

# Open Space

Open Space  
JULY 2021

SAINT STEPHENS SOUNDWELL

JULY 2021

## Disappointment

IT IS of course very disappointing that Regan will not be joining us as Curate in July. Please see my letter for the complete statement from our Diocese about this.

IN THE SUMMER of 2020, I was approached by the Diocese to ask me to be a Training Incumbent from this year.

Later that summer, I then met with Regan so we could decide if we could work well together. It was a mutual yes and although I was not able to share his name for some time... once the process of him coming to Soundwell had begun, I was able to share with you all that we had been chosen to have a Curate.

Therefore, it is great recognition for us, that even though we hadn't requested, we were chosen and are deemed to be a good 'training Parish'.

We have been praying for him, we have met him a few times, the members of your PCC have been preparing welcome gifts for him on behalf of us all... we have all been waiting with excitement for his Ordination and arrival with us.

I had been preparing things for him to do and experiences for him to share-in, when he first arrived to help him settle in. I had planned ways that he would introduce himself to you, one of which was writing this 'lead article' here in Open Space, and begun to plan shared responsibilities and new ventures in the years ahead. Therefore, it is only natural that there is an air of disappointment that so much that had been prepared now cannot happen, and that plans have had to change at so late a stage.

I for one am very disappointed. Not in Regan, or in the process that surrounds this course of action – for I trust God is well and truly in all of this with all those involved – but I feel a sense of deflation

and sadness, I suppose I'm feeling a great wave of disappointment.

TO BE honest, this isn't my only disappointment. I am also deeply sad that the current restrictions have been extended and we can't sit next to each other in Church for a while longer.

I totally understand and agree with the reasons behind this... but I'm fed up and disappointed. More so, probably, because we had also planned all the hymns and worship songs we would be singing together at this time. I really am missing worshipping God in song alongside you, my sisters and brothers in Christ.

I know that God is present in all our times of worship; whether they be at home; on video calls like Zoom; sharing in Songs of Praise on the TV; a service online; or together yet at a distance in Church. He is the focus of our praise and worship. He alone is worthy of our worship. Worship has always been about Him.

So, while musical worship is first and foremost a spiritual practice - Christians believe that corporate worship matters to God and that raised voices should not glorify anyone but him.

However, to say that musical worship is not for people, overlooks the reality that congregational worship does benefit people, and it should. Acknowledging this may help us understand why, at times like this, worship without singing can feel a bit empty or dry – no matter how hard we try to introduce music in non-singing ways.

These disappointments are certainly not the only disappointments that I have experienced in life – don't worry I'm not going to hit you with a long list of them here and now, because I am feeling a bit like a moaning Minnie.

*Continued on page 2 >*

### Mission Partners with St Stephens:

Beloved  
Bristol City Centre Soup Run  
Bristol Scools Connection  
Bristol/Uganda Link  
Christian Aid  
Community of the Sisters of the Church  
Emmaus  
Fair Trade  
One25 Project  
The Bristol Noise

### St Stephens

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CHARITY NUMBER  
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St Stephens  
SOUNDWELL

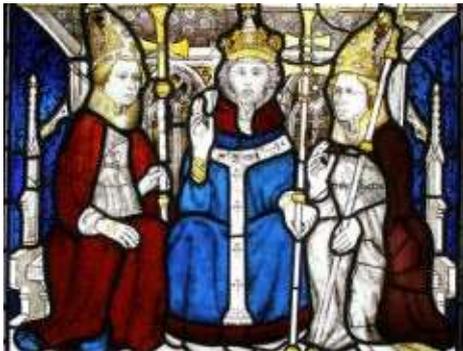
## Disappointment

< *Continued from page 1*

I suppose I am really suggesting that disappointment is a human feeling and we should at times give ourselves permission to accept dissatisfaction.

There is plenty of material in the history of the church to reflect upon, as God's people in every generation have experienced and know the sense of disappointment. In every life, plans sometimes have to change; ambitions are unrealized; sacrifices reluctantly have to be made.

In his Ecclesiastical History, the Venerable Bede (670-735) tells the story of Egbert and Wictbert.



Egbert was a bishop living in Ireland who resolved to travel to Germany to preach the Good News to the pagan Saxons. He gathered a group to travel with him and made all the necessary preparations only to be told by one of his monks (who had had a vision) that God did not want him to go.

