

## The Gang Show

18-22 FEBRUARY 7.30PM\*

TICKETS: Adults £6 Children £4 by phone 0117 909 6400 *after 6pm* or email: kristine.lockwood@blueyonder.co.uk

SPECIAL ANNUAL SERVICE

## Ash Wednesday

26 FEBRUARY 7.30PM in Church

PLEASE bring your old Palm Crosses to Church by 23 February, so that they can be transformed into ash for the Imposition of Ashes. *Thank you!*

## LENT COURSE

THE focus of our Lent Course 2020 will be: 'Let's talk... Jesus!' with a mixture of short films, discussion, sharing and prayer. Simply come to church on the Wednesday evenings in Lent: 4 March to 8 April at 7.30pm.

MOTHERING SUNDAY

## Planning meeting

MONDAY 2 MARCH 7.30PM

IF you wish to help or suggest ideas then you are welcome to attend this meeting in the Church Room.

SISTERS OF THE CHURCH

## Easter Appeal!

THEY need medium and large Easter Eggs to give to the poor of our City.

Eggs will need to be in Church by 15th of March. *Any later and we can NOT get the eggs to The Sisters in time.*

BISHOP VIV is doing a series of reflections in the Cathedral on the climate crisis, drawing on Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2020: **Saying Yes to Life** by Ruth Valerio.

The sessions will take place at 6.30pm after Choral Evensong on March 3, March 10 (*led by the Bishop's Chaplain*), March 17 and March 31.

## WOMEN'S World Day of Prayer

THIS annual event takes place this year **FRIDAY 6 MARCH**

A local celebration service will be held at *Badminton Road Methodist Church, Downend* at 2pm.

Prayers are led this year by the people of Zimbabwe with the theme:

**'RISE! Take your mat and walk'**

A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF

## Elaine Cox

FRIDAY 6 MARCH 10AM  
in Church

*Everyone is welcome to attend*

The family ask you, please wear something red if you'd like to

ST STEPHENS CHURCH

## SPRING CLEAN

SATURDAY 14 MARCH 9.30AM

COME and join in with cleaning our Church together and enjoy fun & laughter as we do. Please bring any tools or items that you think might help you to do this.

www.saintstephensoundwell.org

 saintstephen soundwell  @SoundwellChurch

CHARITY NUMBER 1131503

16 FEBRUARY 2020

SECOND BEFORE LENT

BIBLE READINGS: GENESIS 1:1-2;3; MATTHEW 6:25-end

# Faith builders

JESUS SAYS: 'Don't worry.'

*'How can He tell me not to worry?' He wouldn't say that if He knew my problems! Get real, Jesus, come down and help me. So how can He possibly tell me not to worry?'*

Jesus speaks of the birds of the air and the lilies of the field... both seem to thrive with very little protection or worry.

Jesus says that His Father cares for them, and that he will care for you and me. God knows what we need and He will provide. Jesus chastises us for having little faith. So just how do we build our faith?

What **FAITH BUILDERS** are available to us?

1. God created us, and exclaimed that His creation (including us) was very good. He has given us life and He loves us to bits, so we can have Him as the very epicentre of our lives.

2. Stories of people of faith really help us to learn what they have discovered. When Moses died, God appointed Joshua to the daunting task of taking possession of the Promised Land.

In His instructions, God repeats the words *'Be strong and very courageous.'* Just like us, Joshua needed to be reminded that when God instructs, He expects us to lean on Him.

There are so many other stories of people of faith in both Old Testament and New Testament to encourage us.

3. Singing and reading hymns and psalms and spiritual songs remind us that in both the good times and in the darker times we can sing God's praises.

4. Meeting with other Christians is the opportunity to get our anxiety and fear into much better proportion, as we listen to one another and share our stories.

5. Prayer, spending time with God in secret – not just asking – is the way God can minister to us in His amazing love.

6. Action. Last but not least, as we move out in work and service of our Lord, we experience His strength and encouragement. Our faith builds and anxieties decrease.

*Faith Builders restore God to the very epicentre of our being. Fears reduce and our relationship with Him is revitalised.*

**SANDY**



St Stephens  
SOUNDWELL

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS  
EXODUS 24:12-end; MATTHEW 17:1-9