

St Stephen's Ealing



Community growing
in the love of Jesus

St Stephen's
News

Nov 2025

A note on Remembrance

by Dinos Horattides who is a commissioned preacher at St Stephen's.

Like many others I gasped at the slow motion, final scenes of 'Blackadder Goes Forth'. The Blackadder tune plays on the piano, it sounds as though it had seen better days. Flashes, smoke and churned up earth gradually obscure the characters as they climb out of the trench and run towards us.

The last minutes are for me the most poignant depiction of all that was so horrible about the Great War. Remembrance is associated with all the wars since.

What a strange word it is, an action of the present that looks into the past and the future. The word implies more than just recollection, it requires meditation on that recollection, its meaning, its significance, and its implications. What in the future will end up being the legacy of that moment.

The word occurs three times in the New Testament. Luke (22:19) quotes Jesus at the Last Supper instructing his disciples at what is to us the first communion. The other two are in one of Paul's letters (1 Corinthians 11:24-25), the words we use in the Eucharistic prayer. Luke says, 'And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."'

And so, we take bread, we offer thanks, we break it, and we hand it out. What we are asked to remember and meditate on is the broken body on the cross, the smashed wrists, the pulverised ankles, the punctured side. The mystery of the sacrifice that reconciled us with God.

Sacrifice is what remembrance of the fallen of the World Wars brings to mind. We could



be remembering the senseless loss of so many young lives. We could be remembering the incompetence and viciousness of the political systems that drove us to war, the twisted refusal to see each other as creatures loved equally by God. And we should remember all these things but, above all, we remember sacrifice, offered and given.

This is a poem by Ivor Gurney, a World War 1 poet, called 'After war':

*One got peace of heart at last, the dark march over,
And the straps slipped, the warmth felt under roof's low cover,
Lying slack the body, let sink in straw giving;
And some sweetness, a great sweetness felt in mere living.
And to come to this haven after sorefooted weeks,
The dark barn roof, and the glows and the wedges and streaks;
Letters from home, dry warmth and still sure rest taken
Sweet to the chilled frame, nerves soothed were so sore shaken.*

The poet is certainly talking about soldiers enjoying a short break from the front line, an R&R time away from the noise, stench, wet cold and death of the trenches. He could also be talking about where all the real-life comrades of the Blackadder characters surely have reached, the place where the heart doesn't race out of fear, burdens are let go, the air is sweet, the light glows, brokenness is mended.

The place for which the sacrifice of Jesus made us all fit for.

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

November

Saturday 1st	9:30am-12:00pm	Sleeves Up Saturday
Sunday 2nd	2:00-4:00pm	Christmas Pudding Making
Tuesday 4th	8:00pm	Monthly Prayer Gathering
Thursday 6th	7:30pm	Ruth's Licensing at St John's Meads Eastbourne
	7:30pm	First Choir Rehearsal
Friday 7th	6:30pm	Alpha Youth
Sunday 9th	1:45-3:00pm	St David's Hymns of Remembrance
Wednesday 12th	8:00pm	Book Club
Friday 14th	6:30pm	Alpha Youth
Monday 24th	11:30am	St David's Communion Service
Saturday 29th	10:30am-2:30pm	Christmas Fair

December

Tuesday 2nd	8:00pm	Monthly Prayer Gathering
Sunday 7th	3:30pm	Christian Aid event with Bishop Sarah Mullally
Friday 12th	3:30-5:30pm	Christmas Tea for over 70s

Notices

Sleeves Up Saturday

Twice a year we come together as a church family to spruce up the building. Our next 'Spring Clean' is **Saturday 1st November 9:30am-12:00pm**. There are lots of different ways to help so this is fun for all the family. Please speak to our Premises Manager Jack Cahill or sign up on the list in the foyer.

Christmas Pudding Making

On **Sunday 2nd November 2:00-4:00pm** we will be holding our annual Christmas Pudding Making session to make puddings for our Christmas Fair at the end of the month. Lots of fun and suitable for the whole family. Speak to Jane Maffett for more information.

Monthly Prayer Meeting

Tuesday 4th November 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.

