

## A reflection... *on becoming a priest*

AS I approach the time of my ordination to become a Priest, I would like to share some of my thoughts on, and also highlight the differences and similarities between, being a Deacon, and being a Priest.

IN THIS reflection I will also share my feelings as I get closer to my ordination. In order to find the similarities and the differences of a Deacon and a Priest, it is important to examine the order of service for the ordination of a Deacon and the order of service for the ordination of a Priest. Both these orders of service describe the roles and expectations of the person who is being ordained.

### **So I begin with similarities.**

Out of the many things of ministry that I love, preaching sermons and telling the story of God is near the top of my list.

The power of words has always been fascinating to me and I feel privileged to be able to speak the words of God to people.

**The order of service for a Deacon states:** *'Deacons are to proclaim the gospel in word and deed, as agents of God's purposes of love.'*

**The order of service for a Priest states:** *'Priests are to unfold scriptures, preach the word in season and out of season, and to declare the mighty acts of God.'*

As a Priest, I look forward to continuing to preach sermons and telling the amazing story of God's love and his mighty acts.

----

DURING this past year, I have had the opportunity to be involved with many of the mission projects around the church.

Some of these include The Lent Group, The Noise, Outburst, Confirmation Classes and preparing families for Baptism. Alongside this, I have been privileged to go into Soundwell Academy and the other schools within the community to engage with the young people there.

I have also been doing chaplaincy at HMP Bristol which has been a blessing for me to encourage people who are at a low point of their lives.

The role of a Deacon and a Priest both include the important responsibility of doing mission.

### **The following is expected of a Deacon:**

*'Deacons are to serve the community in which they are set, bringing to the Church the needs and hopes of all people. They accompany those searching for faith and bring them to Baptism.'*

### **The following is expected of a Priest:**

*'They are to be messengers, watchmen and stewards of the Lord; they are to teach and to admonish, to feed and provide for his family, to search for his children in the wilderness of this world's temptation, and to guide them through its confusions, that they may be saved through Christ for ever. They are to resist evil, support the weak, defend the poor, and intercede for all in need. They are to minister to the sick and prepare the dying for their death.'*

----

ON becoming a Priest, I will need to maintain the importance of mission and continue to meet people where they are.

I look forward to these tasks as I believe that there is nothing more important than telling people how much God loves them.

One of the main responsibilities of a Deacon is to serve people and to serve alongside people.

*Continued on page 2 >*

### **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

visionatststephens@gmail.com

www.saintstephen  
soundwell.org

f saintstephen  
soundwell

@SoundwellChurch

CHARITY NUMBER  
1131503



# Readings & Collects

FOR JULY 2023

## SUNDAY 02 JULY

### 4th Sunday after Trinity

Jeremiah 28:5–9; Psalm 89:8–18

Romans 6:12–end;

Matthew 10:40–end

GRACIOUS FATHER, by the obedience of Jesus you brought salvation to our wayward world: draw us into harmony with your will, that we may find all things restored in him, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

## SUNDAY 09 JULY

### 5th Sunday after Trinity

Zechariah 9:9–12; Psalm 145:8–15

Romans 7:15–25a; Matthew 11:16–19, 25–end

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 16 JULY

### 6th Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 55:10–13; Psalm 65

Romans 8:1–11; Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

CREATOR GOD, you made us all in your image: may we discern you in all that we see, and serve you in all that we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## SUNDAY 23 JULY

### 7th Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 44:6–8; Psalm 86:11–end

Romans 8:12–25; Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

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 30 JULY

### 8th Sunday after Trinity

1 Kings 3:5–12; Psalm 119:129–136

Romans 8:26–end; Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52

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.

# Reflections...

< Continued from page 1

As a Deacon in Soundwell, I serve alongside the other members of the ministry team and I also serve the church community and the wider community.

This calling to serve does not end when I am ordained as a Priest, it continues throughout my time in ministry.

I thank God for my calling to serve as I see it as a privilege and an honour.

Though I continue to serve people, becoming a Priest carries with it **different** responsibilities.

**The order of service states:**

*'Priests are called to be servants and shepherds among the people to whom they are sent. With their Bishop and fellow ministers, they are to proclaim the word of the Lord and to watch for the signs of God's new creation.'*

Through these words, it is clear to see that the responsibilities of a Priest are similar to a shepherd.

A shepherd not only leads, guides and protects, but they also feed and comfort. As a priest, it is important for me to recognise my call and role as a leader and a shepherd. As well as recognising, I aim to grow and flourish in this call.

