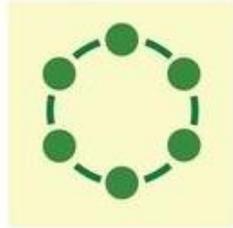


# Open Space

Open Space  
OCTOBER 2018

SAINT STEPHENS SOUNDWELL

OCTOBER 2018



## PARISH GIVING SCHEME

**THE** Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is a nationwide tool to support church giving, manage regular donations and reduce parish administration.

THE scheme allows individuals to make regular, planned donations to their local church by Direct Debit.

It is operated as a partnership between Church of England dioceses to ensure that it can remain delivered locally but is administered as cost effectively as possible. It has been in operation since 2008 and is already making a huge impact.

Bristol has become the 18th diocese to join the scheme, and is offering the benefits to all parishes free of charge.

The PCC of St Stephens, your PCC, has unanimously decided to adopt this scheme and since the beginning of 2018, most PCC members plus a few other members of St Stephen's have been trying it out, to ensure we are doing the right thing. The feedback from them is that it *'is fantastic', 'makes life easier'* and is *'safe and easy to do'*.

Others said, *'It's a win-win which helps our treasurer and church as a whole, and is easy and straightforward to operate'*. *'No weekly hassle with envelopes or change'*.

During October, we will be launching this scheme and are inviting everyone to join in. Current ways of supporting St Stephens, giving to God financially, will still remain, but here is some more information to help you think about how you give and the benefits of joining the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS).

### Why do we give to Church?

Generous giving is an integral part of Christian discipleship. It not only resources God's mission in the world but also has an impact on our lives.

As Paul wrote to the early church in Corinth, giving is a primary responsibility for Christians:

*'But since you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you – see that you also excel in this grace of giving.'* 2 COR 8:7

### God is the ultimate owner of all things.

When we view everything as God's, it changes our perspective. In our liturgy we pray: *'all things come from you, and of your own do we give you'*.

These words recognise that we are not truly owners of anything, but rather recipients of God's grace. We are stewards of what He has endowed us with. And He asks us to use it for His Glory and to build His Kingdom here on earth.

Whether we have a lot or a little, we can hold it lightly and pass it on to others as blessings.

### God is abundantly generous to us.

Everything we do in worship, in service and in love is a response to God's love for us first, shown in the gift of His Son who died to redeem the world.

The price that Jesus paid to redeem us means that we owe him everything.

How would you respond to someone to whom you owed everything? *'Freely you have received, freely give'* MATT 10:8

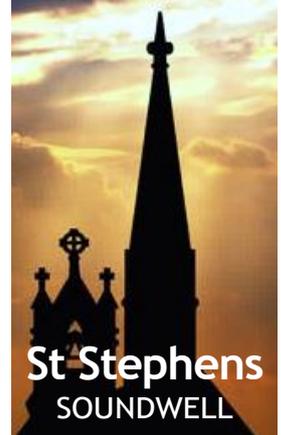
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### Mission Partners with St Stephens:

Bristol City Centre Soup Run  
Bristol/Uganda Link  
Christian Aid  
Community of the Sisters of the Church  
Emmaus  
Fair Trade  
Kingswood Street Pastors  
One25 Project

### St Stephens

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Soundwell  
Bristol BS16 4RH  
0117 956 6257  
visionatststephens@gmail.com  
www.saintstephensoundwell.org  
CHARITY NUMBER  
131503



St Stephens  
SOUNDWELL

# SUNDAY WELCOME TEAM

WE ARE WANTING to expand our group of lovely people who work on a monthly rota basis to welcome people into church, give out hymn books etc. and collect the offering.

Ideally we would like individuals who could deputise when others are off in times of sickness or holidays, or fill in rota spaces as they crop up.

This would then take the pressure off our existing team.

Also, I know that most of us enjoy our coffee and time to chat after the Sunday Service, but we really would love some new kitchen assistants!

The rota works out about once per two months, (although with enough help this could be reduced).

So, if you feel you could help please let me know.

I would like to take an opportunity to say a BIG THANK YOU to Ken and Gill Tizzard, who almost every week come in early and put out the tables and chairs in the hall, you are very much appreciated.

**Gill Mayo**

# Thank you

TO EVERYONE who attended the celebration of Bill's life: a BIG THANK YOU!

Together we made it a special time for a very special man who was loved by so many.

Remember the messages Bill told me to give you:

*Make the most of things, love makes the world go around and a hug is a great gift one size fits all.*

*Open Hearts & Open Doors.*

An amount of **£800** will be donated to St Peter's Hospice in memory of Bill. An amazing amount! Another thank you!