Ruth's Licensing

Ruth will be licensed as Vicar of St John's, Meads on **Thursday 6th November at 7:30pm**. There is an [open invitation](#) to attend. St John's would like an idea of numbers so if you would like to attend please let Ruth know. If you are unable to attend the service will be [livestreamed here](#). Ruth and family would also like to say a big thank you for their gift. They will be putting it towards their Parish Puppy savings fund. If you would like the Robinsons' new address please contact Morgen Edwards.

Carol Service Choir

If you would like to join the choir for this year's Carol Service please contact our Choir Director, [James Harvey](#). Rehearsals will be on Thursdays starting on **13th November at 7:30pm**.

St David's Care Home Services

Our St Stephen's team will be running a Remembrance Hymns of Praise service on Sunday 9th November and a Comunion

Service on Monday 24th November. 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 or Pete Devereux, details on the back page.

Book Club

Our monthly book club usually meets on the second Wednesday of each month. This month we meet on 12th November at 8:00pm. Our book for discussion is Gabriel's Moon by William Boyd. The group is open to all. No need to book, just turn up or speak to [Morgen Edwards](#) for more information.

Generosity in Giving

A reminder please to return your pledges from your Giving pack by **9th November** - this will be a huge help in our planning.

Christmas Fair

Please take a leaflet from the foyer about contributions for our Christmas Fair. Your contributions can then be brought to church from Sunday 23rd Nov or Friday 28th Nov, when we will be setting up. Watch out for our stall on Sundays in November and tell your friends and neighbours.

Photos

We are trying to create a photo database of events at St Stephen's. If you have any recent photos please do [upload them here](#).

Connect Group Update

Who are the Tuesday Group?

We are a group of Christian friends from St Stephen's who meet mainly to study the Bible and other faith-related topics – a recent example was looking at well-known paintings such as Rublev's Icon and Rembrandt's 'Raising of the Cross'. We were one of the first Connect Groups formed at St Stephen's with people living near the church originally forming the basis of the group.

When and where do you meet?

We meet at 8pm on the second and fourth Tuesday (hence the name!) of each month, at the church. We have social events, usually in a member's house, at Christmas and in July – we don't meet during August.

What do you value as a group?

We particularly value the empathy and friendship between us. This enables us to have an open exchange of views on the topics we discuss and explore aspects of our faith together. We pray for each other and for the people in our lives who would benefit from our prayers.

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

We have certainly found some of the passages we have studied challenging, eg the Book of Revelation. However, through looking into the background and meaning of these, with the help of published guides and courses, as well as discussing them in our group, we often come to a new and better understanding. Another example was studying Paul's letter to the Romans. We often find there are significant points we have missed, even in well-known stories and passages in the Bible.

Another challenge we faced last year was that our founding and long-time leader Steve left St Stephen's, but the group has carried on successfully, pursuing some of the excellent suggestions for study from its members. As a result we have learned how important the group is to us all.

What is coming up this term?

At the moment – and up to Christmas – we are studying the Holy Spirit (Cover to Cover series) throughout the Bible. So far this has certainly provided new insights and challenged our perceptions – and we have only completed two sessions.

Describe the Tuesday Group in three words.

Enthusiastic, committed, supportive

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

Yes you can. Please contact Mary Ann Auckland (mary-ann@sundive.org)



Mission Partner

Update

The Amos Trust is one of our Mission Partners who benefit from our Financial giving.

The Amos Trust (Amos) is one of our mission partners who benefit from our tithe (10% of our annual giving to church). Amos is a small creative human rights organisation that challenges injustice, builds hope and creates change by working with vibrant, grassroots partners around the world responding to poverty, oppression and conflict. Amos calls for full rights for all who call the Holy Land 'home', and opposes anything that denies these rights including speech and behaviour driven by Antisemitism, Islamophobia, and other forms of racial, religious or ethnic discrimination.