Egbert ignored the admonition, but a storm that prevented his ship leaving harbour changed his mind and 'he abandoned his plan and resigned himself to staying at home.'

One of Egbert's companions was Wictbert who determined to go to Germany in the bishop's stead.

For two years, he engaged in missionary activity in continental Europe 'but his great efforts produced no results' so he returned home 'to be of more help to his own people'.

Abandoning plans will have been the experience of all of us over this last 16 months.

It is also the theme of one of the most popular of Christmas movies, *'It's a Wonderful Life'*.

George Bailey is a man whose ambition to leave his home town and make something of himself is repeatedly thwarted and we meet him at his lowest point where the accumulated weight of years of disappointment finally becomes too much – and an angel is sent to help him.

The fiction expresses a powerful truth: the prayers of heaven are with us in our disappointment.

Of course, it is always important to keep these things in proportion; there being a pause or a change to Regan joining us in July, not singing together for a season, a cancelled holiday etc etc, is a small thing compared to the grief that many have suffered this year (and many more will suffer should the spread of the virus not be brought under control). But in difficult times, small things that speak of hope are important and the promise of God's presence with us is true at all times, whether the disappointment be small or great.

OVER the last few months we have learnt that it is possible to serve God and God's people even when we live with restrictions that, for our own safety, keep us apart.

This pandemic and its restrictions have not robbed God of the worship he is due.

When we stop singing and making music together, we don't lose the presence of God with us or our ability to worship in spirit and in truth.

So, we have seen the myriad examples of online services, worship resources to use at home, prayer by phone, ministry by card/letter, a chat on the doorstep, a walk in the park, shopping for a neighbour or just checking they are well.

The experience of disappointment is not one that we would ever seek but it can offer us ways to be a blessing to others.

But most importantly, I don't believe that God is ever disappointed in us.

He knows each of us too well, knowing what we will do even before we do it, to be disappointed in us. In fact, God is **Omniscience**, which means God is all-knowing, including the past and the future.

God is **Omnipresence**, which means God is everywhere at all times and there is no location where he does not inhabit.

God is **Omnipotence**, God is all-powerful and is not subject to physical limitations like human beings are.

God is **Omnibenevolence**, God is all-good and all-loving. In fact, God is not just all-loving, God is Love itself.

SO, here are a few Bible verses and a prayer for us all in times of disappointment:

- For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

JOHN 3:16

- 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'

JEREMIAH 29:11

- You are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you.

ISAIAH 43:4

**A prayer:**



LOVING GOD, in our fear, in our grief, in our disappointment, may we know that you are with us.

As we heed the call to continue to worship you in different ways, help us to serve you faithfully.

As we cope with change and delay, often at short notice and sometimes without knowing or understanding why, help us to trust in you.

In all these things, may others come to know you as not just the God of love, but that you, Lord, are love itself. Amen.

Rev Lisa Wigmore

# Readings & Collects

FOR JULY 2021

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 04 JULY 2021

5th Sunday after Trinity

Ezekiel 2:1-5; Psalm 123;

2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

ALMIGHTY GOD, send down upon your Church the riches of your Spirit, and kindle in all who minister the gospel your countless gifts of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## SUNDAY 11 JULY 2021

Dedication Sunday

Genesis 28:11-18;

Psalm 122; 1 Peter 2:1-10

ALMIGHTY GOD, to whose glory we celebrate the dedication of this house of prayer: we praise you for the many blessings you have given to those who worship you here: and we pray that all who seek you in this place may find you, and, being filled with the Holy Spirit, may become a living temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## SUNDAY 18 JULY 2021

7th Sunday after Trinity

Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 23:1-6;

Ephesians 2:11-end; Mark 6:30-34, & 53-end

GENEROUS GOD, you give us gifts and make them grow: though our faith is small as mustard seed, make it grow to your glory and the flourishing of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## SUNDAY 25 JULY 2021

8th Sunday after Trinity

(James the Apostle)

Jeremiah 45:1-5; Psalm 126;

Acts 11:27-12:2; Matthew 20:20-28

LORD GOD, your Son left the riches of heaven and became poor for our sake: when we prosper save us from pride, when we are needy save us from despair, that we may trust in you alone; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# Prayers of Intercession

## FOR 04 & 07 JULY 2021

GOD OF GRACE, wisdom and power, we come to you in the assurance that you are present with us now. We do not have to seek your presence; we are daily living in your presence.

