

# Open Space

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OCTOBER 2021

SAINT STEPHENS SOUNDWELL

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## 'About time'



**FOR ME**, October is birthday and anniversary time – in fact both celebrations fall on the same day.

SOMETIMES it has been that last time of the year where I might be able to seek some sun before the onslaught of Christmas begins. Or, it has been the time when I do my Christmas shopping – sorry to those of you who are not as forward planning in your ways as I am. But I have to confess that for me, October also means something else – the changing of the clocks.

The last weekend in October is usually when we reset our clocks from British Summer Time back to Greenwich Mean Time. Yet, the transient pleasure of an extra hour in bed on the Saturday night is quickly replaced with the reality of the night's drawing in.

When I was a child, I struggled to understand both how and why we changed the clocks twice a year. How could we alter time? Wasn't time – just time?

How could we mess about with it, and decide that what one day was 8am was

now 7am (important for getting ready for school!)? And why did we bother? Did it really matter that in the summer it could be light until nearly 11pm – wouldn't 10pm do?

The idea of time as something that could be manipulated and shifted baffled me. It wasn't until I was much older that I understood that the whole notion of measuring and naming 'time' was a human invention. Calendars (for reckoning intervals of time) and clocks (for measuring its passage) have a long history.

The first calendars were lunar, and there's evidence of them as long as 6,000 years ago. The first clocks were a form of sundial, found in Egypt.

Clearly humans have long felt the need to track the passage of time.

In conversations, I've discovered that quite a lot of people struggled in March 2020, when time changed dramatically. When lockdown happened, suddenly time seemed to be weird. Folk told me that however they experienced individual days, the month seemed to drag on endlessly. Some even made jokes about how March actually lasted a decade.

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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

### St Stephens

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St Stephens  
SOUNDWELL

## 'About time'

< *Continued from overleaf*

Since then, time seems to have more or less resumed its usual pace, but it was a very strange experience that reminded me that time is much less static than I usually assume.

A dictionary defines time as: *'The indefinite continued progress of existence and events that occur in an apparently irreversible succession from the past, through the present, into the future.'*

From human perspective, time is linear and goes in one direction.

What could happen if we were freed from this constraint has long teased writers' imaginations. In the Christopher Nolan film 'Tenet' the characters live both forwards and backwards through time. It's a cracking film, but can get a bit confusing – thank the Lord for my teen-age son, Tom who helped us navigate our way through it.

Many other writers have delighted in exploring the idea of being able to travel back in time, or even jump about in it, and have explored the paradoxes that could result from people meeting their younger self, or altering events that have already happened.

In an episode of 'Dr Who', the Doctor put it like this:

*'People assume that time is a strict progression of cause to effect, but actually from a non-linear, non-subjective viewpoint – It's more like a big ball of wibbly wobbly... time-y wimey... stuff.'*

Good quote isn't it??!!  
So that's what time is like for human beings.

But what about for God?

This is a question that has exercised much bigger brains than mine! Christians believe that God stands outside time. There was never a time when God wasn't, and there will never be a time when God isn't. As creatures living in time and subject to it, this is incredibly difficult for us to get our heads around.

The early church was also concerned about time. In the latter half of the first century, there were many who believed that the risen



and ascended Jesus would return during their lifetimes, to complete what he had started. When this did not happen, they were puzzled, and some became disheartened.

In 2 Peter, the writer, addressing these concerns, puts it like this:

*'But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.'*

From the perspective of God's realm of eternity, time looks very different.

But even though God exists outside time, and is not subject to it, God reveals Godself within time, because humanity and creation is.

Starting with Abraham, God promised that through his descendants, all creation would know God's blessing. Some thousands of years later, and 2,000 years distant from us, God revealed Godself in human flesh, in the person of Jesus, as a human being born in a specific place at a specific time.

The ancient Greeks had two words for time: *chronos*, referring to sequential time, and *kairos*, which signifies the proper or opportune moment for something.

Somehow, when Jesus entered *chronos*, it was also *kairos*.

So as you continue to journey through time, whether the days are slow or whizzing by, remember that God is always with you. AND, with God... we have all the time in the world.

*With every blessing*

Lisa x

## Opportunities at your Church

HERE at St Stephens we believe in team-work, because that is how we see Jesus behaved and how he encouraged us to be. WE are the Body of Christ. 'For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body' (1 Cor 12:12).

So, we currently have several opportunities to be part of that Body of Christ here in Soundwell to become part of a team within your Church. 'Doing' helps us feel a greater depth of belonging, so why not ponder with God what you can offer him in service to your church and then have a chat with me.