Amos celebrated 40 years of 'Doing Hope' at an event at St. John's, Waterloo in October. We heard stories of work in Nicaragua, working with farming communities facing terrible consequences of Climate Change; of work with street child organisations in India and Africa; of work in the West Bank, rebuilding Palestinian homes demolished

by settlers; of support for the Al Ahli Baptist Hospital in Gaza City and the Gazan Sunbirds (para-cyclists distributing food); and the extraordinary 'Tent of Nations' an Olive Farm south of Bethlehem, where settlers and the IDF have consistently tried to destroy olive trees and take land legally held by the Nasser family since the Ottoman days pre 1917. Speakers included founder Garth Hewitt, Director Chris Rose, Chair of Trustees Robert Cohen, leaders of Street Child organisations and Daoud Nasser from the Tent of Nations.

Sadly, the work of Amos (ref: Amos 5v24 'Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream') is as urgent as ever it was 40 years ago. The 40th Anniversary event finished with a wonderful short service ending in these words: 'We are a community that believes that another world is still possible. That no one is free until everyone is free. That justice is love made public. That light still shines in the darkness. And that two flames still burn in our hearts – the flame of anger against injustice, and the flame of hope that we can build a better world.' Amen to that!



Christmas Fair

Our annual Christmas Fair is back! A fun filled day for all ages, run entirely by us for our local community.

How to **get involved**:

- **Volunteer:** Sign up at our Sunday stall to help for an hour or two, or chat about what to donate.
- **Donate:** We need toys, books, jewellery, bric-a-brac, "good as new" gifts, and home-baked cakes or sweets. It's a perfect chance to de-clutter and recycle your treasures. (Please note no clothes, shoes, bags or electricals). Donations welcome from Sunday 23rd November.
- **Spread the word:** Take fliers and posters to share with friends, neighbours and family. Everyone is welcome!

What's happening:

Browse stalls, meet Father Christmas (free gift for 0-7 years), enjoy refreshments and connectg with others.



Why we do it:

To celebrate together, support our community and raise funds for charity. This year we are supporting the **Gurnell Grove Community Church**, to help with launching their new **Community Grocery**.

This year we will also have **eco-themed** activities in memory of Enid Barron, plus new **interactive prayer stations**.

Quotes from previous attendees:

"Atmosphere is exciting ... burgers delicious ... amazing bargains ... wonderful homemade goodies ... first glimpse of Father Christmas!"

Our organisers this year are Caroline Jamieson, Carmela Amodio-Johnson, Monika Scott and Jane Maffett. Speak to them at church or email events@ststephens-ealing.org.

Other Christmas dates for your diary

Sunday 14th Dec - 6:00pm - Carol Service

Christmas Eve - this year we will have two Christingle & Nativity services. Further details in December's issue

Midnight Communion - 11:30pm

Christmas Day - 10:30am - Whole church service with Communion



Safeguarding Sunday: Action Speaks Louder

At the very end of this month – 30th November – we will be marking Safeguarding Sunday. Now in its 7th year of raising awareness of safeguarding in local churches, this year's theme is 'Action Speaks Louder'. And it has been a sobering year, one that began with the resignation of an Archbishop over failures to act on allegations of abuse.

When it comes to safeguarding, we rarely hear the good news stories. We only hear the failures. And only hearing the failures has a corrosive impact. It can lead us to cynicism, despondency, or even worse, disengagement.

So let me say something that I've said before: I've seen so much good safeguarding practice at St Stephen's in my first 10 months here. And as your vicar, that brings joy to my heart. I also want to thank Jen Whadcoat for everything she has done as our Parish Safeguarding Officer for more than 18 years. So why do we need Safeguarding Sunday? And why do we need to be reminded that Action Speaks Louder? Three thoughts:

First, we must be wary of becoming complacent. When bad news stories come, it's easy to point the finger and say, 'we'd never do anything like that.' And maybe that's true. But without wishing to be gloomy, we're all capable of harming others. It doesn't begin with something big and obvious. It begins with something small and concealed, as if hidden in the dark. We therefore raise awareness of safeguarding to keep ourselves alert to the darkness, both within ourselves and in others.



Second, safeguarding is about recovering our prophetic voice as the Church. What do I mean by that? Justin Humphreys, the CEO of independent safeguarding charity Thirtyone:eight says this: 'If safeguarding is a matter of justice, and justice is who God is, what God does and therefore who we should be, we can see that it should be integral and essential to how we live.' He's reminding us that the heart of safeguarding is reflecting the love and justice of God in the world. It points prophetically to God's coming kingdom.

