

# Open Space

SAINT STEPHENS SOUNDWELL

MARCH 2020

Open Space  
MARCH 2020

## Lent and Easter

**AS I WRITE** this article, I am in full swing of thinking about preparation for Lent and Easter. Lent is the time in the Church's calendar that traditionally reflects for us the 40 days that the Bible tells us, Jesus spent in the wilderness.

IT IS A time of preparation, for us to look inside ourselves and if you like give ourselves a mental and spiritual spring clean.

Symbolically within the Church it is a time of simplicity and solemnity, when we take out the things such as flowers and other decorations.

We also cut out some of our liturgy in the hope of enabling us to focus on Jesus' ministry and suffering.

For me it is always a time that helps me then to really appreciate the joy of Easter.

You will no doubt all know that in the times of the early Church the season of Lent began after Shrove Tuesday, more commonly known as Pancake day, when the larder was emptied of fats and sugars and a feast was held before the starkness of a simple diet during Lent.

This in turn then led to people giving up things such as chocolate or biscuits or alcohol for Lent.

A few years ago, I stopped giving up things for Lent as I queried my motive for doing so, (*which was often tied up with wanting to lose weight*) and I found that it didn't really mean that I spent any more time in prayer or Bible reading or other such things to bring me closer to God.

So, what I did instead was resolve to take something on for Lent, perhaps reading a book or joining a Lent Course.

### LENT COURSE

THIS year I am inviting you all to join with me and others in the Lent Course at St Stephens.

While that sounds rather academic, please be assured that it's not.

It will have a little of something for everyone;

- We will be watching 2 short films each week about everyday folk like us;

- We will be thinking about how we Follow Jesus; How others see Him in us, as we go about our daily living;

- There will be discussion and sharing about how we do that; How others see us as Christians; What they think of us and what more they might want us to share with them about our faith.

*We don't have to know all there is to know about the Bible, in fact we need know very little... because this time is a time for us to explore together and be encouraged by each other, to think about who we are in Jesus and how we follow him more closely day by day.*

Simply come along to Church on the Wednesday evenings in Lent:

**4th March to 8th April at 7.30pm.**

We'll start with a cuppa and a natter, allowing those who can't be with us at 7.30pm to arrive when they can and then we'll begin the sessions around 7.45pm.

### JOURNEYS OF FAITH

IN addition to the Lent Course, we will have a variety of speakers throughout the Sundays of Lent, sharing something of their Journey of Faith during the 10am service, so come along and be inspired by them.

### PALM SUNDAY (APRIL 5)

WE are planning on sharing 'a play with a difference' as we explore together in the service Christ's Passion. This is the start of Holy Week, the most important week in the Church's calendar.

So please do come along and share with us as we follow together Christ's journey to The Cross, His death and His glorious resurrection. Not just on Palm Sunday, but throughout Holy Week.

*Continued on page 2 >*

### 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  
One25 Project  
The Bristol Noise

### 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



St Stephens  
SOUNDWELL

< Continued from overleaf  
**Lent and Easter**

**HOLY WEEK:**

**Maundy Thursday 9th April**  
7.30pm in Church: Maundy Thursday Service with Foot Washing.

**Good Friday 10th April**  
11.30am-1pm in and around Church Experience Easter: suitable for every age to journey through the events of Easter, ending in the Church Hall with hot cross buns & refreshments!

1pm-2pm: an hour of reflection and prayer

2pm-3pm: the Last Hour at the Cross: a service of song and prayer, scripture and pauses for thought.

**PREVIOUS REFLECTIONS**

Many of you wrote in Open Space last year, about the joy of journeying through Easter in Church with others, and here are a few of your comments...

**Maundy Thursday:**  
'It is humbling and feels a bit awkward having one's feet washed by Lisa and then dried by Sandy, our spiritual leaders. I wonder how the disciples felt having this act of love and service performed by Jesus, their leader, for them?'

'I was able to attend all the Easter Services, but I felt this was the most moving and poignant one for me.'

**Good Friday at 11.30am:**  
'This is an occasion to hear, see, participate in, and feel the emotion of the whole of the Easter story.'

'I enjoyed the way that we moved around the church to different areas and shared the story in an interactive way.'

