

The Beneficial

September and October 2025

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

Seasonal Verse

'And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.' **Philippians 1: 9 - 11**

I wonder what word sticks out the most when you read this passage ... read it again, then come back to here ... For me it's 'righteousness'. Whenever I read that word I immediately think of a religious prig - self-righteous, pharisaical. However, this is not the case. The word in Greek that is often translated into righteous really means 'living in just relationship'. This means living well, fully, harmoniously with God, our neighbour, ourselves and our living planet. So, nothing much! This is what it means by 'fruit of righteousness', just living justly. I find these words from Graeme McMeekin from 'Christians Against Poverty' encouraging.

Keeping our relationships right might seem like an impossible task, and it probably is if we do it in our own strength, but we don't have to do it in our own strength. Jesus said that he was leaving the Holy Spirit with us (John 16:7). The Holy Spirit is sometimes referred to as a comforter, counsellor and guide and so can help us in our relationships.

ESPECIALLY for the Autumn! Mark your diaries NOW!

SCRUFFY CHURCH - a fun, family gathering on the fourth Sunday returns on 28/9, 26/10 and 23/11.

COOL FUN & FAITH - a youth group for secondary school teens, at Stephen's every term time 1st & 3rd Sunday, 7 – 8.30 pm: 21/9; 5 & 19/10; 2 & 16/11 and 9/12.

ST STEPHEN'S WORSHIP IN THE ROUND Sunday 28 September & 26 October – 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.

MARK SERMON SERIES starts at St Stephen's on Sunday 7 September, with 'Come Near' Mark 1: 9-20; Sunday 14 September, 'The Cost of Following' Mark 8: 27 – 9:1 and concludes on Sunday 21 September with 'Rest, Peace & Presence' Mark 6: 30 – 44. An absorbing trio of sermons so definitely worth coming to join us on these dates.

HEADS UP ON WHAT'S HAPPENING

Friday 3 October – 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 11 September & 9 October – Lansdown Neighbourhood Group

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

Saturday 13 September, 11 am – 4.30 pm: Heritage Open Day @ St Stephen's. Join a church tour to find out St Stephen's intriguing architectural past and optimistic future. Home bake refreshments available.

Saturday 13 September, 4 – 8 pm: Jazz on the Green. A Millennium Green event. Book [here](#).

Spiritual BUT NOT religious: Starting soon - a new monthly discussion group. Please email [Philip](#) to register interest.

A DIARY DATE: Friday 21 November, 7.00 pm. Mary Berry at St Stephen's - 'A Slice of Life – food, family and fond memories'. Talk and book signing. Tickets on sale soon with priority booking for the Benefice churches. Watch St Stephen's website for more information. A Beacon of Lansdown fundraising event.

Keep in touch! Follow St Stephen's on Facebook and Instagram.



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: 20 September, 10 am – Noon in St Stephen's Centre.

SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE – SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

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

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 14th

13th Sunday after Trinity

SM 9 am Eucharist

SS 10.45 am Holy Communion + Hangout

Sunday 21st

14th Sunday after Trinity

SM 9 am Eucharist

SS 10.45 am Choral Communion + Hangout

SS 7 – 8.30 pm Cool Fun and Faith Youth Group

Sunday 28th

15th Sunday after Trinity

SM 9 am Eucharist

SS 10.45 am Worship in the Round + Hangout

SS 4 pm Scruffy Church family friendly service

OCTOBER

Sunday 5th

16th Sunday after Trinity

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 12th

17th Sunday after Trinity

SM 9 am Eucharist

SS 10.45 am Holy Communion + Hangout

Sunday 19th

18th Sunday after Trinity

SM 9 am Eucharist

SS 10.45 am Choral Communion + Hangout

SS 7 – 8.30 pm Cool Fun and Faith Youth Group

Sunday 26th

Last Sunday after Trinity

SM 9 am Eucharist

SS 10.45 am Worship in the Round + Hangout
SS 4 pm Scruffy Church family friendly service

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](#)

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, Hester Davies

St Mary's: Gordon Cooke

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

www.ststephensbath.org.uk

www.stmaryscharlcombe.org.uk

[Office.](#)