

Open Space

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AUGUST 2023

SAINT STEPHENS SOUNDWELL

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A time for everything

A WEEK or so ago, the schools 'broke-up' for the summer holidays, and St Stephen's Junior School, along with other primary schools in the area, said their goodbyes to their Year 6 pupils.

THIS IS OFTEN an event with mixed emotions... as at the end of every summer term; there is joy and elation at breaking up for the summer, and also sadness about being separated for the long summer holiday. This is made harder for the year 6's as this could be the last time they see some of their friends, as they are going to many different schools. They are also feeling a bit invincible - being at the very top of the school, the big fish in a little pond if you like. And at the same time, deep down they know that soon they will be the 'little fish' again, as they start secondary school, where many of the children already there, are much bigger and bolder than they have experienced so far.

At their leaver's service in Church, each child is given the opportunity to talk about some of the most memorable things that have happened during their time at St Stephen's Junior School, or to talk about what they are looking forward to most at their new school or in their future.

As you might imagine, the tears flow and the hugs are held a little longer, as the reality of saying goodbye begins to hit home. And it's the same for the parents, teachers and their Vicar, as together, we have seen the children grow over the years.

It has been a real delight and joy to watch the children mature and become confident young people, who I know will be a real asset to the secondary schools they will be moving on to.

One of the things that I have been reflecting on is the contribution that each individual child makes to the life of the school, they all leave a little piece of them behind and the school is richer for them having been part of it.

When school returns after the summer holidays things will have changed, we will have a new year 6 and a new intake in each school year and with a new group of children starting school for the first time. Please will you pray for all of the children, not just in our church school, St Stephen's Junior, but for all who will be moving on to secondary school in September as well as those who will be starting school for the first time.

School days may be long behind most of us but changes and milestones are things we all face; houses may change hands, people will come and go... but each of us leaves a footprint behind us.

Memories live on and we all contribute something of our self to the communities we find ourselves in.

You all contribute to the life of this Parish because St Stephen's Church is the church for the whole community, and you make it what it is!!

Ecclesiastes CHAPTER 3

A reading in the book of Ecclesiastes in the Bible, talks about how there is a time and purpose for everything.

This is something I find quite helpful to think about, especially when I am faced with change.

Seasons come and go, we come and go, we move onto new seasons in our life, just as the year 6 children will do but each season helps to shape us and we add something to it.

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Mission Partners with St Stephens:

Beloved
Bristol City Centre Soup Run
Bristol Schools Connection
Bristol/Uganda Link
Christian Aid
Community of the Sisters of the Church
Emmaus
Harvest for The Hungry
One25 Project

St Stephens

Church Road
Soundwell
Bristol BS16 4RH
0117 956 6257

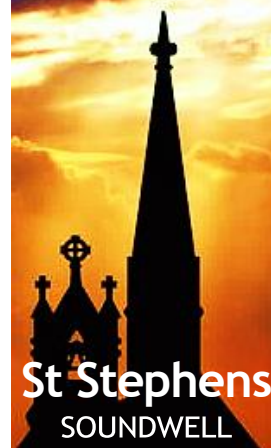
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www.saintstephensoundwell.org

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[@SoundwellChurch](https://www.instagram.com/SoundwellChurch)

CHARITY NUMBER
1131503



Readings & Collects

FOR AUGUST 2023

FOR THOSE OF US who are not able to attend services or who wish to use the Sunday readings and Collect Prayer to worship at home, here they are:

SUNDAY 06 AUGUST 9th Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm 145:8-9, 15-22
Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

GRACIOUS FATHER, revive your Church in our day, and make her holy, strong and faithful, for your glory's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SUNDAY 13 AUGUST 10th Sunday after Trinity

1 Kings 19:9-18; Psalm 85:8-13
Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-23

LORD OF HEAVEN and earth, as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer, give us patience and courage never to lose hope, but always to bring our prayers before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST 11th Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Psalm 67
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32;
Matthew 15:10-28

GOD OF GLORY, the end of our searching, help us to lay aside all that prevents us from seeking your kingdom, and to give all that we have to gain the pearl beyond all price, through our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

SUNDAY 27 AUGUST 12th Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 51:1-6; Psalm 138
Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

GOD OF CONSTANT mercy, who sent your Son to save us: remind us of your goodness, increase your grace within us, that our thankfulness may grow, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A time for everything

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The image of a book sums it up... each chapter is new and adds another dimension, but it is all part of the one story, God's story of our lives.

The final verse of the passage from Ecclesiastes says, 'God has made everything beautiful in its time'.

I pray that each of us may know the truth of that verse, whether we are changing schools, starting a new phase in our lives or continuing as we have been doing.

There is a time for everything! Amen.

Lisa xx



Personal Assistant

Required for flexible hours plus sickness and holiday cover.

This role is to support a lady in her 30s in the Mangotsfield area (BS16) to live independently day-to-day, and access the community on a regular basis, to include walking the dog, shopping, attending activities and using the car. Chatting by phone or a text-based conversation will also be required. Client likes to do yoga and enjoys going to a local fitness class and shopping with a friend.