**Good Friday at 1pm:**  
'What appealed to me about this period of time on such an important day, was the absolute peace and reverence that pervaded the church, and the calmness that results from it, truly an escape from the hubbub of our normal day to day life.'

'I feel I need to go to the hour of quiet and meditation, as this prepares me for the sombre last hour at The Cross.'

**Good Friday at 2pm:**  
The Last Hour at the Cross: 'If you were not there, you missed a service with a difference.'

It was an inspirational and carefully crafted programme, of music and singing, interspersed with interludes of silence for reflection.'

**Easter Day:**  
'A lovely sunny spring morning. A full to over-flowing church congregation. A beautifully put together Service, happy and fun for all.'

We sang and praised God in Prayer and had fun with our maracas... it felt like an Easter Party. I came home with joy in my heart after celebrating CHRIST'S RESURRECTION.

*Alleluia Christ is risen'*

~~~~~  
I AM SURE that reading those reflections, and reminding ourselves of the love of Jesus we share, in and through all of the Easter sorrows and joys, will make us want to prioritise worshipping our Lord this Easter at St Stephens.



Lent is also the time that reminds us that Spring IS on the way, the snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils are beginning to poke their heads above the ground and are starting to fill our slightly drab and dreary winter gardens with the promise of colour and new life.



SO, as the season of Lent begins, I pray that we will all find time to take stock, perhaps to do a little bit of Spring-cleaning in our lives and begin to prepare for the glory of the Easter season.

*With my love and prayers.*

**LISA**

**Are you interested in young people?**

IF SO, there is a great opportunity to make a difference in the lives of young people in Soundwell by becoming a School Governor.

St Stephen's Junior is our Church School and although we have good links with them, we do need to strengthen this relationship.

Having these links is not only a great privilege but also our responsibility to provide a number of Foundation Governors. Being a Governor is not just important but a fun and worthwhile thing to do.

Training is available, so there is nothing to fear, and, you would be joining a caring and friendly team who will welcome and support you as you learn the ropes.

Plus, being a Governor is a wonderful and rewarding way to support your community and to give support to those around you.

If you would like to have a no commitment conversation to learn more about what it is to be a Governor, please talk with either myself, (Lisa) or Nicola Read.

*This is a great opportunity... please do pray and ask God if this is for you!!*  
**Thank you. LISA**

**Being a dementia friendly church**

A DAY of speakers, workshops and resources to help you grow your dementia friendly church.

**Friday 13 March** 9.45am to 3pm at Westbury on Trym Baptist Church, Bristol BS9 3TE.

The keynote speaker is **Charlotte Overton-Hart**.

WORKSHOPS will include: Telling your story, praying with meaning, caring for the carer, creating a playlist for life.

The conference is free, refreshments and lunch will be provided.

However any donations towards the cost of the day will be welcomed on the day.

To register please go to:  
[www.dementia-church.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.dementia-church.eventbrite.co.uk)  
Or call Tony on 0117 968 1002

## BAPTISM SUPPORT...

WE would like some help from individuals to support those families that bring children for Baptism... by you being at the services now and again on Sunday afternoons.

It is not an onerous task, but it is a joyful one... and includes things like greeting families as they arrive, handing out orders of service and then giving the parents and children gifts and certificates during the service.

If you're able to help by pressing 'play' for us, and/or to sing along to a CD then fabulous, but not if you're unsure.

Please do think and pray about this, and have a chat with Lisa if you'd like to know more or be involved.

*Thank you!*

## ST STEPHENS CHURCH SPRING CLEAN

**SATURDAY 14 MARCH 9.30AM**

COME and join in with cleaning our Church together and enjoy some fun and some laughter as we do.



Please bring any tools or items that you think might help you to do this, *mops, brooms, brushes, cloths etc*, and your marigolds!

## SISTERS OF THE CHURCH EASTER APPEAL!

THEY need both medium and large Easter Eggs to give to the poor of our City.



