

The Beneficial

LENT AND EASTER 2025

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

Seasonal Verse

Then Jesus cried out, "Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me. I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness. **John 12: 44 - 46**

Such words of encouragement which, bearing in mind his contributions to the Carol Services, show that Isaiah isn't just for Christmas. For me the new year always involves tackling the huge drift of things that I've put in my 'Sort it after Christmas' pile ... but having nearly completed that, I can now look forward to the springing up of exciting new things. And both our churches have many, as you'll read below. Whatever your thoughts on matters further up the CofE food chain, what has become clear is that on the ground, parish churches are still present and serving God where it matters most - with the people.

ESPECIALLY for Lent and Easter

We look forward to welcoming you, your family and friends at this very special time.

Lent course starting 10 March - A six week period of reflection and contemplation

Monday @ St Stephen's, 1.30 – 3.00 pm; Tuesday @ Ensleigh and Wednesday @ Lansdown, 7.30 – 9.00 pm. Sign up via the Parish Office at St Stephen's.

Sunday 27 April – St Stephen's Worship in the Round 10.45 am

This is St Stephen's relaxed non-communion service on the 4th Sunday each month. Join us for coffee and pastries before the service from 10 am, and afterwards for a catch up.

Maundy Thursday 17 April, 7.00 pm @ St Stephen's – Agape Supper and Vigil. Booking (donations on the night) required via the [Parish Office](#).

Easter Saturday 20 April, 10 am – noon @ St Stephen's - Easter Garden making

See Services below for full Easter schedule.

HEADS UP ON WHAT'S HAPPENING

Electoral Roll – this is currently being revised. **Everyone**, both new applicants and existing members, need to re-register. Please either download a form from St Stephen's website, or collect a hard copy from church. Submission deadline is Sunday 6 April.

Saturday 15 March & 12 April – St Stephen's Marigolds church spring clean 10 am - noon

Saturday 29 March – St Stephen's Green Fingers garden tidy 10 am - noon

Friday 7 March & 4 April – 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 13 March and 10 April – Lansdown Neighbourhood Group

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

SCRUFFY CHURCH - a fun, family friendly service. 4 pm at St Stephen's every 4th Sunday: 23 March & 27 April

COOL FUN & FAITH - a youth group for secondary school teens, every 1st & 3rd Sunday, 7 – 8.30 pm at St Stephen's. Bring a friend! 16 March; 6 April with Easter Social on 19 April.



DON'T FORGET . . .

Parent & Toddlers St Stephen's Church Centre, Monday (during termtime) 9.30 – 11.15 am

Service Rotas and Youth helpers Volunteering is great for well-being! Helpers 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](#)

Music Bell ringers and choir members would be very welcome at St Stephen's. Interested? Please contact the [Parish 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](#)

Friends of St Mary's Charlcombe welcomes new members to support and cherish Bath's oldest church still in use. Watch St Mary's website for 2025 Friends' events.

Saturday Police Beat with PCSO Ray: 5 April, 10 am – Noon in St Stephen's foyer.

SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE – MARCH/APRIL

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

MARCH

Sunday 9th

1st Sunday of Lent

SM 9 am Eucharist

SS 10.45 am Holy Communion + Hangout

Sunday 16th

2nd Sunday of Lent

SM 9 am Eucharist

SS 10.45 am Choral Communion + Hangout

SS 7 – 8.30 pm Cool Fun and Faith Youth Group

Sunday 23rd

3rd Sunday of Lent

SM 9 am Eucharist

SS 10.45 am Choral Communion + Hangout

SS 4.00 pm Scruffy Church

Sunday 30th

4th Sunday of Lent/Mothering Sunday

SS 10.00 am Benefice Family Service with Communion + Hangout

APRIL

Sunday 6th

5th Sunday of Lent

SM 9 am Eucharist (BYO Coffee)

SS 10.45 am Choral Communion + Hangout

SS 7 – 8.30 pm Cool Fun and Faith Youth Group

Sunday 13th

Palm Sunday

SM 9 am Eucharist

SS 10.45 am Choral Communion + Hangout

14th – 16th

Holy Week: Monday – Wednesday

Rectory 7.30 pm Compline/evening prayer with short reflection

Thursday 17th

Maundy Thursday

SS 7.00 pm Agape Supper with vigil (booking required)

Friday 18th

Good Friday

SM 2 pm Vigil at the Foot of the Cross

Saturday 19th

Easter Saturday

SS 10 am – noon Family Fun – Making Easter Gardens

SM 7.45 pm Blessing of the Light

Sunday 20th

Easter Sunday

SM 5.45am St Mary's Garden Sunrise service

SM 10 am Festival Eucharist

SS 10 am Family Choral Communion

Sunday 27th

2nd Sunday of Easter

SM 9 am Eucharist

SS 10.45 am Holy Communion + Hangout

PRAYER IN THE BENEFICE

Monday We gather on Zoom for prayer at 8.30 – 9.00 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.

Home Communion If anyone would value home communion, please contact the [Parish Office](#).

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: Gordon Cooke

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

www.ststephensbath.org.uk

www.stmaryscharlcombe.org.uk