

BUL LET IN

Worshipping Jesus
Growing Together
Reaching Others



DEC 2019

Weekly Service Times

Sundays

Sunday	9:00am	Traditional Service
	10:30am	Informal Worship
	6:30pm	Open to God or Evening Prayer

Weekdays

Monday	8:00am	Morning Prayer
Tuesday	8:00am	Morning Prayer
Wednesday	9:30am	Communion
Thursday	8:00am	Morning Prayer
Friday	8:00am	Morning Prayer

For more information on items mentioned in
this bulletin please go to our website
www.ststephens-ealing.org

A Welcome Note from the Vicar



Welcome to St Stephens – we are delighted that you are here today.

We strive to ensure that we are a fresh and welcoming community where everyone is made welcome and everyone knows that they matter, both to us and to God.

St Stephen's is alive with vibrant worship, intimate prayer and growing friendships. We value both the traditional and contemporary and you will find that our different services reflect a variety of ways of worship. Our desire however is that whatever the style, as people meet together they encounter the presence of our living God.

As a Christian community we are committed to following and trying to live like Jesus. We look for ways to love and serve each other and our wider community and seek to provide for those who are often forgotten by society at large.

During December we journey through **Advent towards Christmas**. There are lots of different services and events as we celebrate the fact that God chose to come among us and live on earth. Have a look through this Bulletin and know that you are invited to be a part of all that we have planned. We hope that as you do so you will know for yourself the truth that we proclaim 'Emmanuel - God with us!'

Steve Neudobal

Notices

First Tuesday Prayers and Praise at 8pm

Come along to Pray and Praise with us on Tuesday **3 December** as we pray for the mission of our church and what God has to say to us.

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Advent Quiet Morning

Saturday 7 December 10:00am -12:30pm. Prayer places in church will have an Advent theme. Drop in for as long as you like to be quiet in God's presence and to prepare yourself for Christmas. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available.

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Christians Against Poverty

At our 10:30am Service on **Sunday 8 December** we will be receiving food hampers put together by various groups in Church. They will be delivered to clients of Ealing Christians Against Poverty.

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St David's Home

Carols of Praise on **Sunday 8 December**. Starts at 3pm contact Sally Horattides 8840 6047 or Pete Devereux 8579 7884.

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Youth Christmas Party

8 December 12.30 - 3.30.

Fun, games, and Christmas dinner. For all young people in school years 6-13, encouraged to invite friends. RSVP so we can get an idea if numbers.

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Christmas Fair

Many thanks to all who helped make the Fair a success on 30th November. You are much appreciated. We will announce the amount raised for Ealing Food Bank when all monies have been accounted for.

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Volunteers Required

Help required to set up, serve and clear away for the following services:

- Carol Services (15th)
- Carols, Nativity and Christingles (24th)
- Making or buying mince pies and or cakes for the Carol Services and Christmas Eve.

Please sign up at the Welcome Desk. or speak to our churchwardens Caroline Jamieson or Dele Fasanya

Also, can you help deliver Christmas Invitations. Please invite your neighbours & friends especially to our different Carol Services. For many, this season is a first step into church and a personal invitation can make a big difference.

Advent Sermon Series

This Advent we will look at great themes of the season during our morning services.

They are:

- 1 Dec Waiting - James 5:7-10
 - 8 Dec Longing - Psalm 42
 - 15 Dec Believing - Luke 1:5-25
 - 22 Dec Welcoming - Luke 1:26-38
 - 25 Dec Celebrating - Luke 2:1-14
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Contemporary Carol Service

This year alongside our usual Christmas celebrations we are introducing a new service. On **Sunday 22nd December** at 10.30am we will have a Contemporary Carol Service lasting about an hour. The service is designed for all ages and will include input from our children and youth groups. The service will have a mix of traditional carols and some contemporary songs all led by our band in a lively and festive way. Wear your Christmas Jumpers! It will be a great way to worship together on the Sunday before Christmas - do join us...

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Winter Wonderland

The Grove Community are holding a Christmas Winter Wonderland on The Gurnell Estate on **Thursday 19 December** from 6:00pm - 8:45pm. The event will include a skating rink, food, drinks, games, crafts, face painting and entertainment. Can you help with face painting, staffing the different stalls or baking goodies for the cake stand? Contact Mark Tate at

mark@gurnellgrove.com

Christmas Collections

As usual we will be taking an exit collection at all of our Christmas Services. This will be divided equally between the work of the **Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter and Tearfund**. Please come prepared to give and gift aid your donation if you can.