Hours to be decided with the client and flexibility arranged to suit her daily needs. Initially, this role will be 2 hours on a Wednesday and 2 hours on a Sunday morning. However, the client is happy to be flexible with these hours. Additional hours due to holiday cover are available between the 3rd-20th August 2023.

Earliest start time to be 09:30am and latest finish time 14:30pm.

Hourly rate will be £10.82.

The ideal candidate will be friendly, reliable, patient, respectful and non-judgemental, with good experience and understanding of mental health difficulties whilst being open to learn, listen and take on board the needs and views of the client who uses Dialectical Behavioural Therapy strategies.

A car owner is essential and the candidate must have a full, clean driving licence. Role is subject to an Enhanced DBS check.

Celebrate the New Year in Rome!

AFTER a break of four years because of 'stay at home' away from you-know-what, Peter is once again planning a New Year trip to the Eternal City, as has been done with groups many times before!

29 DECEMBER-3 JANUARY
for 5 nights, staying at the Hotel Lancelot near the Colosseum.



The flight will depart from Bristol Airport, and the costs will be in the region of £1000 per person to include the local Gala celebration on New Year's Eve.

If you might like to join in do speak to me at church for further details or phone 0773 036 9112 or email: peter-robbins@outlook.com

Peter Robbins



Dial-a-SERMON

Listen to this week's Sermon on your phone:

0117 456 2090

(Cost is the same as a local call)

OR

Click-a-SERMON



Visit our website and use the audio link to listen on-line

<http://saintstephensoundwell.org>

Regan's Ordination as Priest

REGAN was ordained a Priest on Saturday 1 July 2023 in the Bristol Cathedral.

It was a memorable occasion, shared by many who attended the event to support and cheer him on.

Then on Sunday 2 July, Regan presided at the 10am Service of Holy Communion for the first time.

After the service there was a slap-up celebration lunch, in the Church Hall.

Here and overleaf are sample photos taken during the weekend.

LOOKING back on my ordination as priest, I would like to share some of my thoughts and feelings.

Growing up, never did I once think that I would be ordained as a priest.

The whole week leading up to the ordination was emotional.

Before we went on retreat, which began on Wednesday, we had a rehearsal in the Cathedral.

Our group who had been ordained deacon last year had been travelling our ordination journeys together and we were able to encourage and support each other during this important time of our lives.

The retreat lasted until Saturday which was the day of our ordination and it consisted of both time to learn but also time for quiet reflection.

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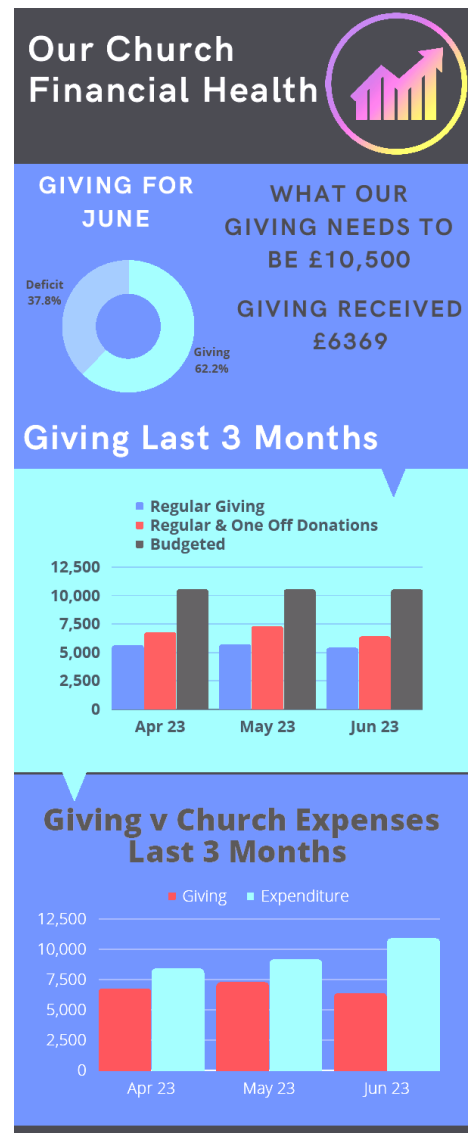


Official photos in the Cathedral and outside were taken by Lee Pullen Photography / Diocese of Bristol and are gratefully reproduced here with permission.



ON the day of ordination, I remember feeling excited, emotional, but mostly grateful to God for guiding me and protecting me so that I could reach this point. The next day was the first time for me to preside at communion and this was an important time for me but also a nervous one. But, through this whole process of ordination and first communion, I have learnt to trust God more and lean on him when I step out of my comfort zones.

As, I continue in my ministry, I give thanks to God because it is only by his power that I can do the work I am doing. **Rev Regan Meares**



Summer Fayre pix!



THE photos here were taken by Regan on the afternoon of Saturday 8 July when the Church was thrown open for the Annual Summer Fayre, which this year raised over £1300 which will go towards Church Funds.

Thanks to everyone who attended and all those who took part both before, during and afterwards, such as preparing, running stalls and clearing away.



