

Open Space

SAINT STEPHENS SOUNDWELL

FEBRUARY 2010

Open hearts and doors...

SUNDAY mornings will look and feel different for many of us from Easter. The new pattern of Sunday morning services will begin on Sunday, 11th April.

8.00am Holy Communion will be unaffected, but I want to remind you of the new opportunities later in each Sunday morning.

PARISH COMMUNION

in church from 9.30 – 10.30am.

I know this is likely to be the most difficult change for some, and I have asked Sandy Cooper to lead the team for our 9.30am Parish Communion service to deliver the best Parish Communion we can possibly offer.

It will be a traditional, sung communion service, finishing in just 60 minutes. If you need a lift to be sure of getting to church on time, let Sandy or me know. Café Central will be open in plenty of time for the end of this service.

CAFÉ CENTRAL

in the hall from 10am – 12.30pm

Throughout each Sunday morning, we aim to have a comfortable and relaxed Café space open for all comers in the church hall.

You will be very welcome to drop in for a coffee, snack and chat with friends at anytime until it closes at around 12.30pm at the end of the morning.

THE NEW 'NO LIMITS' SERVICE

in church from 11am – 12 noon

I have asked Liz Perry to lead this team. 'No Limits' will be new in style and content, as well as start time.

Anyone is free to attend this service, but don't expect it to be like Parish Communion, or even the old 'Church in the Hall'.

It will be created and led mostly by its own members (with careful guidance and supervision from some of us). It will be 'multi-media' and will include contemporary worship songs, actions songs, video, interactive sharing, short presentations and other teaching methods. There will be teaching groups for the children before and during this hour.

DEVELOPING THE CHURCH

The PCC unanimously agreed to make these changes in order to move St. Stephen's forward in our 'open hearts' and 'open doors' to people with no previous experience of church.

Doing this will develop our building by finishing the improvements and installing a much better audio/visual system.

It will also develop our church as we learn to love each other through these changes, grow in faith together, acquire new skills, and reach out to others with the Good News of Jesus.

PLEASE prayerfully support the 'Gift Day' to be held in February to raise funds for the building. Please also start praying in small groups for these next steps for St. Stephen's.

Our next Day of Prayer is on 17th March. Let's pray for the life and power of the risen Christ to fill and lead us all.

IAN WILLS, VICAR



VOLUME 2 Issue 1

Mission Partners with St Stephens:

Bristol City Centre Soup Run
Bristol/Uganda Link
Christian aid
Emmaus
Fair Trade
Frenchay Hospital Chaplaincy
Volunteers
Soundwell Community Trust
Stop the Traffik
International Justice Mission

We will hear more of these partners in future issues of Open Space

Open Space is usually published on the first Sunday of the month..

If you would like to publish something then please give it to: David Packe or post to 76 Snowdon Road, Fishponds BS16 2EJ or send an email to david.packe@btinternet.com. to arrive mid month preceding.

Thank You.

This IS Church – but not as you know it



Christian Aid's work in Haiti

A REPORT ABOUT ONE OF OUR MISSION PARTNERS



AN EARTHQUAKE easily measuring level 7 on the Richter scale, hit 15km south and west of Port-au-Prince, on 12 January, about 5pm local time.

It is considered to have been the strongest earthquake in Haiti for more than 200 years.

Christian Aid have a permanent office in Haiti and their building collapsed, and three people, including Christian Aid staff, had to be rescued from the rubble.

Following the rescue they worked tirelessly to help those who were trapped, injured or without a home or livelihood. The infrastructure was already fragile before the quake, and now there is widespread destruction of homes and schools, as well as critical damage to water and power supplies and road and transport systems. Many roads were impassable and required heavy lift or clearance equipment to clear them.

Thousands of people have been left homeless and are in continuing need of shelter, clean water, food and medicines.

Christian Aid's partners in Haiti are experienced in emergency response.

This is because of help given on other occasions of great need, following previous disasters, eg: hurricanes and resulting damage to life and property, which occurs frequently in this part of the world.

Christian aid workers and volunteers are now working around the clock to meet the needs of the people affected by this latest disaster.

Christian Aid released over £100,000 for the immediate costs of giving help to partners in the region in the first week of the emergency.

More money has and will be sent and you will be aware of the various emergency appeals which seek to address the massive need of Haiti.

Your support is invited so that our partners are able to continue to help the people of Haiti.

