Open Space

SAINT STEPHENS SOUNDWELL

KNOWING JESUS... MAKING JESUS KNOWN!

YOU ARE LOVED

AS I write, thousands of Year 6 pupils are sitting their 'SAT's, the culmination of four years of preparation for these tests.

YET these are tests which in the grand scheme of things matter not.

Yes, at the time and for the individuals and schools involved, they matter a great deal. No one wants to feel like they've not got to the standard they 'ought' to meet.

Pity the poor GCSE and 'A' level students whose exams will still be underway when you read this, hoping against hope that they will make the grade and earn their ticket to the next stage.

Because that's in essence what these summative assessments are. *A ticket to the next thing.*

And there seems to be such pressure for children and young people to know what career they want to pursue, so they can choose what subjects to do to get that ticket.

How many friends did you have when aged 14 who knew what career they wanted? Thinking at 14 about what I might want to do for 'A' levels, never mind whether I wanted to go to Uni, just did not compute.

But these are the pressures put on our children today.

Which seems ironic in an age where the expectation of settling into a job which would last until retirement seems like a relic of a bygone age.

Today we assume at least one mid-career shift. I have changed focus in my career several times– from working in banking to an 18–30 holiday rep, to recruitment to sales to engineering to printing to becoming a Priest!

I'm glad to say I got there in the end… but God has used every part of my journey and experiences in the role I do now. And I am just about to embark on another career change;but I know I will always be a Priest, as that is the shape God made me to be. How we start out is rarely where we end up.

– – –

THE only person who knows the end from the beginning is God.

He alone knows the path we'll take, with all its twists and turns along the way. And whatever twists and turns there are, none of them are wasted with him.

When Jesus picked his disciples, he did so knowing who and what they were and it all informed what fulfilling their calling to proclaim the Good News looked like.

Continued on page 2>

JUNE 2026

Mission Partners with St Stephens:

- Beloved
- Bristol Churches City Fund
- Bristol City Centre Soup Run
- Bristol Schools Connection
- Christian Aid
- Community of the Sisters of the Church
- Emmaus
- Harvest for The Hungry
- One25 Project

St Stephens

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CHARITY NUMBER 1131503

YOU ARE LOVED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The way they communicated, where they went, the roles they fulfilled in the early church.

No one was rejected because they hadn't passed GCSE Maths.

So, pray for our children and young people, that the pressure wouldn't get to them, and they would be free to spend as much time as they need to work out what they want to do next, and changing their minds as much as they need to.

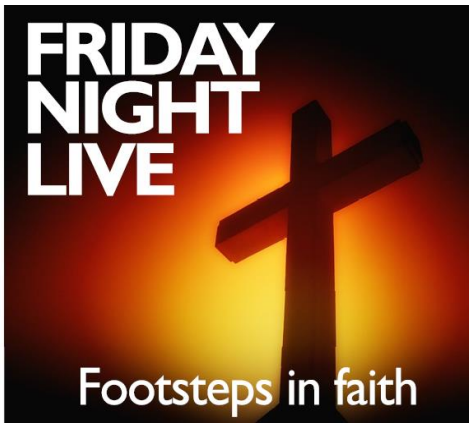
Pray that they would absorb the boosts and knockbacks, knowing that these don't define who they are as people or what they are worth.

Pray that they would know above all else that they are loved. **Just. As. They. Are.**

And finally, please pray for me and for my family.

Thank you and bless you.

Lisa x



19th JUNE

6.30PM in Church

Informal service for all ages followed by cheese & biscuits!

Tuesday 9 to 11.30am

9th & 23rd JUNE

Please note that under 17s must be accompanied by an adult).

IN OUR CHURCH ROOM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Chat

in the Church Room

2.30PM

(2PM for a cuppa)

JUNE

10th & 24th

JULY

8th & 22nd

BRING your Bible!

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

7.15pm to 8.15pm

WE meet in the Church Room for anyone who wants to join in with simply reading the Bible! Though the scriptures in the Bible are thousands of years old, they still hold immense power, wisdom and guidance for us today!