From all the family.

*God Bless and a big hug Sue xx*

# BAPTISM HELPER TEAM

WOULD you like to join our team? Throughout the year we are delighted that so many families come forward to have their children baptised.

Baptisms take place at 1230 and/or 1400 on a Sunday and we do need some more help. Is this something you could help us with on some Sundays during the year?

**The small but important role involves:**

- Preparing the font for the service.
- Meeting and greeting the baptism party when they arrive.
- Handing out orders of service and hymn sheets/books.
- Occasionally using the CD player or computer to play songs/hymns.

- Making families with small children aware of the playbags, toys and sofas and making them feel comfortable in the church environment.
- Towards the end of the service carrying the lit candle and certificates forward for parents and godparents.
- Tidying up after the service.

Members of our present team are also involved in Café Central and youth church.

Advice and training will of course be provided for new volunteers!

So we hope and pray that some of our congregation will feel moved to join us. Please contact me:

**Bron Kucharski**

# Friday Night Live

AT Friday Night Live in September we thought about Psalm 104. Some of us chatted about it, others drew what they were thankful for, and yet others sat quietly in reflection or listened to thoughts from a theologian.

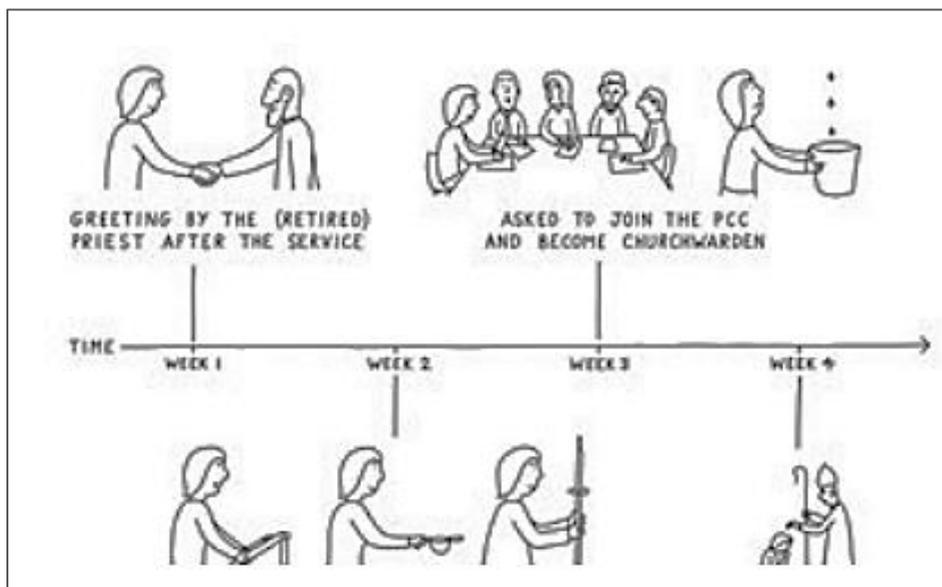
Julia wrote a poem in response, which we've included here.

You might have already read the front page article... I hope you have... as you reflect on that and listen to what God is whispering to you through it, I invite you to ponder on Julia's poem and/or Psalm 104 and allow all these thoughts to percolate in your heart and mind.

COLOUR and beauty is everywhere created by God, for all to share. All over the world good things abound, His many blessings, too many to count. Let us worship him with thanks and praise Songs of joy and love we raise. We bless you Oh Lord for all that is good, let us worship and praise you as we know we should. Blessing and honour and glory are yours, today, tomorrow and for evermore.

*God bless you as you respond.*

**Lisa xx**



# PARISH GIVING SCHEME

< *Continued from page 1*

Jesus asks us to make use of the gifts we have received from God to share with others so that they might know Him.

One way to do that is to free up financial resources to support Christian ministry.

Without your support, our Church can never be what it could be.

Without your support, there will not be the resources to do what we are called to do: to be the bearers of good news in a world of bad news, to be the bringers of light in a world of darkness.

## How is the Church funded?

I expect you know by now, but the Church is pretty much funded by you, the Body of Christ in Soundwell. Years ago 'ministry' was funded by the Church Commissioners and we looked after the building.

Yet, even the grants we once used to be able to access to fund repairs are diminishing fast.

The cost of maintaining our buildings has doubled in real terms due, in the main, to three factors:

- 1) decline in availability of traditional craftsmen and materials
- 2) increasing regulations (disability, conservation, health and safety etc).
- 3) higher expectation of facilities (eg: toilets, lighting, sound etc).

