

Open Space

SAINT STEPHENS SOUNDWELL

NOVEMBER 2022

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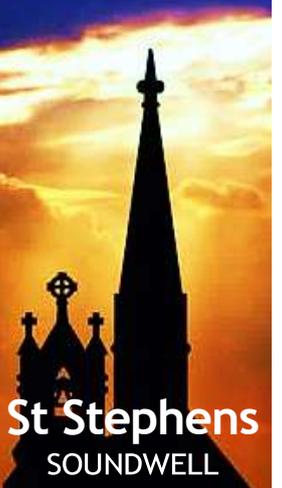


Mission Partners with St Stephens:

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

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St Stephens
SOUNDWELL

We will remember them

I WAS born after WW2 and my Dad who was a veteran of that war didn't discuss his experiences or feelings even though he joined in 1939 and wasn't demobbed until 1946.

HE was a 'Desert Rat' and came home for the D-Day landings. Mum was in London during the blitz and apart from an occasional reference it was never discussed. My knowledge has been very limited. Yes, I have seen TV programmes and read books and we have visited the WW2 memorial sites and seen the aftermath of that war. I can vividly remember the Falklands war, especially poignant as this year is the 40th anniversary. Iraq and Afghanistan, who can fail to remember the repatriation of both men and women through RAF Brize Norton.

In August I booked on a coach trip entitled 'The Western Front'. The crossing was from Dover to Dunkerque and from the ferry you could view the beaches, and it didn't take a lot of imagination to envisage the evacuation in WW2.

As soon as we started our journey into Northern France our tour guide Keith started the story of the events in WW1.

Long straight roads, and he told us to imagine tens of thousands of men marching along them.

Ordinary men who believed it was their duty to sign up. Groups from all over the country who were known as the Pals.

They were supposed to be 18, but some were no older than 14!! We visited the grave of 16-year-old rifleman A E French. His parents were told they couldn't have any compensation when he was killed because he shouldn't have been there!

By the time we reached our hotel in Mouscron, near to Ypres, we had passed countless cemeteries, full of white headstones. Some by the side of the road, others further away in the corner of fields. Each cemetery had the Cross of Sacrifice, and each cemetery kept pristine by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Our days started early with the mist across the fields. Story after story was told by Keith who had taken many veterans to visit places where they had fought, and told him their own personal stories, telling of many heroic acts where a best mate had died saving them.

You walk the headstones and look at the names and ages, so young, you see the headstones with 'Known only to God', and then you look at the memorial walls with tens of thousands of names, from all nationalities.

There are so many mass graves. The Germans have their own cemeteries, along with the British, French, Canadian, South African, Irish etc. *Continued overleaf*>

Readings & Collects

FOR NOVEMBER 2022

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 NOVEMBER 3rd Sunday before Advent

Job 19:23–27a; Psalm 17:1–9;
2 Thessalonians 2:1–5, 13–17
Luke 20:27–38

HEAVENLY LORD, you long for the world's salvation: stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess and revive in us new hope that all creation will one day be healed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

SUNDAY 13 NOVEMBER Remembrance

Malachi 4:1–2a; Psalm 98
2 Thessalonians 3:6–13; Luke 21:5–19

GOD, our refuge and strength, bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and pain shall end, that earth may know the peace of heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SUNDAY 20 NOVEMBER Christ the King

Jeremiah 23:1–6; Psalm 46;
Colossians 1:11–20; Luke 23:33–43

GOD THE FATHER, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory. Amen

SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER Advent Sunday

Isaiah 2:1–5; Psalm 122;
Romans 13:11–14; Matthew 24:36–44
ALMIGHTY GOD, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

We will remember them *(Continued from overleaf)*

We walked in the trenches, now dry, and imagined what the terrible conditions would have been like. Go to the museums and see the uniforms, weapons and pictures of the horses. Tanks were only used at the end of the war.

We saw a replica bi-plane that was used for reconnaissance, open cockpits in those days!

