Open Space

SAINT STEPHENS SOUNDWELL

KNOWING JESUS... MAKING JESUS KNOWN!

Out of sight working...

THERE ARE many things to commend about getting in the car and travelling somewhere in our wonderful British Isles, but being stuck in traffic on the motorway is not one of them!

I'm sure you all have stories of sitting in jams, sandwiched between lorries for what seems like hours with 'roadworks ahead' signs all around and miles and miles of cones. And when you finally reach the roadworks, the site seems deserted with no sign of active construction going on at all - diggers seemingly abandoned, and no sign of life!

Apologies to all construction workers reading at this point – I do understand that you need time off too!).

On a recent trip to Sarum College in Salisbury for a 3-day course, I got caught up in roadworks on the A36 and a sign caught my eye that I had never seen before. It read 'We are working out of sight, so you may not see us'.

I wondered if this had been created in response to all those grumbles from the general public about just such experiences.

Construction work on our highways is incredibly complex.

What we see and experience once the work is completed, in the new intersections, new bridges, widened motorways, etc. is the result of the keen minds and skills of a myriad of people from all sorts of disciplines from planners to architects, from civil engineers to groundworkers, often working out of sight, always working to a master plan but all we experience is the upheaval as change takes place—and all this takes time.

CHANGE

Change often causes upheaval, always takes time, but may bring with it significant benefits.

My experience of seeing God at work is not dissimilar to my experience of motorway roadworks.

Continued overleaf>

OCTOBER 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

St Stephens

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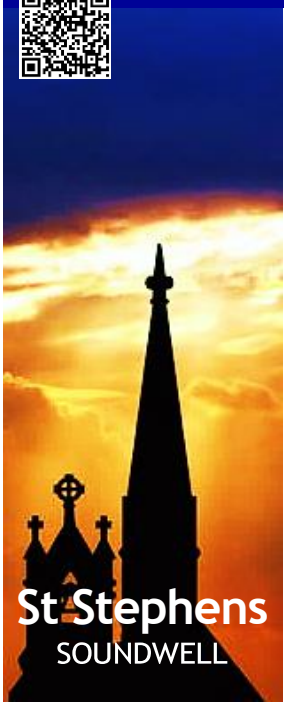
CHARITY NUMBER 1131503



Out of sight working... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Life can be hugely frustrating. We try to find a way through the obstacles that get in the way of what we want to do or where we want to be, or we get 'stuck in traffic' in a rut that we can't see a way out of.

Perhaps we look around for those who can help us and we see no-one. But God is working, often working hardest in the most difficult and challenging times we encounter.

God may be working out of sight, and you may not see him, but he is there, patiently waiting for each one of us to accept that changing our ways, turning towards him and asking to be part of his master plan is the only way to bring about the change that leads to life in all its fullness.

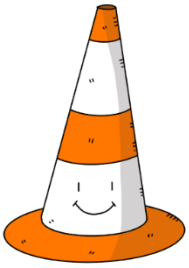
Perhaps the road sign that God writes might say this:

We are working out of sight so you may not see us, but you will definitely know where we have been.

Perhaps it's time to make a few changes in your life and seek the God who loves you and is working to change your heart and bring about a better future for you– even if he seems to be out of sight!

Blessings as you navigate through October.