Help us in these moments of prayer to know that we are speaking to one who is near and not far off, whose love is all around us and who knows our every need.

Thank you, Father, for those wonderful words you spoke to Paul that are relevant to each one of us when he prayed for his thorn in the flesh to be removed -- that *'your grace is sufficient for us, for your power is made perfect in weakness'*.

Father God, no doubt we all feel we have some thorn in the flesh, whether it is to do with ourselves, someone dear to us, or even concerning the state of the world we live in.

As we pray for world leaders and those in authority with heavy responsibilities, we ask that you will give them the humility to seek you and ask for your help and wisdom in their decision making, which would result in this world being a better and fairer place for all.

**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We thank you for our church and for all those who lovingly and diligently minister here. We thank you for the joy of having had Cathie Watson with us for a short placement as part of her training.

Whilst we are disappointed Regan Meares will not be joining us as our curate or be ordained today, we continue to hold him in our prayers.

We remember all who are being ordained Priests at Bristol Cathedral on 3rd July and those being ordained Deacons on 4th July.

For them and for all you have called to be church leaders, we pray:

Pour out your Holy Spirit, O Lord,  
On all whom you have called to serve as ministers in your church.

Give them wise and understanding hearts;

Fill them with a true love for all people;

Make them holy and keep them humble;

That they may be faithful stewards and feed the flock committed to their

care, ever seeking only that you are glorified and the increase of your kingdom.

*Through Jesus Christ our Lord,*  
Amen.

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IN OUR OWN cycle of prayer at St Stephens, this week we remember Peter Robbins our Licensed Lay Minister, including him in the prayer we have just prayed, and thanking you for his long, faithful service here, and praying for his continuing health and welfare.

In our Church family we pray for Bill & Jenny Bishop, Edward Bishop, William, Jess & Beatrice Bishop; and in our wider community we remember all who live in Anchor Road, Baglyn Avenue and Barrington Close. May each one be aware of your deep and unconditional love for them.

We also pray for those whose names are on our prayer board and for the recently bereaved, that you will comfort and help them according to their various needs.

We especially pray for the family and friends of Freda Randall whose funeral is 5th July. May they all know your love and peace at this sad time.

Let us spend a few moments of silent prayer, as we remember someone, or a situation, which is on our heart.

**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

In our Gospel reading today, we heard that Jesus was amazed at the lack of faith in His home town of Nazareth. We confess we almost expect and accept this, but please help us to grasp that there is a world out there that needs the love, acceptance, forgiveness and New Life that God freely offers. Fill us with the power of your Spirit, so that we will expect opportunities and to be bold in speaking of you and living out our faith.

Because you have said:  
Freely, freely you have received;  
freely, freely, give.

Go in my name, and because you believe, others will know that I live.

*Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.*

**Rosemary Boulton**

# Prayers of Intercession *continued*

**FOR 11 & 14 JULY 2021**

THE RISEN CHRIST is here among us. We bring our prayers to him as Lord of the Church:

Almighty God, yours is the glory and the power. You are the great builder of the world and great architect of our lives.

We give you thanks for this our Church of St Stephens, a house of prayer and worship for 117 years.



We give you thanks for providing a sacred place to worship your name, baptise our infants, get married and lay our loved ones to rest.

We give you thanks for providing a place to hear your word, grow in faith and be challenged in mission.

We give you thanks for those who came before us with the vision, knowledge, gifts and labour to build and make this place all that it is to us today.

Inspire us by your continued presence in our lives and root us in the foundation of Jesus Christ. Use us as living stones of this church to proclaim your name with those we meet, and to touch people's lives through our example and faith.

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SOME PRAYERS from the Church of England for our parish church Dedication Festival, with the responses in bold:

For the Church universal, of which these buildings are a visible symbol, **Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.**

For this congregation, as we remember your promise that when two or three are gathered in your name you are there in the midst of them,

**Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.**

For this place, that we may be still and know that you are God, **Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.**

For the fulfilling of our desires and petitions as you see best for us, **Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.**

For your blessings in the past and for a vision for the future, **Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.**

For the gift of the Holy Spirit and new life in baptism, **Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.**

For the pardon of our sins when we fall short of your glory,

For a foretaste of your eternal kingdom in the sacrament of the eucharist, **Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.**

For the blessing of our vows and the crowning of our years with your goodness,

**Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.**

For the faith of those who have gone before us and for grace to persevere like them,

**Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.**

For the benefactors of this place who have died in the peace of Christ and who are at rest,

**Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.**



For a sense of our fellowship with our patron St Stephen and all your saints,

**Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.**

O God, from living stones you prepare an everlasting dwelling – a place for your majesty.