Eighty per cent of Haiti's population live below the poverty line. Even a small amount of money will help to maintain lives.

The average family income is less than \$2 a day, so even a £1 will help a family for a day.

Please help Christian Aid to pay for the cost of bringing help to these people.

Here are examples of what your contributions can achieve:

£7 could buy a tarpaulin to provide shelter.

£13.50 could buy baby kits including baby food for two weeks.

£18 could buy a food stamp, which will provide canned food, flour, rice, sugar and cooking oil for two weeks for a family of four.

YOU can give online at www.christianaid.org.uk or by telephoning **08080 004 004** using a credit or debit card.

A Prayer for the people of Haiti

LOVING GOD OF CREATION, at this time of much devastation, we hold before you the people of Haiti. When the damage is unimaginable, and the suffering seems overwhelming, remind us that every person affected is loved, and honoured and precious in your sight.

We remember all those who have been hurt; all who have lost their homes, their livelihoods and their loved ones.

Work through us to help bring healing to broken and distorted lives, peace to those who have been thrown into despair, light to those in darkness, and hope to those who fear. We ask this in the name of Jesus in whom all life and grace is found. Amen

Research by DAVID PACKE

Saint Stephens, has sent off a cheque for £1000 to Christian Aid on your behalf.

This payment is made possible only by the generosity of church members who contribute to our **'Famine Fund'**. Anyone can earmark a gift for this relief fund at any time. Just use an envelope and write **'FAMINE FUND'** on the outside.

QUICK FACTS ABOUT HAITI

Full name: Republic of Haiti
Population: 10 million (UN, 2009)
Capital: Port-au-Prince
Area: 27,750 sq km (10,714 sq miles)
Major languages: Creole, French
Major religion: Christianity
Life expectancy: 59 years (men), 63 years (women) (UN)
Monetary unit: 1 gourde = 100 centimes
Main exports: Light manufactures, coffee, oils, mangoes
GNI per capita: US \$660 (World Bank, 2008)

SNAPSHOT HISTORY

ALONG with the Dominican Republic, it occupies the island of Hispaniola, in the Greater Antillean archipelago. **Ayiti** (land of high mountains) was the indigenous Taíno or Amerindian name for the mountainous western side of the island.

Haiti has fearful social imbalance. There is economic disparity between the impoverished Creole-speaking black majority and the French-speaking minority, 1% of whom own nearly half the country's wealth.

Many native Haitians seek employ and a better life either in the USA or neighbouring nations, such as the Dominican Republic, where hundreds of thousands of Haitian migrants have settled.

The infrastructure is basic and insufficient. Criminals have corrupted the judicial system and the police.

Haiti is also poorly placed to deal with the tropical storms that often batter the island bringing destruction and loss of life. Deforestation has also left it vulnerable to flooding.

External agencies (such as the UN) administer the country to help give a semblance of function.

Haiti has a unique mix of historical, regional, and ethnolinguistic influence.

It was the first independent nation in Latin America, the first post-colonial independent black-led nation in the world, and the only nation to gain independence as a result of a successful slave rebellion.

Including Canada they are the only two independent states in the Western Hemisphere that have French as an official language.

Other French-speaking areas are overseas départements, or else collectivités, of France.

Reader with a viewpoint

MIKE HUDD has written about our plans to upgrade our church audio-visual system for the 21st century:

“Dear Open Space,

I see from the church notes that a big push will soon be taking place to extend and complete St. Stephen's audio-visual system. When this first appeared, I recall remarking to one or two others that this was just the way St. Peter's, Bishopsworth had been transformed.

No one I spoke to, however, seemed to have any idea what I meant! ... I know St. Peter's well, Jayne and I were married there, and we both still return to worship there on special occasions.

Just to give folks a rough idea of their changes...Large flat TV screens are secured to the pillars (the iron brackets double as candle holders), and the pulpit can be used, rather than being a screen stand.”

MIKE HUDD

MIKE suggests we go and have a look at their system in action to see the difference it makes for them.

It is certainly true that more and more mission-focused churches see that they have to invest in the future in these ways.

St. Stephen's needs to be a mission-focused church in order to guarantee its future on into this century.

IAN WILLS

G'day news of Wesley Owen Bookshop, Bristol

THE Wesley Owen Bookshop now trading in Park Street, is a 'descendant' of Bristol's first Christian bookshop which was founded by George Muller. (*Muller was also the founder of the old Muller Homes Orphanage at Ashley Down.*)

Recently there have been very real fears that this shop would close and churches in Bristol be without a local supplier of books and other church resources.