There are many things I look forward to being able to do once I become a priest such as weddings and presiding at communion.

The privilege of presiding at communion holds a special place in my heart.

**The order of service states:**

*'Priests are to preside at the Lord's table and lead his people in worship, offering with them a spiritual sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.'*

The sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross for our sins has always been an important focus point in my faith life. I, like many people, have made a lot of mistakes in my life. However, through the sacrifice of Jesus, I know that my sins are washed away, I have been forgiven and I am fully loved by God.

Therefore, to be able to preside at communion and give thanks to God for the sacrifice of Jesus is truly an amazing part of being a Priest.

Finally, I would like to end this reflection with firstly a quote from John Pritchard and secondly some personal words. Speaking about a Priest, John Pritchard states:

*'The Priest is someone who has been dazzled by the beauty of God and longs to reveal that beauty in the world.'*

My first year in Soundwell has been a great experience. There have been challenges but it has been a joy for me to learn and grow in such a friendly and welcoming church.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people in the church community and in the wider community who have loved me, supported me, prayed for me and helped me to be the man of God that I am growing into.

*May God continue to bless each one of you. Amen.*

Rev Regan Meares

# Thank you

A THANKS follows, from Bristol Schools Connection, for our Mission Giving to them as church. Mission Giving is our tithe, the first 10% of our church income, which we give to Christian charities and think of as our gift to God through them. It is the same thinking behind our individual giving to God by giving to our church. As a church this is what we read in Scripture, so this is what we do as both individual and as church.

**BRISTOL  
SCHOOLS  
CONNECTION**

Emailing on behalf of us both to say a HUUUGE THANK YOU for your and your lovely church's generosity to BSC!! We are touched and blessed by the generous gift.

It makes our work more possible. We also just love the general sense of affirmation and support we get from you. You are so encouraging and are living out the vision of BSC in your support of your school; we are much inspired!

*Your gift is much appreciated and cheers us on to keep going!*

Thank you, Liz and Jane xx



## • St Stephens Church Soundwell •



# FAYRE!

## SATURDAY 2~4PM

### 8 JULY

STALLS of all kinds, bric-a-brac, food, drink, cakes, fun and games for old and young alike; raffles, something for all the family!

*Or bring a friend and enjoy an afternoon together!*



Church Road  
Soundwell  
Bristol BS16 4RH  
Telephone  
0117 956 6257  
saintstephen  
soundwell.org  
CHARITY NUMBER  
1131503

## Regan's Ordination as Priest

REGAN will be Ordained a Priest on Saturday 1 July 2023 at 3pm in Bristol Cathedral.

IT will be a fabulous occasion, plus, we are all invited! It will be great if we, his church family, can be there to support him & cheer him on.

There will be a coach going from St Stephen's Church at 1.30pm.

The cost is £8 return. Please sign up on the sheet in church, or email me by Wednesday 28 June and let Lorraine or I have the money the week before.

On Sunday 2 July, Regan will be presiding at the 10am Service of Holy Communion for the first time.

After the service there will be a celebration lunch in the Church Hall, to which you are all welcome.

To give us an idea of numbers, adding your name to the separate sign-up sheet at the back of church would be helpful (or email me by Wednesday 28th June)... but if you don't, you won't be excluded.

Lisa xx

### Afternoon Tea

at South Gloucestershire  
Dementia Meeting Centre

Join us to learn how we can support you to adjust to the changes dementia brings. Hear from current members, try some activities, and enjoy afternoon tea.

Our service is for those with mild to moderate dementia and their carers.

**Where:** Bradley Stoke Evangelical Church,  
Baileys Court Road, BS32 8BH  
Fully-accessible venue. Off street parking. On the M1 and T1 bus route.

**When:** Wednesday 12th July, 1-3pm  
Thursday 13th July, 1-3pm

To book your free place please contact Winsome on  
07377 197 893 or email [winsome@aliveactivities.org](mailto:winsome@aliveactivities.org)

W: [aliveactivities.org](http://aliveactivities.org)  
E: [info@aliveactivities.org](mailto:info@aliveactivities.org)  
T: 0117 377 4756

Alive is a Registered Charity No. 1132708

JOIN us to learn how we can support you to adjust to the changes dementia brings. Hear from current members, try some activities, and enjoy afternoon tea.