Grant that in the power of the Holy Spirit those who serve you here may always be kept within your presence.

*This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Peter Robbins**

**FOR 18 & 21 JULY 2021**

LORD, we thank you for summertime; the warm weather, the sunshine, the long days, day trips, holidays and being together as friends and family; the beauty of the coast and countryside, the trees, the grass, the flowers and birdsong; of being here this Sunday as a Christian family, praising you and finding friends and fellowship. Thank you, Lord.

**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray, Lord, for the mission of your Church here on earth. We pray for the leaders of your Church; the bishops, priests and ministers; and for all of us, that we may proclaim the name of your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ, in how we live our lives.

**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We know Lord, that many are sick, hungry, homeless and in war. We pray for all who care for them and especially for those that do it in your name. Let us use our talents to serve others.

**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for children, young people and families. For the many groups and organisations that support them. For the church's contribution in youth and children's groups and clubs, and the many individuals that give of their time for this service.

**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We may be happy and content here this morning; or we may be sad, feeling lonely, worried or unwell. Lord, let us put our trust in you for the good times and the not so good times.

**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Let us now have a few moments of quiet prayer for anything on our hearts and minds this morning...

**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

In our regular Cycle of Prayer, we pray for our Church organist Tim Parker; we pray for Diane & Adrian Britton; Bill & Jan Brookshaw; Brian & Joan Brown. And in the wider community, for all those living in Blackthorn Walk, Bridge Road and Caddick Close.

And we pray for all who have requested prayer and for the recently bereaved.

**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child. Friends on earth and friends above, pleasures pure and undefiled, Lord of all to thee we raise, this our grateful hymn of praise.

*Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.*

**Tony Weare**

**25 & 28 JULY 2021**

**LOVING HEAVENLY FATHER.**

As we come to you in prayer at this time, guide us to show your light in all we do. Fill our hearts with grace, let us pray for grace in our church, for our world, for those we care about and for ourselves.

Remind us, Lord, of your Holy Spirit, that we might be the conduit for your love to all those we meet and work with each day.

Let us pray for our church family, for Lisa, Sandy and Peter as they guide us in our worship through these challenging Covid times.

We give our thanks and support for our ministry team who have worked tirelessly to enable us all to come here today to show our love for you and to worship you dear Lord.

**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Today, dear Lord, we pray for all those people across the world who tirelessly work for others.

The organisations that support displaced peoples, those in the middle of conflict and those experiencing natural disasters. We pray for those in the Red Cross, Medicine San Frontiers, Christian Aid, Action Aid and others that help people in need across our world.

We pray for those in this country that support and help others.

The pandemic has shown that we can give so much love and support to others in need. We pray today for all the community volunteers in our area that have visited lonely people, delivered groceries and medicines, that have walked dogs and cut grass. There are so many people who give of their time tirelessly.

Today, Lord, let us give thanks for all these volunteers.

**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**



We pray for our Sovereign, Queen Elizabeth. We ask that you continue to give her strength and courage to continue her service to us all, without her dear husband, The Duke of Edinburgh, by her side. We pray for her family and ask you, Lord, to give them comfort and peace as well.

We pray, dear Lord, for our Government. We pray for our Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, and ask you Heavenly Father to guide him and give him courage to take us through the end of the pandemic. We give thanks for his ministers who have stood by his side, aiding and guiding him through this unprecedented time in our country.

**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, in our cycle of prayer this week we pray for our Church Choir. We have all missed our choir so much these past months and pray, Lord, that they will soon be leading us in song as we worship you each week.

In our church family we pray for Emma, Ian, Riley and Morgan Clarke, Sue Clements, Jackie Clench, Sandra Conway and Maggie Cook.

In our wider community, we pray for the residents of Canons Walk, Champion Road and Chedworth.

We pray for all those on our prayer board and those who have recently been bereaved. Lord show them your love as we remember them this day.

**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, at this time of year we think about our young people as they come to the end of this very unusual academic year.

Many of them have struggled so much during lockdown, trying to manage online learning, being stuck at home and not being able to see friends and family, and then trying to cope with being back at school and dealing with the amount of learning they have missed.

Lord, we ask that you guide them and support them, with all your love so that they can now enjoy coming to the end of this term and their well-

earned summer break with a sense of normality.

