

Open Space

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AUGUST 2018

SAINT STEPHENS SOUNDWELL

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A GOD VACANCY

SEVEN YEARS AGO, Chris Evans on Radio 2, had a dream: to get children excited about reading and writing. All children, no matter what their ability.

500 WORDS is now one of the most successful story-writing competitions for children in the world: over three quarters of a million children have written a story for this Radio 2 competition over the years!



It's very simple.

Entrants write an original story on any subject or theme in 500 Words or fewer and submit it online.

If they win, their story will be read live on the radio by a superstar celebrity... like Julie Walters, Tom Hiddleston, Jeremy Irons, Sir Kenneth Branagh, or Sherlock himself – Benedict Cumberbatch.

Each year, 10 million Radio 2 listeners hear, read and love these stories.

I am one of the 10 million and a few of this year's stories have touched me.

One story I will share with you later in the year but the other one is presented below.

This story came in the top 50 in the age 10 to 13 category and is a letter written by Aoife Maddock.

Dear Gods & Deities Inc,

IT is with much regret that I have chosen to resign from my position as Lead Deity of Area 2554I, specifically, Earth.

I have learnt very much from my time at Gods & Deities Inc. and will cherish the relationships I have formed with the beings there forever.

This was not an easy decision to make, but I believe it is in the best interests of my career advancement and development as a sentient being. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working for you.

Actually, you know what? That's a lie.

I have not enjoyed my time at Gods and Deities Inc. at all.

Would you like to know why? *Humans.*

I understand it's unprofessional of me to complain about my clients in such a personal manner, but they are just so frustrating.

I have done everything in my power to please them, you know.

My creative team and I have worked as best we can with them – but I've never met a species that is quite so needy!

First of all, they're the only species to fight among themselves so pettily.

War after war, I can barely get a word in edgewise; all in my name, might I add.

I don't want war, why would I want war?

That doesn't even make sense!

If they'd listen for just one moment, they'd realise it's not in my best interests and it's certainly not in theirs, it's nothing but a waste of time and money.

Another thing, never have I worked a job where I've received so much abuse!

Anything they mess up, they blame on me, which is hardly fair. Do they really think it's my job to sit around and ruin their day? I'm tired of them overestimating my power.

I can't solve world hunger!

They caused world hunger! It's clear they've mistaken me for the universal caretaker, here to sweep up their messes.

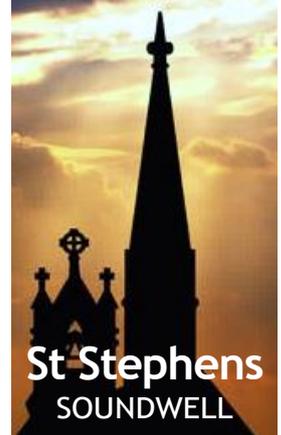
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Mission Partners with St Stephens:

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

Church Road
Soundwell
Bristol BS16 4RH
0117 956 6257
visionatststephens@
gmail.com
www.saintstephen
soundwell.org
CHARITY NUMBER
131503



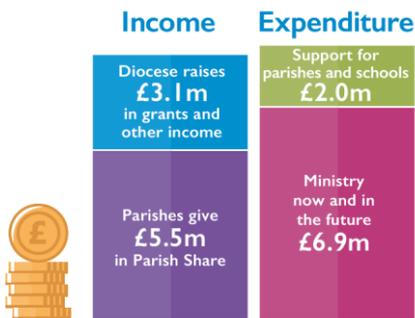
Where are we on our Parish Share journey?

OVER the coming weeks your church will receive its Parish Share request for 2019.

SO how far have we come as a Diocese, and where are we heading on our shared Parish Share journey?

This is the third year of a new Diocesan approach that was introduced to improve the way churches contribute to support wider ministry and mission, making the process more transparent, ambitious and equitable.

It was developed in response to the Diocese experiencing year-on-year deficits over recent years as a result of real term reductions in Parish Share each year up to 2017.



To address this, we needed to collectively increase our Parish Share commitments by £1million from 2015 to 2020 to meet this short-fall and invest in future ministry.

What has been the impact so far?

The response from parishes has been hugely encouraging. In 2017 parishes gave an additional £250,000

in Parish Share, bringing the total given to £5.5million.

