

Open Space

SAINT STEPHENS SOUNDWELL

SEPTEMBER 2022



OVER THE summer I tried, and failed to be honest, to bake some bread. I hadn't realised the complexities involved. And it got me thinking about bread...

BREAD is at the heart of British life.

For centuries the quest of ordinary men and women to get their daily bread has determined the structure and the layout of our towns and cities, it has dominated our economy and even driven our politics.

From the first small loaf, baked maybe by our Stone Age ancestors 10,000 years ago in the middle east, bread has brought change to our lives... first of all by allowing people to settle and build permanent homes.

Bread has also been at the heart of our celebrations. From at least Celtic times, people have celebrated the first loaf from the first wheat of the year. This tradition was adopted by the Saxon Christians and re-named 'loaf-mass'... or Lammas.

With the beginnings of the industrial revolution, and the movement of people into towns and cities, this tradition began to die out until it was brought back again by a Reverend Robert Hawker from Morwenstow. He changed it to the end of the harvest – but still with a loaf of bread at its centre.

BREAD also has had a difficult history.

It is tied up with politics, and poverty, and justice issues throughout its history. When windmills were invented and built, people had more time to work on the land because they no longer had to grind their own wheat daily.

But, they had to pay for the privilege

and they became economically dependent on those who owned the windmills, some of whom ripped off the poor.

And bread today is still tied up with the stewardship of our earth. Palm oil is used to make bread because it is sold at room temperature and easy to bake with – and it is cheap.

However, we see the consequences with the burning of Amazon rain forests to clear the land for the growing of this crop.

In the history of bread we find our own story too.

BREAD, featured in the ministry and teaching of Jesus.

In the Bible we read that Jesus is aware of the physical hunger which draws people to him in the hope of being fed, but he reminds them that spiritual hunger can be just as important.

We need not only to consider our physical life but also to take care of all that makes us human.

God is concerned with all of that – our physical and emotional and mental and spiritual needs, and provides bread for us in all sorts of ways. Jesus reminds people of the manna that fell from heaven (*not bread strictly but it looked and felt like bread*) and how God provided for the daily needs of his people.

So please, pause as you read this... and take a moment to consider how God provides for us. Not just in putting food on the table and a roof over our heads, but as a person to talk to at just the right time, or a sunset which shows up when we need it, or something to help us laugh.

How often, though, do we forget God's provision and all that we have?

Continued on page 2>

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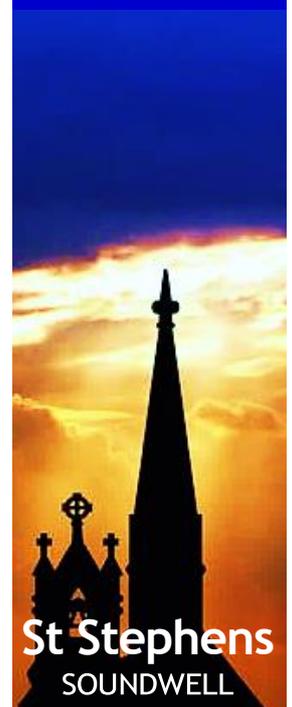


Mission Partners with St Stephens:

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

Readings & Collects

FOR SEPTEMBER 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 04 SEPTEMBER

12th Sunday after Trinity

Deuteronomy 30: 15–end; Psalm 1
Philemon 1:21; Luke 14:25–33

GOD OF CONSTANT MERCY, who sent your Son to save us: remind us of your goodness, increase your grace within us, that our thankfulness may grow, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SUNDAY 11 SEPTEMBER

13th Sunday after Trinity

Exodus 32:7–14; Psalm 51:1–11
1 Timothy 1:12–17; Luke 15:1–10

ALMIGHTY GOD, you search us and know us: may we rely on you in strength and rest on you in weakness, now and in all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SUNDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

14th Sunday after Trinity

Amos 8:4–7; Psalm 113
1 Timothy 2:1–7; Luke 16:1–13

MERCIFUL GOD, your Son came to save us and bore our sins on the cross: may we trust in your mercy and know your love, rejoicing in the righteousness that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

15th Sunday after Trinity

Amos 6:1a, 4–7; Psalm 146
1 Timothy 6:6–19; Luke 16:19–31

LORD GOD, defend your Church from all false teaching and give to your people knowledge of your truth, that we may enjoy eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Harvest time & Jesus *(Continued from overleaf)*

Jesus' ministry also included times of showing God's abundance. The feeding of the crowd of more than 5000 people is a great example of how abundant God can be.

The wonderful part of the miracle is not just the abundance, but also where it came from... from a small boy sharing his lunch of 2 fish and 5 loaves.

How do we share what we have and take part in that miracle?