The Sisters house needs to be closed by 17 March, so Eggs will need to be in Church by 15 March, any later and we can NOT get them to The Sisters in time!

Sister Teresa Mary is with us in Church on Sunday 8th March.

## WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

THIS annual event takes place this year **FRIDAY 6 MARCH**.

A local celebration service will be held at

*Badminton Road Methodist Church, Downend at 2pm.*

Prayers are led this year by the people of Zimbabwe with the following theme:

**'RISE! Take your mat and walk'**

IT was back in 2012, eight years ago, that Zimbabwe was invited to prepare the 2020 World Day of Prayer.

At that time, the country was facing many challenges.

Since then, Zimbabwe has gone through many changes, notably the ousting of Robert Mugabe.

But the new dawn that so many had hoped and prayed for has not happened.

In fact, life for ordinary Zimbabweans is harder than ever.

*Please therefore, continue to pray for the people of Zimbabwe.*

## FUND RAISER

## Storytelling and a Devon Cream Tea



THIS IS AN afternoon with Rev Jill Norman to raise funds for St James Church **Create 800** on Saturday 7 March 2-4pm, in St James Church Hall, Richmond Road, Mangotsfield, Bristol BS16 9HB.

Listen to Bible stories of how the lives of individuals were changed by God, and how they serve as an example to us all.

Tickets are **£10** on the door, but to help with planning for catering, please book your ticket in advance by telephone 0117 9561551 or email: [jilliannorman@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jilliannorman@blueyonder.co.uk)



## 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 Lin Cooper, Lorraine Sanderson or myself.

*Thank you & Bless you.*  
**LISA** (Vicar)

## MARCH CYCLE OF PRAYER BEGINNING SUNDAY OF EACH WEEK

|    |                                     |                                                                                                             |                                                        |
|----|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 01 | 125 Project                         | June Brain, Karen Brasier<br>Mary Britton, Diane and Adrian Britton<br>Bill and Jan Brookshaw               | Gladstone Drive<br>Gladstone Street<br>Gloucester Road |
| 08 | Uganda Link                         | Brian and Joan Brown, Rachel Bush<br>Emma, Ian, Riley & Morgan Clarke<br>Sue Clements, Sandra Conway        | Gorse Hill<br>Hayward Road<br>Highview Road            |
| 15 | Outburst Youth Group                | Maggie Cook, Sandy and Lin Cooper<br>Teresa, Robert, Benjy & Jacob Cooper<br>Josie Creedy, Marlene Crew     | Hilltop Gardens<br>Hilltop Road<br>Hill View           |
| 22 | Friday Night Live                   | Ruth Crosby, Iris & George Davis<br>Pam Davis, Ros Davis, Bernard Denyer<br>Margaret Dodge, Margaret Dyer   | Howard Road<br>Irving Close<br>James Close             |
| 29 | St Stephen's Infant & Junior Shools | Bob and Nancy Emery, Ken Fox<br>Lynn, Bernard & Brett Francis & Louisa<br>Julie, Shaun, Josh & Hollie Fudge | James Road<br>Jubilee Road<br>Lansdown Close           |

## MARCH 2020 DIARY

### REGULAR WEEKLY GROUPS:

|            |                    |                                                        |
|------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| TUESDAYS   | 01.30pm            | Knit & Natter                                          |
| WEDNESDAYS | 01.00pm            | } See & Know<br>(For toddlers & carers)<br>(Term time) |
| THURSDAYS  | 09.00am<br>01.00pm |                                                        |

### SERVICES AND OTHER GROUPS/MEETINGS/EVENTS:

|                                      |                                          |                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 01 SUNDAY<br><i>First of Lent</i>    | 08.00am<br>10.00am<br>11.00am            | Holy Communion (Prayer Book)<br>St Stephens Community Worship<br>Café Central ('til 12.15pm)                       |
| 02 MONDAY                            | 04.30pm<br>07.30pm                       | Finance Committee Meeting (Church Room)<br>Mothering Sunday Planning (Church Room)                                 |
| 04 WEDNESDAY                         | 10.15am<br>07.30pm                       | Holy Communion<br><b>LENT COURSE</b> begins: 'Let's talk...Jesus' (Church)                                         |
| 05 THURSDAY                          | 07.30pm<br>08.00pm                       | Men's Group (Church Room)<br>Ladies Group (Church Hall)                                                            |
