

CONFIRMATION!

MONDAY 26 NOVEMBER 7.30PM

IVOR and Wayne are being confirmed (yay!!), please do come along and support them at Christ Church, Downend Road, Downend BS16 5UF.

ST STEPHENS

CHRISTMASTREE!

FRIDAY 30 NOVEMBER 9.30AM

GET in the festive spirit and join others decorating the Christmas Tree in church ready for the Fayre, we sure have fun together while doing so!!



ST STEPHENS CHURCH

Christmas FAYRE

SATURDAY 01 DECEMBER 2~4PM

All the usual stalls and food and drink and raffles, fun for all the family. See you there next week!

SISTERS OF THE CHURCH

Christmas appeal

PLEASE help the Sisters with their annual food parcels for the deserving poor of our city. The Sisters have asked us for tins of: Ham and Festive Biscuits (*in date please*) and also men's/women's gloves.

Bring your donations to church by or on 2nd December. Thank you.

www.saintstephensoundwell.org

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.

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

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St Stephens
SOUNDWELL

READINGS: DANIEL 7:9,10,13,14; JOHN 18:33-37

CHRIST THE KING

SO HERE we are on the final Sunday of the Church's year, the feast of Christ the King. Next week it will be Advent Sunday when the new Christian year starts as we prepare ourselves for Christmas and all that it brings.

Christ the King as a festival is relatively recent. It was introduced by Pope Pius XI in 1925 during the inter-war years. On Remembrance Sunday, which fell on the centenary of Armistice Day this year, we were thinking about the horrors of the First World War.

In 1925, writing to Catholics Pope Pius reminded them, and all Christians, that in our faith there is only one true and enduring King, Jesus Christ our Lord.

As the century progressed, yet another World War followed and the message of the ultimate supremacy of Christ became even more relevant.

Later the feast was adopted widely by Anglican and also protestant churches and settled on this the last Sunday before Advent.



This icon of Christ wearing a crown and in a priest's robes in front of, but not fixed to a cross sums up the theme of this day.

It reminds us that through the cross Christ became our High Priest and King.

He is our spiritual leader and has authority over us greater than any worldly power. Today we are reminded of this as of summary of our faith.

What a fitting way to end our year as Christians and to lead on to our new year with the season of Advent to prepare us for Christmas with all the promise of hope and redemption that that season brings.

PETER ROBBINS

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:
JEREMIAH 33:14-16; LUKE 10:1-9