There is no set structure or any course work to worry about and **everyone** is welcome!

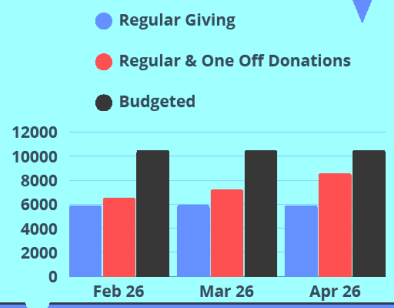
Our Church Financial Health

GIVING FOR APRIL

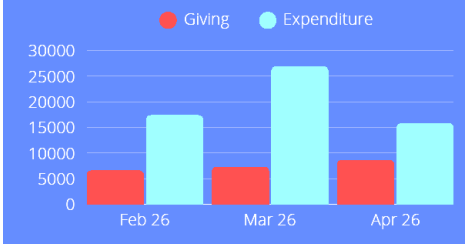
WHAT OUR GIVING NEEDS TO BE £10,500

GIVING RECEIVED £8573

Giving Last 3 Months



Giving v Church Expenses Last 3 Months



Join us for

COFFEE/ CHAT & COMPANY

11AM WEDNESDAY 3rd JUNE

*at the **Turnpike** on Soundwell Road.*

A time to be, be known, and be together.

CHANGES *during* Vacancy

THE VACANCY period is the time between when I retire and your next Incumbent (Vicar) takes up the post.

We may, **or may not**, have a Curate-in-Charge to lead us during the Vacancy period, that is still being worked out and we hope to know sometime during May.

Because of the shortage of priests, and therefore the difficulty in finding priests to lead our Eucharistic services, it has been suggested by the Archdeacon that we reduce some of the services we currently offer.

Archdeacon Christopher has therefore proposed and your PCC has agreed, that during the Vacancy:

- **8am BCP Holy Communion** *service will be paused completely* and;
- **10am Wednesday Parish Communion** will be held twice a month; *on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays.*

THE changes will be reflected in Open Space each month and will **begin from 14th June.**

I hope the dates below help you get started:

- **JUNE 7th:**
final 8am BPC Holy Communion ***'before being 'paused'.***
- **WEDNESDAYS:**
10am Holy Communion:
Services on June 3rd, June 10th plus June 17th *(the 17th being the first of the 'new' dates).*
Then July 1st & 15th followed by August 5th & August 19th.
(ie: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month)

Lisa x

Reminder!

NEW start time 7th JUNE

HAVE YOU ever noticed how lovely the inside of our Church looks?

I AM sure you are aware of the beautiful floral displays, for which we thank our lovely Flower Team.

However, rarely do you hear about the hard working CLEANING TEAM.

This small group of volunteers are regularly vacuuming, dusting and polishing in the inside of the Church.

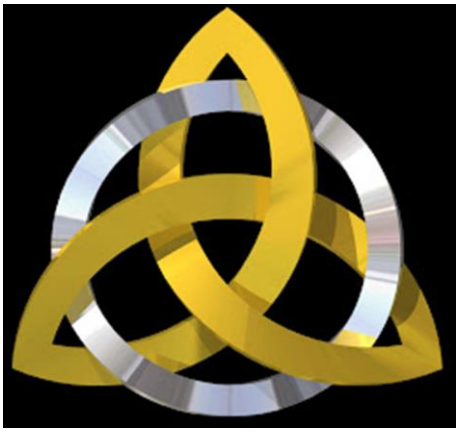
Unfortunately, just like so many of us, age is starting to take its toll and group members are feeling it is time for them to put down the brushes and dusters etc. over the coming months.

So, we are desperately seeking help from all you younger and fitter people to help us to maintain the sparkle in our Church.

If you think you could give it a go, please have a word with Gill Mayo or Jan Brookshaw.

Thank you!