- **Assistant Church Warden** – joining an already established team, supporting our Church Warden, Gill.

- **Flower arranger** – no experience necessary as the skilled team will help you along. They generally meet on Friday mornings to ensure our Church looks and smells amazing – in honour of our amazing God.

- **Sacristan** – helping to lay up the altar on Sunday mornings before and after the service. Assisting in the administering of Holy Communion when required.

- **Youth Church** – assisting the leader during the sessions and being part of a team doing this. If leading is more your style then that opportunity is also available.

- **Cleaning the Church** – if you like to spend some quiet time in Church cleaning the most used areas, then this opportunity also exists.

- **Readers** – would like to join the team, taking it in turns to read the first Bible reading during the Sunday morning service?

- **Leading Intercessions** – preparing and leading us as we pray in Church is a wonderful thing to do.

THERE are of course all sorts of other things going on in Church life that you might like to be part of.

It doesn't mean you can't because I've not listed it... so please do phone me or seek me out for a chat about anything you'd like to be part of at St Stephens.

*Thank you!*

Lisa



# Readings & Collects

FOR OCTOBER 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 03 OCTOBER 18th Sunday after Trinity

Genesis 2:8–24; Psalm 8;  
Hebrews 1:1–4, 2:5–12; Mark 10:2–16  
GOD, our judge and saviour, teach us to be open to your truth and to trust in your love, that we may live each day with confidence in the salvation which is given through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## SUNDAY 10 OCTOBER 19th Sunday after Trinity

Amos 5:6–7, 10–15; Psalm 90:12–end;  
Hebrews 4:12–end; Mark 10:17–31  
FAITHFUL Lord, whose steadfast love never ceases and whose mercies never come to an end: grant us the grace to trust you and to receive the gifts of your love, new every morning, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## SUNDAY 17 OCTOBER 20th Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 53:4–end; Psalm 91:9–end;  
Hebrews 5:1–10:3; Mark 10:35–45  
GOD, our light and our salvation: illuminate our lives, that we may see your goodness in the land of the living, and looking on your beauty may be changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## SUNDAY 24 OCTOBER 21st Sunday after Trinity

Jeremiah 31:7–9; Psalm 126;  
Hebrews 7:23–end; Mark 10:46–end  
ALMIGHTY God, in whose service lies perfect freedom: teach us to obey you with loving hearts and steadfast wills; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## SUNDAY 31 OCTOBER All Saints

Isaiah 3:1–9; Psalm 24:1–6;  
Revelation 21:1–6a; John 11:32–44  
GOD of holiness, your glory is proclaimed in every age: as we rejoice in the faith of your saints, inspire us to follow their example with boldness and joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# Flowers in God's Garden

BY JOHN OSBORNE

WE all are flowers in God's Garden each bearing a differing bloom, we are only here for a season and autumn oft cometh too soon.

EACH of us has the potential to be the loveliest of flowers, to add charm and grace to the Garden the choice quite simply is ours.

WE may bring some joy to a life that is sad, just through a word that is spoken we may bring some peace to a troubled mind, or hope to a heart that is broken.

FOR every flower has something to give or it maybe just something to share. It may not be much, but may mean a great deal to someone, sometime, somewhere.

YES, we all have gifts to use as we will and we never should miss any chance, to freely give of the gifts we possess and with love, God's Garden enhance.

FOR much may stem from the life that we live which now we're not able to see, but the good seeds we sow, are the flowers that will grow and bloom in Eternity.

Sent in by **Margaret Stawte**

## PLANT SALE SPRING 2022

WE will be requesting plants for the above next year. It's a long way ahead I know, but **now** is the time to take cuttings, sow biennials, save and dry seeds and later, split perennials. (I have spare pots if required). Please help us make this a successful event. **Gill Mayo**

## 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 as partners, it's great to strengthen our relationship in this way.

Having these links is a great privilege but is also our responsibility as their Church 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** x



LIVING  
IN LOVE  
& FAITH

LIVING IN LOVE & FAITH, is a Church of England initiative to help us think about the Christian understanding of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage.

These questions of faith, identity, gender and sexuality are felt very deeply and can be difficult to talk about.

They are questions that touch us deeply because they are about our lives and the loves that sustain them. And they affect everyone, both inside and outside the church. As Christians, we have good news to share: we are all made in God's image and equally loved by God. But we also have different views and experiences about these things.

