

saying a massive thank you to each and every member of this church family, for everything you've done for St Stephens, for me and my family, and in service to the Lord. It truly has been a privilege and a joy to have been a part of this church family, and to have been your vicar over these last 4 years. I love St Stephens and you guys, and will miss you all.

God bless you, *Revd. Jon*

## Sunday gatherings @ 10am

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 10am: **Altogether Worship**

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> @ 10 am: **Holy Communion** with **kid's creation station** for all 3–10-year-olds.

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> @ 10am: **Service of the Word**

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> @10am: **Holy Communion with Cinema Sunday** for children 3-10 years old.

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July@10am **Altogether Worship.**

## Dates for your diary

**Church weekend away Lee Abbey**

30<sup>th</sup> June -2<sup>nd</sup> July

**Southmead Festival**

8<sup>th</sup> July 11-4 @The Greenway Centre

**Churches Together prayer meeting**

4<sup>th</sup> July 7:30pm@ the **URC.**

**Community Workday**

15<sup>th</sup> July - anyone welcome to come and help us with looking after our building and garden - drinks and light lunch provided.

The next **Team Southmead** meeting will be held here Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup> July @11:00am everyone is welcome.

## How to contact us

**Emails and telephone messages** are checked at least 3 times a week.

**enquiriesststephenssouthmead@gmail.com**

There is also a contact form on our website.

**https://www.ststephenssouthmead.co.uk**

## Who's who.

**Vicar** Revd Jon Roberts

revjonroberts@gmail.com 07980 929302

**Children & Families Worker**

Trenna Blundell

trennablundell@gmail.com 07446 375698

**Churchwardens**

Hannah Widdows 07791 142959

ststephens.churchwarden@outlook.com

John Gardner 07954 150180

johngardner1066@gmail.com

Jo Hamilton: assistant 07809 404171

joannehamilton5@googlemail.com

**Licenced Lay Minister**

Janet Moreton 07732 915620

janetmoreton@icloud.com

**Prayer Chain**

Ali Prince alisonlprince79@hotmail.com

**Safeguarding Officer**

Joe Widdows 07791 085991

**Treasurer**

Steve Hamilton 07809 404170

ststephens.treasurer@outlook.com

**Administration**

Ali Prince / Gill O'Rourke 0117 9591250

enquiriesststephenssouthmead@gmail.com

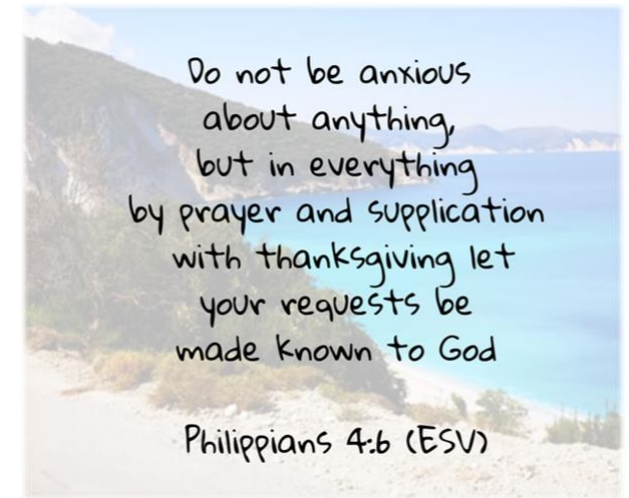
**Find us online.**

**Facebook** Keep up to date with latest events and news by joining our group or by following our Facebook page.

[www.facebook.com/ststephenssouthmead](http://www.facebook.com/ststephenssouthmead)

**Website** [www.ststephenssouthmead.co.uk](http://www.ststephenssouthmead.co.uk)

# St Stephen's Southmead Bulletin July 2023



*A warm welcome  
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:

Church weekend away: Several of us are going to be visiting Lee Abbey at the beginning of the month for a weekend. Let's pray for our church family as we spend time away together and let's give thanks that we can do so.

Blessings on all those taking a break over the school summer holidays, particularly for teachers and school staff.

Those who have finished GCSE exams.

Meadows to Meaders as they prepare to go on the stage at Bristol Old Vic.

Our volunteers as they go to the Ranch to help with food provision over the summer months.

Our community following some anti-social behaviour.

### Weekly Prayer meeting

Anyone available is welcome to join us for an informal prayer meeting every Wednesday at 9.30 am. For details, ask Janet.

### Praise for God's provision!

We are so grateful to God for the provision of finances to support both practical elements of church life (fixing the roof) and the spiritual growth of the church (the trip to Lee Abbey) in recent months. In particular, we are thankful to Gloucestershire Historical Churches Trust who recently gave us a grant for the first time.



**Roof repair** We are having our roof repaired so there is some scaffolding put up outside of church please be vigilant when the scaffolding is present.

## Small groups

**Bible study group** meets Wednesdays at 1.30pm in St. Stephen's room. Contact Jenny if you are interested: revjennylow@gmail.com

If you'd value belonging to a small group speak to one of our wardens, as we're keen to build a network of supportive, prayerful, fellowship groups.

## Kintsugi Hope

We are pleased that a new group started up in April. Please pray as they work through the 12-week course.



## Toddler Group



Runs termtime every Monday 9.30 – 11am

All pre-school aged children welcome! Snacks and drinks provided Just come along whenever you can.

Details from Tenna.

Saint Stephen's Southmead



## Kids Matter & Babies Matter

Parenting groups are taking a break this term. Please pray for the leaders as they prepare to bring more sessions in future months.



## Southmead Festival 8<sup>th</sup> July

Southmead festival will be held at The Greenway Centre 8<sup>th</sup> July 11am-4pm.

We are looking for face painters, drink servers and anyone who likes chatting to the wonderful people in our community. If you can help please let Tenna know.

## From the Vicar

It's with a heavy heart that I write this. I've decided it's time for me to leave St Stephens. I've handed in my notice, which has been accepted by the Bishop. This isn't what I want to do, it's purely about being nearer my children following my family break up. I will be very sad to leave St Stephens. It's been a very hard decision, but I feel the right decision for me and my children. It's just what I have to do. I hope you can understand this.

I will be leaving in August, and I really want the chance to chat with as many of you guys as I can before I leave, to give you all the chance to say what you need, and to be heard. Let's please make the time to meet one-to-one sometime in July or August.

St Stephens has always been a place of real faith. I've seen it in you from the beginning. In faith, we trust to God for everything, and place our future, the future of St Stephens, and our eternal salvation into Your loving hand O Lord. As a people of faith, we have the peace to let go of not being in control and to trust in God. Do not worry, let go of your burdens, we cannot solve all our own problems... and we don't have to! Through our faith, we can place our trust and our hope into the loving hands of a loving God who wants nothing from us, but to be in a loving relationship with each and every one of us. St Stephens has always shined in this faith; I hope and pray you will continue to do so.

**Amen.**

You're truly a wonderful church, and I love you all, and this place, dearly. I want to end by