Open Space

SAINT STEPHENS SOUNDWELL

KNOWING JESUS... MAKING JESUS KNOWN!

NO MORE WAR...

WORLD WAR I was called the war to end all wars, but since the guns fell silent on the Western Front in 1918, conflicts around the world have continued.

AS I write this, there are 32 active wars across the world. These conflicts range from drug wars, terrorist insurgencies, ethnic conflicts, and civil wars.

The first-ever two-minute silence was observed on Armistice Day, on the 11th of November 1919.

We have been observing a two-minute silence on the 11th of November for 104 years.

During the silence, we are encouraged to remember those who have lost their lives in the theatre of war. I find this moment in the Remembrance Service very poignant.

I wondered, what do you think about during that moment of silence?

We live in a busy, noisy world and sometimes it is hard to tune out the noise and turn off the trivial thoughts that run through our minds in the silence, such as, 'I must not forget to buy dog food' or 'Did I turn the oven on for the roast before I came out for the Remembrance Service?"

Each year, I try very hard to clear my mind during the two-minute silence and focus on the sacrifice made by so many young lives in the service of their country.

I think about the colossal waste of life that resulted from the wars.

In that moment, on Remembrance Sunday, I recall the stories of my own family... why not pause to remember yours, now and in the 2 minutes?

Also, in that silence on Remembrance Sunday, and now, perhaps also think of those who are dying in wars today – the people of Israel and Gaza, the people of Ukraine and Russia. *Continued overleaf>*

NOVEMBER 2025

Mission Partners with St Stephens:

Beloved

Bristol City Centre Soup Run

Bristol Schools Connection

Christian Aid

Community of the Sisters of the Church

Emmaus

Harvest for The Hungry

Bristol Churches City Fund

One25 Project

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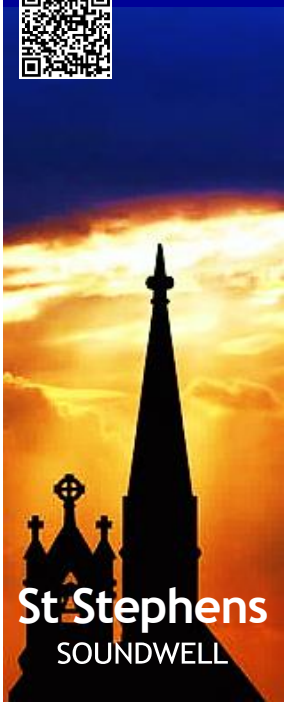
CHARITY NUMBER 1131503



NO MORE WAR... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Underlying all these thoughts is a prayer for peace.

There is a wonderful, hope-filled, aspirational verse found in Isaiah which says:

❝ THEY shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift sword against nation, **neither shall they learn war anymore.**❞

Wouldn't this be wonderful?

No more war, no more lives lost in conflicts, no more innocent civilians caught in the crossfire of ideological arguments.

This is my prayer each Remembrance Sunday, that nations will not use weapons as a means to settle disputes and that we can teach our children to be peace-makers and not war-mongers.

All these things will be going through my head as I stand in Church to observe the silence.

I wonder what you will be thinking about?

In the **silence**, you can hear a pin drop.

In the **silence**, you can hear the birds sing.

In the **silence**, you can hear the leaves rustle.

For us, it is only the briefest of silences, just two short minutes.

For many, in places of conflict, the silence is not long enough.

For those that fall, **the silence is eternal.**

Love and prayers.

Lisa xx

COFFEE/ CHAT & COMPANY

11AM WEDNESDAY 5th NOVEMBER
at the ***Turnpike***
on Soundwell Road.
A time to be, be known, and be together!

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON
Bible Study

JOIN a friendly gathering to look at a different passage of Scripture and mull it over together!

There will be refreshments and cake and a warm welcome for all. You don't need to book in, or even come to every session– just come along when you want.

We meet in the Church Room
***2.30** till **4**pm*
on the following Wednesdays:

5 & 19 NOVEMBER

We look forward to seeing you there!