The Manager has sent us the following good news:

“Following the decision in November to put Wesley Owen up for sale, we are pleased to announce that a buyer has been

found for the Bristol store.

Australian Christian retailer 'Koorong' has purchased the store, along with a further seven others nationwide. Koorong are a family owned business, established in the late seventies, who now operate eighteen stores across Australia.

We are delighted that we will be able to continue our ministry in and around the city, and look forward to serving you well into the future.”

St. Stephen's has a book agency with Wesley Owen and we are glad to support them through our regular purchases.

IAN WILLS

FEBRUARY CYCLE OF PRAYER

Wc 1st Poverty and Homelessness week	Dave & Carolyn Hawkins, Robyn Hay, Joan Hayes, James Head, Candy Heart, Kathy Hedger, Ruth Henley	Anchor Road Baglyn Avenue Beazer Close
wc 8th Education Sunday National Marriage week	Pete & Josie Higgins, Stella Hoare Jim Hobbs & Betty Burgess Barbara Horne, Mike Hudd Cherilyn Hughes, Jean Hulbert	Birch Road Blackthorn Walk Bridge Road
wc 15th Bereavement Visitors	Martyn & Susan Humphrey Roger & Beryl Hurkett, Phyllis Hurst, Lou Jefferies, Janet Johns, Grace Jones	Canons Walk Champion Road Chedworth
wc 22nd Alpha Course Programme	Gordon Jones, Sue Kembrey Julian & Katy Kendall Joyce Kitteringham, Jenny Knowland Bill & Pat Lawrence, Sandra Lewis	Chestnut Road Chestnut Way Chiphouse Road

FEBRUARY DIARY

01 Monday	07.30pm	Baptism Preparation Meeting
03 Wednesday	10.15am 07.30	Holy Communion Marriage Preparation
05 Friday	07.00pm	Church Dinner
07 Sunday (2nd before Lent)	08.00am 10.30am 03.00pm 06.30pm	Holy Communion (Prayer Book) All age Family Communion Luke8:22-25 TEA SERVICE Common Worship Communion
08 Monday	07.30pm	Baptism Preparation Meeting
10 Wednesday	10.15am 07.30pm	Holy Communion Marriage Preparation Meeting
13 Saturday	09.30am	DAD & ME (for dads and their children)
14 Sunday (Next before Lent)	08.00am 10.30am 06.30pm	Holy Communion (Prayer Book) All age Family Communion Luke 9:28-36 Evening Prayer
17 ASH Wednesday	10.15am 07.30pm	Holy Communion 2 Cor 5:20-6:10 John 8:1-11 Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes
21 Sunday (LENT 1)	08.00am 10.30am 06.30pm	Holy Communion (Prayer Book) All age Family Communion Luke 4:1-13 HEART Evening
24 Wednesday	10.15am 07.30pm	Holy Communion Marriage Preparation Meeting
28 Sunday (Lent 2)	08.00am 10.30am 06.30pm	Holy Communion (Prayer Book) All age Family Communion Luke 13:31-end Evening Prayer

MARCH PREVIEW

03 Wednesday	10.15am	Holy Communion
07 Sunday (Lent 3)	08.00am 10.30am 03.00pm	Holy Communion (Prayer Book) All age Family Communion Luke 13:1-9 TEA SERVICE

E&OE

FROM THE REGISTERS FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY

Baptisms

10.01.10 Leah Louise and Lacie Mai
Tilling-Channon

Funerals

24.12.09 Doreen Pinnell
08.01.10 Brian Perry
23.01.10 Betty Williams

Marriages

19.12.09 Dan & Emma King

A thank you from the Sisters of the Church

December 2009.

Dear Friends,

THANK YOU so much for your wonderful donations for our Christmas bags which we give to the many needy people and families who call at our door.

We always appreciate the love and generosity shown in all that is given to us to pass on but, this past year especially, we know that much of what is given is sacrificial and for that we are truly grateful.

Every year we are overwhelmed by the generosity of the people who send us toys, food and gifts.

May Christ Jesus bless you all,

From Sisters Hilda Mary, Rosina,
Sue, Margaret.

(The full text of the letter can be seen on the noticeboard by the Church front door).

Open Space is available 'on-line' each month. Just go to the church website and on the home page click on the link to a PDF document which will download for you to read and or print off as you wish. In colour too!

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