May they return to education in September, rested and ready to learn. Lord, give them strength and courage to lead them forward on their journey to adulthood and be with them as they move into their next stage of learning.

**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We also pray dear Lord, for all the teachers who have worked so tirelessly throughout this academic year. Their workload has been a huge cross to bear.

Many teachers and staff in schools across the country have struggled with their own mental health issues, but at the same time still carried on doing their very best to support the young people in their care.

Lord, we offer our grateful thanks for all the help and support you give them as they work with our young people. Please, Lord, let them have rest and recuperation during the summer holidays.

**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

As we reach the end of our prayers, remind us Lord, that this pandemic has affected us all and we have turned to you so many times.

As we near the end of this pandemic, we are reminded of your constant love, encouragement, help, support and problem solving that you have bestowed on us.

We pray that we can love and support all of those we deal with each day, just as you would wish us to, and just as you do for us.

We are your servants, Lord, and we love you with our hearts and minds. Help us show your love to all as we go about our week.

Loving heavenly Father, you shine your light to us all, we pray that we will shine your light as well today, tomorrow and always.

*Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.*

**Marianne Saunders**

# Bishop Viv addresses House of Lords



ON Monday 17 May the Bishop of Bristol, the Rt Revd Vivienne Faull, responded to the Queen's speech, linked to the environmental crisis.

“MY Lords, along with others in this House, I welcome the speeches of the noble Lords, Lord Coaker and Lord Morse. I remember making my own maiden speech in the debate on the Humble Address in 2019, though of course in rather different circumstances. When I gave that speech, we were looking ahead to 2020 as the year of climate action.

Instead, the impact of Covid-19 has understandably been the focus of global activity.

However, the situation for our planet is becoming more urgent, not less. With another year of action now lost because of Covid-19, we need meaningful global, national and local agreements on the climate and biodiversity issues more than ever before.

Your Lordships will be well aware of the reasons: mass deforestation, ocean acidification, unsustainable farming practices, excessive use of harmful fertilisers and pesticides, and unabating plastic pollution, to name just some.

Other noble Lords have named others. Our planet and its ecosystems are delicate. Each organism has a valuable role and purpose.

As Covid-19 has so painfully revealed, we cannot continue to violate this symbiotic community with impunity.

Our political life is similarly symbiotic. Let me explain.

While it is true that we cannot simply legislate our way out of this crisis, we must do more to attempt to keep the global average temperature below 1.5 degrees centigrade and bend the curve on biodiversity loss.

I will not speak in depth now about the forthcoming Environment Bill, given that there will be the opportunity to do so in the coming

weeks, but I will record my desire to see an increase in its ambition.

I and other right reverend Prelates look forward to working with others across this House to ensure that the legislation addresses ecological degradation and biodiversity loss as an integral part of addressing the climate emergency.

Furthermore, I welcome the spirit of the climate and ecology emergency bill and the urgency with which members in the other place are trying to draw attention to these issues. Both bills are long overdue and much needed.

However, to go back to political symbiosis, what is really needed is a fundamental change of perspective. Rather than an environmental policy, we need every policy to be environmental.

We need to join up our thinking and ensure that every department and every sector of society is making efforts to combat rising global temperatures. A proper agreement to protect our planet will affect every single sector of every single society – our private and public sectors, our businesses, our farms, our waters, our schools, our cities and our homes.

It will affect every individual and until we understand our collective responsibility, we will not have the impact that is needed.

I WANT to speak briefly about the work that the Church of England is doing. While it is an intrinsic human instinct to care for our environment, people of faith in particular are mandated to care for the planet because creation is a gift of God.

We acknowledge that we have not always acted on this belief – to our shame, rather the reverse – but now the Church of England has committed to achieving net zero by 2030, a decision made by synod last year as a bold statement of intent.

As an example of our action, to achieve net zero we need to decarbonise all our heating. This is as true for our churches and cathedrals, our clergy houses and church halls, as it is for the rest of society.

My diocese was the first to declare a climate emergency and commit to net-zero carbon by 2030.

As part of that work, we have calculated our baseline carbon footprint and found that the largest portion of emissions – 38% – is from our school estates.

We have started working closely with head teachers and estates managers to explore options for decarbonisation.

We have also hugely benefited from the green interventions of Bristol City Council.

One of our flagship schools and largest emitters, St Mary Redcliffe, has already benefited from the installation of solar panels and full LED lighting.

