

The Beneficial

Summer 2024

News from the Benefice of St Mary's + St Stephen's

A Summer Verse

Then Jesus told them a parable:

“Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”

Luke 21.29 – 33

In a shifting and sometimes uncertain world, certainty is undoubtedly something to be highly valued and respected. Certainty creates confidence, a welcome sense of security and an inner cushion of buoyancy and goodwill. It's usually smiles all round, with that wonderfully reassuring feeling of positivity and optimism when certainty is the dominant theme. So what could be better news than the certainty that Jesus' words 'will never pass away'? This is not just a season ticket's offering, but a life long membership! What an offer, and what a brilliantly reassuring and certain way to start our summer break. The current world might be uncertain, but Christ's love, concern and care for each and every one of us is 100% guaranteed! On that cheering and upbeat note, happy holidays, safe travels and we will look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and re-energised in September. God bless!

SPECIALLY for SUMMER

The Benefice is pausing for the summer months. June was a hectic month of community activities and fundraising, so a gentle summer wind-down will be appreciated. Safe travels to all our Benefice families as they scatter across the country and the world for their summer vacations. We will look forward to seeing everyone in September, when there will be a new offering of activities for both churches.

Sunday 28 July – St Stephen's Worship in the Round 10.45 am

The return of our more relaxed service on the 4th Sunday of every month! Join us for coffee and pastries before the service from 10 am. The non-communion service will be based on familiar liturgy but will include an intriguing interview with a congregation member when “Between Sundays” explores what they've been doing during their busy week.

Friday 5 July & 2 August – Lansdown Friendship Club

A welcoming gathering for people with memory difficulties, their accompanying family and friends. Enjoy refreshments and a monthly theme at St Stephen's Church Centre, 2 – 3.30 pm.

Thursday 11 July and 8 August – Lansdown Neighbourhood Group

Meet friends old and new at this monthly coffee gathering at St Stephen's Church Centre, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm.

Saturday 24 August - Police Beat

10 am - noon in St Stephen's Foyer.

HEADS UP ON WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2024

Watch out for the new calendar of events in the September edition.

SUMMER HANGOUT will be meeting as usual throughout the summer during every Sunday service at St Stephen's. **HANGOUT** members will be building a bug hotel collage so come along to create some stunning creepy crawlies to add to the weekly display in St Stephen's Foyer!

A new **LAY PASTORAL ASSISTANTS COURSE** will be starting in October at St Stephen's. It's for anyone involved in pastoral work, or who would like to visit people on behalf of the church - or just anyone who's interested! It will run fortnightly on Saturday mornings from 5th October for 4 sessions. Diocese accredited.

More details [E: debbie@ststephensbath.org.uk](mailto:debbie@ststephensbath.org.uk)

DON'T FORGET . . .

Parent & Toddlers St Stephen's Church Centre, Monday (during termtime) 9.30 – 11.30 am

Service Rotas and Hangout helpers Volunteers are always needed at both Benefice churches. It's fun and a lovely way of joining our church families. Do get in touch to find out how you can get involved. [Office](#)

St Stephen's Centre A great place to hire for parties, meetings, community gatherings. Book via the [Office](#)

Giving Our need for everyone's financial support is greater than ever. We cannot say how hugely appreciative we are for any kind and generous giving of whatever nature. To find out more, please contact our Treasurers: St Stephen's [Mike King](#) | St Mary [Judith Pepler](#)

SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE – JULY & AUGUST

Hangout, a themed activity time for children, operates every Sunday at St Stephen's.

JULY

- Sunday 7th** **6th Sunday in Trinity**
SM 9 am Eucharist
SS 10.45 am Choral Communion + Hangout
- Sunday 14th** **7th Sunday in Trinity**
SM 9 am Eucharist
SS 10.45 am Holy Communion + Hangout
- Sunday 21st** **8th Sunday in Trinity**
SM 9 am Eucharist
SS 10.45 am Choral Communion + Hangout
- Sunday 28th** **9th Sunday in Trinity**
SM 9 am Eucharist
SS 10.45 am Worship in the Round
SM 6.00 pm BCP Evensong and Reflection

AUGUST

- Sunday 4th** **10th Sunday in Trinity**
SM 9 am Eucharist (BYO Coffee)
SS 10.45 am Holy Communion + Hangout
- Sunday 11th** **11th Sunday in Trinity**
SM 9 am Eucharist
SS 10.45 am Holy Communion + Hangout
- Sunday 18th** **12th Sunday in Trinity**
SM 9 am Eucharist
SS 10.45 am Holy Communion + Hangout
- Thursday 22nd** **SS** 8.15 pm RSCM led Compline
- Sunday 25th** **13th Sunday in Trinity**
SM 9 am Eucharist
SS 10.45 am Worship in the Round
SM 6.00 pm BCP Evensong and Reflection

PRAYER IN THE BENEFICE

Monday We gather on Zoom for prayer at 9 – 9.30 am. Please email to receive the code.

Thursday Meditation in the Christian Tradition - 6.30pm-7ish St Mary's, Charlcombe. A guiding thought, then 20 minutes of silence. Blankets and cushions provided.

CONTACT DETAILS

Rector: Revd Philip Hawthorn

Associate Priest: Revd Debbie Pow

To email each by name: Philip/Debbie@ststephensbath.org.uk

For general information, or giving to our churches, please contact our Administrator:

Gabriela Longhurst - Church Office, Lansdown Road, Bath BA1 5SX

T: 01225 420946 e: office@ststephensbath.org.uk

Churchwardens, all contactable via the office:

St Stephen's: Carolyn Cowley, Penny Cracknell, Jude Dent and Hester Davies

St Mary's: Liz Thorne and Neil Latham

Treasurers: Mike King (SS) and Judith Pepler (SM)

www.ststephensbath.org.uk www.stmaryscharlcombe.org.uk