

The Beneficial

October 2024

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

Verse for October

I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

Psalm 116: 1 - 2

One of my favourite Gary Larson cartoons is of a man far on in years, walking away from the viewer, with a walking frame, and has come to a fork in the road. There is a sign as to the destination of each of the two ongoing paths: to the left, 'Eternal Life', to the right 'Bacon'. The man has just the faintest inclination to the right ...

One of the definitions of our word 'Worship' is 'to lean towards to kiss'. This we intend on a Sunday and, I hope, as much of the week as we can. But we need always remember that we love God because God first loved us - God is inclined towards us, always, in each moment. Good times, bad times, unaware times. Always ready for the words of our mouths and the inclinations of our hearts.

SPECIALLY for October and November

The year hastens on, the leaves are rapidly falling and the night's drawing in. The Benefice by comparison is bursting with life and autumn activities! We hope to see you at one of our exciting events.

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

Come and try 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 a stimulating interview when "Between Sundays" enables the interviewee to reflect on life and work during their week.

Friday 1 November & 6 December – 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 10 October and 14 November – Lansdown Neighbourhood Group

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

Saturday 19 October - Police Beat with PCSO Ray

10 am - noon in St Stephen's Foyer.

HEADS UP ON WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2024

Moving swiftly on . . . towards (ssh!) Christmas!

LANSDOWN HOME GROUP:

There are still places available at this **home group** which meets on Wednesday evening at 7.30 pm, three times per month, at the Rectory. Next meetings are October 9/23/30. Please contact Philip for information.

UNTIL 26 OCTOBER AT BATH ABBEY, FROM 6.30 PM (Monday - Saturday):

SHINE ON, an immersive light and sound show created by Luxmuralis. A fusion of history, art and technology has created a breath-taking display of light and sound. Tickets, £10 from Bath Box Office.

FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER:

Come and join us for a quixotic evening of **quiz**, fizz and fun in St Stephen's Church Centre - Friday 15 November, 6.30 pm. Tickets £12 per person to include a glass of wine and lite bites. Come as a team (maximum 6 people) or come alone to join a table of 'solo quizzers'. Tickets available from **St Stephen's Parish Office** or via **Eventbrite**.

SATURDAY 16 NOVEMBER:

Garden enthusiasts are welcomed for this **garden tidy** up at St Mary's on Saturday 16 November, 9:30am until midday. If you're able to come and help sweep leaves and generally tidy up, it would be much appreciated - there is always a lot to do! BYO coffee/tea - biscuits will be provided.

SATURDAY 23 NOVEMBER:

A Saturday morning pop-up **decoupage workshop** for Christmas gift making at St Stephen's, 10 am – noon. £12 pp to include all materials (or bring your own special ceramic/glass item), plus tea/coffee, cake and biscuits. Suitable for age 10 +. Book now via the Parish Office; numbers are limited to 12 participants.

CHRISTMAS HELPERS SIGN UP:

St Stephen's is hosting 12 extra community and worship services over Christmas. We badly need **extra helpers** to act as welcomers and/or fire marshals. Services are both on weekdays and weekends so there are various opportunities, but all roles are pleasurable and not onerous. There will be a briefing meeting for everyone on Saturday 30 November, 10 am in St Stephen's foyer. Any potential helpers should please contact the Parish Office or the Quardens (E: churchwarden@ststephensbath.org.uk). **THANK YOU FOR YOUR MUCH APPRECIATED SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE!**

DON'T FORGET . . .

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

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](#)

SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE – OCTOBER

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

OCTOBER

Sunday 13th

20th Sunday in Trinity

SM 9 am Eucharist

SS 10.45 am Holy Communion + Hangout

Sunday 20th

21st Sunday in Trinity

SM 9 am Eucharist

SS 10.45 am Choral Communion + Hangout

Sunday 27th

Last Sunday after Trinity

SM 9 am Eucharist

SS 10.45 am Service in the Round + Hangout

NOVEMBER

Saturday 2nd

SS 6.00 pm All Souls service for those we love but see no longer

Sunday 3rd

4th Sunday before Advent

SM 9 am Eucharist (BYO Coffee)

SS 10.45 am Choral Communion + Hangout

Sunday 10th **3rd Sunday before Advent**
Remembrance Sunday
SM 9 am Eucharist
SS 10.45 am Choral Communion + Hangout

Sunday 17th **2nd Sunday before Advent**
SM 9 am Eucharist
SS 10.45 am Choral 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

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