Financial Pledges

Thank you to everyone who has made a financial commitment for 2020. Thanks to your generosity the total amount pledged will enable the Church Council to set a balanced budget for the year and to move ahead with the important challenges which were outlined in last October's letter to all members. Please ensure that any standing orders with your bank are started or adjusted so that St Stephen's receives your revised pledge from 1st January 2020. Once again, thank you.

Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter

Has begun in the first 7 churches! We will be hosting the Night Shelter on Fridays from 22nd February - 28th March. Recruitment of volunteers will start in the New Year. In the meantime, please pray for the host churches, their volunteers and the guests as winter takes a grip.

Christmas Cards

If you missed Traidcraft card sales in November, let us know and we will open the stall for a week or so. To cut down on costs of stamps and card, there will be a board in Church to take cards for your Church friends. Come and see who's wishing you well and leave one for everyone else.

General Election Hustings

For the Ealing Central and Acton Constituency at 7.30pm on Monday 2 December at St John's Church, Mattock Lane.

For Ealing North Constituency on Tuesday 3 December, starting at 7.30pm, St Barnabas, The Fairway, Northolt.

All are welcome to listen to and question those standing to represent us. Do feel free invite friends and neighbours to these evenings.

Date for your Diary

Tearfund Quiz night on 24 January 2020
Church Big Clean and DIY Day 29 Feb 2020

Pastoral Care

In the church office there is a box file containing leaflets and information about dementia, disability, church for older people, information from Age UK and lots of other useful information about local services. Do have a look.

New Wine

Bookings are open for New Wine next summer. St Stephen's will be going in **Week 1 (25 July – 31 July 2020)** – we always have a great time so why not consider coming along next year. Book by the end of November to attract the biggest discount.

connect groups

Our mid week Groups for worship, prayer, Bible Study and Fellowship. For further details for each group contact the group leaders as detailed below.

p&p small group

Meets fortnightly on Monday evenings. More info from Dinos Horattides (8840 6047) or Peter Charlton (8997 8236)

Tuesday Group

Alternate Tuesdays at 8pm at the Vicarage. For more info call Steve Newbold (8810 4929)

Jigsaw

Meeting alternate Tuesdays 7pm (for food), 7:30-9:30pm (meeting). Call Caroline or Ian Jamieson 8840 1971.

Daytimers

Meets every Wednesday at 11:00am in the Church Centre for cake, coffee, fellowship, Bible reflection and prayer.

Vine

Meets Wednesday's (not first of the month) at 8pm in different group member's houses. Contact Sam Sanya 020 3844 0387 or Barbara Luland.

Film Group

Film Group meeting is on Thurs Dec 5 for our Christmas social. Our next film 'On the Basis of Sex' will be view on Thur 9 Jan and discussed on Thur 23 Jan. Rosemary Beardow (07733 441 431).

Chinese Group

Meets Fridays - contact Weihua Zhang or Youwen Yang for more information.

ECO CHURCH



Did you know that according to recent surveys, the average person shopping in UK throws away one third of food bought! With climate change and less reliable weather patterns, farmers are challenged to produce what we demand.

But Christmas is a time for celebrating with friends, sharing food and fun. So let's carefully plan what we want when making all those lists, search for the many ideas for turning left-overs into exciting new dishes and eliminate food waste this Christmas?

Shining Stars

This term finishes on 10 December. We will be back 10am – 11:30am on Tuesday 7 January



shiningstars@ststephens-ealing.org



Tea Timers drop in cafe

Runs most Fridays 2.30-4.00pm at church. Contact Jane Maffett

Events@ststephens-ealing.org

6 Dec - Christmas Traditions

13 Dec - Special Christmas Tea 3.30 to 5.30

22 Dec - Chat (with optional help prep Christingle kits)

No Tea Timers for 2 week over Christmas and New Year

10 Jan - Tea Timers starts again

Christmas 2019 Special Services

Sunday 15th December

Usual morning services

4.30pm and 6.30pm Traditional Carol Services

both followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

Sunday 22nd December

9am Traditional Service

10:30am Contemporary Carol Service

No 6:30pm service

Christmas Eve

4.30pm Carols, Nativity and Christingles

children are encouraged to come dressed as nativity character

11.00pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day

10.30am – 11.30am All Age Celebration

(please bring one of your new presents to show to us all)