READINGS & COLLECTS



SUNDAY 07 JUNE
1st Sunday after Trinity

Genesis 12: 1–9; Psalm 33:1–12
Romans 4:13 –end;
Matthew 9:9–13, 18-26

GOD OF TRUTH, help us to keep your law of love and to walk in ways of wisdom, that we may find true life in Jesus Christ your Son Amen.

SUNDAY 14 JUNE
2nd Sunday after Trinity

Genesis 18:1–15; Psalm 116:1, 10–17
2 Corinthians 9:6–10;
Luke 10:1–12, 17–22

FAITHFUL CREATOR, whose mercy never fails: deepen our faithfulness to you and to your living Word, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SUNDAY 21 JUNE
3rd Sunday after Trinity

Genesis 21:8–21; Psalm 86:1–10, 16–end
Romans 6:1b–11; Matthew 10:24–39

GOD OUR SAVIOUR, look on this wounded world in pity and in power; hold us fast to your promises of peace won for us by your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

SUNDAY 28 JUNE
4th Sunday after Trinity

Genesis 22:1–14; Psalm 13
Romans 6:12–23; Matthew 10:40–42

GRACIOUS FATHER, by the obedience of Jesus you brought salvation to our wayward world: draw us into harmony with your will, that we may find all things restored in him, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

WAYS OF GIVING TO GOD THROUGH HIS CHURCH

BEING 'Thankful and Grateful' to God for all that He has freely given to us, both in provision for all our needs AND in Jesus... means that we, like Him, become Generous people.

IT MEANS Generous with our time; Generous with our love; Generous in our speaking; Generous in our thinking; Generous in our ways; Generous in sharing what we have.

In other words, we become Generous, just as God is Generous with us. Our gratitude to God overflows into Generosity.

Your Church, which is not just me or the ministry team, but all of us as the Body of Christ in this place, are called to make Christ known and loved. To do that, here in Soundwell, in all the places we spend time, and also in reaching out to support others in need wherever that might be... that work does cost money.

Some of the costs are obvious to see, like the heating and lighting in Church and the maintenance of the buildings. Other costs like paying our 'Parish Share', means clergy are recruited, trained and provided to parishes, along with essential on-going training and resources that our Church needs to keep itself fresh, relevant – and growing.

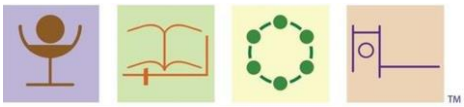
This building was paid for by our forebears many years ago. It is only still here today, because it has been carefully maintained by generations of faithful Christians here in Soundwell. Without our Generosity, the Church collapses. And with it, all the amazing work the Holy Spirit enables us to do in the Lord's name here, and further afield.

There are many ways to Give to God through your Church.

You can put money into the collection plates in Church or use the QR code displayed on the stands to give using a smart phone, or use the donations machine near the Font to give via a bank card or credit card or from your phone.

But, to enable us to budget and be secure in the knowledge we can pay our bills, we highly commend the first of these 2 options:

1) THROUGH THE
Parish Giving Scheme (PGS):



THIS is via a direct debit from your bank each month which enables you to give regularly and review annually and also means no scrabbling for cash or needing to remember!

2) USING THE
Special Collection Envelopes
THIS allows you to enclose your donation every week and just take them all to Church when you can.

For more details regarding the above, please contact either:

Lorraine Sanderson 0117 940 1829 or Lin Cooper on 0117 967 2621.

THERE IS ALSO the opportunity to support your Church by giving directly to pay our Community Chaplain's salary.

Elaine is not only God's gift to us, but also to the young people and their families in our community.

Please do speak with Lorraine about how you could give regularly to this aspect of God's Mission, through us, His Church, and via Elaine, to all His people in Soundwell.

WHEN we give the first and the best to God, He honours that with abundant blessings. It is true in every aspect of our lives, as well as with our finances.

He honours our giving with ensuring we end up having more than we believe possible. Please think about giving to God by regularly giving financially to your Church.

We are a charity that needs your support in many ways... your financial gifts are just one of those ways.