TUESDAY 15 AUGUST
10am to 12noon
Conversation,
free snacks & refreshments
All are welcome!

WE also look forward to seeing you on **19 September** between 10am and 12noon of a Tuesday.

Please note that under 17s must be accompanied by an adult.

** (In our Church Room, on St Stephens Road located between the main Church and the Soundwell Academy car park).*



Church Road
Soundwell
Bristol BS16 4RH
Telephone
0117 956 6257
saintstephen
soundwell.org
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SUNDAY
20 AUGUST
12.15-2.30PM
IN THE CHURCH GROUNDS*

Bring your own food,
drinks and seating

** Or in the Church Hall
if the weather is poor!*



Church Road
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www.saintstephen
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CHARITY NUMBER 1131503

AUGUST CYCLE OF PRAYER BEGINNING SUNDAY OF EACH WEEK

06	All who read or lead prayers in our services	Anita Leakey Kristine, Ian, Emily & Jack Lockwood Mike Long	St Clements Court St Stephens Close St Stephens Road
13	Deanery Synod Representatives	Gill Mayo, Julia Merrifield Clive Milkins, Carol Millard Holly Miriam, Andrea Monks	Stanley Park Road Stanton Close Station Road
20	Sacristan and Servers	Margaret Moore Josie, Tanya & Bradley Morris Carol Murphy, Dave Newton	Sweets Close Sweets Road The Close
27	Deerhurst Care & Nursing Home	Katy, Tom, George & Theo North June O'Donoghue, Gill Ogborne David Packe, Jan and Dave Parker	The Crescent The Elms The Gardens

SUNDAYS: 8am BCP Holy Communion on 1st and 3rd Sundays.
10am Community Worship Service

Prayer Ministry is offered after the 10am Service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays or at any other time by request, so do please ask as necessary.

WEDNESDAYS: 10am Service of Holy Communion*

*(but not on 6th August)

JULY DIARY

31 Monday	11am	Funeral of Sheila Stone in Church followed by Committal & Wake at Westerleigh Crematorium
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AUGUST DIARY

01 Tuesday(s)	1.15pm	Funeral of Carole Jackson at Westerleigh Crematorium
	1.30-3.30pm	Knit & Natter weekly in the Church Room
02 Wednesday	12noon	Coffee/Chat/Company Turnpike Pub
13 Sunday	11.45am 2pm	Prayer Ministry Team meet after 10am Service BAPTISM
14 Monday	9.30am	Retreat Memory Café in Church Hall for Dementia sufferers and their carers
15 Tuesday	10am-12noon	WELCOME SPACE in Church Room
18 Friday	6.30pm	FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE in Church: informal song, prayer, discussions with refreshments after at 7.30pm in the Church Hall
20 Sunday	12.15-2.30pm	SUMMER PICNIC to be held after church in the Church Grounds, (weather permitting, else in Church Hall)
22 Tuesday	12 noon 4.30pm	Wedding of Jenny and Jason in Church Finance Committee Meeting in Church Room

SEPTEMBER DIARY

04 Monday	2pm	Ministry Team Meeting in Church Room
05 Tuesday(s)	1.30-3.30pm	Knit & Natter weekly in the Church Room
06 Wednesday	12 noon	Coffee/Chat/Company Turnpike Pub
07 Thursday(s)	10-11.45am	See & Know resumes in Church Hall
12 Tuesday	7.30pm	PCC in Church Room

JOIN US FOR
**COFFEE/
CHAT &
COMPANY**

Every first Wednesday
of the month at 12noon
in the Turnpike
on Soundwell Road.

A time to be, be known,
and be together!

FROM THE REGISTERS

SINCE JUNE 2023

Baptism:

• **JULY 23:**
Maelani Blu Kathryn Jefferies.
Please hold Mae's parents, Christina and Adam, brother Max, sister Mia, her Godparents and all the family and their friends in your prayers.

Funerals:

• **JUNE 27: Allen Clifford Webster** (82). The celebration of Allen's life was held at St Stephens Church, Soundwell.

Please hold Florence, Donna, Shelley, the wider family and all Allen's friends in your prayers.

• **JULY 13: Brian Bertram George Veale** (83). The service of Thanksgiving for Brian's life was held at South Bristol Crematorium and Cemetery.

Please hold Roger, Pam, Ann, Avis, other close family and friends in your prayers.

• **JULY 19: Rex Owen Conway** (86). The celebration of Rex's life was held at St Stephens Church, Soundwell.

Please will you hold Sandra, their children; Louise, Samantha, Laura, Angeline, Ben and Claire, their families, the wider family and all Rex and Sandra's friends in your prayers.

SAINT STEPHENS SOUNDWELL



• **Revd Lisa Wigmore**
Vicar, 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



• **Revd Regan Meares**
Priest
Telephone 07769 704270



• **Peter Robbins**
Lay Minister, 13 Wood Road
Kingswood, Bristol BS15 8DT
Telephone 0117 967 9576



• **Gill Mayo**
Church Warden
Telephone
0117 956 9796