Lisa xx



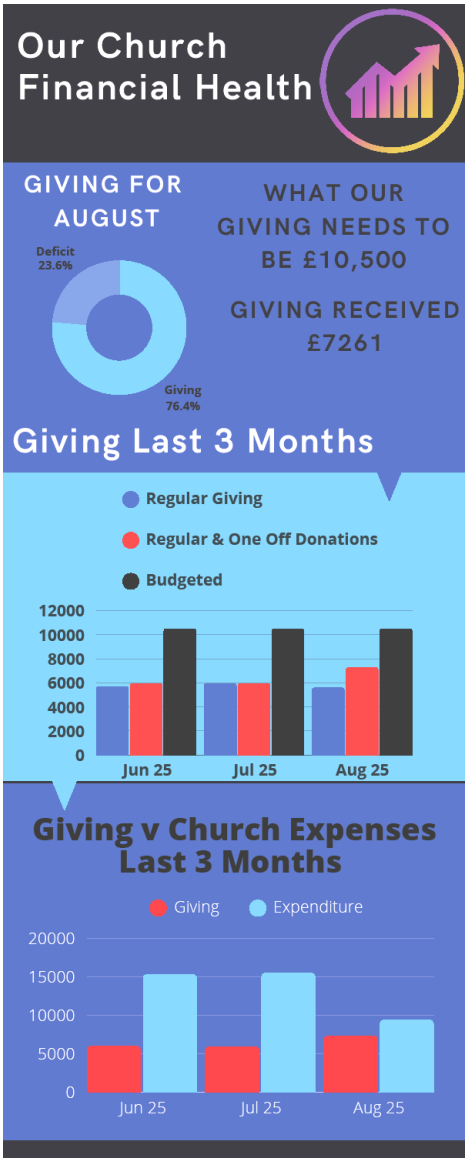
Uganda 2025 visit *in review*

ON Sunday 14 September we had a report from Lauren, Ali and Gaye about their trip to Uganda in August.

Their presentation was accompanied by photos taken during their stay.

The safari photos were especially appealing but as they were not on screen for long, some are reproduced here for you to peruse at leisure.

There were also some memorable photos of the people that went, and hosting families and various people met on the travels.



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 BOARD

THERE USED to be a Prayer Board in church for folk to write down the name of someone they wanted to be prayed for.

During Covid 'lockdowns' this needed to be put away so then people began telling me their prayer requests, by phone or email.

I would then email the 'Praying Teams' who had promised to pray.

This system worked rather well.

So, we have recently removed the Prayer Board, as it has now become redundant.

If you have a prayer request, please to be in touch with the people below. This advert will go into every Open Space and there will be a few posters around Church with the details.

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you would like the St Stephen's praying team to pray for you or some-ne 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**

COFFEE/CHAT & COMPANY

WEDNESDAY 11am
1st OCTOBER
At the **Turnpike Pub**
on **Soundwell Road**

READINGS & COLLECTS

SUNDAY 05 OCTOBER
16th Sunday of Trinity

Habakkuk 1:1–4, 2:1–4; Psalm 37:1–9
2 Timothy 1:1–14; Luke 17:5–10

LORD of creation, whose glory is around and within us: open our eyes to your wonders, that we may serve you with reverence and know your peace at our lives' end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER
17th Sunday of Trinity

2 Kings 5:1–3, 7–15c; Psalm 111
2 Timothy 2:8–15; Luke 15:11–17

GRACIOUS GOD, you call us to fullness of life: deliver us from unbelief and banish our anxieties with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER
18th Sunday of Trinity

Genesis 32:22–31; Psalm 121
2 Timothy 3:14–4:5; Luke 18:1–18

GOD, our judge and saviour, teach us to be open to your truth and to trust in your love, that we may live each day with confidence in the salvation which is given through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SUNDAY 26 OCTOBER
19th Sunday of Trinity

Ecclesiasticus 35:12–17; Psalm 84:1–7
2 Timothy 4:6–8, 16–18;
Luke 18:9–14

FAITHFUL LORD, whose steadfast love never ceases and whose mercies never come to an end: grant us the grace to trust you and to receive the gifts of your love, new every morning, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SAFE CHURCH

WE are looking for two or three individuals to work together as a team, to continue the essential Safeguarding work of the Parish.

These voluntary roles are for **Parish Safeguarding Officers** (PSO's).

They will be assisted by a Senior Deanery Administrator, employed in our Deanery, to assist local parishes with the paperwork involved in the DBS checking part of the role. There will also be support and training offered by the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

The role will involve some other administrative tasks and associated computer work, but first and foremost it is to be the point of contact for our church community regarding safeguarding. This is to make sure we are doing the very best we can at St Stephens to look after each other, and especially the children and vulnerable adults in our community.

Could this be a role for you??

Is God whispering to you right now as you read this??

Why not contact Lisa for a friendly chat and learn more about it??

Telephone: 0117 9574297.

See & Know

See and Know is a Toddler Group held in St Stephens Church Hall, for the families of our area to socialise and get to know each other, alongside getting to know Jesus in gentle and age appropriate ways.

We are there for support and friendship, for parents and carers as well as the children.

IF you have pre-school age children, why not come along? Phone Sue first (number below) to check there are spaces.

