



FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE returns for 18 January and will have something for you, no matter what your age, so why not try it!? We start 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!

## Donations by phone

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

## PSG

YOUR Church is a registered charity and we are open, and minister from, the generous donations of those who attend. The PGS makes financial giving to God, through your Church, simple and easy. Please do see Lin, Lisa or Lorraine for more details.

## CHURCH OFFICE

*The Office is officially closed:*

from Friday 21st December 2018 and open again on Monday 7th January 2019

www.saintstephensoundwell.org  
 f saintstephen soundwell @SoundwellChurch  
 CHARITY NUMBER 131503

## Services 6 January

THIS particular Sunday will be a Service of the Word for Epiphany. Holy Communion will not be included in this service but there will be, as usual, BCP Holy Communion at 8am.

## PCC

TUESDAY 8 JANUARY 7.30PM  
 IN the Church room.

## 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

31 JANUARY - 2 FEBRUARY 2019

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



30 DECEMBER 2018

FIRST OF CHRISTMAS

READINGS: 1 SAMUEL 2:18-20, 26; LUKE 2:41-END

# We follow Jesus!

AS THE END OF THE YEAR approaches, I like to find a few quiet moments to ponder the last few weeks, to think about the Christmas themes and messages, and to reflect on what God may have been saying to us as a Church, and to me, personally.

'A Star is Born' has been our Christmas Card greeting and our Advent theme. The Star of Christmas is Jesus, and this year we have seen the birth of Jesus through the eyes of the Wise Men. They had been on the look-out, and when they saw the star, they left everything behind, set out and followed the star wherever it took them. Some of us are using the little book of meditations 'Follow the Star' to accompany us through this season.

*So what nugget, what gem will you extract from all the wealth of thoughts you have heard this Christmas?*

For me the word 'Wisdom' seems to resonate.

The Wise Men and all their wise actions are central. But also Mary shows wisdom in pondering the events both of that first Christmas and also the time when Jesus was 12 years old.

*We are told that she pondered these things in her heart.*

Then, in our Bible readings we hear that both Samuel and Jesus grew in wisdom.

The story comes to mind of when God met with Solomon at the beginning of his reign and offered him any gift. Solomon asked for wisdom. As we know, God answered his prayer, and the rest is history.

So if wisdom is my take-home thought this year, how does that translate into reality? Perhaps the old bumper sticker might be helpful: 'Wise men still seek Jesus'. So if we want to know something of wisdom, then we can do no better than seek to follow Jesus wherever He takes us.

So, for a while, we will remind each other of our Christian journey by saying in our services 'We follow Jesus'.

And what better way to follow Jesus than by having His name on our lips as well as in our hearts! **SANDY**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:  
 ISAIAH 60:1-6; MATTHEW 2:1-12