in pettiness and giving back compassion; by taking in chaos and giving back peace; and by taking in sin and giving back forgiveness.' *Ron Rolheiser, The Passion & the Cross*

'REFUSE to RE-FEEL'
'REFUSE to RETAIN the thought.'
Fr John Doe, The Golden Book of Resentments

The Twelve Degrees of Silence - *Sr Marie-Aimée de Jésus OCD*

1. **Silence in words:** is to be as silent as Mary, who was able to hear the voice of the angel.
2. **Silence in actions:** silence in walking, softness in looking, gentleness in speaking.
3. **Silencing one's imagination:** The imagination with its emotions, vague impressions, fears and sadness. In solitude, the soul stays in silence.
4. **Silencing one's memories:** forgetting the past and live in a state of gratitude.
5. **Silence with others:** the soul must gently retire to the intimate depths of herself where Jesus will reveal himself to her.
6. **Silence with one's heart:** like a lamp flickering noiselessly at the tabernacle, such is love's silence.
7. **Silencing one's own self-interest:** a silence that stretches us beyond ourselves and our natural tendencies.
8. **Silencing the mind:** in solitude, silence obsessive thinking. In meditation, silence curiosity. In devotion, silence personal desires and plans.
9. **Silencing judgements:** abstain from judging people and things.
10. **Silencing the will:** This is the silence of the lamb that has been sheared. It is the silence of the cross.
11. **Silence towards oneself:** do not complain. Do not feel sorry for yourself. Forget yourself. Separate yourself from yourself. This is the most difficult of silences.
12. **Silence with God:** In the beginning, God said to the soul, 'Don't speak too much to others, but speak a lot to me.' Now God says to the soul, 'Don't talk to me any more.' Silence with God is to be united with God.