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03	Outburst Youth Church	Jenny McAbe & Rob Hanratty Julia Merrifield, Clive Milkins Carol Millard, Holly Miriam	Grorse Hill Hayward Road Highview Road
10	See & Know toddler Group	Andrea Monks, Margaret Moore Leonard, Josie, Tanya & Bradley Morris Carol Murphy, Dave Newton	Hilltop Gardens Hilltop Road Hill View
17	The PCC	Cordelia Nolan, Peter Smyth & Serena Katy, Tom, George & Theo North Gill Ogborne, David Packe	Howard Road Irving Close James Close
24	Mission Partnerships	Jan and Dave Parker Tim, Olivia & Sophie Parker Wayne, Rosie, Annie-Mae & Joseph Pearce	James Road Jubilee Road Lansdown Close
31	Administration: Church Office Volunteers	Geoffrey & Catherine Perkins Trish Phipps, Ollie, Jaime & Rupert Phipps Malcolm & Pat Pullin, Dot Randall	Lansdown Road Larch Road Lees Hill

**SUNDAY Community Worship Service at 10am**

**WEDNESDAY Service of Holy Communion at 10am.**

*Sunday 8am BCP Holy Communion resumes in September on 1st and 3rd Sundays.*

**DIARY**

**OCTOBER**

01	Friday	7-9pm	Outburst Youth Church in Church Hall <i>Then monthly first Friday of the month</i>
05	Tuesday(s)	1.30-3.30pm	Knit & Natter weekly in the Church Room*
07	Thursday(s)	10-11.45am	See & Know weekly in Church Hall
08	Friday	1.15-3.45pm	Pensioner's Group in Church Hall then fortnightly
14	Thursday	2-4pm	Ladies Group in Church Hall then fortnightly
		7.30-9.30pm	Men's Group in Church Room* then fortnightly
15	Friday	6.30pm	FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE in Church
31	Sunday	6.30pm	MEMORIAL Service in Church

\* access to the Church Room is via Church only

**NOVEMBER**

05	Friday	7-9pm	Outburst Youth Church in Church Hall
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**Living in Love & Faith**

*<Continued from page 3*

Commissioned and led by the Bishops of the Church of England, Living in Love & Faith (LLF) is about encouraging the whole church to think more deeply about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage in the bigger context of being human.

It is an invitation to each of us, whatever our background and experience, to think more deeply about what it means to be human and to live in love and faith together. It's about understanding different perspectives and each other better.

Your Church is preparing to run short courses near the start of 2022 to help us explore this. Each course will be for just 5 sessions.

They will be co-ordinated by trained facilitators from within

St Stephens and other parishes and will be in groups of a maximum of 6 (plus facilitators). They will not be led by clergy.

To help us plan and prepare to explore Living in Love & Faith, we need to know how many people might like to be involved. So please either let us know of your interest, without firm commitment on your part, in one of the following ways:

- Contact Lisa either by telephone on 0117 957 4297 or by email: [lisawigmore66@gmail.com](mailto:lisawigmore66@gmail.com)

- Ask Gill, our Churchwarden, or one of our Assistant Churchwardens, for your name to be added to the sign-up sheet at the back of Church.

*This needs to be done by the end of October please!*

If you have any questions, then please don't hesitate to ask Lisa for more information.

*Thank you!*

**Baptisms SINCE AUGUST**

- August 29: **Chloe May O'Donoghue.** Please hold; Mum and Dad, Charlene and Shaun; Chloe's Godparents; and all the family in your prayers.
- September 05: **Blake Lewis Strickland.** Please hold; Mum and Dad, Sian and Dean; Blake's Godparents; and all the family in your prayers.
- September 05: **Matilda Louise Westlake.** Please hold; Mum and Dad, Molly and Mike; Matilda's Godparents; and all the family in your prayers.
- September 12: **Vinnie David Veale.** Please hold; Mum and Dad, Chloe and Bryon; Vinnie's Godparents; and all the family in your prayers.
- September 12: **Kayla Tilly-Grace** James & Charlie Timothy-Ken Janes. Please hold; Mum and Dad, Natalie and Ben; both Kayla and Charlie's Godparents; and all the family in your prayers.
- September 19: **Leo Andreas David Paraskeva.** Please hold; Mum and Dad, Cherry and David; Leo's Godparents; and all the family in your prayers.
- September 19: **Jenson Joseph Alexander.** Please hold; Mum and Dad, Holly and Tudor; Jenson's Godparents; and all the family 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**



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