

St Stephen's Ealing



Community growing
in the love of Jesus

St Stephen's
News

Oct 2025

A farewell from our Curate



Three years is not very long at all is it?

It doesn't seem that long since I was standing on the steps of St Paul's cathedral on a blisteringly hot day, having photos taken with people I barely knew from my new curacy church who all seemed incredibly excited about me coming even though they didn't know me either!

Now we are here, at the end of my curacy, reflecting on my time with you all as the Robinsons prepare for our next God adventure in Eastbourne.

I am so grateful God called us to St Stephen's and to have learned so much since being here. You guys have been such wonderful encouragers to me and the family all the way through. You have graciously put up with my mistakes and celebrated with me when things have gone well.

We've done so much together, but one of my highlights was the 24/7 Prayer Event that showcased all the different ways St Stephen's people engage with God from modern praise and worship to silence, liturgy and icons and was fully booked up even through the night. I have also been so blessed journeying deeper with the Holy Goats group and the POLO parents and can't wait to see what God is going to do with you guys in the future.

The twins have gone from little Year 3's to now being at the top year of primary school! They have enjoyed getting to know everyone and I can see how their faith has deepened

in their time here. They've really enjoyed the Light Party, the impromptu Board Game afternoons and now Alpha Youth!

Mark has been learning to embrace his 'vicar's wife' role and while he still doesn't know how to bake a quiche yet, he has grown in his own leadership and pastoral responsibilities through serving the youth and trying to listen well. It is fair to say that I could not follow my call without his unwavering support both practically with the children and spiritually with his constant wisdom and encouragement.

My life verse, if I had to name one, is ***'I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me'*** (Phil 3:12)

Knowing that God has a purpose and a plan for my life is what gets me up in the morning. I want to live a life where the main thing I put my energy into, the main thing my heart longs for, is to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me and to encourage others to do the same. To aggressively chase and grab the call on my life to transform the world with the resurrection power of Christ wherever he takes me and into the lives of those he brings me to.

As we head to Eastbourne – this verse helps me to go with trust and faith that God has hold of me and this is part of my calling. My prayer for you guys is that you too continue to press on for all Jesus has for you – it's going to be an awesome adventure!

Revd Ruth Robinson

Weekly Services

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

Monthly Calendar

October

Friday 3rd	6:30pm	Alpha Youth
Sunday 5th	9:00am & 10:30am	Harvest Sunday (followed by a whole church lunch)
Tuesday 7th	8:00pm	Monthly Prayer Meeting
Friday 10th	6:30pm	Alpha Youth
Friday 17th	6:30pm	Alpha Youth
Sunday 12th	10:30am	Baptism of Emil Johnsson-Bradley
Saturday 18th	11:00am - 4:00pm	Alpha Youth Day
Sunday 20th	9:00am & 10:30am 4:00-6:00pm	Ruth Robinson's Last Day Celebration Afternoon Tea
Friday 24th	6:30pm	Alpha Youth
Sunday 26th	10:00am	Intercessions/Prayer Training
Friday 31st	4:00-6:00pm	Light Party

November

Sunday 2nd	2:00-4:00pm	Christmas Pudding Making
Saturday 29th	10:30am-2:00pm	Christmas Fair

Notices

Alpha Youth

Alpha Youth is off to a great start with 7-8 young people taking part. On Saturday 18th October they will be having an Alpha Day from 11:00am-4:00pm. Please do pray for them and the team as they continue their journey exploring Christianity together.

Harvest Sunday

On Sunday 5th October we will be collecting contributions for Ealing Foodbank. Please bring tinned or packet items (no fresh produce please). You can find their current list on page 6, or you can make a cash or card donation on the day or [here online](#).

The Daytimers Connect Group will also be hosting a Whole Church lunch after the 10:30am service. You may have signed up already but if not please [click here to sign up online](#).

Monthly Prayer Meeting

Tuesday 7th October 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.

Farewell to the Robinsons

Sunday 19th October will mark the end of Ruth's curacy here at St Stephen's. The family will be moving to Ruth's new Parish, St John's Meads in Eastbourne. From 4:00-6:00pm we will be having a celebration Afternoon Tea for the whole church to celebrate and say farewell to Ruth, Mark, Oisín and Aoibheanna.

[Please sign up here](#).

Light Party

We are holding a Light Party on Friday 31st October 5:00pm-7:00pm for children 3-11 years old. The Light Party is a Christian alternative celebration to Halloween. There will be fun craft activities, games and singing. There will also be a pumpkin carving competition. [Please sign your children up on our website](#).