This was made possible because a most churches took responsibility for the share of ministry and support they received, were generous in supporting those they are connected with across the Diocese, and had faith that God provides all we need for His mission.

As a result, we have been able to invest in supporting our clergy and training new ministers, as well as providing support for all our churches and schools.

What are the next steps?

As we look to the future, we face a collective challenge to continue to reduce the current deficit, but also resource ministry, train new ones, and support the wider mission of churches across the Diocese.

We all have a role to play in building on this progress.

We aim to increase our Parish Share commitments by £250,000 each year until 2020.

Parish Share materials that your parish receives are designed to help understand the aims, principles and the expectations for the parish in the form of a minimum request.

Should you have any questions, please attend an upcoming Giving to God workshop or get in touch with Clare Fussell or Matthew Hall: clare.fussell@bristoldiocese.org matthew.hall@bristoldiocese.org

Equipping people to minister to the world

THE BEGINNING of July was special for Bristol Diocese. We celebrated ordinations to the offices of Deacon, Priest and Bishop.

IT IS EXCITING to see people committing themselves to the service of Christ in influential roles in His church.

In the midst of that joy it would be all too easy to slip into mistaken thinking that ordained ministers are the only church ministers.

Doing that would mean falling into a mission limiting trap, badly misunderstanding Christ's call to all believers to be church ministers in the world.

Ordination services are necessarily focussed on ordained ministers.

However, they are also clear that the role of ordained ministers is to equip the people of God so that they can be servants (ministers) of Christ in the world.

Ordained ministers are called to work alongside, be examples, pray for, shepherd, teach and serve.

We who are ordained are not called to do all the ministry of the church. That is for every believer as we are scattered into the world through the week in workplaces, colleges, clubs, schools, pubs and friendship groups.

I was reminded a couple of days ago that in Luke's gospel (chapters 8 and 9) it wasn't until Jesus sent his followers out to be his ministers in the world that they truly recognised who he was.

In Acts, Jesus followers learn their discipleship as they go out and minister in the world. We all learn to follow Jesus, to be disciples, as we serve.

So perhaps, as well as ordinations, we should have an annual service of celebration for the whole people of God and our collective ministry in the world.

Revd Mat Ineson,
Vicar at St Mary's, Stoke Bishop,

Spiritual and Pastoral Care Volunteers

DO YOU think you might be suited to being a Chaplaincy Volunteer on a ward at a Bristol Hospital? To find out, the Chaplaincy of the North Bristol NHS Trust, and the University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust, are providing a training course this autumn.

The course explores volunteering as a ward visitor, and how to meet people in hospital who may or may not express a faith.

Course details:

10am to 1pm for either September 5, 12, 19, 26 or October 3, 10, 17 at Gate 30, Brunel Building, Southmead Hospital, Bristol BS10 5NB.

If you are interested you are invited to contact the Revd Brenda Dowie on 0117 414 3700 or email: the.chaplaincy@nbt.nhs.uk

Stephen Bentley
Team Chaplain

GOD VACANCY

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There's no working with them, there's no splitting the load.

They expect everything of me and I get nothing in return.

One last thing, this one really irks me, but would it kill them just to listen? For once?

I've considered going vengeful, multiple times. They complain about my standoffish-ness, my refusal to step in when the going gets tough, but when I try to give advice they won't take it!

I feel I have been very clear about my expectations of our partnership.

They take one step forward, only to take another two back, do you have any idea how infuriating that is?

The spark I once had has been replaced by a resentful disinterest, and whose fault is that?

I apologise, this letter has stretched out longer than anticipated, but I really needed to get that off my chest.

I hope now my sudden resignation does not seem so irrational, and that Gods & Deities Inc. prospers in the future. Whomever you choose as my successor, I sincerely wish them the best of luck.

They're going to need it.

I THINK AOIFE has made some insightful comments despite the odd sentence I would wish to challenge but it has made me think and reflect and I admire this is in a writer.

I hope you enjoy Aoife's 500 word story – and I hope it makes you think and reflect as much as I did too!

LISA

QUIZ NIGHT!

Friday 7 September 7.30pm

Teams of up to 3 people, £3 each.
All profits to Church Funds.

Come and have fun and bring your drinks and nibbles!