What little do we have that can be shared – not just at Harvest-time, which we celebrate this month, but throughout the year? In the months to come, if we do face food shortages and continuing price rises it will be the vulnerable who suffer most.

It is in the sharing of bread that we remember Jesus such as when celebrating Holy Communion.

It was in the breaking of the bread that the disciples on the Emmaus road recognised Jesus (*as told in the Gospel of Luke*), and in the Gospel of John we read of Jesus preparing a BBQ on the beach of fish and bread for his disciples. In the breaking and in the sharing of bread we remember

the love of Jesus and we find community together.

If this stirs something within you and you would like to think about confirming the promises made for you at your Baptism, otherwise known as 'being confirmed', then please do speak with Peter or myself, as soon as possible. We'd like to help you take that next step in your journey of faith.

In bread we see the provision of God, and the season of Harvest is a time set aside especially so that we can give thanks to God for all we have.

In bread we see the brokenness and the pain of our world, remembering the injustices of the past and the present day and the carelessness with which we treat our world.

But also, and most importantly, in the broken bread we find the risen Christ who comes with healing and hope – and who is our daily bread on whom we rely.

May you feed on Jesus, the Bread of Life, in your hearts and minds and in the bread of Holy Communion, and may he nourish you afresh not just this Harvest-time, but every day.

LISA

Harvest Service

DURING our All Age Harvest Festival Service in Church on 25th September, alongside donations of food, we will also be collecting financial donations which will be shared with The Sisters of the Church and Harvest for the Hungry.

This means our gifts will help to provide food for the hungry of our own city and across the poorest parts of Europe - near and far.

Special envelopes will be available in church from early September for

these financial gifts. Please bring them to the service with you, and they will be brought forward during the service when our food gifts are collected at the altar. Or, if you'd like to give but won't be in church on that day, then please give your envelope to Lorraine or Lisa before the service. This is not part of our regular giving for church, so please be assured that the collection will be taken during the offertory hymn as usual.

Thank you.

Creation Restored: Ministry in a time of Climate Crisis

Join us for an inspiring and challenging day, sharing fellowship as we explore how best to lead church life in a time of climate emergency.

We're thrilled to welcome guest speakers and workshop leaders from organisations including Tearfund, operation Noah, and Green Christian, as well as friends from across the Diocese.

When: Saturday 17 September
9.30am-4pm.

Where: Pattern Church, Penzance Drive, Swindon SN5 7JL.

Who for: Anyone, but particularly all involved in church leadership – lay, ordained, youth or environmental!

Price: Free!

Contact Simon Taylor for more information. Telephone 0117 906 0100. email: simon.taylor@bristoldiocese.org

Book your place today:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/creation-restored-ministry-in-a-climate-crisis-tickets-343367410167

(Or search for 'Creation Restored' in the Eventbrite website).

Our Church Finances

AS YOU may well notice from the chart to the right, we have changed it slightly from before so that it might be easier to understand and comprehend.

AS PART of our policy to be open and transparent, I thought I would give you an overall peek at our running costs.

The expected budget for the year, which your PCC has agreed is:

Total Expected Income: £89,150

Total Expected Expenditure :

£127,901

Anticipated Shortfall: £38,751

The above figures don't include Spire repairs or Break-in Repairs or Roof Lead Theft replacement, although £5000 of the expected expenditure is budgeted for in the general maintenance of all our buildings.

This also doesn't factor in the impact of energy cost increases as these were unheard of at the time that the budget was prepared and agreed.

Your Church is not a residential home, so the increases are likely to be very much higher for us – a colleague of mine has been told by their energy supplier to expect annual costs to go from £6000 to £35,000.

We haven't yet heard what the impact will be for us.

Sometimes figures can be confusing and so can the monthly chart here in Open Space, but I thought showing you the overall picture, might give us all a better idea of where we are.

These figures are just for 2022, and unless things change, this will be what we face year on year.

Thank you. **Lisa x**



FROM Monday 22 August to Friday 21 October, **All God's Children** is a brand-new exhibition in Bristol Cathedral and on College Green, exploring the impact of the slave economy on Cathedral life, past and present.

The Bible teaches us in many places that each and every person is loved and valued by God.

We are told that when one person suffers, we all suffer, yet Christians have so often failed to behave as if this is what they believe.

For hundreds of years many of the people who gathered in our Cathedral enslaved, bought and sold their sisters and brothers of colour. They exploited, raped and murdered them and the exploiters did not see their actions as being incompatible with their Christian faith.

The Cathedral recognises that neither the injustices of the past nor the impact of racism in the present have been properly acknowledged in the Cathedral.

They seek to welcome everyone, but know that it cannot be truly welcoming until the story of the painful legacy of slavery is told within their walls and until the contribution of all our sisters and brothers to our shared life is recognised.