Finally, Safeguarding Sunday is a great way to hear good news about safeguarding and to be inspired to do even better together. At St Stephen's, we want to be community growing in the love of Jesus. Committing ourselves to loving each other well and to rooting out injustice is key to our vision. This means safeguarding can't be delegated to a few. Safeguarding is everyone's business, which is why we give just one of our Sundays each year to reflecting on it together.

Safeguarding Sunday, 30th November at both services.



Eco Note

Some years ago, a friend said to me 'I think this labelling of Organic on tins of food is a con, to make you pay more!' I was polite, but explained my understanding of the term. It made me wonder as an allotmentee describing my crops as grown 'organically' (working with the soil, no pesticides, insecticides, artificial fertilisers etc: How much do we all understand about the food we eat, enjoy and need? Green Christian (responding to the Cry of the Earth) has developed a great way to remember the main principles of their LOAF programme. **Local, Organic, Animal Friendly, Fairly Traded.** Food is something we all need and, as we get close to Christmas, is on many minds as we plan for parties and get-togethers. Pick up a leaflet from church to read more and decide any changes you might make in your shopping?

Job at ECWNS

Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter is looking for an Assistant Shelter Worker. Please [click here](#) to view the job description. Please contact Nilesch Patel via email nileschpatel@gmail.com

Ealing Foodbank

Please [visit their website](#) for the latest list of food items they need. 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](#) for 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:

Sutherland Avenue	The Avenue
Colebrooke Avenue	College Road
Dominion House	Sinclair House

CYPF National Training Programme: A Strategic Refocus for Growth

by Dexter Bradley

A team from St Stephen's recently attended the first of four 2-day residentials in Oxford, part of a central Church of England pilot scheme. The training is focused on developing our strategy for working with children, young people, and families (CYPF) as part of the Church of England's ambitious goal: to become "Younger and More Diverse", doubling the number of young active disciples by 2030.

The scene was set by Revd Pam McNaughton from the central Church who explained why a younger and more diverse church is, in her words, the 'priority of priorities'. In short, it's because prioritising CYPF builds up the whole church community. Everyone gets to play when the baton of faith is passed from one generation to the next, and because everyone gets to play, the whole church comes into focus.

What did we consider on this first residential?

Day 1 : Establishing Purpose and Metrics (The 'Why')

Session 1 explored **Purpose, Vision & Culture** and challenged us to identify areas of success in our work with CYPF and areas where we have room for growth.

The core of the day was Session 2, **Purpose and Measurement**. This was split into two parts.

Part 1 – Purpose. Why do we do what we do? It's in response to God's love, of course. But why do we invest our resources in some things and not in others? Does our life together reflect this sense of purpose? If not, what might need to change?



Part 2 – Measurement. Discussions here were rooted in the idea that '*What you measure becomes your purpose*'. For example, if we only measure attendance, we begin to prioritise growing our attendance. But this doesn't tell us anything about how attendees are growing as followers of Jesus. What might we need to measure to be able to show that kind of growth?

Day 2: Cultivating Culture and Strategy (The 'What, Where and How')

After a day of theory, the second day was more practical.

The main teaching input focused on **Culture and Values**. We looked at surface-level behaviours and the deep-seated values and beliefs that truly shape culture. The main takeaway was the necessity of **leading with what we value**; if the things we do aren't underpinned by the things that we value, we'll quickly go astray.

In the final session, we were tasked with making a plan of action for our work with CYPF at St Stephen's. And for us, this is initially about taking stock, looking at our resources and discerning what might need to be put in place.

We left the residential with a lot to ponder, but full of enthusiasm. We will be meeting again soon to agree on next steps, including how to engage you all in this exciting opportunity.

School Prayer Group

by Sharon Fasanya

Many of you will know us — we're the Fasanya family (Dele, Sharon, Foa, and Loe).

We've been part of the St Stephen's community for nearly 20 years.

