

# St Stephen's Ealing



Community growing  
in the love of Jesus

St Stephen's  
News

Sept 2025

# A letter from our Vicar



Welcome to this first edition of the new-look St Stephen's News!

This monthly booklet will replace the fortnightly St Stephen's News emails. You'll still find everything that the email had, including notices about what's coming up, and prompts to pray for our parish. But there will be much more besides!

In the first few editions, we'll hear from our Connect Groups and how these small networks in our church family help us to be a community growing in the love of Jesus. This month, we meet the DayTimers, who will give us an insight into what their Connect Group is like, and tell us about some of the things they feel God has been saying to them recently.

We'll also meet one of our mission partners, namely the Grove Community Church, as they anticipate the launch of their Community Grocery on the Gurnell Grove estate. It's an exciting time for them after many years of prayer and planning, and it's great that the Grocery is finally happening! On the subject of mission as well, there is a key notice about Alpha Youth which will be starting at St Stephen's in a couple of weeks' time. More details on page 4.

Each month, we will also share the stories of members of our church family (with their permission, of course!) or invite them to share something that they feel God has been saying to them. This month, it is fitting to remember our dear friend and sister Enid Barron who died just a few weeks ago. I'll be

sharing some of my reflections on knowing her, even though that time was lamentably brief, and also what I think we can learn from her years of faithful and loving service among us at St Stephen's.

My hope is that this booklet will inspire us on our own journeys of faith, and provide an easy and accessible way to know what's going on in our life together. Alongside this booklet, there will also be a weekly email to remind us what is coming up in the week ahead, including details about our more regular activities.

Happy reading!

With love in Christ,

Revd David Baylor



# Weekly Services

Monday & Friday	9:00am	Morning Prayer in Meeting Room
Tuesday & Thursday	9:00am	Morning Prayer on Zoom (email <a href="mailto:admin@ststephens-ealing.org">admin@ststephens-ealing.org</a> for details)
Wednesday	10:00am	Midweek Communion
Sunday	9:00am	Traditional Holy Communion
	10:30am	Informal Service (with children & youth groups)

# Monthly Calendar

## September

Tuesday 2nd	8:00pm	Monthly Prayer Meeting
Friday 12th	6:30pm	Alpha Youth
Wednesday 17th	8:00pm	Book Club
Friday 19th	6:30pm	Alpha Youth
Sunday 21st	12:30pm	People and Planet Lunch
Monday 22nd	11:30am	Communion at St David's Care Home
Friday 26th	6:30pm	Alpha Youth
Sunday 28th	9:00am	Ealing Half Marathon (no morning services)
	6:00pm	Evening Worship
Monday 29th	8:00pm	PCC Meeting

## October

Friday 3rd	6:30pm	Alpha Youth
Sunday 5th	9:00am & 10:30am	Harvest Sunday (followed by a whole church lunch)

# Monthly Notices

## Monthly Prayer Gathering

Tuesday 2nd September at 8pm. Our monthly meeting to pray for the life of St Stephen's, our local community and the wider world. Open to all, we also spend time listening for God's voice and in praise.

## Alpha Youth

We are excited to launch this new and improved Alpha course for young people in years 7-13. It is FREE and will run on Fridays from 6:30-8:00pm, starting on Friday 12th September. There will also be a Saturday session on 18th October. Full details will be released closer to the time.

Each session will include food and refreshments, and a short video followed by open conversation on a particular topic about the Christian faith. Young people are encouraged to invite their friends to join us as we journey together.

To allow us to plan accordingly we ask that parents sign up their young person on our [website](#).

If you are able to provide a dessert for the Young People please contact Stephen Turner.

## People and Planet Lunch

Sunday 21st September at 12:30pm. Will start with a Bring & Share lunch in the Church hall, trying to keep to LOAF principles (ingredients that are Local, Organic, Animal friendly and Fairtrade).

The guest speaker will be Helen Blackholly, Vice President and Director of Technical Services, MSI Reproductive Choices. All are invited, but please let Sue Charlton know if you can come, so we can lay enough places for lunch. Tel: 07908 840 954

## St David's

The next Communion Service at St David's Care Home will be held on Monday 22nd

September at 11:30am. If you can join us, it's a good opportunity to meet the residents and support the Church's work at St David's. For more details, contact Sally Horattides, details on the back page.

## Ealing Half Marathon (EHM)

On Sunday 28th September Ealing will host its annual Half Marathon. As the roads around Ealing are closed for this we will not be able to hold our usual morning services. Instead from 9-10:30am we will be hosting a water station. The UFO Steel Band will be in attendance once again so come along if you can, to dance to the music and cheer along the runners.