Then there are the woods – now woods as we know them – but back then only small trees etc, and with the enemy always dug in on the high ground. These woods are all National Memorials today, too dangerous to clear. Yet more graves.

We saw no man's land where the Christmas truce (both sides playing football) took place, a plaque by the side of the road. A veteran said it happened.

Underground tunnels were everywhere in the Somme and Ypres salient, and are still all there, but over time the fields have been reclaimed and the villages and towns rebuilt.

The remains of soldiers and shells etc are still found regularly. Life has returned to normal, but everywhere, the killing fields remain.

The names of the places we visited came thick and fast. Sanctuary Wood, Hell Fire Corner, Tyne Cot Cemetery, Canadian Gas Memorial, Langemark German Cemetery, Ploegsteert Memorial, Passchendaele, Arras, Dud Corner Cemetery and Loos Memorial, Vimy Ridge, Lochnager Crater, Newfoundland Park, Thiepval Memorial and so many more, along with the names of all the different regiments involved.

The ceremony at the Menin Gate Ypres was for me one of the most moving. 55,000 names and another 34,000 names on the Tyne Cot Memorial Wall of those missing from the battles in Ypres salient. At 8pm the traffic stopped and the last post was played by buglers from Ypres Fire Brigade. The citation is said, the 2-minute silence is kept, and a wreath is laid.

The evening we were there, a Welsh Choir was singing 'Guide me O thou great Redeemer'. The whole area stopped and people remembered, and this has gone on since 1928 apart from during WW2.

As a member of the Royal British Legion, it is said at each meeting:

'They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.'

The guns stopped on the Somme and at Ypres on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

This Remembrance Day I will remember my visit and be thankful to all those many that sacrificed so much.

I have mentioned 'men' a lot in what I have recounted only because women were not allowed to fight on the front line, but as time went on they were allowed to become nurses and VAD's in the casualty clearing stations and hospitals well away from the front lines.

The women were very brave, and some witnessed horrendous things. I saw so much but I wasn't there to hear the shells, feel the terror and witness the horror that went on.

Several times when I was away, I thought of my Christian beliefs and wondered where God was in all of it. What is the point of war? I did not really have any answers only to think that many prayers must have been said everywhere, not only by believers but by those with no faith.

We stopped on a road by what was the edge of 'no man's land' and there amongst what are now quite large trees is a crucifix. It is very old and one veteran said that as troops came out of their trenches, they would touch the cross before going up the ridge. If they were lucky enough to come back from the fighting, and many times they retreated, they would again touch the cross. Our Lord was holding in his loving arms each and every one of them.

This Remembrance Sunday we give thanks for so many who have sacrificed their lives for us to have the life we have today.

We should be very grateful and appreciative of them all, and yes, WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

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Photos from Sue's tour of the WW1 Battlefields



A LASTING GIFT TO YOUR CHURCH

FREE WILL WRITING SERVICE

<https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/lasting-gift-your-church/writing-your-will/free-wills>

WILL WRITING can often seem like a daunting or time-consuming and difficult thing to do, and those are major reasons why many people put it off to another day, when really, it should be done as soon as possible.

In an effort to make it easier, the Church of England has partnered with **Farewill**, the UK's favourite will writer, to offer a free online will writing service which can be done from the comfort of your own home, and in many cases in less than 30 minutes!

Making a will and *keeping it up to date* is the only way to make sure your wishes are implemented after your death, giving you 'peace of mind' and assurance that you can continue to support your family, friends and charities you love.

We hope you could consider leaving a gift in your will for this church, St Stephens, that you have loved and supported over many years. It would mean the ministry and mission will thrive for many years to come, for the benefit of future generations.

There is also a leaflet available at the back of church which explains the concept in detail or you can ask a minister or church warden for further information.



