

# The Beneficial

May 2024

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

### A Verse for May

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do."

### James 1.22 – 25

What a crazy idea, that we'd turn away from a mirror and immediately forget our own image. As crazy as hearing the joy and hope and love in God's word and preventing it from making any difference to our life. Lately I've been reading about Celtic thought, and one of the key ideas is: what is sown deepest in us is the image of God. By allowing God to release in us the wonderful person we are made to be, we allow God's image to become one with our own. So when we look at ourselves, we have the potential to see God ... now that's worth remembering.

### SPECIALLY for MAY

The Benefice is certainly buzzing in May! Events are tumbling over themselves, and the church notice boards are completely covered with posters announcing numerous tempting events. Come and join us as without doubt there's something for everyone to enjoy and rejoice in!

**CAKE & PLANT SALE** in aid of St Stephen's Eco church: Sunday 12 May at noon.

**THY KINGDOM COME:** Thursday 9 – Saturday 18 May. Space to pray for the world, the church and those you love. Come and sit, relax and pray. St Stephen's: 4 – 6 pm; St Mary's (approx.) 9 am – 5 pm.

**HEBRIDEAN ISLANDS** illustrated talk with John Greene: Saturday 18 May, 3.15 pm in St Stephen's Church Centre. £15 to include tea. Tickets from Brenda Floyd t: 07810 898394 e: [craftb28@gmail.com](mailto:craftb28@gmail.com) for Friends of Charlcombe Church.

**OPEN GARDEN FOR CHRISTIAN AID:** Saturday 18 May, noon – 3 pm at 12 Springfield Place BA1 5RA. Refreshments available.

**GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK** Eco church at St Stephen's:

**Saturday 8 June** Children's (7+) Outdoor Wildlife Workshops: [A/9.15 – 10.30 am](#) & [B/11 am – 12.15 pm](#). £5 suggested donation. Book via Eventbrite or the Parish Office.

**Saturday 15 June** Climate Change – Who Cares? Film | Group Work led by Caroline Pomeroy from Climate Stewards. 10 am – 12.15 pm. Free with donations for refreshments. Book via [Eventbrite](#), the Parish Office or on the day.

### **Sunday 26 May – St Stephen’s Worship in the Round 10.45 am**

The third of our more relaxed services 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 7 June & 5 July – 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 9 May & 6 June – 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 1 June - Police Beat**

10 am - noon in St Stephen's Foyer.

## **HEADS UP ON WHAT’S HAPPENING IN 2024**

- **GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK** Eco church at St Stephen’s:  
**Saturday 8 June** Children’s (7+) Outdoor Wildlife Workshops: [A/9.15 – 10.30 am](#) & [B/11 am – 12.15 pm](#). £5 suggested donation. Book via Eventbrite or the Parish Office.  
**Saturday 15 June** Climate Change – Who Cares? Film|Group Work led by Caroline Pomeroy from Climate Stewards. 10 am – 12.15 pm. Free with donations for refreshments. Book via [Eventbrite](#), the Parish Office or on the day.
- **ST STEPHEN’S TOWER ABSEIL & MIDSUMMER FAIR:** Saturday 22 June a combined fundraiser for St Stephen’s and Genesis Trust. [Register now](#) to abseil! Fair: 11 am – 4 pm.

## **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 – MAY**

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

### **May**

**Sunday 5th**

**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter**

**SM 9 am Eucharist**

**SS 10.45 am Choral Communion + Hangout**

**Thurs 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Ascension Day**

**SM 8 am Eucharist**

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>**

**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter**

**SM 9 am Eucharist**

**SS 10.45 am Holy Communion + Hangout**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Pentecost**

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

**SS 10.45 am Choral Communion + Hangout**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Trinity Sunday**

**SM 9 am Eucharist**

**SS 10.45 am Worship in the Round**

**SM 6.00 pm BCP Evensong and Reflection**

### **June**

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>**

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

**SM 9 am Eucharist**

**SS 10.45 am Choral Communion + Hangout**

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Trinity**

**SM 9 am Eucharist**

**SS 10.45 am Holy Communion + Hangout**

## **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

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)