Electoral Roll

Every year we hold an Annual General Meeting in May. This is when Churchwardens and PCC members are elected. In order to stand for either of these positions, church members need to have been on a list called the Electoral Roll (ER) for a minimum of six months. The ER is a list of people who consider St Stephen's to be their spiritual home and there are a few requirements to be able to be included:

- A person must be 16 or over and be Baptised.
- A member of the Church of England or a church in communion with the Church of England.
- Have habitually attended services for the last six months or.
- Be a member in good standing of a church which is not the Church of England but subscribes to the Holy Trinity.

There is no fee to be a member of the Electoral Roll. It is just you making a statement that St Stephen's is your 'home' church.

If you would like to possibly stand for a position as Churchwarden or on the PCC from May and you are not already on the ER please consider signing up this October to be eligible come election time. If you have any questions please speak to our vicar David or our Electoral Roll Officer, Morgen Edwards.

Intercessions Training

Have you ever thought about leading prayers at one of our services? Between the services on Sunday 26th October at 10:00am we will be holding a quick intro into leading prayers at St Stephen's. If you would like to know more please contact Morgen Edwards via email admin@ststephens-ealing.org

Connect Group Update

Who are the POLO?

We are 'Parents of Little Ones' connect group. We meet on the first Saturday of each month at Nicole's home. We don't have a strict age range rule (for the children or adults!) but generally the little ones are pre-schoolers.....and growing fast!

When and where do you meet?

We meet on the first Saturday of each month from 10:00-11.30am but we are very relaxed about timings as we understand how difficult it can be to get out the door on time when you have little ones to manage. We meet at Nicole's house near Drayton Green in Ealing where there are lots of toys for the children and much needed tea/coffee and pastries for the adults.

What do you value as a group?

Here are some quotes from our POLO parents:

"Being part of this group has given me a real sense of connection and support with caring people at a similar life stage, where we can share both joys and struggles. It's also bought me a wonderful sense of community - knowing we can rely on each other and enjoy deeper bonds, even in simple everyday encounters"

"I value meeting together with other parents in fellowship, in a space where my kids are welcome (and welcome to be noisy!)"

"Being part of this group gives me a sense of belonging and connection. It is a place where we share our challenges, struggles, fears, but also joy and our small victories."

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

"Our main challenge is trying to finish a sentence or prayer before being interrupted by a little one!" Our group is beautifully chaotic with babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers running around but we wouldn't have it any other way. There is something integral about the sense of true acceptance and non-judgement in how we are as people, in our parenting and how we make sense of the Bible and our faith within the context of parenthood.

What is coming up this term?

We are currently reading a chapter a month from Elaine Storkey's book 'Women in a Patriarchal World' and thinking together about how this applies to us and what we might take forward into our own lives as Christians.

Describe POLO in three words.

"Prayer, connection and pastries"

"Encouraging, real and pastries"

"Pastries, acceptance and fellowship"

Pastries are a fundamental theme in our group!

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

We would be very happy to welcome any parents of pre-schoolers. Please contact Nicole Stokoe by text message/whatsapp on 07791 613 754.



The Marylebone Project

from The Church Army

St Stephen's has several Mission Partners, including The Marylebone Project which supports women who are homeless in the capital. Here is an excerpt from their latest newsletter.

Right now, The Marylebone Project continues to provide safe accommodation and vital support to more than 100 women each day.

Over recent years Church Army has invested over £2 million of its reserves to keep the Marylebone Project open. Now, due to significant financial pressures we have made the tough decision to withdraw from the project.

Our decision is not a reflection on the excellent work being done; we are grateful for the season that Church Army has had leading the project. We now hope that we can carefully pass this vital project on to others, in such a way that it can be restructured to become financially sustainable. Church Army is working closely with Westminster City Council to hopefully secure this. While The Sanctuary drop-in centre closed on 4th July

the core accommodation and resettlement services remain fully operational.

Through all of this we are reminded that resettlement has always been at the heart of the Marylebone Project's mission.

Women arrive at the Marylebone Project having experienced homelessness, often after sleeping rough and enduring the fear and loneliness of life without a safe place to stay. Many have fled domestic violence, struggled with poor mental health, and been separated from their children.

Every woman has her own individual story. We support each one on her journey toward wellbeing. Whether it's finding temporary relief or building lasting stability, as we see them grow in confidence and reclaim their independence, we witness remarkable changes. When they are given access to education and the security of a safe home, many are discovering opportunities and choices, some for the very first time. Employment becomes a reality, and with it, a renewed sense of purpose.



Inevitably the transfer of ownership and changes to the buildings have created some uncertainty, making resettlement more urgent than ever.

