

## The Church in Uganda

< *Continued from overleaf*

One of them writes in amazing faith:

“As a lay reader I was called by God, that’s why I decided to serve Him following Jesus as a great example of all situations.

I face many challenges doing God’s work. Lay readers are not paid here in Uganda, and sometimes I fail to get funds to purchase food, charcoal and school fees.

The Living God is my helper, provider, my doctor, advisor, teacher and even my comforter because I am not tired to serve Him just because of my problems.”

Several of the lay readers that we have been supporting are being commissioned on 16 December, so please do pray for them.

**James Gardner**

## Donations by phone

TEXT **SSSC10 £10** or **SSSC05 £5** to **70070** to make a difference to PCC St Stephens Soundwell.

ST STEPHENS

## Christmas Flowers

IF you would like to donate something towards the cost of providing some nice flowers, to decorate church, please see us.

*Thank you. Jan & Joyce*

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

16 SUNDAY

• **Carols by Candlelight** 6.30PM



24 CHRISTMAS EVE

• **Christingle Family Fun** 2.30 & 4PM



• **Midnight Communion** 11.30PM



25 CHRISTMAS DAY

• **Community Worship** 10AM

26 ST STEPHEN’S DAY

• **Communion** 10.15AM

Celebration of the life of  
**SHIRLEY BIGGS**

**TUESDAY 11 DECEMBER 1.15PM**

*in Church followed by  
the committal at  
Westerleigh Crematorium*

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WHERE

St Stephens  
SOUNDWELL

READINGS: JEREMIAH 33:14-16; LUKE 10:1-9

# The church in Uganda

WHEN briefing someone travelling to Uganda for the first time, I give them a health warning: “*Visiting Uganda will change your life.*” And it does.

On their return, they invariably talk about God’s work in action, the vibrancy of faith and the sheer generosity of the people they met.

In recent years, our deanery has pioneered sending groups of young people to Uganda.

These visits take a year to organise, fundraise and bond the team members. This is important so that when they arrive in Uganda they are ready to engage with a culture where to be a devout follower of Jesus is normal, where prayer is part of everyday life and as a visitor people want to hear your Christian testimony.

Seeing how our young people return bouncing with confidence in themselves and excited by their faith is something to really celebrate.

Our deanery has always helped to train a member of the clergy each year for our linked dioceses and St Stephens has been one of the most generous parishes in this.

You single-handedly supported Rev Arthur Atwine through his theology degree and Master’s. Arthur now holds the demanding position of diocesan secretary and has led his diocese through challenging times during a transition of bishops.

Thankfully, things are now stable, and St Stephens should be proud of the part it played in training such a capable Christian leader as Arthur.

The Church of Uganda is reliant on unpaid lay readers. As a deanery, we pay for four lay readers each year to undertake a two-year Advanced Lay Readers’ course.

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SISTERS OF THE CHURCH

## Gift tree

AS IN previous years we will have a Gift Tree in Church, on Sunday 9 December.

This is to donate money for the Sisters of the Church who then provide Argos vouchers for children to buy a Christmas present. Any money left over goes to a fund to help families who need gas and electric during the winter

Envelopes are available at the back of the Church for you to use and to put on the Gift Tree on Sunday 9th December.

*Thank you for your continued support.*