A warm Church is now an expectation, not a luxury!

In 1963 the Church Commissioners paid for 75% of stipends, but today they fund around 10% of the cost of parish clergy nationally, and in many dioceses and parishes there is no ongoing support.

The reasons for this stem from an imbalance between the investment earnings of the Commissioners' funds and the amount they have historically paid for in the life of the Church. It is an open question why this has happened but it is clear that the Church has been living beyond its means for a number of years and funding from the Commissioners can no longer be the comfort it once was.

Due to rising costs and the decline of the Commissioners' contributions, personal giving has had to more than double in real terms.

If the level of stipendiary clergy had not declined over that period it would have needed to treble.

## How the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) can help!

The Church of England offers a Christian presence in every community. We seek to be at the heart of all our cities, towns and villages through serving our communities, by sharing our faith and values, by worshipping together and through our wonderful buildings. This valuable contribution to our community has a cost, which has already been made clear, and is largely met by generous personal donations – thank you!!

For our Church to survive and grow, we rely on regular gifts so that we can plan confidently for the future. Like many other parishes, St Stephens faces growing costs, and the average cost of ministry across our Diocese is over £89,000.

Successfully addressing our Church's need to receive realistic, long term giving from committed Christians like yourselves, is a fundamental part of developing St Stephen's further as a thriving, outward-looking church.

## How it works...

Donations are made by Direct Debit and as such provide every 'giver' the direct debit guarantee of funds returned if made in error. This can be on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis.

Each donation is solely for just St Stephen's, Soundwell.

Gift Aid, (where applicable), is reclaimed and passed back to the Parish monthly.

## What are the benefits to the 'giver'?

- Hassle free giving – no need to draw out or find cash each week.
- Less stress – something less to think about each week.

• An annual reminder letter helps you review your giving (but nothing changes without you approving it).

• Simple and easy to begin – plus people you know from Church to help you.

• The knowledge that you are helping the mission of your Church even more.

## What are the benefits for St Stephens?

It's administered centrally – less work for folk at St Stephen's, but delivered locally – so we can still support every 'giver'.

This means a massive reduction in administration for our sister in Christ!!!

It increases safety for all those who count and bank the weekly collection. Our Treasurer puts herself at risk by carrying large sums of money to the bank at regular times (each week) – all it takes is for someone to be watching the Church and her and she could be in danger of mugging. The PGS helps to keep her safe!!

Having Gift Aid returned monthly is a fabulous help with cashflow!!

The monthly commitments made by 'givers' in joining this scheme enables your Church to budget more effectively and reduces the financial concerns that are borne by many!!

Please think and pray about joining the PGS.

It is not a one off event, and this is something St Stephens is now committed to, to take us forward in helping us become more generous and glad givers, and to do so in the most effective and safest ways possible.

Joining soon just increases the benefits for everyone!!

More details to follow...

*God bless. Lisa xx*

## OCTOBER CYCLE OF PRAYER BEGINNING SUNDAY OF EACH WEEK

07	Deerhurst Care & Nursing Home	See & Know continued: Isabella Mills James Ogborne, Layla & Ryan Passey Libby Pearce, Cleo Rees	Morley Close Morley Place Morley Road
14	Prison's Week	Henry Scull, Poppy Slade, Jaxon Street Gracie Tucker, Rowan Wheeler	Mulberry Gardens Mulberry Grove Narrow Lane
21	Kingswood Court Care Home	Congregation: Margaret Archer, Cheryl Ashwin Dan, Hannah, Luke & Ellie Baker Derek and Gwen Beek, Larna Bernard	Neville Road North View Nymphsfield
28	The PCC	Shirley and Terence Biggs, Avis Birkett Bill and Jenny Bishop, Doris Bishop Grace Blackburn	Pear tree Lane Pembroke Road Penny Lane

## OCTOBER DIARY

### REGULAR WEEKLY GROUPS:

TUESDAYS	01.30pm	Knit & Natter in Church Room
WEDNESDAYS	01.00pm	See & Know (For toddlers & carers) (Term time)
THURSDAYS	09.00am 01.00pm	