The project is now entering a critical phase, focusing on helping as many residents as possible transition into safe, stable homes. But we can't do it alone. ***We urgently need your prayer and support to make this happen.***

For more than 90 years, the Marylebone Project has stood as a sanctuary for women facing homelessness and crisis. Today, it continues to provide safe accommodation and holistic support to women navigating trauma, abuse, mental health challenges, and exploitation.

Although Church Army is moving away from running the project, the heart of the Project, its accommodation and resettlement work, remains fully operational.

In the past twelve months (2024/25), 63 women were successfully resettled into independent living. From July 2025 to March 2026, we aim to resettle a further 50 women.

This target reflects our continued focus on supporting those who are often the hardest to take the next step to independence, many of whom have been with our service for a long time. These women face a range of complex challenges, and their journeys toward



independence require time, tailored support, and trust. Each woman's journey is unique, and we celebrate every individual as she takes this significant step toward independence, equipped with the skills and confidence she has worked hard to build.

At this difficult time of transition, your prayers and support mean more than ever. As the Marylebone Project navigates significant change, your generosity will ensure that we can continue to provide safety, stability, and hope to women facing homelessness and crisis.

Thanks to the collaboration of our incredible partners and the generosity of Church Army donors, we've already made strong progress. But there is still a critical funding gap of £212,750.

Right now, our team is working hard ensuring the project runs in full and finishes well. The more support we receive now, the more women we can help resettle into lives of joy, confidence, stability, and thriving. We're inviting you to be part of this transformative journey.

The support and funds from St Stephen's will help at a pivotal moment, enabling women to fund new hope and a new future.



Proclaiming the Good News in Every Generation

David tells us about an exciting opportunity we have to develop our work with Children, Young People and Families

At the beginning of the summer, I did a double take. An email dropped into my inbox saying that the Bishop of London had nominated me to take part in a national leadership programme focused on developing our work with children, young people and families at St Stephen's. I initially convinced myself that the email had been sent to the wrong person or that the Bishop's email account had been hacked. It turned out neither were true!

As I learnt more about the programme, I realised what was going on. The Bishop had heard about the wonderful work we are already doing among children, young people and families (CYPF) and she wanted to give us an opportunity to take that work further. It was all part of the Church of England's vision to double the number of children and young active disciples by 2030. The Bishop believed that we, St Stephen's, had a key part to play in reaching that goal. The mindset of investing in strengths was at work.

Before I share some of the practical details with you, let me say again just how wonderful it is that we span the generations at St Stephen's. We really are a church family, not young and not old. It may seem on the surface that investing in CYPF is about making

St Stephen's younger, but it's actually about building up every generation in our church family. How so? Because effective CYPF ministries work best when the whole church family is growing in the love of Jesus together. It's as we grow together as one that we yield good fruit.

Many things excite me about this programme. It is zero-cost to us (barring minor travel expenses), and it embraces the breadth of Christian tradition. But for me the key selling point is that I get to take a small team. And so, on 9th and 10th October, Morgen Edwards, Stephen Turner, Dexter Bradley, and Lily and Jack Cahill will be joining me in Oxford for the first of 4 two-day residentials over the next 18 months.

Please do pray for us as we, in the words of the programme leaders, 'consider the foundations necessary for being a healthy, flourishing and intergenerational church community.' Expect to hear more from us afterwards too!



Eco Note

We all have a love-hate relationship with plastic. Light and waterproof, it's useful for many things, but so damaging in the environment. Indestructible, it clogs waterways and traps marine animals. The recent UN Plastic Treaty negotiations in August failed to reach agreement for a legally binding agreement on plastic pollution, with challenges from the petrochemical manufacturers demanding better re-cycling systems. Researchers conclude that we cannot recycle our way out of the problem. On 5th September, we had exceeded the World's capacity to manage plastic waste, indicating that one third of this year's plastic waste is likely to be burned, dumped or littered. The rise is mainly due to more plastic packaging and the frequent discarding of synthetic textiles i.e clothing. What an appalling way to treat God's beautiful Creation! What can we do?

Use companies who don't use plastic packaging – avoid others. If you have to use a plastic bag, make sure it's re-used or returned for re-use.

Whereever possible buy clothes made from natural fibres e.g. wool, cotton, linen, not plastic e.g. spandex, nylon, polyester and rayon. Resist the temptation to replace clothes often!

Ealing Foodbank

Please [click here for their current list](#).

If you would like to make a financial donation instead you can do that on Sunday 5th October at church or via our website. See the notices on the opposite page for the link. If you would like to make a large practical donation, please take it directly to the Foodbank at:

St Mellitus Church Hall,
1 Church Road,
Hanwell W7 3BB.