This exhibition presents the first findings of a research project into Bristol Cathedral's connections with slavery as revealed through its memorials and grave-markers.

They hope that it will help to inform a wide-ranging conversation about the stories we tell, the ways in which we can repair and restore damaged relationships and the ways we can work together for a better future for everyone.

The Cathedral is committed to a future in which All God's Children can live together in love.

Our prayer is that this is also true of us too, the people of St Stephens Church, Soundwell.

Why not visit the exhibition sometime soon?



SUMMER CHEER: £30 Cost of living help voucher from Iceland Foods

Iceland Foods is helping 40,000 pension age people cope with the rising cost of living by offering a £30 voucher to help with food costs and other essentials.

To qualify you need to be of pension age, living independently or with a carer, and be relying on a state pension and benefits as your sole income. To apply, call the Summer Cheer Hotline on 0800 098 7877 to request the voucher.

Phone line is available 9am-5pm Monday to Friday. The campaign starts on September 16.

Also, pensioners can obtain a 10% discount every Tuesday.

A proof of ID (eg: bus pass) may be asked for.

04 The PCC	Gladys Woolford Aaliah & Ava Zane	Neville Road North View Nympsfield
11 Mission Partnerships	See and Know children: <i>Billy Amos, Henry Ball, Ruby Bray Grace Bullock, Joshua Crane, Oliver Crane</i>	Pear tree Lane Pembroke Road Penny Lane
18 Administration: Church Office Volunteers	<i>Harry Flannery, Ashton Fowler Ellis Gervais, Jude Gervais Beatrix Greene</i>	Phoenix Grove Pinewood Pool Road
25 Administration: David Packe	<i>Arabella Harris, Max Harris Sapphire Hawkes, Austin Hawkins Charlie James, Patrick McNally</i>	Portland Court Portland Place Portland Street

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>

SEPTEMBER DIARY

01 Thursday	7.30-9.30pm	Men's Group in Church Room* then fortnightly
02 Friday	07.30am	Outburst Youth Church in Church Hall (Monthly first Friday of the month)
06 Tuesday(s)	1.30-3.30pm	Knit & Natter weekly in the Church Room*
07 Wednesday	11am	Coffee/Chat/Company Turnpike Pub
08 Thursday(s)	10-11.45am 2-4pm	See & Know weekly in Church Hall Ladies Group in Church Hall then fortnightly
09 Friday	11.15am	Funeral Service for June Jones RIP in Church
10 Saturday	9.30am	Baptism Preparation in Church
16 Friday	1.15-3.45pm	Pensioner's Group in Church Hall then fortnightly
	6.30pm	FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE in Church
25 Sunday	10am	All age HARVEST Service in Church

* Access to the Church Room is via Church only

· St Stephens Church Soundwell ·



**COFFEE/
CHAT &
COMPANY**

11 AM first Wednesday of the month in the Turnpike on Soundwell Road.

A time to be, be known, and be together



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>

An ADMINISTRATOR

is required for the Benefice of St John the Baptist, Frenchay & Holy Trinity Stapleton. Part-time (8 hours weekly).

Further details and a fuller job description are available from: churchwardens@frenchaychurch.org.uk

SINCE AUGUST 2022

Funerals:

● AUGUST 04: Suzanne 'Sue' Karen Cook (79). The celebration of Sue's life was held at Westerleigh Crematorium.

Please hold her son, Stuart; brother, Lee; sister, Nicky, the wider family and all her many friends in your prayers.

● AUGUST 12: Christopher Cogswell Mullens (90). The celebration of Christopher's life was held at St Stephens Church, Soundwell, following his funeral in Spain in October 2021.

Please hold his wife, Susan, and their family and many friends in your prayer.

● AUGUST 25: Joan Gladys Brown (88). The celebration of Joan's life was held at St Stephens Church, followed by the farewell at Westerleigh Crematorium.

Please hold Joan's husband, Brian, their children, Mark, Julie, Jon and Steve, their families and the wider family, as well as Joan's church family and her many friends, in your prayers.

Baptisms:

● AUGUST 21: Jacob and Tommy Pasco.

Please hold their Mum and Dad, Stephanie and Ryan, their Godparents and all their family and friends in your prayers.

● AUGUST 21: Aurora Cohen.

Please hold Mum and Dad, Rebekah and Justin, her Godparents and her family and all their friends in your prayers.

Weddings:

● AUGUST 10: Mike Westlake & Molly Cutler were married at St Stephens.

Please hold them and their children Florence, Matilda and Vienna in your prayers.

SAINT STEPHENS SOUNDWELL



● **Revd Lisa Wigmore**
Vicar, 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



● **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