BRING your Bible!

THIS is a recent **weekly** routine established for Wednesday evenings between 7.15pm and 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!

PRAYER Requests

IF you would like the St Stephen's praying team to pray for you or someone you care about, please contact any of the following:

- Rev **Lisa Wigmore** *Vicar*
Telephone 0117 9574297 or email:
lisawigmore66@gmail.com
- Rev **Sandy Cooper**
Associate Minister
Telephone 0117 9672621 or email:
linsand@blueyonder.co.uk
- Mrs **Jenny Bishop**
Pastoral Co-ordinator
Telephone 0117 9575729 or email:
jenannb75@hotmail.com

If you are requesting prayer for someone else, please seek their permission first.

If you would like to be part of our Praying Team, then please do speak with Lisa.

Just so you are aware, all prayer requests are kept confidential – between you and God.

Thank you! **Lisa**

Welcome SPACE

TUESDAY 11th NOVEMBER
9 to 11.30am

Conversation, free snacks & refreshments
ALL ARE WELCOME!*

WE also look forward to seeing you again on **25**th.

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

* IN OUR CHURCH ROOM

READINGS & COLLECTS

SUNDAY 02 NOVEMBER
All-Saints Day

Daniel 7:1–3, 15–18; Psalm 149
Ephesians 1:11–end; Luke 6:20–31

GOD OF HOLINESS, your glory is proclaimed in every age: as we rejoice in the faith of your saints, inspire us to follow their example with boldness and joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SUNDAY 09 NOVEMBER
REMBRANCE Sunday

Job 19:23–27a; Psalm 17:1–9
2 Thessalonians 2:1–5, 13–*end*
Luke 20:27–38

GOD, our refuge and strength, bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and pain shall end, that earth may know the peace of heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SUNDAY 16 NOVEMBER
2nd Sunday before Advent

Malachi 4:1–2; Psalm 98
2 Thessalonians 3:6–14; Luke 21:5–19

HEAVENLY LORD, you long for the world's salvation: stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess and revive in us new hope that all creation will one day be healed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER
Christ the King

Jeremiah 23:1–6; Psalm 46
Colossians 1:11–20; Luke 23:33–43

GOD THE FATHER, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory. Amen.

SUNDAY 30 NOVEMBER
1st Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1–5; Psalm 122
Romans 13:11–end; Matthew 24:36–44

ALMIGHTY GOD, Advent as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Soon be Christmas...!

YES! We eventually have to mention it, and now is the time to do so, with several Christmas related events to prepare for and to let you know about in advance, before it all gets too late!

THE very first item to let you know about is the Gift Service, see below, and that is followed swiftly by our annual Christmas Fayre, and linked to that, is the giving out of our St Stephens Christmas Cards.

All that and more explained on these pages.

Love and blessings **Lisa** xx

Christmas Gift Service

SUNDAY 30th November, is when we collect financial gifts to help the **Sisters of the Church** in Bristol.

The Sisters feed and give Christmas cheer to many of the poorest families in our city.

They usually give out some Argos Vouchers to each child they know who is in need, plus they give out toiletry sets,or hats and gloves, warm scarves, hats and socks to the adults who need them, especially any 'rough sleepers' they know of who will be on the streets in cold weather.

Please give generously if you can to The Sisters Christmas appeal if you can. Special envelopes will be made available solely for donations to the Sister's work, from mid November, which can then be handed in at the Special Service.

Thank you!

OUR VERY OWN PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS

WE send these out every year and our Christmas Cards are intended for every home in the parish and they will be ready by Remembrance Sunday for delivery by 1st December.

If you can help in any way with the distribution of these, even if only one particular street, then please do take some cards and deliver them as soon as you can to as many of our neighbours, friends and those we are yet to know, in the parish.

The card is shown to the right> both front and back, and you can see the card contains information about our Christmas Fayre and the various Christmas Services, which is crucial for people to know as they plan their Christmas Diary and decide which of our services they will attend...

