

Open Space

SAINT STEPHENS SOUNDWELL

KNOWING JESUS... MAKING JESUS KNOWN!



AS Jesus went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. MARK 6:34

AS part of our Sunday services in July, we had the above verse in our readings. As I normally do if I am not preaching that week, I spent time pondering the verse and exploring it more deeply.

In doing so I discovered that the translation of the word 'compassion' can also mean a feeling deep within one's gut. Not just 'oh how sad' and move on, but 'I need to do something that will change this.' – that sort of deep gut feeling.

The passage goes on to describe the feeding of the 5000, but before Jesus physically feeds them, the scripture says, he 'teaches them many things.' Jesus' ministry had a real holistic approach – one that focused on healing, teaching and feeding. One that focused on body, mind and soul.

In our secular society today, we focus on our physical ailments by visiting a doctor and our mental ailments by visiting a psychologist.

But how are we looking after our souls? Do we invest our time in nourishment that challenges and changes us or do we go for the candy floss which is sweet and tastes nice, but doesn't really have any impact on us?

While preparing to write this article in early August, I, like many of us, have been delighted to turn on the TV and watch the

Olympics and am equally looking forward to the Paralympics 2024 in September, both from Paris.

I have regularly been forced to sit on the edge of our sofa, or scream encouragement at the TV whilst jumping up and down holding a pillow, as contestants like Adam Peaty, Simone Biles, Keely Hodgkinson, Andy Murray, Tom Daley and many others compete against the best sports people in the world.

When you are high profile in whatever your chosen field is (sports, politics, acting, music, etc) there are immense highs which are often followed by massive lows or crashes. Particularly if you are a sports person, but this also applies to actors and musicians, looking after their bodies and eating the right things are part of their daily routine, because they know if they don't, the performance won't be the best it could be.

What has really interested me over this Olympics is the number of British athletes who have spoken about the importance of looking after and feeding their souls.

If we look back to when the Olympics were last in Paris in 1924, you might remember Eric Liddell whose story, along with that of Roger Bannister, was made famous in the film *Chariots of Fire*.

Liddell had a strong faith and refused to race on Sundays, because that was the day set aside for God.

He changed his distance from 100 m to 400 m, because the heats for the 400 m were on a weekday, and he went on to win Gold. *Continued overleaf*>

SEPTEMBER
2024

Mission
Partners with
St Stephens:

Beloved
Bristol City Centre
Soup Run
Bristol Schools
Connection
Christian Aid
Community of
the Sisters of
the Church
Emmaus
Harvest for
The Hungry
Marmalade Trust
One25 Project

St Stephens

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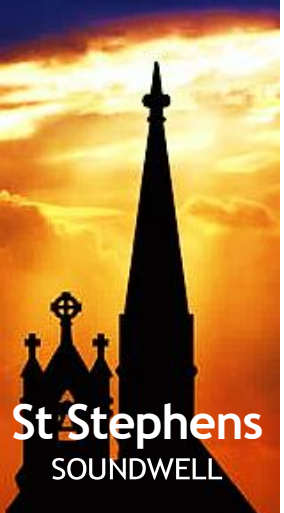
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gmail.com

www.saintstephen
soundwell.org

f saintstephen
soundwell

@SoundwellChurch

CHARITY NUMBER
1131503



St Stephens
SOUNDWELL

DAY CONFERENCE:

Creating pathways into faith. Together

THE CONFERENCE is taking place on **Saturday September 14th** at 9.30am to 4pm at the United Church, Bath Road, Longwell Green, Bristol BS30 9DF.

THE Keynote speaker will be **Martin Poole**, author of *Church Beyond Walls*, and highlights of the day will include music from **Zimbabwean Mother's Union Choir** based in Bristol; drama and song from street evangelist and music director **Martin Turnbull**; plus innovative and encouraging stories from parishes across the diocese of church communities.

In the afternoon there will be workshops helping us to think through how we can recognise opportunities to engage with our communities to enable people to create new connections with us.

Over lunch there will be a chance to meet all the presenters and ask questions about how their initiatives developed and the fruit they are beginning to see.

Other contributors will include guests from Grace Network and from Jesus Shaped People (*if you look at the Jesus Shaped People website see if you can spot members of the Diocese of Bristol on their scrolling banner!*)

We will also be introducing a new resource designed to encourage and resource churches and equipping worshippers to form rhythms of life as part of creating pathways to fully lived out faith. This will be the 'soft launch', introducing the material and offering ways to prepare for the full launch in the New Year.

Please book your tickets using the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/creating-pathways-into-faith-together-tickets-828871907187>

Body and Soul

<Continued from overleaf

In 2020, swimmer Daniel Jervis in his pool side interview after he swam in the final of the 1500 freestyle said this off the cuff,

"I am proud of a lot of things in my life but the thing I am most proud of is that I am Christian, and obviously God was with me tonight. I am just really grateful to be representing him."

In a more recent interview for Songs of Praise he spoke quite openly about the most important part of his life is his faith. How it is there in the good times and the bad times and how he notices God alongside him in the challenges he has faced.