ALSO, would you like to be part of the See & Know Team = welcoming children and their carers to See & Know; chatting to them during the session; helping them do a simple craft; perhaps taking a turn in leading the sharing and caring time (training and resources all provided).

Sessions run from 10am til 11.45am Thursdays in school term-time only.

Could you help out once a term?... Or every week during term-time?... Or anything in between?

Why not have a chat with Sue Humphrey (07929 404272) or Lisa (0117 9574297) to find out some more? *Thank you!*

17th OCTOBER

6.30PM in Church

INFORMAL WORSHIP FOR ALL AGES

MEMORIAL SERVICE

6.30PM SUNDAY 19th OCTOBER

A service and time to remember loved ones

SAINT STEPHENS SOUNDWELL
KNOWING JESUS... MAKING JESUS KNOWN!
Church Road, Soundwell, Bristol BS16 4RH Telephone 0117 956 6257
www.saintstephensoundwell.org CHARITY NUMBER 1131503

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:

8 & 22 OCTOBER

We look forward to seeing you there!

WELCOME SPACE

Tuesday 9~11.30am
14 & 28 OCTOBER

IN OUR CHURCH ROOM

NB: under 17s must be accompanied by an adult).

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.saintstephensoundwell.org

A POEM:
SMILES...

I WAS given a smile the other day
from someone who passed me on their way.
I wasn't sure what I should do.
Perhaps, I'll leave it up to you.

IF I should keep it for myself,
put it on the kitchen shelf.
Then it would be a certainty
to bring some happiness to me.

SOMEHOW that doesn't feel just right
for me to keep it in my sight
when there were others who might need
a waft of warmth, oh yes indeed.

IT doesn't take so very much,
a cheerful smile, a gentle touch,
to lift the cloud another bears,
to help them feel somebody cares.

THERE is one thing we all should know.
A smile is like the candle's glow.
No matter how many candles share
that light, its fullness still is there.

SO when I go out on the street,
no matter whom I chance to meet,
if I share with them my precious smile,
do you think that will be worthwhile?

FOR hopefully, they too, will understand,
that a smile is like a helping hand.
I'm hoping that you will agree
and someday share a smile with me.

Alora M. Knight.
"A Gift To Share."
Family Friend Poems,
4 August 2018.
https://www.familyfriend
poems.com/poem/a-gift-to-share

Study Courses

EXPLORING CHRISTIANITY TOGETHER

A course to deepen faith, explore the Christian tradition and equip for ministry

DIOCESE OF BRISTOL

HOW DOES THE COURSE START?

It is possible to join the course at any point. Often, people start with *Exploring the New Testament*. We know it - but we can learn so much more.

"You meet so many new people with different perspectives"

WHAT ELSE IS INCLUDED?

The other modules are:

- Exploring Prayer and Spirituality
- Exploring the Church
- Exploring Questions of Faith
- Exploring the Old Testament
- Exploring Ministry

For further information, please see www.bristol.anglican.org

"The tutors were outstanding, using videos, discussion and other sources to bring the material alive"

Come with an open mind, your experience and your background.
It can also form the first part of Licensed Lay Minister training and be an introduction to further study at Trinity College or elsewhere.

HOW DOES THE COURSE WORK?

Groups meet weekly in different parts of the Diocese, usually with two tutors. There are **6 modules**, each of which consists of **10 sessions**. Each member receives a workbook for the unit the group is studying that term, with preparation to complete each week.

The group will **share insights** from the course material that they have read and reflected on, and the tutors will enable them to **learn together** from one another - the tutors may also provide some additional activities.

Each term, there is the **optional** possibility of **handing in an assignment** that is marked by an external marker. *(Note: those considering Licensed Lay Ministry are required to submit an assignment each term.)*

"I have grown in confidence in my faith"

HOW MUCH WORK IS REQUIRED?

There are preparation questions to be completed each week, reading and thinking, writing a sentence or two in a box, looking at pictures, maps, etc.

You should set aside an hour or two between each of the meetings to prepare work in the workbook.

Occasionally, you may also be asked to read a slightly longer section of a book or the Bible, and there may be an opportunity to write some of your observations about a practical task.

WHO IS THE COURSE FOR?

Exploring Christianity is for anyone who wants to explore faith, deepen their commitment and learn together with other interested students, whether or not they wish to pursue a calling to formally recognised ministry.

There are no age limitations and no previous experience or qualifications are necessary.