Thank you and bless you. **Lisa** xx

Thank you!

WE HAVE received an anonymous donation, which I, on behalf of the whole church would like to say a huge 'thank you' for.

So, to the person or persons who gave a gift towards the cost of Elaine's employment with us;

THANK YOU!!!
We are truly grateful.

Elaine is doing a super job as our Community Chaplain, reaching out and supporting the young people and families in our Parish in the name of Jesus. She is making a difference.

Are you able to support her financially too??

If so, please do seek out Lorraine (0117 940 1829) to find out how best to do this.

Thank you, again! **Lisa**

Church finances

WOULD you be interested in joining our team?

The Finance Committee is a sub group of the PCC and we meet every two months to discuss and monitor the Church finances, then feed back to the PCC.

The small group consists of a number of Church members all with a leaning towards anything financial, it is very friendly and we would welcome anyone who may be interested.

If you feel you are being called to join us, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Any questions you may have can be directed to the Ministers or myself.

We can't wait to hear from you!!!

Love and blessings
Lorraine Sanderson

Easy fundraising for St Stephens

DID YOU KNOW that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be raising free donations for St Stephens Church, *by doing so via* **easyfundraising.org.uk**?

There are over 8000 retailers on board ready to make a donation – including eBay, Argos, John Lewis & Partners, ASOS, Booking.com and M&S – and it won't cost you a penny extra to help us raise funds.

ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS:

1. **Go to** https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause *(or use the QR code below)*.
2. **Search for** and click on **St Stephen's Church, Soundwell, Bristol**
3. **Join** for free.

THEN: Every time you shop online, go to **easyfundraising** first to find the site you want and start shopping.

There's a demo video to show you how things work and also an 'app' icon that can be downloaded to your PC or phone which serves as a 'reminder' for you when you want to make a purchase.

After you've checked out, the retailer will make a donation to St Stephens Church, at no extra cost to you whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and St Stephens Church, will be really grateful for the donations.

Thank you for your support!

Collection Plate

MANY of us 'Give to God' through our church via the Parish Giving Scheme.

This is the easiest way to give as it stops us needing to find cash to bring to church, and reduces the task of counting and banking it for church officers. It vitally helps us review our giving annually.

But there are some who are yet to sign up for this *(if you want to know more about this please speak with Lin or Lorraine)* and continue to use the plate for their 'collection'.

Your PCC has decided to make giving through the collection plate easier for everyone by simply having collection plates at the entry of Church for us to use as we arrive.

These plates will be brought up during the offertory hymn as usual.

The invitation to give will still be made by the minister, and there would be plates at the back of church for use following the service if we don't manage it before.

This will begin from 7th June onwards, the same day we begin our starting time at 10.30am.

Every blessing **Lisa** xx

Easter Family Fun Day
in review!

DURING the recent Easter holiday, St Stephens Church was delighted to host two vibrant Family Fun events on the 13th and 16th of April.

ACROSS both days, we welcomed around 20 families from our local community, all eager to join in the celebrations and to enjoy some time together.

From the moment they arrived, families were greeted by our friendly team of volunteers and invited to take part in an exciting Easter treasure hunt.

As they explored the church hall, children searched for hidden pictures, ticking them off as they went and working together to uncover a secret phrase.

Each clue helped to tell part of the Easter story, bringing its message to life in a fun and interactive way.

Those who completed the hunt were rewarded with a well-earned chocolate treat!

After the treasure hunt, families gathered to enjoy refreshments, which included hot cross buns and chocolate cornflake cakes.

There was also plenty of time to explore the wide range of activity stations set up around the hall.

From junk modelling and colourful crafts to lively games like the egg and spoon race and 'pin the tail on the donkey,' there was something for everyone to enjoy.

Many also took the opportunity to make a palm leaf.

The atmosphere throughout both events was full of joy and laughter.

It was wonderful to see families spending quality time together, making memories, and engaging with the Easter story in such a relaxed and welcoming setting.