Our service is for those with mild to moderate dementia and their carers:  
**Bradley Stoke Evangelical Church**  
Baileys Court Road, BS32 8BH.  
This is a full access venue, + off street parking. *Or use the M1 or T1 bus.*

**Wednesday 12th July, 1-3pm**

**Thursday 13th July, 1-3pm**

To book your free place please contact Winsome on 07377197 893 or email

[winsome@aliveactivities.org](mailto:winsome@aliveactivities.org)

Website: [aliveactivities.org](http://aliveactivities.org)

Telephone 0117 377 4756 or email

[info@aliveactivities.org](mailto:info@aliveactivities.org)

## Churchwarden licensing

**THURSDAY 29 JUNE**



Those of you who are able, please support Gill when she is licenced in her role as our Church Warden. You can either attend the service at St Paul's Church, Malmesbury Road, Chippenham, SN14 1PW or watch via a Zoom video link at St Stephens Church instead.

The Service starts at 7.30pm, and will conclude by 9pm.

Please do join in by one way or another if you are able to!

# Carrying the Elements

THE Elements referred to are those we use in church each Sunday: and seen as the two containers which are carried to the altar to represent the Body and Blood of Christ.

AS many of you will be aware, every Sunday I am looking for two people to take the Elements up to the altar. I consider this to be an important part of the Communion Service and therefore wish to give as many people as possible the opportunity to take part, and I want to ensure that I ask everyone who would be willing.

Often it is considered an honour to carry the Body and Blood of Christ, and people choose to do it when they have a special day such as an anniversary. However, from personal experience I can understand that some of you may feel nervous at first, but find the strength to do it once and you will be fine, particularly if I put you with someone more experienced.

Whether you are new to Church or have been coming for ages please do come and speak to me, or give me a telephone call (0117 956 9796) if you could consider giving it a go, as it would be really fantastic to have more people involved. *Thank you!* **Gill Mayo**



# Exploring Christianity

'Exploring Christianity' will be starting again in September. It is a discipleship course for those wanting to learn more about their faith and the Bible.

However, it is also an open access course for *anyone* who just wishes to learn more about their faith!

This will be the last opportunity to do the current course before a new diocesan course starts in 2025.

There will be groups in Bristol, one in Swindon and one on zoom.

For any more information, please visit the website:

<https://www.bristol.anglican.org/churchlifeexploringvocations/exploringchristianity/>

Or else email Claire Eade:  
claire.eade@bristoldiocese.org



There are 6 modules (one per term) covering Spirituality, New and Old Testaments, Doctrine, the Church and Ethics.

Each module costs £50 (or £25 if not doing assignments) and all six are usually completed over a two year period.

The course is an essential theological study for those considering a Licensed Lay Ministry but can also provide an educational reference for those considering ordination.

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

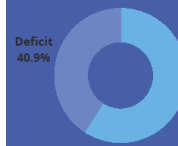
*Every first Wednesday  
of the month at 12noon  
in the Turnpike  
on Soundwell Road.*

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

## Our Church Financial Health



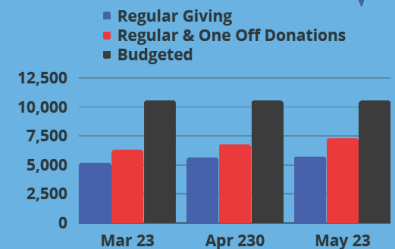
### GIVING FOR MAY



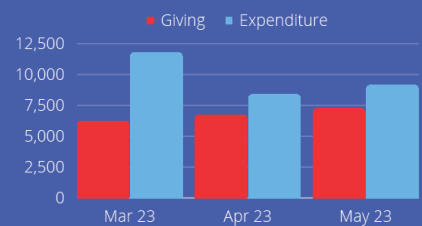
WHAT OUR  
GIVING NEEDS TO  
BE £10,500

GIVING RECEIVED  
£6740

### Giving Last 3 Months



### Giving v Church Expenses Last 3 Months



## Thank you!

WE just wanted to say a big thank you to St Stephens for sending us a donation of £500 for TEN, to be used where it is most needed in our work.

This is really wonderful!

*Thank you so much!*

**Melanie**



**TRANSFORM  
EUROPE  
NETWORK**

Transform Europe Network is the operating name for Eurovangelism.

