

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

SISTERS OF THE CHURCH GIFT TREE

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 today

Thank you for your continued support.

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

Join a team?

WE have opportunities to join others in serving God through your Church.

- Assisting Peter in his role as Safeguarding Officer
- Supporting Youth Church
- 'Being' at Baptisms.
- Serving at Holy Communion

If any of this tweaks an interest in you, please have a chat with Lisa.

ST STEPHENS (SOUNDWELL)
DRAMA GROUP PRESENTS:

Little Red Riding Hood & the Little Pigs

A Pantomime by Paul Crump & Simon Simcox: a new adaptation of classic tales which will leave you crying with laughter.

31 JANUARY - 2 FEBRUARY 2019

Tickets **£9** adults and **£7** children & OAP bookable in advance: 07944 158294 or www.ststephensdramabristol.co.uk

Celebration of the life of SHIRLEY BIGGS

TUESDAY 11 DECEMBER 1.15PM

*in Church followed by
the committal at
Westerleigh Crematorium*



09 DECEMBER 2018

SECOND OF ADVENT

READINGS: MALACHI 3:1-4; LUKE 3:1-6

The challenge of Advent

COMBINED in John the Baptist is the very paradox of Advent: the coming triumph of God manifest precisely in the darkness of the present evil age. John the Baptist heard, experienced and lived God's liberating word in the desert and was thus able to preach it to others so effectively because his life and message were one. He certainly didn't mince his words.

John the Baptist shatters the silence of the wilderness with his cry: "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.*"

Not just "*repent,*" change the way we live, but repent and prepare for the coming of the kingdom of heaven which will upset all our securities and overturn anything we try to leave in place.

The joy and the challenge of Advent is that in Jesus Christ our God is coming, and our aching and longing for God will be met. But this God who comes is disturbing.

Yet, Advent also teaches us that if we are quiet in our hearts long enough, we will discover that God still carves out highways and turns the desert places of our lives into oases of wonder, life, beauty, even though nothing will be as we expected.

Ultimately, Advent challenges us to look at the ways that we wait, the ways that we long for God, and the ways that we hope. What and who is the source of our Advent hope?

As always, the answer is Jesus!!

Jesus is the fulfilment of our longing, our hoping and waiting. Jesus alone can transform the deserts of our lives into living gardens of beauty and nourishment for the world.

Come, Lord Jesus!

We need you now more than ever!

LISA