This year Lizzie Rainbow Rogers will be running the EHM in support of one of our Mission Partners, Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter. [Click here to sponsor Lizzie](#).

With our usual morning service unable to happen, we will instead be holding a Worship Evening starting at 6pm. No need to sign up for this, just come along and join in.

## PCC Meeting

On Monday 29th September the Church Council will meet to discuss the work of our Church both here and in our wider community. Please pray for them as they discern what God's plans are for us.

## Do you have a heart for Children?

We are looking for a group of adults to help with JAM on Sundays. Morgen, our Children's Worker is looking for adults who don't have children in the groups to be helpers to enable parents to stay in church. JAM only lasts 30 minutes and is usually finished by 11:10am. There would be some basic safeguarding training involved. If you think you could help occasionally please let Morgen know [admin@ststephens-ealing.org](mailto:admin@ststephens-ealing.org).

## Harvest Lunch

On Sunday 5th October we will be hosting a Whole Church lunch after the 10:30am service. The food will be provided by Daytimers, one of our Connect Groups. Sign up lists will be around church from September but please [click here to sign up online](#).





## Mission Partner Update

### Amos Trust

Bible reference: Amos 5 v 24 'let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream'.

Working in Gaza and the West Bank, Nicaragua and with Street Child organisations in India and Africa, Amos Trust has been calling for justice, hope and creativity for 40 years. These decades have brought profound challenges and deep sorrow, but also countless experiences of joy, solidarity and the unstoppable power of communities coming together. We must believe another world is possible, and Amos is committed to keep working towards it.

Join us in celebrating 40 years on **Saturday 20th September at St. John's Waterloo 2:00-4.30pm**. To learn more and commit to the next phase of this journey, register for free at <https://www.amostrust.org/40>. Sue and Peter Charlton will be going, so call them for more details on 07908 840 954

### Ellie Maffett (working for UFM Worldwide)

Ellie is also one of our Mission Partners and regularly sends us an update via email.

[Please click here to read her email](#). You can also sign up to receive the updates directly [via this link](#).

## Eco Note

**Fairtrade Fortnight** starts on 22nd September. The focus this year is on TEA, Britain's favourite hot drink whatever your taste maybe - Earl Grey, 'builders', Green etc. Choose Fairtrade every time - ensuring fair payment for growers, good working conditions, transparency and environmental responsibility eg for coping with the worst effects of Climate Change. See more at World Fair Trade Organisation <https://wfto.com>.

Look at your favourite brand - is the packaging recyclable? Are the tea bags unbleached and compostable? Is it B Certified? Yes to these will confirm the best you can hope for, in that truly satisfying Cuppa!

## Church and Parish Prayer

[Please click here for our monthly prayer diary](#) for our life together for those who consider St Stephen's, Ealing to be their spiritual home.

These are the roads in our Parish we are praying for this month. Please pray for all those who live there and for people to know our Saviour, Jesus:

Bradley Gardens	Egerton Gardens
Montague Road	Mortimer Road
Cheriton Close	Glencairn Drive
Lanark Close	Mount Avenue

# Connect Groups



## Monday

### People and Planet

This group has a particular interest in, and concern for, the environment. They meet fortnightly 8-9:30pm online to discuss different topics.

## Tuesday

### Tuesday Group

A group desiring to root themselves in God's word and prayers. They meet fortnightly 8-9:30pm in members homes.

## Wednesday

### Daytimers

This group meets weekly throughout the year 11am-12:30pm in the small hall at church. Join them for Bible study and fellowship.

## Thursday

### Film Group

Meeting once a month this group joins together at church to discuss a pre-watched film and what a Biblical and Christian response might be. Meetings are on the third Thursday of each month and the group spends some time praying together too.

## Friday

### Chinese Group (Mandarin speakers)

This connect group meets weekly on Fridays at 7:30pm for dinner at 8pm before worship, Bible Study, prayer support and encouragement.

## Saturday

### Parents of Little Ones (POLO)

Meeting on the first Saturday of each month for tea, chat, a dip into the Bible and prayer alongside their pre-school aged children.

If you are interested in joining any of the above Connect Groups please email the office [admin@ststephens-ealing.org](mailto:admin@ststephens-ealing.org). Alternatively if you feel called to begin a new Connect Group please speak to our vicar, David Baylor.

