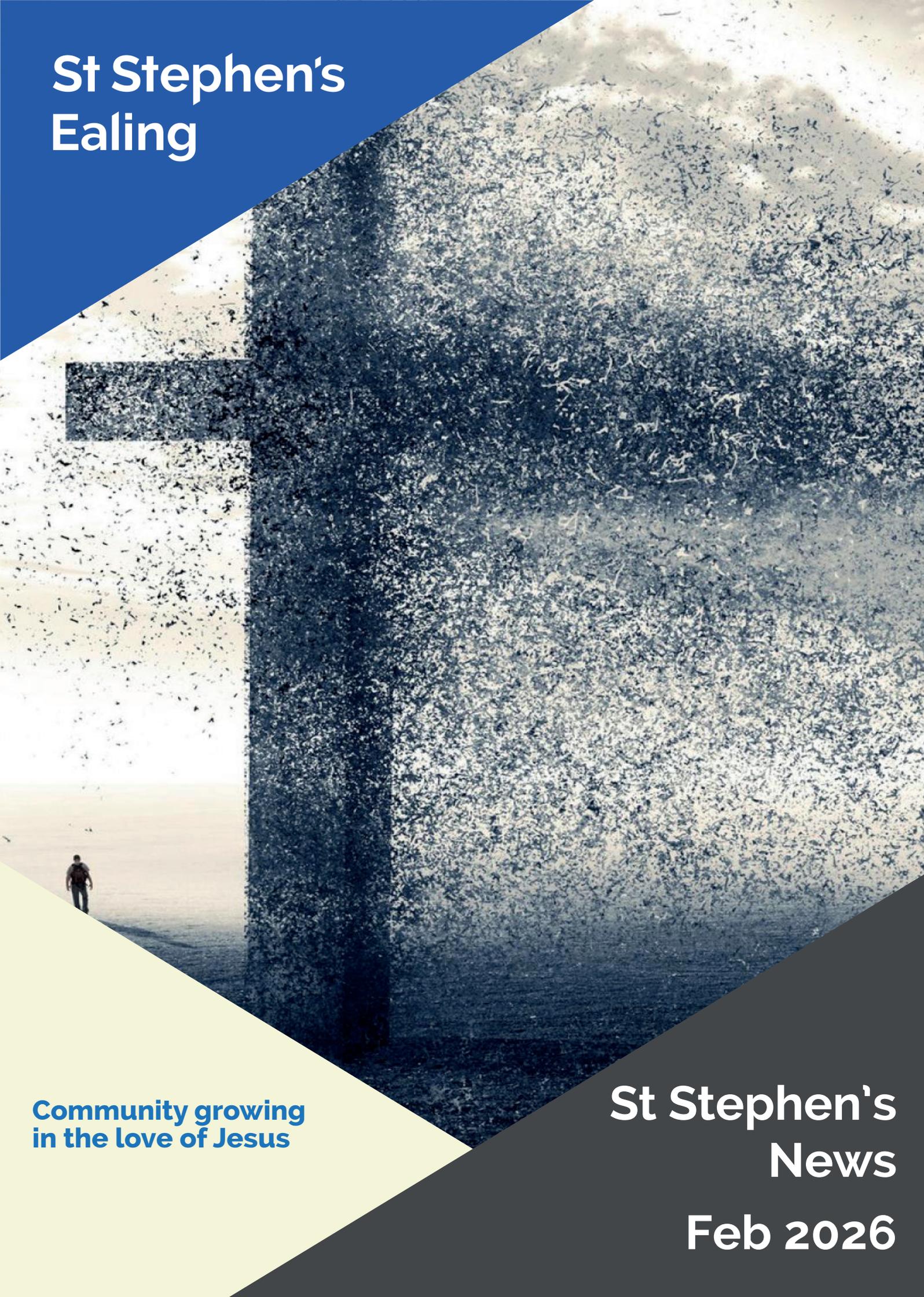


St Stephen's Ealing



**Community growing
in the love of Jesus**

**St Stephen's
News
Feb 2026**

Looking ahead to Lent



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 <i>(email admin@ststephens-ealing.org for details)</i>
Wednesday	10:00am	Midweek Communion
Sunday	9:00am	Traditional Holy Communion
	10:30am	Informal Service <i>(with children & youth groups)</i>

Monthly Calendar

January 2026

Tuesday 3 rd	8:00pm	Monthly prayer meeting
Wednesday 4 th	8:00pm	Alpha
Wednesday 11 th	8:00pm	Alpha Book Club
Wednesday 18 th	8:00pm	Alpha
Thursday 19 th	8:00pm	Film Group
Friday 20 th	6:00pm	ECWNS
Wednesday 25 th	8:00pm	Alpha
Friday 26 th	6:00pm	ECWNS

February 2026

Tuesday 3 rd	8:00pm	Monthly Prayer Gathering
Friday 6 th	6:00pm	ECWNS

Notices

Monthly Prayer Meeting

Tuesday 3rd February 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

Alpha is going really well and we have a number of people taking part. As with anything we need God's input so please do pray for those taking part and those guiding them through the course.