So if you can help, then on behalf of the Parish,

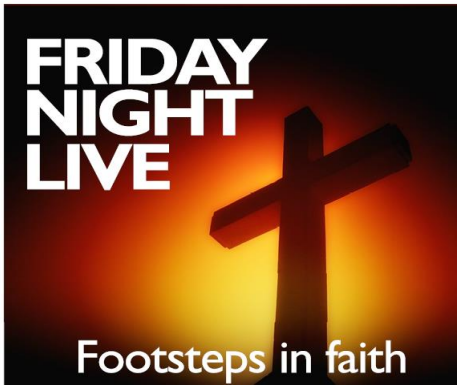
Thank you so much!

Christmas Faye advert here

PARISH Christmas Card here front & back for info

IN advance of the Christmas Fayre, there is often a need of glass jam jars, suitable for jam of course (!) which is often produced by our donors and so if you have any jam jars with the associated lids, then please do help by making these items available at the rear of church.

Thank you!



FRIDAY 6.30PM 21 NOVEMBER

INFORMAL WORSHIP FOR ALL AGES

An hour of exploring what life with faith is all about in an hour of getting to know others, through informal song, prayer, discussions, followed by refreshments after wards in the Church Room. Come if you know Jesus, come if you don't, let's grow in footsteps of faith together!

Contact: 0117 957 4297.

THAT happy smile

IF you should own a happy smile
then wear it every day
and never be reluctant
to give that smile away.

FOR every person that you meet
will gratefully accept it,
and often it will be returned
when you least expect it.

FOR a happy smile bears tidings
of a warm and kindly heart,
it can help all kinds of people
though they may be poles apart.

FOR all can read its message
that surely is agreed,
it breaks down all the barriers
of colour, race or creed.

SO remember on life's journey
each and every day,
you'll bring some joy to someone
when you give the smile away.

HELP THE CHOIR AT CHRISTMAS!

AT Christmas, there is no better time to sing praises to God! It is an occasion for celebration, joy and hope that it brings,

Do you enjoy singing? If so, how about joining the Church Choir!

Having some extra voices to help over the Christmas period ensures that the Choir and congregational singing during Christmas services is the best that it can be.

Choir practice is on a Monday evening 7.30–9pm and is a time of great fellowship and fun, and you would be warmly welcomed.

If you think you would like to be a temporary member of the choir for a few weeks, then please do have a word with me! **Lin Cooper**

Exchanging greetings cards

PLEASE consider the idea of sending just the ONE Christmas card, to your 'Church Family' instead of lots of individual ones to everyone!

An internal mail exchange system will be running again located at the back of church to put in cards *from* you, and to take out cards *to* you.

You could donate any savings to a favourite charity.

CAR PARKING DISCLAIMER

WE are very grateful to Soundwell Academy for the occasional use of their car park outside of their usual hours, especially on Sundays.

The Soundwell Academy and St Stephen's Church remind car park users that they will not accept any responsibility for accidents, damage or losses.

Please do be **extra careful** *over the winter, during icy periods, as the car park will not always be treated with grit or salt.* Thank you!

ADOPTING A STAR!

SOMETHING which proved very popular last year, was the sponsoring of one or more of the new hanging stars that were produced as part of the Christmas decorations!!

There are likely to be around **120** such stars hanging from the ceiling again this year which will decorate church and make it shine for Jesus.

A **£2** per star donation should be a suitable bequest!

When they are hanging in church, you can choose 'your star' and then tell your family and friends it sparkle's Jesus' love for them.

Or, it might be a way of remembering a loved one, and by sponsoring a chosen star remember and celebrate Jesus' eternal love for them.

Simply enclose your donation in an envelope marked as a 'Star Sponsor' and hand it in on any Sunday up till Christmas.