We are so grateful to everyone who came along and to our amazing volunteers who made it all possible. We are already looking ahead with excitement to what we might offer our community over the summer!

DIAL-a-SERMON

Listen to this week's Sermon on your phone:

0117 456 2090

(Cost is the same as a local call)

OR

CLICK-a-SERMON

Visit our website and use the audio link to listen on-line

http://saintstephensoundwell.org

ARCHDEACON VISITATIONS

OUR prospective St Stephens Churchwardens will be gathering at St Stephens in Southmead, on Monday 22nd June at 7.30pm to celebrate and affirm their ministry as they formally take up their offices and are licenced for the next 12 months.

THE service will be led by Becky Waring, the Archdeacon of Bristol and will include the swearing-in and commissioning of the church-wardens as elected Bishops Officers and senior lay leaders in mission in their parishes.

Visitations are also a great occasion for **us** to offer our thanks for the vocation and value of our church wardens, and it is a great chance to see one another face-to-face.

The legal admittance of Church-wardens to office for the coming year is a key part of the Visitation service so it is particularly important that those who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church meetings make every effort to attend a service, and they would appreciate the support of our congregation to be there!

JUNE 14th Lisa's last Sunday

IT starts off with a new service - whoop whoop!! BUBBLE CHURCH begins in the Church Hall at 9.15am with food, then the service starts at 9.30 am. *(Please see the advert on page 5 for more information).*

AT 10.30am, there will be NO YOUTH CHURCH, as we will be one big family, all worshipping God together. There will be some quiet activities for children to do near the Lady Chapel.

I will be presiding at Holy Communion and preaching... but please bear with me as there might be some tears.

After the service, EVERYONE IS INVITED to the Church Hall to share in a Buffet Lunch together.

Food and drinks are being served by Church volunteers, and paid for from Church funds.

It will be great to see you then, and also before of course!!!

Every Blessing **Lisa** xxx

STALLS of all kinds, bric-a-brac, food, drink, cakes, fun and games for young or old alike; raffles, something for all the family!

Or bring a friend and enjoy an afternoon together!

AS USUAL, volunteers are needed to assist with preparations on the Friday before the Fayre, and then in the afternoon to assist in putting stuff away afterwards, clearing up, putting the pews back together and the like.

If you can lend a hand for an hour or two then it would be much appreciated!

Please see Sue Humphrey to register your offer of help.

Additionally if you wish to have a stall then please book a space.

And if you have items for raffles, such as prizes and items for sales contributions then bring them to church for storage till the day. *Thank you!*

Don't forget!
SUNDAY
JUNE 7th
10.30AM
New start time

JUNE CYCLE OF PRAYER *BEGINNING SUNDAY OF EACH WEEK*

07	John Cabot Academy	Keith Winter, Rachael Worlock ***See & Know children:*** *Ella & Eziah Bennett* *Sylvie Bettersworth, Ollie Booth*	Hilltop Gardens Hilltop Road Hill View
14	Downend School	*Freddie Brister, Elvis Carmen* *Tommy Comer, Elsie Corry* *Jude Gervais, Jesse Gill*	Howard Road Irving Close James Close
21	Mangotsfield School	*Fletcher Griffin, Ayala Jefferies* *Maisie Kerslake, Eli McGuiness* *Kaya Morris*	James Road Jubilee Road Kerr Close
28	Soundwell Academy	*Bonnie Morris-Pockett, Adeara Odutola* *Joshua Parrot, Kester Rowland* *Lily Tarbuck*	Lansdown Close Lansdown Road Larch Road

SUNDAYS: 8am BCP **Holy Communion** (7th June only).
10.30am **Community Worship Service** weekly (**Note new start time**).
Youth Church in the Church Hall 10.30am on June 7th. Then 21st June weekly.

Bubble Church begins 14th June, 9.15am – then every 2nd Sunday of the month

Prayer Ministry is offered after the 10.30am Service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays *or at any other time by request, so do please ask as necessary.*

WEDNESDAYS: 10am **Service of Holy Communion will only be available on the 3rd, 10th 17th during June.** Thereafter, meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, beginning in July.