Donations are accepted at the following times:
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 9.30-11:00am
Wednesday: 9.30am to 3.30pm

Church and Parish Prayer

Please [click here for our monthly prayer diary](#)

all 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:

Templewood	Hardwick Green
Malvern Way	Roseacre Close
The Dene	The Mede

The area to the east of our parish where some of our church members live.

My journey through culture, education and faith.

by Meresia Aloo

Jaber, Nyakoo! In my dialect, that means beautiful girl! My grandma always referred to me that way when I was a child. Just two of us lived in her home in the village, Gem Akala. There was no other term she used to refer to me, and occasionally, I would be embarrassed when she called me in front of a large crowd. So even if I were playing in a neighbourhood a few kilometres from home and heard her cry "Nyakoo," I would know it was me. Jaber! The entire town would be aware that she is referring to me. Oh, Bless her!

May she continue to rest in perfect peace. She played a significant role in building my self-esteem and jump-starting my journalism career. She pioneered her community, becoming the first woman in her area to own a black-and-white television and always ensured that we watched the news at 7 o'clock before bed. This stoked my desire to pursue a career in journalism.

I eventually studied journalism and founded the Thach Center for Media and Information, which focused on telling the stories of women's fight for stability in the rural areas of Kenya. This initiative lasted for about three years before I got another job at African Leadership Magazine. While there, one of our editorial meetings discussed our personal interests and alternative career paths outside of journalism.



I had an insatiable enthusiasm for journalism and stated that I would pursue it even if it were not my current occupation. And so, rather than consider opportunities outside journalism, I focused on what I might do instead of working in the print department. In response, I imagined myself as a news anchor in the broadcast department, emphasizing my zeal for communication.

I arrived here in the United Kingdom to pursue my MA in Creative Writing, a course aimed at sharpening my writing skills through inspiration from the beautiful, bustling city of London. I am usually at St Stephen's on Sundays but if not, I am often in restaurants immersing myself in various cuisines, touring London or in the library working on my dissertation. On school days, I'd attend my lectures and catch up with my classmates.

My faith has played a profound role in shaping my career as a journalist. Looking at it from the lens of ethical journalism, my faith has allowed me to remain rooted in truthful reporting, which can inspire and uplift the lives of others in society. Furthermore, being a Christian in the media industry is both a privilege and a responsibility. It means navigating a dynamic environment where diverse perspectives are valued, while staying true to my beliefs and integrity.

I really appreciate my stay here, especially with the love and support I continue to receive from the community and congregants at St. Stephens. Even so, I look forward to making the most out of it during this autumn season.

Generosity in Giving

Generosity in Giving

Our vision is for St Stephen's to be a church where everyone gets to play their part as we resource our mission and our life together. Together we help to fund:

- Sunday gatherings
- Children's and youth ministry
- Community groups (Shining Stars, TeaTimers, etc.)
- Outreach events
- Our mission partners
- Our staff and buildings

All of this enables us to display and proclaim God's love to Ealing and beyond.

How can I play my part?

Each October we ask church members to pray and consider their giving for the coming year (sometimes referred to as "tithing").

On **19th October**, we will distribute giving packs with:

- Information about our 2026 budget
- A pledge card
- Details on how to:
 - » Start a new regular gift (via the Parish Giving Scheme)
 - » Make a one-off or annual gift (via PGS, card, or cheque)
 - » Adjust your current giving whether that means increasing or decreasing it

Our 2026 Budget

The PCC has agreed a goal to restore giving (including Gift Aid) to 2022 levels of **£196,000**, which means an increase of **14% (£20,000)** compared with this year.

With additional income from hall rental (£46,000), a grant from St Luke's Hall Trust (£40,000), and other sources, we expect **total income of £320,000**. This will support an expenditure budget of **£318,000**, covering our usual running costs plus:

- An inflation-based salary increase for staff
- Invest in training for staff and volunteers
- Funds for new initiatives
- An equipment review (including ergonomic improvements)
- Migration to new cloud-based software for accounting and giving
- Continued support for our seven mission partners
- Increased contribution to the Diocese to support poorer parishes
- Urgent relaying of the car park (Phase 2 of the Entrance Project remains on pause)
- Setting aside **£20,000 to rebuild reserves** for future building costs (our hall is now 40 years old and in need of care)

ShapeWe believe that by investing in these areas over the coming year, we will be better able to live out our vision to be community growing in the love of Jesus not just in this generation, but also into the next.

Any questions?

If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to either our Giving Co-ordinators Chris & Helen Irwin-Childs or Treasurer Jane Maffett or email them at giving@ststephens-ealing.org (these are the only people who know how much you pledge and give).

Or speak to our Vicar about the above principles.

Contact us

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St David's Hymns of Praise

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