Thank you! **Lisa** xx

NOVEMBER CYCLE OF PRAYER *BEGINNING SUNDAY OF EACH WEEK*

02	Men's Group	***See & Know Children*** *November 2025:* *Ollie Booth, Elvis Carmen* *Jude Gervais, Arabella Graham*	Pool Road Portland Court Portland Place
09	Ladies Group	*Fletcher Griffin, Remy Lyons* *Summer May, Eli McGuiness* *Adeara Odutola*	Portland Street Pound Road Prospect Crescent
16	Welcome Space	*Eddie and Evie Parsons* *Poppy Pearce, Kester Rowland* *Louis Scull, Lily Tarbuck*	Randall Close Riviera Crescent Rodway View
23	Coffee & chat at The Turnpike	Margaret Archer, Cheryl Ashwin Levi, Sophie, Shiloh & Aziah Carly, Savannah & Sienna Baldwin	Rose Oak Gardens Rudge Close Seymour Road
30	Bible Chat	Emily Baldwin & Jason & Billy Amos Hannah, Simon, Harrison & Oscar Bartlett Gwen Beek	Sherbourne Close Soundwell Road Spring Hill

SUNDAYS: 8am BCP **Holy Communion** (on the 1st & 3rd Sunday)
10am **Community Worship Service** weekly.

Prayer Ministry is offered after the 10am 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** weekly.

NOVEMBER DIARY

04 Tuesday	1.30pm	Knit & Natter *in the Church Room* (then weekly)
05 Wednesday	11am 2pm 7.15pm	**Coffee/Chat/Company** *at the Turnpike Pub* **BIBLE CHAT** *in the Church Room* **BRING YOUR BIBLE** *in the Church Room*
06 Thursday	10am 1.30pm	**See & Know** *in the Church Hall* (then weekly) **Men's Group** Film Quiz *in the Church Room*
07 Friday	1.15pm 7pm	**Pensioner's Group** Classic FM *in the Church Hall* **Outburst** Youth Club *in the Church Hall*
09 SUNDAY	10am	**REMEMBRANCE** *All age Service In Church*
10 Monday	10.15am	**Retreat Memory Café** *in the Church Hall* for Dementia sufferers and their carers
11 Tuesday	9~11.30am 7.30pm	**WELCOME SPACE** *in the Church Room* PCC meeting *in the Church Room*
12 Wednesday	7.15pm	**BRING YOUR BIBLE** *in the Church Room*
13 Thursday	2pm	**Ladies Group** *in the Church Hall*
19 Wednesday	2pm 7.15pm	**BIBLE CHAT** *in the Church Room* **BRING YOUR BIBLE** *in the Church Room*
20 Thursday	1.30pm	**Men's Group** Film Quiz *in the Church Room*
21 Friday	1.15pm 6.30pm	**Pensioner's Group** Christmas Auction *in Church Hall* **FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE** *in Church*
24 Monday	10.15am	**Retreat Memory Café** *in the Church Hall* for Dementia sufferers and their carers
25 Tuesday	9~11.30am	**WELCOME SPACE** *in the Church Room*
27 Thursday	2pm	**Ladies Group** *in the Church Hall*

DECEMBER DIARY

02 Tuesday	1.30pm	Knit & Natter *in the Church Room* (then weekly)
03 Wednesday	11am 2pm 7.15pm	**Coffee/Chat/Company** *at the Turnpike Pub* **BIBLE CHAT** *in the Church Room* **BRING YOUR BIBLE** *in the Church Room*
04 Thursday	10am 1.30pm	**See & Know** *in the Church Hall* (then weekly) **Men's Group** Christmas Meal
05 Friday	1.15pm	**Pensioner's Group** Christmas Meal
06 SATURDAY	2~4pm	St Stephens **CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

FROM THE REGISTERS

SINCE SEPTEMBER

Funeral:

- SEPTEMBER 27:

Names here

Please hold them, together with their families and friends and all those who love and support them, in your prayers.

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://www.saintstephen soundwell.org

SAINT STEPHENS SOUNDWELL

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Soundwell, Bristol BS16 4RF
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• 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 0117 940 1829

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