### SERVICES AND OTHER GROUPS/MEETINGS/EVENTS:

03 WEDNESDAY	10.15am	Holy Communion
04 THURSDAY	08.00pm	Ladies Group (Church Hall)
07 SUNDAY 19th after Trinity	08.00am 10.00am 11.00am 11.15am	Holy Communion (Prayer Book) St Stephens Community Worship Café Central ('til 12.15pm) Parish Giving Scheme Enrolment & Questions (Church Room)
08 MONDAY	09.30am 07.30pm	Retreat Memory Café Remembrance Planning Meeting (Church Room)
10 WEDNESDAY	10.15am 02.00pm	Holy Communion House Group (Church Room)
11 THURSDAY	07.30pm	Men's Group (Church Room)
12 FRIDAY	01.30pm 07.00pm	Pensioner's Group (Church Hall) Outburst Youth Group (Church Hall) 'til 9pm
13 SATURDAY	09.00am	Dad and Me! (Church Hall)
14 SUNDAY 20th after Trinity	08.00am 10.00am 11.00am 11.15am	Holy Communion (Prayer Book) St Stephens Community Worship Café Central ('til 12.15pm) Parish Giving Scheme Enrolment & Questions (Church Room)
	03.00pm	TEA SERVICE (Church Room)
17 WEDNESDAY	10.15am	Holy Communion
18 THURSDAY	08.00pm	Ladies Group (Church Hall)
19 FRIDAY	06.30pm	<b>FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE</b>
20 SATURDAY	02.30pm	Bishop Viv's enthronement (Bristol Cathedral) by invitation only
21 SUNDAY 21st after Trinity	08.00am 10.00am 11.00am 12.30am 02.00pm	Holy Communion (Prayer Book) St Stephens Community Worship Café Central ('til 12.15pm) Baptism Baptism
24 WEDNESDAY	10.15am	Holy Communion
25 THURSDAY	07.30pm	Men's Group (Church Room)
26 FRIDAY	01.30pm 07.00pm	Pensioner's Group (Church Hall) Outburst Youth Group (Church Hall) 'til 9pm
27 SATURDAY	01.00pm	WEDDING
28 SUNDAY 22nd after Trinity	08.00am 10.00am 11.00am	Holy Communion (Prayer Book) St Stephens Community Worship Café Central ('til 12.15pm)
31 WEDNESDAY	10.15am	Holy Communion

### NOVEMBER PREVIEW

01 THURSDAY	08.00pm	Ladies Group (Church Hall)
04 SUNDAY 23rd after Trinity	08.00am 10.00am 11.00am 06.30pm	Holy Communion (Prayer Book) St Stephens Community Worship Café Central ('til 12.15pm) <b>MEMORIAL SERVICE</b>



E&OE

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### SINCE AUGUST

#### Baptism:

September 01: Hector Hargrave.  
*Please include Mum and Dad, Alice and Eric in your prayers.*

#### Funerals:

August 28: **Kenneth Arthur Ernest Bateman** (98): The Celebration of Ken's life took place at Made-for-Ever Methodist Church, followed by Committal at Westerleigh Crematorium.

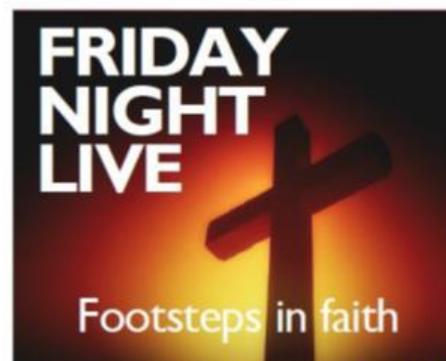
*Please keep his daughter Carole and all his family and friends in your prayers.*

August 29: **Robin Barry Cook** (40): Rob's extended family met at St Stephens to remember and give thanks for Rob's life. They were joined at Westerleigh Crematorium by a huge number of Rob's friends to say 'Goodbye'.

*Please hold Rob's wife Nadine, children Dan, Lewis, Lexi and Finn and grandson George and all family and friends in your prayers.*

September 14: **Charles William Clements** (73): The Celebration of Bill's life was held at St Stephens Church, and was followed by Committal at Westerleigh Crematorium.

*Please remember Bill's wife Sue, and their daughters Lynette and Caroline in your prayers.*



FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE will have something for you, no matter what your age... so why not try it!?

The next meeting is **October 19** at 6.30pm in Church and afterwards we share food together at 7.30pm in the Church Hall and everyone is welcome to be there!

### SAINT STEPHENS SOUNDWELL



• **Revd Lisa Wigmore**  
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Telephone 0117 957 4297



• **Revd Sandy Cooper**  
Associate Minister, 1 Deerhurst  
Soundwell, Bristol BS15 1XH  
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• **Peter Robbins**  
Lay Minister, 13 Wood Road  
Kingswood, Bristol BS15 8DT  
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