

Sunday gatherings @ 10am

Please continue to be sensitive to the needs of those around you to keep everyone safe from covid. Please let those serving refreshments handle all equipment, and avoid congregating near the coffee bar.

1 May - Easter 3: Altogether Worship

8 May - Easter 4: Holy Communion

with Kids Creation Station for 3-10 year olds

15 May - Easter 5: Service of the Word

22 May - Easter 6: Holy Communion

- Cinema Sunday for children 3-10 years old

29 May - Ascension Sunday: Holy Communion

Bible Study groups

Monday Bible study Monday group will meet on 25th April to finish the Lent course and on 9th & 23rd May to finish the prayer course., Starting at **1.30pm** followed by a cuppa - all welcome to join in.

Contact Jenny. revjennylo@gmail.com

Thursday evening group starts 8pm at the Hamilton's.

Contact Steve, Jo, or Jon for more details.

If belonging to a small group is something you would value, but you can't make Monday afternoons or Thursday evenings, speak to Jon, as we're keen to develop a network of supportive, prayerful, fellowship centred groups at St Stephens.

How to contact us

Emails and telephone messages are checked at least 3 times a week. Please email or phone and if no answer, leave a message. 0117 9591250

enquiriesststephenssouthmead@gmail.com

There is also a contact form on our website

<https://www.ststephenssouthmead.co.uk/>

Who's who

Vicar
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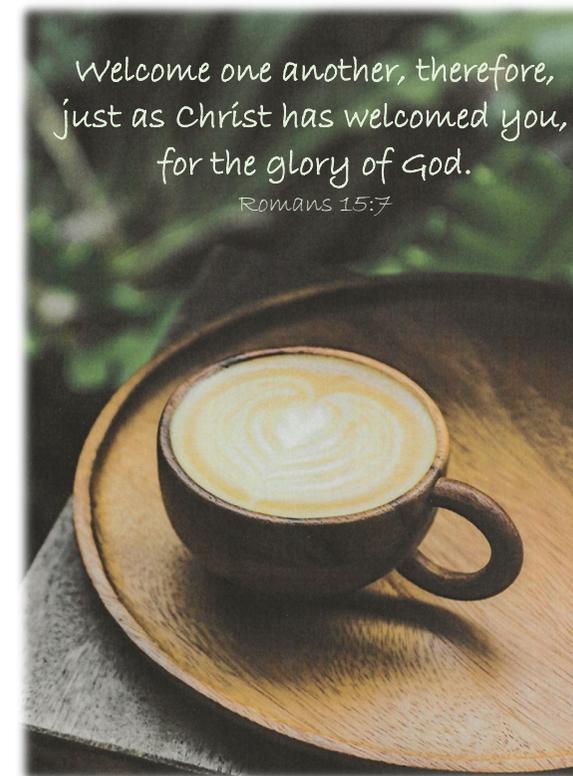
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Facebook Keep up to date with latest events and news by joining our group or by following our Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/ststephenssouthmead/>

Website <https://www.ststephenssouthmead.co.uk/>

St Stephen's Southmead

Bulletin ~ May 2022



*Welcome one another, therefore,
just as Christ has welcomed you,
for the glory of God.*

Romans 15:7

*A warm welcome to you
whether it is your first time visiting
or you are a regular part of the
congregation! We are so glad to see you in
person and gather as a church family -
please do ask if you have any questions or
are unsure about anything
Our prayer is that as you spend time with
us you might meet with the Living God*

Prayer changes things

Please pray for

- baptism: Azaylia-Grace Stockford, 29 May;
- for Abby and Stuart as they await/welcome their firstborn
- for the PCC as we discern a vision for St Stephens church
- for those who mourn: including families and friends of John Beale (funeral 12 May) and of Henry Horseman (30 May)
- family activities: our Toddlers group
- the next Kids Matter parenting programme
- give thanks and pray for new people who come to Friendship Cafe
- the people and churches in Ukraine
- our national and international leaders

Kids Matter

At Badocks Wood Academy, we have now run one Kids Matter programme in their new community hub on Wednesday afternoons, and a new group will be running this term.



Toddler Group



Toddlers runs every Monday term-time 9.30 – 11am

(Nb not on Bank Holiday 2 May)

All pre-school aged children welcome! Snacks and drinks provided. Just come along whenever you can. Contact Trenna Blundell for more details.

Saint Stephen's Southmead



Kintsugi Hope

This is a mental wellbeing support group, running every Wednesday (except half term), 1-3pm, for the 12 weeks.

Issues covered include; disappointment, loss, anxiety, anger, perfectionism, shame, and resilience. Feedback so far has been amazing. There are still places available, so please do get in touch with Jon if you'd like to attend and be part of a welcoming, confidential, and supportive group.



Funerals

I just wanted to say a massive thank you to all those who helped at Helen and Avril's funerals in April. You were much appreciated.

John Beale's funeral will be at 2:30pm on Thursday 12th May in St Stephen's, followed by cremation at Canford. All from St Stephens are of course welcome to join. There will be refreshments afterwards.

There is at least one other funeral, possibly two, in May. Let's pray for the peace of Christ to descend upon those grieving; for the departed to meet our loving Father; and let's ensure St Stephens's is the welcoming and warm place for all those in need that we all know it to be.

Jon

The White Hall - memorabilia

Do you have any photos, fliers/posters or other evidence of what happened at the White Hall over the years? Please let Jon have any material you can dig out for a display to commemorate it's history and activities.

Administrator post

We are hiring! The advert is out for the church to find a new permanent administrator. Please spread the word to anyone who might be interested. The job description on the church website, or please contact Hannah on ststephens.churchwarden@outlook.com or Jon, or Gill in the office.

From the Vicar

I wonder what Easter means to you? We all love Easter eggs, bank holidays, and spring time don't we, but what's the point of Easter in all that? Does it mean anything for us as individuals or a church? Do we as a church reflect anything of Easter in what we do all year round? Does being an Easter People change anything for you?

Over these last few weeks in particular we've welcomed a lot of people into our church - whether through Friendship Cafe, Toddlers, Funerals, Team Southmead, or Meadows to Meaders; we've even had a number of christening and adult baptism requests. We're getting new people through our doors a lot it seems at the moment - I wonder if we're in a season of welcome right now.

Paul writes, "Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God" (Romans 15:7), and I think St Stephens does this wonderfully already.

But let's think about what being an 'Easter People' in a season of welcome might look like this spring.

God bless,
Jon