

# The Beneficial

September 2023

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

### A Verse for September

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

### 1 Thessalonians 2

In our services over the summer we've been considering deceit, betrayal, murder, banishment, domestic abuse, adultery, murder, lying and unfaithfulness ... no, it's not Eastenders, but stories from the book of Genesis about birth of the Jewish nation. We've been looking at the stories of the big Fathers of the Church, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses ... What's struck me is how human they are - messy, muddled, marvellous, mysterious. Ordinary people, doing extraordinary things. But God is in it all, even in the bits that must cause such consternation. God is similarly with us, in all that we do and all that we are. We mess up, but God's graciousness means that we have the opportunity to learn and to grow from even the biggest mess. It's what any loving parent would do ...

### SPECIALLY for SEPTEMBER

It's a busy month in the Benefice, so mark your diaries now!

#### Saturday 23 September, 10 – noon

PG Tips will never taste the same after this **TEA TASTING** with master tea connoisseur Emma Drew! So come along to distinguish your lapsang from your pekoe, and enjoy a morning of entertaining education! Book on [Eventbrite](#) or direct with the [Wardens](#). £10

#### Saturday 30 September – Sunday 8 October

St Stephen's first Harvest Flower Festival, "Harvesting for Hope and Growth" will be a joyful community celebration with enthusiastic participation from local community groups and businesses including The Lansdown Grove Hotel, Beckford Tower, St Stephen's Millennium Green Trust, the Royal High School, Lansdown WI, and many more. The 30 September official will be broadcast live by Radio Bath, with the mayor Dine Romero. Teas, craft and a floral feast await you!

**Saturday 30 September:** 10 am – 4 pm

**Sunday 1 October:** noon – 4 pm

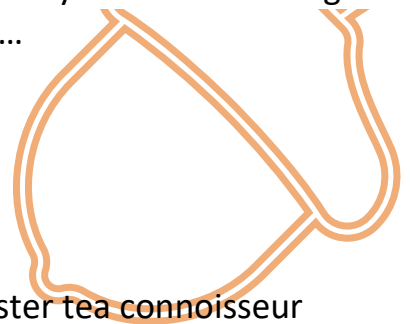
**Monday – Friday, 2 – 6 October:** 10 am – noon

**Saturday 7 October:** 10 am

A Year in the Life of a Farm, an illustrated talk

#### Friday 8 September – Lansdown Friendship Group

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 14 September – 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.

### BENCH APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who kindly responded to the bench appeal. We eagerly await the opportunities to sit and contemplate the new Mediterranean garden.

**WEDDING BELLS** We pray for the future happiness of Victoria and Max as they prepare for their wedding on 16 September at St Stephen's. We know the sun will shine on them!

**CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME** to Nina Dickson-Hock baptised at St Stephen's on 6 August.

### WELCOME TO NEW NEIGHBOURS

If you have new neighbours moving in during summer, why not offer them our Welcome to Lansdown booklet? This little Benefice publication is packed with local information from dog walkers to DIY shops, and cafes to children's playgrounds. Contact [Penny Cracknell](#) for a free copy.

**The Bucket List Cleaners** are now cleaning St Stephen's Church Centre and Foyer. If you'd like to use their services, contact 07856 568880.

## WINTER WONDERS

Coming soon but book now as numbers are limited.

**Friday 3 November, 6.30 – 9.00 pm**

Bath – in early books. A talk and unique book handling.

Book on [Eventbrite](#) or direct with the [Wardens](#). £10



## DON'T FORGET . . .

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

**Marigold Moments** St Stephen's 4th Saturday, **Marigold Moments** 10 -12pm - cleaning + gardening + coffee + cake

**Service Rotas and Hangout helpers** Volunteers always needed at both 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 [Treasurer](#), Mike King.

## ***SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE – September***

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

### **September**

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>**

*14<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Trinity*

**SM 9 am Eucharist (BYO Coffee)**

**SS 10.45 am Holy Communion + Hangout**

**SM 6 pm Evensong**

**Wed 13<sup>th</sup>**

**SM 10 am BCP Communion**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>**

*15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Trinity*

**SM 9 am Eucharist**

**SS 10.45 am Choral Communion + Hangout**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>**

*16<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Trinity*

**SM 9 am Eucharist**

**SS 10.45 am Holy Communion + Hangout**

**SM 6.00 pm Evensong**

**Wed 27<sup>th</sup>**

**SM 10 am BCP Communion**

### **October**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>**

*17<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Trinity*

**SM 9 am Eucharist (BYO Coffee)**

**SS 10.45 am Choral Communion + Hangout**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>**

*18<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Trinity*

**SM 9 am Eucharist**

**SS 10.45 am Songs of Praise for Harvest + Hangout**

**Brief BCP Holy Communion at 9am**

**Wed 11<sup>th</sup>**

**SM 10 am BCP Communion**

## ***PRAYER IN THE BENEFICE***

**Monday** We gather on Zoom for prayer at 9 – 9.30 am. Please email to receive the weekly code **Thursday** Meditation in the Christian Tradition - 6.30pm-7ish St Mary's, Charlcombe. A

### **CONTACT DETAILS**

Rector: Revd Philip Hawthorn

Associate Priest: Revd Debbie Pow

Curate: Revd Andrew Avramenko

To email each by name: [Philip/Debbie/andrew@ststephensbath.org.uk](mailto:Philip/Debbie/andrew@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](mailto: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](http://www.ststephensbath.org.uk) [www.stmaryscharlcombe.org.uk](http://www.stmaryscharlcombe.org.uk)

guiding thought, then 20 minutes of silence. Blankets and cushions provided.