| 06 FRIDAY                            | 01.30pm                                  | Pensioner's Group (Church Hall)                                                                                    |
| 07 SATURDAY                          | 07.00pm                                  | Men's Group Silver Celebration (Church then Hall)                                                                  |
| 08 SUNDAY<br><i>Second of Lent</i>   | 08.00am<br>10.00am<br>11.00am            | Holy Communion (Prayer Book)<br>St Stephens Community Worship<br>Café Central ('til 12.15pm)                       |
| 09 MONDAY                            | 10.15am                                  | Retreat Memory Café (Church Hall)                                                                                  |
| 10 TUESDAY                           | 07.30pm                                  | PCC (Church Room)                                                                                                  |
| 11 WEDNESDAY                         | 10.15am<br>07.30pm                       | Holy Communion<br><b>LENT COURSE</b> session 2 (Church)                                                            |
| 13 FRIDAY                            | 07.00pm                                  | Outburst Youth Group (Church Hall) 'til 9pm                                                                        |
| 14 SATURDAY                          | 09.30am                                  | Church Spring Clean ('till 12.30pm)                                                                                |
| 15 SUNDAY<br><i>Third of Lent</i>    | 08.00am<br>10.00am<br>11.00am<br>03.00pm | Holy Communion (Prayer Book)<br>St Stephens Community Worship<br>Café Central ('til 12.15pm)<br><b>TEA SERVICE</b> |
| 16 MONDAY                            | 07.30pm                                  | Good Friday 1st Hour Planning (Church Room)                                                                        |
| 18 WEDNESDAY                         | 10.15am<br>07.30pm                       | Holy Communion<br><b>LENT COURSE</b> session 3 (Church)                                                            |
| 19 THURSDAY                          | 07.30pm<br>08.00pm                       | Men's Group (Church Room)<br>Ladies Group (Church Hall)                                                            |
| 20 FRIDAY                            | 01.30pm<br>06.30pm                       | Pensioner's Group (Church Hall)<br><b>FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE</b>                                                        |
| 22 SUNDAY<br><i>Mothering Sunday</i> | 08.00am<br>10.00am<br>11.00am            | Holy Communion (Prayer Book)<br>Mothering Sunday All Age Service<br>Café Central ('til 12.15pm)                    |
| 23 MONDAY                            | 10.15am                                  | Retreat Memory Café (Church Hall)                                                                                  |
| 25 WEDNESDAY                         | 10.15am<br>07.30pm                       | Holy Communion<br><b>LENT COURSE</b> session 4 (Church)                                                            |
| 27 FRIDAY                            | 07.00pm                                  | Outburst Youth Group (Church Hall) 'til 9pm                                                                        |
| 29 SUNDAY<br><i>Fifth of Lent</i>    | 08.00am<br>10.00am<br>11.00am            | Holy Communion (Prayer Book)<br>St Stephens Community Worship<br>Café Central ('til 12.15pm)                       |

### APRIL PREVIEW

|              |                    |                                                          |
|--------------|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 01 WEDNESDAY | 10.15am<br>07.30pm | Holy Communion<br><b>LENT COURSE</b> session 5: (Church) |
|--------------|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|

## FROM THE REGISTERS

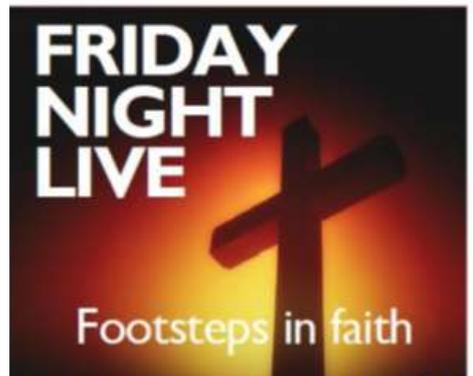
### SINCE JANUARY

#### Baptisms:

- February 09: Kolby Ernest Rowland.  
*Please hold Mum & Dad, Kerrie & Kevin, along with brother Kaiden, in your prayers.*

#### Funerals:

- February 26: Justin William Davies (52).  
The celebration of Justin's life was held at St Stephen's Church, followed by the Cremation at Westerleigh Crematorium.  
*Please hold all his family and his friends in your prayers.*



## 20 MARCH

**WE** aim to 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!

### 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



OPEN SPACE