CHRISTMAS FAYRE
St Stephen's Church, Soundwell
Sat 3rd December
2.00 - 4.00 pm

Bric-a-Brac Refreshments Books
Raffles Cakes Games
Mulled Wine

Jesus ... Light in the Darkness

Come along and see Father Christmas

St Stephens Soundwell

Charity No. 1131503

www.saintstephensoundwell.org

St Stephen's Juniors PTA & Friends of St Stephen's Infants

CHRISTMAS UpTheWood

- FATHER CHRISTMAS
- REFRESHMENTS
- GIFT IDEAS
- STALLS
- GAMES
- BBQ

FRIDAY 2ND DECEMBER 5.00PM

ST STEPHENS INFANT & JUNIOR SCHOOLS
LANSDOWN ROAD
KINGSWOOD
BS15 1XD



OUR PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS

OUR Christmas Cards which are intended for delivery to every home in the parish will be ready by Remembrance Sunday for delivery by 1st December. Please do take some cards and deliver them as soon as you can to as many of our neighbours, friends and those we are yet to know, in the parish. *Thank you!*

THANK YOU ALL!

FROM: THE COMMUNITY OF THE SISTERS OF THE CHURCH

We give thanks for all the Harvest gifts received and we have been able to make changes to our ministry, made possible only by your support.

We have reordered our sitting room, which will be used to focus on our one-to-one support to those who come to us for help.

A Friend to all!

I DON'T make a fuss,
when I need to pray,
I don't stand on ceremony,
in any way.
I just talk to Him, as I would to a
friend, with only one difference,
'Amen' at the end.
Phyllis Ellison

• St Stephens Church Soundwell •



Join us for some:
**COFFEE/
CHAT &
COMPANY**
Every first Wednesday
of the month at 11 AM
in the Turnpike
on Soundwell Road.
A time to be, be known,
and be together

FROM: HARVEST FOR THE HUNGRY

Thank you for all the financial donations received at Harvest time which go to help support the many poor and hungry across Europe. £572.75p was raised.

Thanks to everyone at St Stephens for your wonderful generosity in supporting these worthwhile causes.

CHESTNUTS!



I OVERHEARD a conversation recently between a father and his two sons who had been for a walk in the woods and who had found some

chestnuts still in their husks.

The children were amazed that such a prickly exterior could contain something so sweet and pleasant within, but their pockets were crammed full of the lovely glossy nuts.

Some people are like chestnuts.

If we take the trouble to penetrate the outer layer of reserve, we may find a heart of sweetness and kindness under the prickly exterior.

CHRISTMAS Gift Service

OUR Christmas Gift Service on **Sunday 4th December** is when we will collect financial gifts to help the Sisters of the Church in Bristol feed and give a little Christmas cheer to some of the poorest families in our city. This will enable them to give £15 of Argos Vouchers to each child they know is in need and toiletry sets, gloves, warm scarves, hats and socks to the adults.

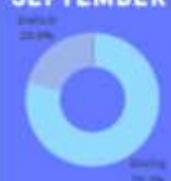
These Christmas gifts are given with love and received with thanks, so please do give generously to The Sisters this Christmas if you can.
Thank you!

Our church FINANCE UPDATE

Our Church Financial Health



GIVING FOR SEPTEMBER



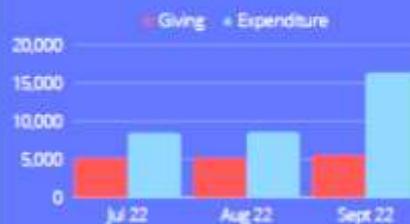
WHAT OUR
GIVING NEEDS TO
BE £7095

GIVING RECEIVED
£5220

Giving Last 3 Months



Giving v Church Expenses Last 3 Months



Confirmation Service

YAY!

3 members of St Stephens are being **Confirmed**, on 14th November, so please come along to support them at Holy Trinity Church, Bradley Stoke, at 7.30pm!