THE COMMUNITY OF THE SISTERS OF THE CHURCH

Harvest Appeal 2018

THE YEAR has flown by and once again it is not so long to Harvest time!

WE ARE so grateful for the amazing financial and practical support for our work that we have received from individual donors, churches and other organisations over the past 12 months. Last year we saw almost 9,000 callers, many of them new faces; we have also seen an increase in the number of people disadvantaged by benefit sanctions.

All this means that we are more dependent than ever on your kindness and generosity to help sustain our work.

We are in need of:



• TINNED FOODS:

(Please provide tins 'in date!').

Tinned meats (eg: ham, beef, stew), rice pudding, fruit, custard, baked beans, vegetables, soup and *especially* tins of tuna!

• PACKETS:

Such as cereals, pasta, rice, instant cup soup, biscuits, tea bags and jars of coffee.

• SUNDRIES:

Tin openers, toiletries for both men and women, packets of nappies - especially larger sizes.

• VOLUNTEERS:

We always need more volunteers, for a variety of tasks!

• MONEY!

We also need money! We spend on average more than £1000 per week, most of it on bulk buying of basic foods to supplement the food donations we receive.

During the winter months £150 per week of this goes on topping up utility keys for callers who struggle to pay for electricity and gas, so we urgently need to replenish our funds in order to meet this basic need.

Over the years we have always had enough to go round, but with ever-rising costs of food and fuel, our resources are becoming considerably depleted, and so we are grateful for every donation, however small.

With thanks and blessings from all of us here,

Sister Teresa Mary CSC (Sister-in-Charge) **Sister Rosina CSC**
Loaves and Fishes Ministry
Harvest Appeal 2018

Keys to all Church premises...

REMINDER: if you have a key to ANY part of Church premises, please do ensure you are recorded on the key register.

IF you have any keys not used for say 6 months or so, please return them to the Church for safe keeping.

You can always have them back at a later date if needed. Please don't hold on to them, '*just in case*', as this may invalidate our insurance.

Please return keys and/or check you are recorded on the Key Register, by seeing Sandra or Gill as soon as possible. Thank you for playing your part in keeping Church premises and yourself, safe!!

Billy Graham

I WAS READING an article recently about Billy Graham who is no longer with us of course but I thought that I would share it with you.

It is estimated that more than three million people responded to Billy Graham's invitation to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

As for Billy Graham, he told his hearers many years earlier how to respond to news of his death:

'Some day you will read or hear that Billy Graham is dead. Do not believe a word of it. I shall be more alive than I am now. I will just have changed address. I will have gone into the presence of God.'

I thought it was a wonderfully reassuring thought. God bless

Margaret Stawte

AUGUST CYCLE OF PRAYER BEGINNING SUNDAY OF EACH WEEK

05	Director of Music: Lin Cooper	Ivor Taylor, Rita Thorne, Christine Tippet Vanessa and Nick Tippet, William & Edward Ken and Gill Tizzard, Bobbie Tucker	Fairford Close Fairlyn Drive Florence Road
12	The Church Choir	Mark, Caroline, Oscar & Eliza Turner Lisa & Jamie Vural & Amira Mohammed Lucy Underwood & Wendy, Jean Wadsworth	Frys Hill Gilpin Close Gladstone Court
19	Churchwardens: Sandra & Gill & the teams who assist	Mark Walker Darren, Kay, Lauren, Emily & Thomas Warr Tony Weare, Pauline Webb Lisa, Paul & Tom Wigmore	Gladstone Drive Gladstone Street Gloucester Road
26	Associate Minister Sandy Cooper	Joan Williams, Jenny and Derek Wiltshire Raphael Wilson, Mary Winrow, Keith Winter Roxanne, Harley & Kaiden Woodman	Gorse Hill Hayward Road Highview Road

AUGUST 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	See & Know* (For toddlers & carers)
	01.00pm	See & Know* (For toddlers & carers)

SERVICES AND OTHER GROUPS/MEETINGS/EVENTS:

01 WEDNESDAY	10.15am	Holy Communion
05 SUNDAY	08.00am	Holy Communion (Prayer Book)
10th after Trinity	10.00am	St Stephens Community Worship with Baptism
	11.00am	Café Central ('til 12.15pm)
07 TUESDAY	02.00pm	Knit & Natter trip to Bromley Tea Rooms <i>See Beryl Hurkett for more information</i>
08 WEDNESDAY	10.15am	Holy Communion
12 SUNDAY	08.00am	Holy Communion (Prayer Book)
11th after Trinity	10.00am	St Stephens Community Worship
	11.00am	Café Central ('til 12.15pm)
	03.00pm	TEA SERVICE (Church Room)
15 WEDNESDAY	10.15am	Holy Communion
19 SUNDAY	(08.00am	No service this week)
12th after Trinity	10.00am	All Age Service of The Word (no Holy Communion)
	11.00am	Café Central ('til 12.15pm)
22 WEDNESDAY	10.15am	Holy Communion
26 SUNDAY	08.00am	Holy Communion (Prayer Book)
13th after Trinity	10.00am	St Stephens Community Worship
	11.00am	Café Central ('til 12.15pm)
29 WEDNESDAY	10.15am	Holy Communion
	07.30pm	Planning Meeting for Harvest Celebration

SEPTEMBER PREVIEW

02 SUNDAY	08.00am	Holy Communion (Prayer Book)
14th after Trinity	10.00am	St Stephens Community Worship
	11.00am	Café Central ('til 12.15pm)
03 MONDAY	07.30pm	Hall Users Meeting
05 WEDNESDAY	10.15am	Holy Communion
06 THURSDAY	08.00pm	Ladies Group (Church Hall)
07 FRIDAY	07.30pm	QUIZ NIGHT (Church Hall)
08 SATURDAY	09.00am	Dad and Me! (Church Hall)
09 SUNDAY	08.00am	Holy Communion (Prayer Book)
15th after Trinity	10.00am	St Stephens Community Worship
	11.00am	Café Central ('til 12.15pm)
	12.30pm	Baptism
	03.00pm	TEA SERVICE (Church Room)



E&OE

FROM THE REGISTERS

SINCE JUNE

Baptisms

01 July: **Ryan Jacob Passey**. Please include Mum and Dad, Catherine and Nick, and sister Layla, in your prayers.

15 July: **Remi-Rose Lee Sweet**. Please include Mum and Dad, Rosie and Mitchell in your prayers.

15 July: **Rory James Skinner**. Please include Mum and Dad, Carly and Ryan, and sister Eliza in your prayers.

22 July: **Frederick Peter Jason Cordina-Wilson**. Please include Mum, Dad, Hayley, Jason, and sisters Molly and Masie-Anne in your prayers.

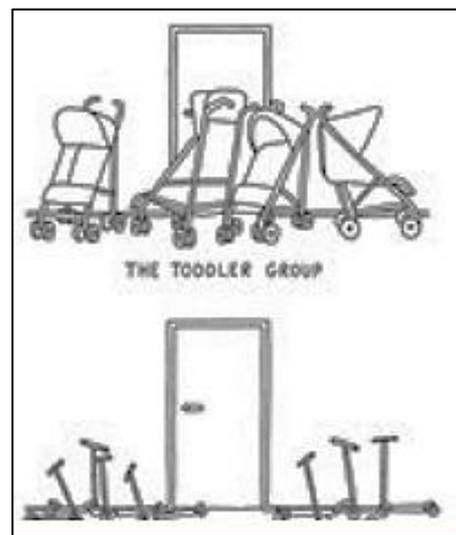
22nd July: **Kataleya Rose Scott Withey**. Please include Mum and Dad, Kristine and Jason and brothers and sisters, Connor, Korenza and Alana in your prayers.

Funerals:

02 July: **Jaqueline, 'Jacqui' Anne Hoare**. The celebration of Jacqui's life took place at Westerleigh Crematorium. Please keep Jacqui's husband, Richard, their children, Scott and Zoe, and all their family and friends in your prayers.

Moving on...

Emma, Dan, Milly & Alice King have recently moved out of our area but they would love to keep in touch with the church family at St Stephens. Please speak to Sandy and Lin if you would like their new address.



SAINT STEPHENS SOUNDWELL



• **Revd Lisa Wigmore**
Priest in Charge, 52 Gladstone Street
Soundwell, Bristol BS16 4RF
Telephone 0117 957 4297



• **Revd Sandy Cooper**
Associate Minister, 1 Deerhurst
Soundwell, Bristol BS15 1XH
Telephone 0117 967 2621