Ahead of this year's Olympics, Adam Peaty spoke openly to the BBC about his recent struggles with mental health. To deal with the price and the pressures of the intense 24/7/365 routine of being an athlete, he says his Christian faith has helped him get through and appreciate life.

He describes finding this centredness as:

"The only place I found it was at church, the peace is every Sunday in my week and that gives me a nice balance."

And then there came the men's 100m breaststroke final during the Games in Paris.

Two hundredths of a second; the blinking of an eye.

That's how close Adam Peaty came to equalling Michael Phelps' record of three successive Olympic gold's in the men's 100m breaststroke.

The pink towel over his shoulder didn't hide the ink across his sternum – a simple cross with the words:

'Into the Light'

Since getting that tattoo last year, the British World Record holder has talked openly about the strength and stability his recent conversion to Christianity has added to his life – not least in his battles with addiction

and mental health.

And then, during an interview with the @bbcsport, having come literally a split-second from a third Olympic gold, Peaty concluded his interview with them by sharing the relevance of his faith very naturally once again:

"I'm not crying because I came second... these are happy tears," he explained, smiling through reddened eyes. *"I'm not going to define my whole career by a medal... I asked God to show my heart, and this is my heart. I couldn't have done more."*

And with that they cut back to the studio where the panel of pundits seemed speechless for a moment, visibly moved.

As a church and as individuals, we continue to have great compassion for people who struggle with their mental wellbeing. Clearly these athletes have found something that sustains them and feeds them which should be a role model to others.

If we want our young people to find nourishment for their souls that is not just candy floss, we need to model for them a much more healthy way in which we make time to attend to our souls. Not an add on or if we can fit it in, but just like we make time to eat or as some exercise, so we should make time to attend to our souls. Looking to the example of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who has come to guide his sheep.

Lisa x

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON Bible Study

2.30PM

(2pm for a cuppa)

Every fortnight on
the following dates:

11 & 25 SEPTEMBER

9 & 23 OCTOBER

6 & 20 NOVEMBER

in the Church Room

Readings & Collects

SUNDAY 01 SEPTEMBER

14th Sunday after Trinity

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; Psalm 15
James 1:17-end; Mark 7:1-18, 14-15, 21-23

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 08 SEPTEMBER

15th Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 35:4-7a; Psalm 146
James 2:1-17; Mark 7:24-end

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.

SUNDAY 15 SEPTEMBER

16th Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 116:1-8
James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-end

LORD OF CREATION, whose glory is around and within us: open our eyes to your wonders, that we may serve you with reverence and know your peace at our lives' end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

17th Sunday after Trinity

Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 54:
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

GRACIOUS GOD, you call us to fullness of life: deliver us from unbelief and banish our anxieties with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SUNDAY 29 SEPTEMBER

All Age Harvest Service

Joel 2:21-27; Psalm 126
1 Timothy 2:1-7; Matthew 6:25-33

CREATOR GOD, you made the goodness of the land, the riches of the sea and the rhythm of the seasons; as we thank you for the harvest, may we cherish and respect this planet and its peoples, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



**10.30AM~8PM
SATURDAY
14 SEPTEMBER**
In the Church Hall

- A FREE walking **Treasure Hunt** starts at 10.30am prompt.
- Café available from 10.30am.
- Games, puzzles, and colouring for all ages from 2pm.
- **BBQ and musical entertainment** from 5pm.

*Proceeds will go to support
SUNSET MISSION OF HOPE*
For further info text 'Fun Day' to
07972 00 99 26



10AM SUNDAY 29 SEPTEMBER

DURING our All Age Harvest Festival Service in Church, we will collect physical donations, such as food tins and packets, which should be 'in date' please; and basic toiletries, such as deodorants and nappies.

Your generosity will help to provide for the needy not only of our own city but also across the poorest parts of Europe near and far.

Additionally, financial gifts are acceptable, which will be shared with The Sisters of the Church and Christian Charities.

- Special envelopes will be available in church, for financial gifts, from early September. Please bring them to the service with you, and they will be brought forward 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!*

Table Top SALE

**SATURDAY
28 SEPTEMBER
11AM~1PM**

IN THE CHURCH HALL
Be on time to grab yourself a bargain from the large range of products available on the day, many priced from £1, or less than £5.
Café available too!

Our Church Financial Health



GIVING FOR JULY

Deficit 27.6%

Giving 72.4%

WHAT OUR GIVING NEEDS TO BE £10,500

GIVING RECEIVED £6488

Giving Last 3 Months

Regular Giving
Regular & One Off Donations
Budgeted

Month	Regular Giving	Regular & One Off Donations	Budgeted
May 24	~6000	~7000	~10000
June 24	~6000	~6000	~10000
July 24	~6000	~7000	~10000

Giving v Church Expenses Last 3 Months

Giving Expenditure

Month	Giving	Expenditure
May 24	~6000	~10000
June 24	~6000	~10000
July 24	~6000	~10000

Friday Night Live 20 September 6.30PM

Informal song, prayer and discussions, followed by refreshments afterwards in the Church Room.