"It has given me reassurance that there is not one right way to think but many ways to believe"

COURSE FEES

£60 Session attendance and assignment completion
Note: this is essential for those aiming to become a Licensed Lay Minister

£30 Session attendance only

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please speak to Lisa as your Church is not only required, but wants to support you all the way. Telephone: 0117 9574297.

OCTOBER CYCLE OF PRAYER *BEGINNING SUNDAY OF EACH WEEK*

05	Outburst Youth Group	Ken and Gill Tizzard, Wayne and Nick Topps Kevin and Lin Vicker Lisa & Jamie Vural & Amira Mohammed	Morley Road Mulberry Gardens Mulberry Grove
12	See & Know toddler's group	Jean Wadsworth, Mark Walker Tony Weare, Pauline Webb Lisa, Paul & Tom Wigmore, Joan Williams	Narrow Lane Neville Road North View
19	Pensioner's Group	Becky and Joe Wilson, Steve Wiltshire Mary Winrow, Keith Winter Susan Woodey, Gladys Woolford	Nympsfield Peartree Lane Pembroke Road
26	Knit & Natter	***See and Know Children** October 25:* *Ella Bennett, Eziah Bennett* *Gus and Sylvie Bettersworth*	Penny Lane Phoenix Grove Pinewood

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

Prayer Ministry is offered after the 10am Service on the Ist and 3rd Sundays *or at any other time by request, so do please ask as necessary.*

WEDNESDAYS: 10am **Service of Holy Communion** weekly.

OCTOBER DIARY

01 Wednesday	11am 7.15pm	**Coffee/Chat/Company** *at the Turnpike Pub* **BRING YOUR BIBLE** *in the Church Room*
02 Thursday	10am 1pm(Early start)	**See & Know** *in the Church Hall (then weekly)* **Ladies Group** *in the Church Hall*
03 Friday	7pm	**Outburst** Youth Club *in the Church Hall*
07 Tuesday	1.30pm	Knit & Natter *in the Church Room (then weekly)*
08 Wednesday	2pm 7.15pm	**BIBLE CHAT** *in the Church Room* **BRING YOUR BIBLE** *in the Church Room*
09 Thursday	1.30pm	**Men's Group** *in the Church Room*
10 Friday	1.15pm	**Pensioner's Group** *in the Church Hall*
11 Saturday	9am	**Baptism Prep** *in Church & Church Room*
13 Monday	10.15am	**Retreat Memory Café** *in the Church Hall* for Dementia sufferers and their carers
14 Tuesday	9~11.30am	**WELCOME SPACE** *in the Church Room*
15 Wednesday	7.15pm	**BRING YOUR BIBLE** *in the Church Room*
16 Thursday	2pm	**Ladies Group** *in the Church Hall*
17 Friday	6.30pm	**FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE** *in Church*
18 Saturday	9am	**'Minutes Matter'** Lifesaving skills course *in the Church Hall*
19 Sunday	6.30am	Memorial Service *in Church*
22 Wednesday	2pm 7.15pm	**BIBLE CHAT** *in the Church Room* **BRING YOUR BIBLE** *in the Church Room*
23 Thursday	1.30pm	**Men's Group** *in the Church Room*
24 Friday	2pm	**Pensioner's Group** *in the Church Hall*
27 Monday	10.15am	**Retreat Memory Café** *in the Church Hall* for Dementia sufferers and their carers
28 Tuesday	9~11.30am	**WELCOME SPACE** *in the Church Room*
29 Wednesday	7.15pm	**BRING YOUR BIBLE** *in the Church Room*
30 Thursday	2pm	**Ladies Group** *in the Church Hall*

NOVEMBER DIARY

04 Tuesday	1.30pm	Knit & Natter *in the Church Room* (then weekly)
05 Wednesday	11am 7.15pm	**Coffee/Chat/Company** *at the Turnpike Pub* **BRING YOUR BIBLE** *in the Church Room*
06 Thursday	10am	**See & Know** *in the Church Hall* (then weekly)
	1.30pm	**Men's Group** *in the Church Room*

FROM THE REGISTERS

SINCE AUGUST

Marriage:

• SEPTEMBER 27:
Sue Clements and **Dave Eldredwere** married at St Stephens Church, Soundwell.

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

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 0117 940 1829

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