JUNE DIARY

02 Tuesday	1.30pm	**Knit & Natter** *in the Church Room* (then weekly)
03 Wednesday	11am	**Coffee/Chat/Company** *at the Turnpike Pub*
	7.15pm	**BRING YOUR BIBLE** *in the Church Room*
04 Thursday	10am	**See & Know** *in the Church Hall* (term-time weekly)
	2pm	**Ladies Group** *in the Church Hall*
05 Friday	7pm	**Outburst** Youth Club *in the Church Hall*
07 Sunday	***10.30am***	*New start time for* ***Community Worship*** *in Church and* ***Youth Church*** *in Church Hall*
08 Monday	10.15am	**Retreat Memory Café** *in the Church Hall* for Dementia sufferers and their carers
09 Tuesday	9~11.30am	**WELCOME SPACE** *in the Church Room*
	1.30pm	**Knit & Natter** *in the Church Room*
10 Wednesday	2pm	**BIBLE CHAT** in the Church Room
	7.15pm	**BRING YOUR BIBLE** *in the Church Room*
11 Thursday	1.30pm	**Men's Group** *in the Church Room*
	7.30pm	**LADIES GROUP SUMMER CONCERT** *see advert at right>*
12 Friday	1.30pm	**Pensioner's Group** *in the Church Hall*
14 Sunday	***9.15am***	***NEW Bubble Church*** *in Church Hall*
	10.30am	**Lisa's last Sunday**! *In Church* —followed by a Buffet lunch for all—*in the Church Hall* after the service
16 Tuesday	1.30pm	**Knit & Natter** *in the Church Room*
17 Wednesday	7.15pm	**BRING YOUR BIBLE** *in the Church Room*
18 Thursday	2pm	**Ladies Group** *in the Church Hall*
19 Friday	6.30pm	**FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE** *in Church*
22 Monday	10.15am	**Retreat Memory Café** *in the Church Hall* for Dementia sufferers and their carers

NB: be aware that the Drama Group store items in the Church Room this week! Check with your group if any change of room /or cancellation

23 Tuesday	9~11.30am	**WELCOME SPACE** *in the Church Room*
	1.30pm	**Knit & Natter**
24 Wednesday	2pm	**BIBLE CHAT** probably in the Church
	7.15pm	**BRING YOUR BIBLE** probably *in the Church*
25 Thursday	7.30pm	Drama Group production: **'Deadline'** (& 26th & 27th)

For tickets (£7) phone 0333 666 3366 or visit: www.ststephensdramabristol.co.uk

26 Friday	1.30pm	**Pensioner's Group** *in the Church Hall*
30 Tuesday	1.30pm	**Knit & Natter** *in the Church Room*

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funeral: • MAY 07:
Margaret Jean White 'Maggs' (91)
The Celebration of Maggs' life was held at Westerleigh Crematorium.
Please hold her daughter, Sally; grandchildren, Becca and Lucy, as well as the wider family and all of Maggs' many friends in your prayers.

DEDICATION SUNDAY
12 JULY 10.30AM

SAINT STEPHENS SOUNDWELL

• Revd **Lisa Wigmore**
Vicar, 52 Gladstone Street
Soundwell, Bristol BS16 4RF
Telephone 0117 957 4297

• Revd **Sandy Cooper**
Associate Minister, 1 Deerhurst
Soundwell, Bristol BS15 1XH
Telephone 0117 967 2621

• **Elaine Brewster**
Community Chaplain
Telephone 07 902 095915

• **Gill Mayo**
Church Warden
Telephone 0117 956 9796

• **Lin Cooper** *Director of Music*
Telephone 0117 967 2621

• **Lorraine Sanderson** *Treasurer*
Telephone 07 858 017 102

• **Jenny Bishop**
Pastoral Co-ordinator
Telephone 0117 9575729