<https://www.ten-uk.org/>





• St Stephens Church Soundwell •

# SUMMER PICNIC!

**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  
Soundwell  
Bristol BS16 4RH  
[www.saintstephen-soundwell.org](http://www.saintstephen-soundwell.org)

CHARITY NUMBER 1131503



**Please  
give us a drink!**

**NOW** that the weather is warmer, the flowers in our outside pots and planters will get thirsty in any dry weather.

So in those circumstances, if you have time when you are at Church, during the week, please would you give them a drink! A watering can is located in the Church Room by the sink where it should be returned after use. *Thanks!*

**Tim Parker**



St Stephens (Soundwell) Drama Group presents (finally)



**(and one Pandemic)**

Or the anniversary  
celebration we've been  
organising for years

**7.30PM 13TH-15TH JULY 2023**



Or you can point your phone camera at  
this and go straight to TicketSource

**BOX OFFICE:**

**07935 516446**

Or order your TICKETS ONLINE at

**[www.ststephensdramabristol.co.uk](http://www.ststephensdramabristol.co.uk)**

St Stephen's Church Hall, Church Road,  
Soundwell, Bristol, BS16 4RH

We follow the St Stephen's Church safeguarding policy.



**TUESDAY 18 JULY**

**10am to 12noon**

**Conversation,  
free snacks & refreshments**

**All are welcome!**

WE also look forward to seeing you on  
**15 August & 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](http://saintstephen-soundwell.org)  
CHARITY NUMBER  
1131503

## JULY CYCLE OF PRAYER BEGINNING SUNDAY OF EACH WEEK

02 Director of Music: Lin Cooper	Steve and Sarah Fry Julie, Shaun, Josh & Hollie Fudge Matt, Jenny & Lauren Gait	Pool Road Portland Court Portland Place
09 Church Choir	Pat Garner, Brian Grant Janice Harland, Geoff and Joyce Harris, Ivor Harris	Portland Street Pound Road Prospect Crescent
16 Churchwarden: Gill	Ruby Harrison, Carolyn Hawkins Nicole Hayward, James Head Stella Hoare	Randall Close Riviera Crescent Rodway View
23 Teams who assist our Churchwarden	Mike and Jayne Hudd, Cheryl Hughes Jean and Barry Hulbert, Neil, Carey, Marin & Eliza Humphrey	Rose Oak Gardens Rudge Close Seymour Road
30 Church greeters & welcomers	Sue and Martyn Humphrey Roger Hurkett, Jan Johns Linda Krause, Anadita Kumar	Sherbourne Close Soundwell Road Spring Hill

**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

### JUNE DIARY

27 Tuesday	11.30am	Funeral of Allen Webster RîP in Church
29 Thursday	7.30pm	Gill's Licencing as our Church Warden, in Church via Zoom broadcast

### JULY DIARY

01 Saturday	3pm	Regan's ordination <i>Bristol Cathedral</i>
02 Sunday	10am	Rev Regan Meares will be Presiding at Holy Communion for the first time
	11.15am	Coffee then Celebration Lunch in Church Hall
04 Tuesday(s)	1.30-3.30pm	Knit & Natter weekly in the Church Room
05 Wednesday	12noon	Coffee/Chat/Company Turnpike Pub
06 Thursday(s)	10-11.45am	See & Know in Church Hall then weekly
	2-4pm	Men's Group in Church Room then fortnightly
07 Friday	2-4pm	Pensioner's Group in Church Hall then fortnightly
	7pm-9pm	Outburst Youth Group in Church Hall
08 Saturday	2-4pm	<b>St Stephens SUMMER FAYRE!</b>
09 Sunday	10am	St Stephens Dedication Service (119 years)
13 Thursday	2-4pm	Ladies Group in Church Hall then fortnightly
13-15	7.30pm	Drama Group Anniversary Production in Church Hall (See advert on page 5 for details)
18 Tuesday	10am-12noon	<b>WELCOME SPACE</b> in Church Room
21 Friday	6.30pm	<b>FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE</b> in Church: informal song, prayer, discussions with refreshments after at 7.30pm in the Church Hall

### AUGUST DIARY

02 Wednesday	12 noon	Coffee/Chat/Company Turnpike Pub
20 Sunday	12.15-2.30pm	<b>SUMMER PICNIC</b> to be held after church in the Church Grounds, (weather permitting, else in Church Hall)

## FROM THE REGISTERS

SINCE MAY 2023

### Funeral:

• **JUNE 19: Philip Charles Stevens** (75). The celebration of Phil's life was held at Westerleigh Crematorium.

*Please hold Phil's wife, Sue, their son, Matt, granddaughters Chloe and Martha, the wider family and all Phil's friends in your prayers.*



## 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>

## SAINT STEPHENS SOUNDWELL



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



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



• **Revd Regan Meares**  
Curate  
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