Sunday 29th December

10:30am Whole Church Communion

No 9am or 6:30pm services

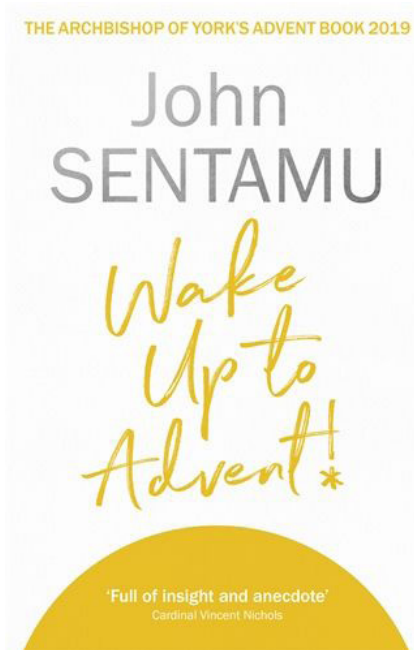
**Note: No weekday services (Morning Prayer and Communion)
between Christmas and New Year.**

**Wednesday Communion will resume on 8th January 2020 and
Morning Prayer on Thursday 2nd January 2020.**

Bookstall

We have a selection of Advent books, as well as Christmas books and gifts for children and adults.

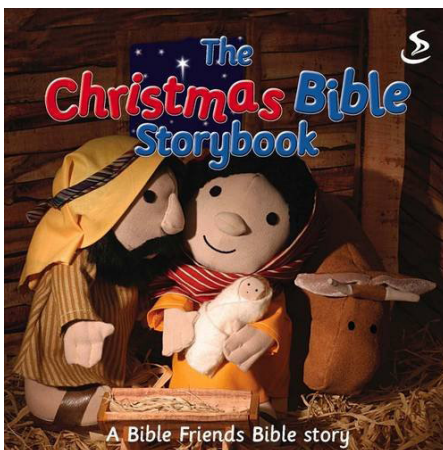
Come and have a look!



'This is the hour of crisis: it is high time for you to wake out of sleep, for deliverance is nearer to us now than it was when first we believed.'

St Paul's encouraging words to the Christians in Rome are the springboard for the Archbishop of York's Advent book for 2019. With prayers and stimulating questions for reflection at the end of each daily meditation, here is fresh spiritual food for the Advent journey - pressed down, shaken together and running over.

Walk alongside Archbishop Sentamu this Advent, as he discusses the meaning and influence of those four gospel imperatives in this lively and invigorating book.



This is a full-colour board book, ideal for toddlers and young children, telling the story of Christmas and packed with Bible Friends on every page.

Please visit the Bookstall. As well as books to sell we have a selection of books you can borrow.

Monthly Diary



December		
Sunday 1	11:45am 12:30pm 6:30pm	Cafe Extra People & Planet Gathering Open to God
Monday 2	7:45pm	Church Council Meeting
Tuesday 3	7:30pm 8:00pm	Choir Practice First Tuesday Prayers and Praise
Saturday 7	9:00am	Advent Quiet Morning
Sunday 8	12:30pm 3:00pm 6:30pm	Youth Christmas Party Carols at St David's Home Advent Service
Monday 9	10:00am	Christmas Tree Decorating
Tuesday 10	10:00am 7:30pm	Shining Stars Christmas Party Choir Practice
Wednesday 11	8:00pm	Book Club Christmas Party
Friday 13	3:30pm	Seniors Christmas Tea
Sunday 15	4:30pm & 6:30pm	Traditional Carol Services
Thursday 19	7:45pm	Alpha Christmas Party
Sunday 22	10:30am	Contemporary Carol Service
Tuesday 24	4:30pm 11:30pm	Carols, Christingle and Nativity Midnight Communion Service
Wednesday 25	10:30am	Whole Church Celebration
Sunday 29	10:30am	Informal Service

Prayer Requests

Give thanks for:

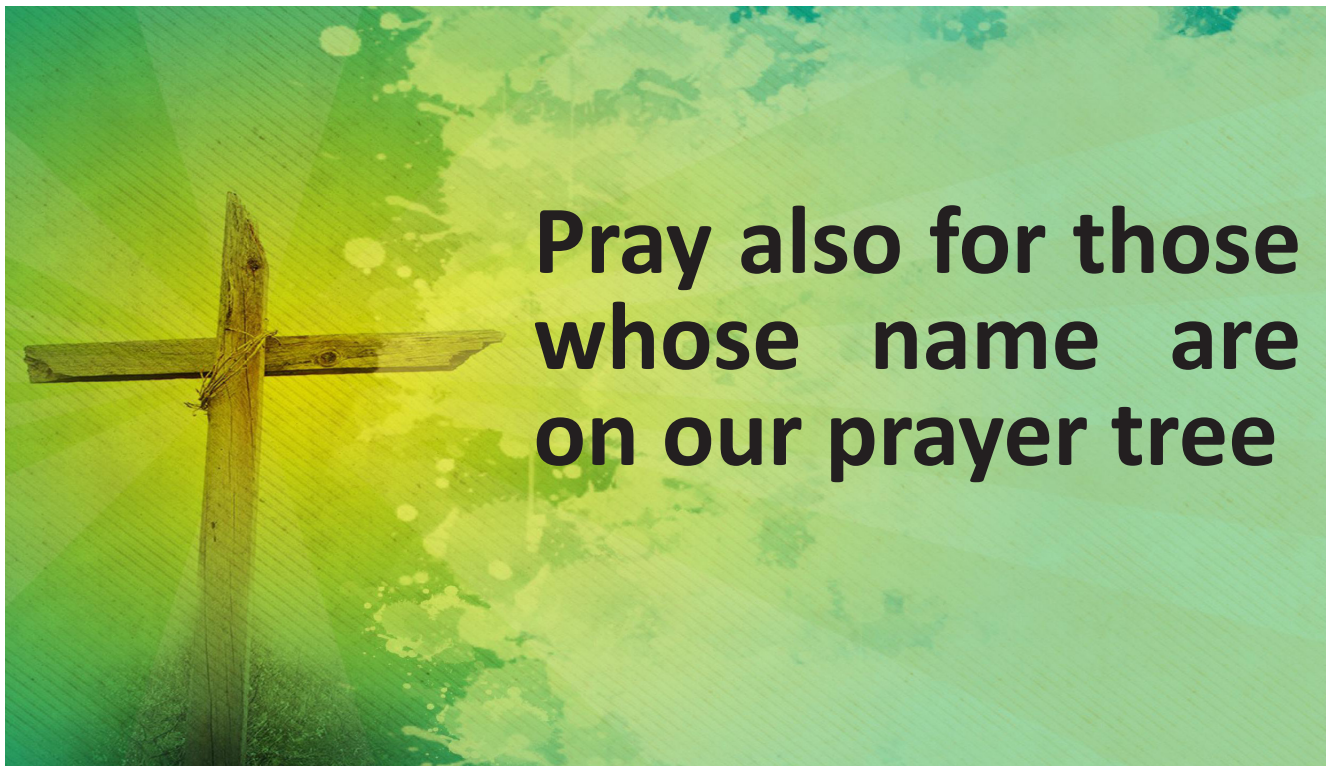
- The coming of Jesus our Saviour into our world
- The generous response with new financial pledges for 2020
- All that we will enjoy at Christmas
- Those who have completed Alpha
- Our Christmas Fair and the money raised for Ealing Foodbank

During this month please pray especially for:

- St Stephen's volunteers helping at the Ealing Soup Kitchen
- The Ealing Winter Churches Night Shelter as it opens for the winter months
- Our outreach and Christmas services during this month
- Those who are homeless or living in poverty
- Those who will be spending Christmas on their own

Those who are sick and in special need:

Simon Beards, Gordon Couch, Pat Devereux, Alan and Jane Hanley, George Hore, Caroline Jamieson, Maisie Poulton, Ken Taylor and Ann, Fiona, Lorraine, Daisy and Denise.



Contact Details



www.ststephens-ealing.org





Worship & Prayer Discipleship Outreach Children & Youth

DEC 2019

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