Come if you know Jesus, come if you don't, let's grow in footsteps of faith together!

01 Kingswood Court Care Home	Our Congregation: Teddy Alexander Margaret Archer, Cheryl Ashwin Levi, Sophie, Shiloh & Aziah	Chestnut Road Chestnut Way Chiphouse Road
08 The PCC	Hannah, Simon, Harrison & Oscar Bartlett Derek and Gwen Beek Annabelle, Shaun & Reuben Bignell	Church Road Cogan Road Colston Close
15 Mission Partnerships	Bill and Jenny Bishop, Edward Bishop William, Jess & Beatrice Bishop Grace Blackburn, Jackie Blackwell	Colston Street Cotswold View Cranham Close
22 Administration: Church Office Volunteers	Geoff Blowfield, Rosemary Boulton June Brain, Karen Brasier Mary Britton, Bill and Jan Brookshaw	Crispin Way Crossfield Road Crown Road
29 Administration: David Packe	Brian Brown, Thomas Brown, Lynn Burton Emma, Ian, Riley & Morgan Clarke Sue Clements, Jackie Clench	Crownleaze Deerhurst Deerswood

SUNDAYS: 8am BCP Holy Communion on the 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

SEPTEMBER DIARY

03 Tuesday	1.30-3.30pm	Knit & Natter resume, then weekly in Church Room
04 Wednesday	11am 7pm	Coffee/Chat/Company Turnpike Pub Discipleship Course begins in Church Room
05 Thursday	10-11.45am 2-4pm 7pm	See & Know in Church Hall (weekly in term time) Ladies Group in Church Hall (then fortnightly) Harvest Service planning in Church Room
06 Friday	7-9pm	Outburst Youth Club in Church Hall
07 Saturday	9.30am	Baptism Prep in Church
09 Monday	10.15am	Retreat Memory Café in Church Hall for Dementia sufferers and their carers
10 Tuesday	9-11.30am 7.30pm	WELCOME SPACE in Church Room PCC in Church Room
11 Wednesday	2.30pm 7pm	BIBLE STUDY then fortnightly (2pm for a cuppa!) Discipleship Course week 2 in Church Room
12 Thursday	2-4pm	Men's Group in Church Room (then fortnightly)
13 Friday	1.15-3.45pm	Pensioner's Group in Church Hall (fortnightly)
14 Saturday	10.30am	FAMILY FUN DAY! See advert on Page 3
18 Wednesday	7pm	Discipleship Course week 3 in Church Room
20 Friday	6.30pm	FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE in Church: informal songs, prayers, discussions, followed by refreshments in the Church Room
25 Wednesday	2.30pm 7pm	BIBLE STUDY then fortnightly (2pm for a cuppa!) Discipleship Course week 4 in Church Room
28 Saturday	9.30-10.30am 11am-1pm	Little Church in Church & Church Room (for families with neuro-diverse children - book in advance please) TABLE TOP SALE in Church Hall

OCTOBER DIARY

01 Tuesday	1.30-3.30pm	Knit & Natter weekly in Church Room
02 Wednesday	11am 7pm	Coffee/Chat/Company Turnpike Pub Discipleship Course week 5 in Church Room
09 Wednesday	2.30pm	BIBLE STUDY then fortnightly (2pm for a cuppa!)
12 Saturday	9.30am	Autumn Clean of Church All are invited to help!
15 Tuesday	9-11.30am	WELCOME SPACE in Church Room

SINCE JULY

Funerals:

● **AUGUST 16: Janet Gooding (81).**
The celebration of Janet's life was held at St Stephen's Church, Soundwell, followed by the farewell at Avonview Cemetery.

Please hold her husband Bill and her sons Mark with Caz, David and Gary with Maria, their 6 Grandchildren, 8 Great grandchildren and all their wider family and friends in your prayers.

● **AUGUST 22: Anne Duggan (89).**
The celebration of Anne's life was held at Westerleigh Crematorium.

Please hold husband, Gordon, their adult children; Brian with Jan, Carol with Tony & Martin with Maria, and Anne's 9 Grandchildren, 13 Great-grandchildren, including the 2 yet to be born, as well as the wider family and her many friends in your prayers.

Baptism:

● **AUGUST 11: Halle Navaeh Balkwill.**
Please hold Halle's parents; Lauren and Byron; her sisters; Iola and Renae; and her Godparents; Ebony, Cleon, Myles, Debbie, Natasha and Criag, and all the family and their friends in your prayers.

SAINT STEPHENS SOUNDWELL



● **Revd Lisa Wigmore**
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● **Revd Regan Mearns**
Curate
Telephone 07 769 704 270



● **Revd Sandy Cooper**
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Telephone 0117 967 2621



● **Peter Robbins**
Lay Minister, 13 Wood Road Kingswood, Bristol BS15 8DT
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● **Gill Mayo**
Church Warden
Telephone 0117 956 9796

● **Lin Cooper**
Director of Music
Telephone 0117 967 2621

● **Lorraine Sanderson**
Treasurer
Telephone 0117 940 1829