06	Welcomers & sidepersons	Teresa, Robert, Benjy & Jacob Cooper Marlene Crew, Ruth Crosby Leigh Davey, Iris Davis	Stanton Close Station Road Sweets Close
13	Prayer Ministry Team	Ros Davis, Bernard Denyer Margaret Dodge, Bob and Nancy Emery Ken Fox	Sweets Road The Close The Crescent
20	Those sharing in Home Communion	Lynn, Bernard & Brett Francis & Louisa Rowan Francis, Sarah Fry Julie, Shaun, Josh & Hollie Fudge	The Elms The Gardens The Green
27	Cleaning volunteers	Matt, Jenny & Lauren Gait Sheila Galsworthy, Pat Garner Brian Grant, Janice Harland	The Haven The Reddings The Ride

SUNDAY Community Worship Service at 10am

Sunday 8am BCP Holy Communion on 1st and 3rd Sundays.

WEDNESDAY Service of Holy Communion at 10am.

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>

NOVEMBER DIARY

01	Tuesday(s)	1.30-3.30pm	Knit & Natter weekly in the Church Room
02	Wednesday	11am	Coffee/Chat/Company Turnpike Pub
03	Thursday(s)	10-11.45am	See & Know weekly in Church Hall
		2-4pm	Ladies Group in Church Hall then fortnightly
		7.30-9.30pm	Men's Group in Church Room then fortnightly
04	Friday	07.30am	Outburst Youth Church in Church Hall (Monthly first Friday of the month)
06	Sunday	6.30pm	MEMORIAL SERVICE
11	Friday	1.15-3.45	Pensioner's Group in Church Hall then fortnightly
13	Sunday	10am	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE
14	Monday	7.30pm	Confirmation Service at Holy Trinity, Bradley Stoke
18	Friday	6.30pm	FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE in Church

< *Continued from page 2*

Since writing this our dear Queen Elizabeth II has passed to higher glory and many of us witnessed her funeral. Everything about it was so moving and I'm sure will remain in our memories for ever.

I felt so proud of the many young men and women from the armed forces, police and many other organisations that stepped up to make the whole ceremony what it was.

Who will ever forget the pall bearers as they carried Her Majesty to her resting place. We have much more to think about this Remembrance Sunday as we say thank you for all she did for this country and the Commonwealth.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory. **Sue Clements**

EVERY WEEK
a chance to listen again:



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>

SINCE SEPTEMBER 2022

Baptisms:

● OCTOBER 09: **Ava Pearl** and **Zac Reginald MacRae-Ferris**.
Please hold their Mum and Dad, Mollie and Nathan, their Godmother, Kelly, and all their family and friends in your prayers.

● OCTOBER 23: **Isla Elizabeth Cook** and **Olivia Elizabeth Alexander**.
Please hold their parents, Holly and TJ, their Godparents and all their family and friends in your prayers.

Funerals:

● SEPTEMBER 29: **Roberta Ann Tucker**, 'Bobbie', (74). The celebration of Bobbie's life was held at St Stephens Church, Soundwell, followed by the burial at Whitchurch Cemetery.

Please hold Bobbie's son, Stuart, his family, Monica, Claudia and Gabriella, the wider family and Bobbie's many friends, in your prayers.

● OCTOBER 19: **Robert Evans** (57). The celebration of Rob's life was held at Banbury Crematorium.

Please hold Rob's wife, Amanda, his children, Millie and Louis, his Mum, Sue, and sister, Claire, as well as the wider family and all his many friends in your prayers.

● OCTOBER 21: **Enzo Jack Hoare** (17 days). The Service of Thanksgiving for Enzo was held at St Stephen's Church, Soundwell, followed by the burial at Kingswood Remembrance Park.

Please hold his Mum and Dad, Jasmine and Scott, their families, and all their many friends in your prayers.

SAINT STEPHENS SOUNDWELL



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● **Revd Regan Meares**
*Curate
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● **Peter Robbins**
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Kingswood, Bristol BS15 8DT
Telephone 0117 967 9576*



● **Gill Mayo**
*Church Warden
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