It will soon gain from linking into the Bristol heat network, after which the school will be carbon neutral. This partnership with a local authority shows the real, positive impact that local government can have on meeting both its and our net carbon targets so, following the speech of the noble Baroness, Lady Eaton, I record my thanks to Bristol City Council for its work on this.

To develop that work nationally, I eagerly await the government's heating strategy to understand what help will be given to transition from fossil fuel-based systems.

In addition, laid on the local and national plans but supporting them, we need an ambitious global plan to be agreed at both the CBD COP 15 and COP 26 – one that puts nature and the planet firmly back on the road to recovery by 2030.

While nations rightly rally to eradicate the Covid-19 virus, we have another and even greater crisis on our hands: the loss of biodiversity.

However, unlike Covid-19, this pandemic is not limited to one or two species. It requires urgent action from us all.”

**Rt Revd Vivienne Faull**  
*Lord Bishop of Bristol*  
Tuesday 17 May 2021

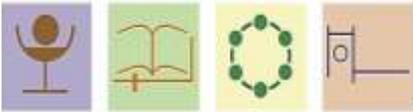
# Mission Giving by your Church

EVERY YEAR, your Church gives the first 10% of its income to Christian Charities. This is called tithing.

AS we believe God teaches us in Scripture to give generously to Him for all his goodness... giving him the first fruits, or the best of our endeavours... we give our first and best (that 10%) to God via Christian Charities.

I also believe that God teaches us through Scripture to do likewise as individuals, which is why I give the first 10% of my income to God, through St Stephens Church.

I choose to do this through the Parish Giving Scheme, as it comes from my bank account to the church one, without any bother or remembering on my part – simples!



## PARISH GIVING SCHEME

WHEN we give the first and the best to God, He honours that with abundant blessings.

It is true in every aspect of our lives, as well as with our finances...

He honours our giving with ensuring we end up having more than we believe possible.

Please think about giving to God by regularly giving financially to your Church.

We are a charity that needs your support in many ways... your financial gifts are just one of those ways.

For more information about this, please speak with Lorraine Sanderson or myself.

Thank you & Bless you.

Lisa (Vicar)

THE Charities that we support financially are listed on the front of Open Space. Some of them have been quick off the mark with a 'thank you', and so I thought you'd like to see their responses, below.

I am sure more are on the way, but here are a couple so you can share in receiving the heartfelt thanks.

### One25

TO all the wonderful people at St Stephens Soundwell:

Thank you so much for making a generous donation to One25.

We really appreciate your ongoing support and we're humbled by your continued generosity through these challenging times.

I'm sure you already know, but your support makes such a huge difference to marginalised women in Bristol.

The One25 charity was set up in 1995 to support women trapped in, or else vulnerable to, street sex work, and for helping any of them to build new lives free from addiction, poverty and violence. It originated as a result of concern from local agencies and churches about the health and well-being of female street sex workers in Bristol.

website: <https://one25.org.uk/>

### Bristol Schools Connection

Just a quick email to say that we were BLOWN AWAY by the generous gift to Bristol Schools Connection from your church! Wow, wow, wow – VERY thankful to God. God is good – love how he continues to provide for BSC – amazing.

Take care. With love and prayers... and big thanks!



BSC bring churches and schools together, and provide coaching, training and consultancy to churches who wish to connect with their local schools, and develop a supportive relationship.

Long-term coaching relationships with individuals or teams within churches to

equip them to serve their local school appropriately and help schools to reimagine spiritual development and equip the local church to contribute in a relevant and credible way.

The educational world is constantly changing – and connecting schools and churches capitalises on the resources within church communities to enrich spiritual aspects of school life in ways that are appropriate to the school's ethos and the broader educational context.

website:

[www.bristolschoolsconnection.co.uk](http://www.bristolschoolsconnection.co.uk)

SO, thank you to all at St Stephens for the way you give to God through your Church. Please know that just as you are generous, so are we, your Church.

It's just one of God's glorious ways of providing for and caring for one another.

Every Blessing. Lisa xx

• St Stephens Church •  
Soundwell

## CHURCH GIVING MADE EASY

Just scan the QR code below, with your phone camera.

WE are a charity that relies on **your** donations to do **our** work and maintain the buildings for **everyone** to use.

So thank you and bless you!