## Other Groups

## Shining Stars

### Tuesdays 10:00-11:30am

This is a term time stay and play group for pre-schoolers and their parents / carers. A usual session comprises of playtime, a Bible story and singing. Refreshments and biscuits are available. £2 per child. No need to book just come along. [Contact Morgen Edwards](#) for more information.

## TeaTimers

### Fridays 2:30-4:00pm

This group meets weekly during term time and is aimed at those over 60. Each week has a different theme and there are always refreshments and cake. Suggested donation £2. Full details [on our website](#).

## Book Club

### Second Wednesday 8:00-9:30pm

Book Club is open to all and meets once a month to discuss a pre-read book. [Click here](#) to see their upcoming meetings.

## People & Planet Gathering

### Meets occasionally

A friendly gathering that meets roughly four times a year to focus on peace, social justice and the environment. They usually share lunch then hear from a speaker or plan events. [More details here](#).



# Connect Group Update

## Who are the DayTimers?

We are a group of a dozen or so members from different Christian backgrounds and nationalities who meet each Wednesday morning in the church building for Bible study, prayer, support and friendship.

## When and where do you meet?

We meet at the church, either in the small hall or the meeting room. We start with coffee at 11am and our meetings usually last an hour and a half.

## What do you value as a group?

The thing that we most value about our group is that it is a safe space where we can share our joys and sorrows knowing that we will be listened to in confidence and non-judgmentally. No question is too 'silly' or 'unimportant'.

Our meetings vary, either following a book of the Bible or an interesting topic. Different people lead the studies, which leads to variety in the styles

of study. But people's needs are always at the forefront of our meetings. If someone comes in distress our focus will be on them. We aim to enfold them in God's love and envelop them in an atmosphere of nurturing faith. With prayer and honest conversation we encourage one another to turn to God and move forward with Him.

## Tell us about something you have found challenging as a group. What did you learn?

Sometimes we have found passages difficult to interpret but through discussion we have found that we can resolve problems and learn from one another. We often share experiences to put our points across which helps us to gain a deeper understanding of God's Word.

## Can I join, and if so, who do I contact?

Yes, of course! Whatever age you are and are free on a Wednesday morning, you are welcome to join us. Let Morgen know and she'll put you in touch: [admin@ststephens-ealing.org](mailto:admin@ststephens-ealing.org).

## Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

We have an active WhatsApp Group where we share uplifting messages, prayer requests and useful information. We also meet socially-usually over food!





# The Grove Community Church

The Grove Community Church is a plant from St Stephen's and has been in place since 2018. It is one of our Mission Partners and is run by Mark Tate and his team, supported actively by several members of St Stephen's.

In recent years they have been working toward opening a Community Grocery and are really excited to announce that it should be opening next month. Beth Koch, the Community Grocery Assistant Manager tells us more.

## What is a community grocery?

We describe a Community Grocery as the bridge between a food bank and a low-cost supermarket. Customers can become members for just £5 a year, which gives them access to daily shops for much cheaper than your average store. We sell a range of fresh fruit and vegetables, shelf products and fridge/freezer items as well as necessary household products.

## When did they start?

Community Groceries are run by the Message Trust in partnership with local churches and were created after the pandemic in response to the rise of the cost-of-living crisis. There are now around 30 Community Grocery's across the UK helping thousands of families get the weekly essentials they need.

## Why Gurnell Grove?

Gurnell Grove is an estate in Ealing in which many families struggle with food poverty and their finances. Therefore, the Grove Community Church have been keen to help provide in this practical way by starting our own Community Grocery in the heart of the estate right next to the community centre.

## What's the latest?

After 4 years of hard work and many ups and downs, Planning permission was finally secured in May 2025 and we have been able to get the ball rolling with the process of





building the Community Grocery.

In June, the foundations of the Grocery were dug up and built, ready for the three cabins to be secured on top! We are hoping the cabins will arrive and be kitted out ready for the shop launch this October/November.

### What can I pray for?

- Financial provision for the third cabin and ongoing food/general costs
- Good connections with a variety of local food suppliers
- For the right volunteer team who have the heart and vision to bring God's love to our members as well as practical help.

### How can I get involved/find out more?

- Become a volunteer/other enquiries: email [beth.koch@message.org.uk](mailto:beth.koch@message.org.uk)
- Donate: [Story & Vision — The Grove](#) and click the "Donate" button
- Visit the website: [Message Community Grocery](#)
- Beth and Mark will be with us at both services on Sunday 19th October to tell us how it's going.