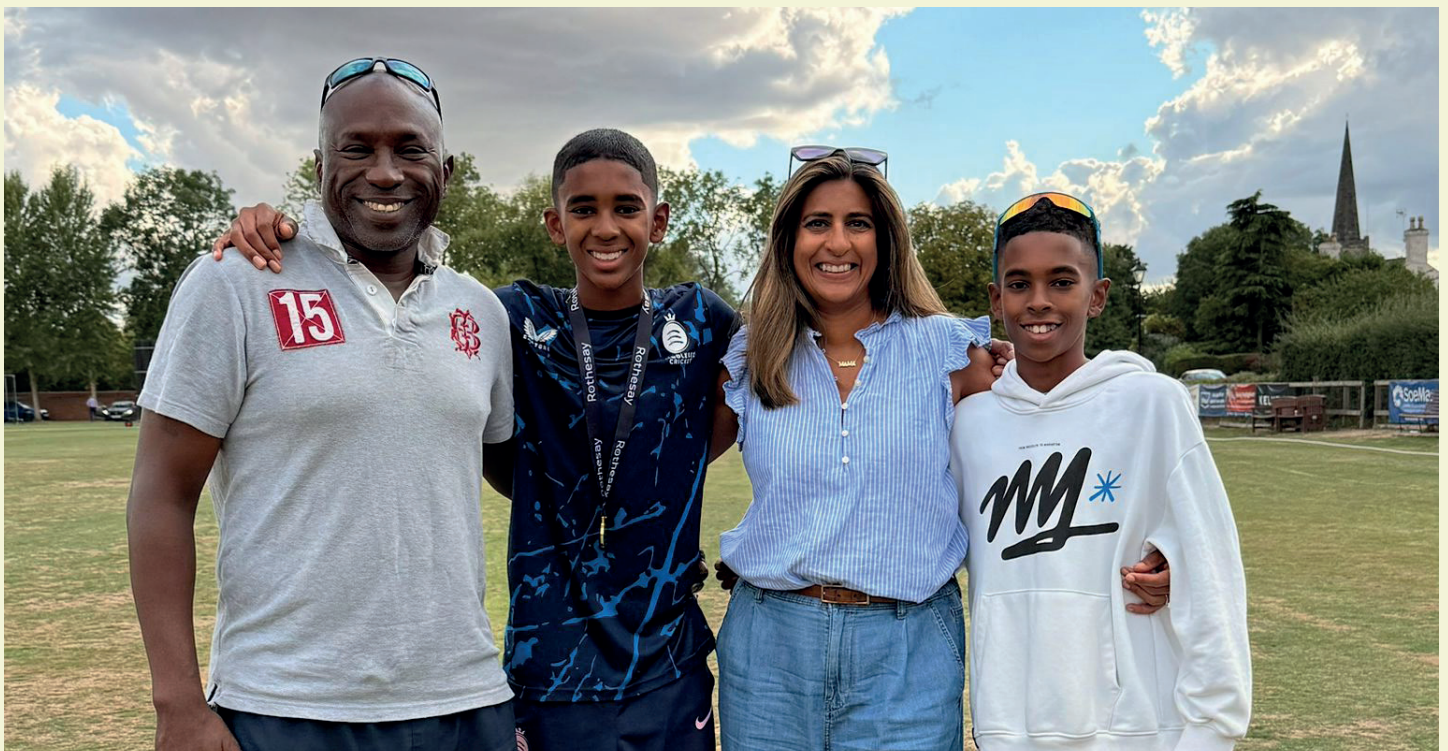
Our eldest, who's almost 15, has just begun his second year at boarding school. One of our main hopes was that he would continue to grow in his faith while away from home. Thankfully, it's a school that values faith, and Foa has chosen to join a school prayer group called Flambards. The group meets on weekday evenings after school — and even ends with pizza!

It's so encouraging to hear that so many boys, aged 13 to 18, regularly attend.

As parents of boys involved in Flambards, a few of us decided to start an online monthly prayer meeting for parents. Because it's a boarding school, many of us have never met in person and are spread across the UK and even around the world.

During our meetings, we pray together and sometimes even have sung worship. I've really felt God calling me to help lead this, and it's been such a blessing to feel more connected to the school and to our sons through it. Teachers sometimes join us in prayer, and we also have a WhatsApp group where we share prayer requests and encouragement.

United by our faith, the Flambards Parents' Prayer Group continues to grow each month through word of mouth. A few times a year, we also have the joy of meeting in person at school events.



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