**Using a QR code:** Open your phone camera, and then:

- Locate the QR code in the view-finder and you will see a notification – with a **link** to the 'Sum-up' website.
- Don't take a photo but **click** or **tap** on the notification on your screen which will take you directly to our giving page.
- **Confirm** your donation.



## JULY CYCLE OF PRAYER BEGINNING SUNDAY OF EACH WEEK

04	Lay Minister: Peter Robbins	Bill and Jenny Bishop Edward Bishop William, Jess & Beatrice Bishop	Anchor Road Baglyn Avenue Barrington Close
11	Director of music: Lin Cooper	Grace Blackburn, Jackie Blackwell Rosemary Boulton, June Brain Karen Brasier, Mary Britton	Barrington Court Beazer Close Birch Road
18	Church organist: Tim Parker	Diane and Adrian Britton Bill and Jan Brookshaw Brian and Joan Brown	Blackthorn Walk Bridge Road Caddick Close
25	Church Choir	Emma, Ian, Riley & Morgan Clarke Sue Clements, Jackie Clench Sandra Conway, Maggie Cook	Canon's Walk Champion Road Chedworth

**SUNDAY COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE** at 10am with an identical service at 10am on Wednesday. Due to Covid restrictions on numbers, this will give everyone who wants to attend, space to be at one of these services.  
**NB: BOOKING ESSENTIAL for all services: Call 07903 763 420 to book your place.**

## DIARY

### JULY

06 Tuesday	07.30pm	PCC in Church or Church Hall
07 Wednesday	12.30pm	Youth Church planning for September meeting. <i>Ask Lisa re venue.</i>
10 Saturday	11am -1pm	<b>Pray &amp; Play &amp; Praise</b> in Page Park with a Picnic! For Youth Church and their families. <i>Meet on the grass area along the Park Road side of the park.</i>
11 Sunday	10.00am	<b>Dedication Service 117th Anniversary</b>

### AUGUST

15 Sunday	06.30pm	<b>Memorial Service in Church</b>
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### SEPTEMBER

04 Saturday	09.30pm	Baptism Preparation in Church
09 Thursday	07.30pm	Bishop Viv licensing Lisa as Vicar in Church
26 Sunday	10.00am	<b>Celebration of Harvest in Church</b>



VIA ZOOM!

Join in online every Sunday  
in July at 4pm with Peter!

Click link [Peter](#)

MEETING ID: 724 4261 7817

Password: Tea&Talk

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72442617817?pwd=NIgydHlsUXZaQTVjaDE3dk9nOUk2UT09>



## 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/>



## SSS Youth Church

Saturdays at 9am\* on Zoom: JULY

(Meeting ID's as listed, password stays the same: YChurch)

★ **03 July:** 739 8735 2919 (Teresa)

★ **10 July:** **PRAY & PLAY & PRAISE**

★ **17 July:** 710 8851 1800 (Katy)

★ **24 July:** 724 4261 7817 (Peter)

\*approximately 40 minutes.

Click the link: [03 JULY](#)

Picnic in Page Park 11am

Click the link: [17 JULY](#)

Click the link: [24 JULY](#)

**We Follow Jesus!**

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### SINCE MAY

## Funerals

● June 02: **Roy Bernard Vickers** (86).  
The celebration of Roy's life was held at Westerleigh Crematorium  
*Please hold his widow Margaret, his children Wendy, Karen, Paul and Nigel and all his family and friends in your prayers.*

● June 07: **Dulcie Virginia Brown** (93).  
The celebration of Dulcie's life was held at Westerleigh Crematorium.  
*Please hold her son Richard and his wife Pamela and all the family and friends in your prayers.*

● June 14: **Helen Jane Bennett** (51).  
The celebration of Helen's life was held at St Stephens Church, Soundwell, followed by a cremation at Westerleigh.

*Please hold her children, Catherine and Charlie; Mum & Dad, Hazel and Ray; sisters and brother, Bev, Kev and Clare, and all their families; as well as Helen's many friends in your prayers.*

● June 17: **George Ernest Davis** (91).  
The celebration of George's life was held at Westerleigh Crematorium.

*Please hold his wife and our dear sister, Iris; his children, Karen with Juan, Ian with Nic; Grandchildren and Great-grandchildren, Mark, Emma, Kristy, Adam, Martina and Lola; as well as the wider family and George's many friends in your prayers.*

## 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*



● **Peter Robbins**

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



● **Gill Mayo**

*Church Warden  
Telephone 0117 956 9796*