*(bottom right is an image from the Message Community Grocery of an up and running community grocery)*





# Remembering Enid

by Revd David Baylor

Enid was the first member of St Stephen's I met when our family moved to Ealing just before Christmas. I was taking my son, Josiah, out for a walk, and she happened to arrive home just as we went past her house. She came up to me and said, 'You're the new vicar, aren't you? I'm Enid, the licensed lay minister. I don't suppose I could borrow your keys?' I came to learn that losing church keys was one of Enid's endearing qualities. She found them several weeks later in her rucksack.

It didn't take me long to realise that Enid was a pillar of the St Stephen's community. But her influence extended far beyond our local church family. When I was first able to say that I'd accepted an offer to become the vicar of St Stephen's, a clergy friend shared how he had worked closely with Enid on General Synod (the top-most governing body of the Church of England). It turned out that Enid has been instrumental in the Church of England stepping up its efforts to respond to climate change, calling on every diocese (a Church county) to put an environmental programme in place, and to develop a range of tools that would help local churches monitor their carbon emissions.

These programmes and tools are now routinely used across the country. But Enid's legacy extends much further, because her efforts paved the way for the Church of England to commit to the ambitious target of meeting net zero carbon emissions by 2030, fifteen years sooner than first planned. Enid's legacy as the self-confessed 'Eco-Granny' isn't restricted to



St Stephen's; it has shaped the whole Church of England.

Over the last few weeks, many of us have been remembering Enid and the impact that she had on our lives. Others of us knew Enid much better than I did, but let me share with you what I saw in her and why her loss is so keenly felt.

Enid was ever the practical sort, and she contributed to just about every area of church life in her many years at St Stephen's. As she mentioned when we first met, she was a licensed lay minister which among other things meant she led services, preached, visited people at home and in hospital, and led prayers of intercession. She was a member of the prayer ministry team, and she led services of Morning Prayer every Tuesday morning on Zoom. She was a key member of the gardening team, and took particular pride in the potted bed outside the front of the church, widely known as 'Enid's Garden'. She helped with children's work, and my wife Hannah has fond memories of Enid helping Josiah with his colouring in JAM one Sunday morning. As if that wasn't enough, Enid also helped set up the People and Planet connect group and organised associated activities to raise awareness of climate change and other environmental causes. She also served terms on the PCC and as a Churchwarden.

Enid did many things, and her passing leaves holes in many teams and rotas. However, the biggest holes aren't found in the things she did; they're found in the person she was. It's been touching to read the various tributes that have been made by our community over recent weeks. Several themes stand out.





First, **Enid had great compassion.** Enid pursued a world that was fair and that treated everyone with dignity. Wherever she sensed inequality, indifference or pain, she would respond quickly and try to bring the love of God into the situation. I've shared already about the remarkable work she did in the area of climate justice. But as the name of the Connect Group she started suggests, she cared not just about the planet but also its people. Like Jesus, she had particular concern for the lost, the last and the least; in



other words, those whom the world usually overlooks. She would support the homeless in our area, and she cared deeply for the most vulnerable people in our community. She was a great advocate, giving a voice to the voiceless, and friendship to those who felt forgotten. Her compassion was indeed great.

Second, **Enid was a wonderful encourager.** Enid would be the first to admit that she didn't agree with everyone on everything! But there was always space in Enid's heart to encourage others. One set of reflections that I have found particularly touching came from our Parents of Little Ones (POLO) connect group, who shared how Enid always made them and their children feel so welcome, even though they attended the later service time. Enid's warmth and generosity shone through her, qualities that put other people at great ease.

Third and finally, **Enid stirred faith in others.** Reading the stories that we have shared about Enid, I've been struck by the number of people who said Enid was pivotal in them beginning or renewing their journey of faith at St Stephen's.



Perhaps this was because Enid's great compassion meant that she was always on the lookout for those on the periphery. But I also think it's because Enid's faith was honest. Enid helped people to see that faith in Jesus was realistic, and that the best way to grow in faith was to journey with others who were trying to follow Jesus as well. It's a reminder to us that we don't need to have all the answers before we come to Jesus (Enid wrestled with the Bible just like anyone else). All we need to do is come, and indeed to invite others to come that we might know Jesus better together.

Enid leaves a remarkable legacy, and her loss is keenly felt. But we can have every confidence that she is with the Lord who loves her and gave his life for her so that she might live.

Her funeral will be at 12 noon this Friday 5th September at St Stephen's Church. The wake will follow immediately afterwards in the church hall. All are welcome.

Let me close with these simple words: 'Well done good and faithful servant.'

Enid Barron

11th February 1945 – 3rd August 2025



# Contact us

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