St David's Care Home Services

Our St Stephen's team will be running a Candlemas Hymns of Praise on **Sunday 1st February at 1:45pm** and a Communion Service on **Monday 23rd February at 11:00am**. 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.

TeaTimers

On **Friday 6th February 2:30-4:00pm** TeaTimers will be welcoming George and Mary Ann Auckland who will be running a Magic Lantern show. All welcome.

Book Club

This month we meet on **11th February at 8:00pm** and will be discussing *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro. The group is open to all. No need to book, just turn up or speak to [Morgen Edwards](#) for more information. Our March read will be *Eddie Winston is Looking for Love* by Marianne Cronin.

Pancake Party

Our Children's and Youth Teams will be running a Pancake Party on **Tuesday 17th February from 5:00-7:00pm** for Children, Young People and their families. There will be activities, games, races, worship and Jacket Potatoes followed by a Pancake Pudding

table. Please share with friends and family. Also so we have an idea of numbers please [click here to sign up](#).

CYPF

You may remember back in our November issue we told you about a CYPF (Children, Young People and Families) National Training Programme that six of us are taking part in. Since the last update we have continued to meet to talk through our ideas and recently met with our mentor, Phil, a former Archdeacon. The team will hopefully be sharing their ideas soon. Please do continue to pray for them.

Greetings Cards

We're launching a new upcycling charity initiative at St Stephen's Church and would love your support! Many of us receive beautiful greeting cards for birthdays, Christmas, and other occasions that we don't always keep—so instead of throwing them away, we're giving them a second life. Please bring in any greeting cards you no longer want. We'll carefully reuse the front designs to create refreshed cards, mounted on new blank card and finished with "St Stephen's Church" on the back. These will be sold in church and at church events, with proceeds supporting St Stephen's Church and our partner charities. If you'd like to help with the cutting and assembling of the cards, please let Hanna Crouch or Morgen know.

Our first and biggest need is your unwanted greeting cards, so please do bring them into church and help us get this project started!

Mission Partner

Update by Sue Charlton

Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter

Winter Night Shelter in Ealing began in 2011 after an ecumenical group of Churches here felt the need to offer respite for rough sleepers in the winter. St. Stephen's joined, hosting in February 2012.

Twenty Churches provide 6 weeks each over three 'seasons' - the end of November to Christmas/New Year: January – mid February: Mid-February to end of March. Our guests move from one church to another each night, being offered a warm welcome from 7.30pm, a comfortable bed for the night and good breakfast in the morning. Most importantly, we offer companionship and serve all faiths and none. Our purpose is to uphold values of dignity, respect, honesty, inclusion, hope and love.

Ealing has the 4th highest number of rough sleepers of all 32 London Boroughs! Conditions for rough sleepers worsen as the weather turns cold in Winter, and all are vulnerable to abuse and worse.

Our guests are mostly referred by St. Mungo's and Ealing Soup Kitchen. All have to agree to rules of not bringing drink or drugs into the Shelter. Most importantly, they are supported by our wonderful Shelter Worker, who gives endless help to transition people into permanent and dignified accommodation. She helps them find work or training, and ensures that any medical needs are met.

I bumped into a past guest just a few weeks ago. He was with a friend admiring my old Beetle as I approached it in Waitrose car park with a load of shopping. He remembered seeing it at St. Stephen's when he was a guest at WNS a couple of years ago, and remembered me! I asked how he was now? 'Good' he replied. 'A permanent place in a hostel, and working hard with Rise on my drinking'. He asked about St. Stephen's and thanked us for our part in his recovery

Would you like to join us (even for one shift) to help more homeless people this winter? Each Friday night/Saturday morning we need: Cooks for supper and breakfast; and a minimum of 11 volunteers to work shifts for evening, overnight and morning as well as a driver with a big car to transport beds to the next Church. It's a wonderful way to meet other members of church, learn and share so much with new and interesting people. Contact me on sacharlton@btinternet.com.

[Please click here for a YouTube video about Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter.](#)



Annual General Meeting and Parochial Church Council

What is the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)?

An APCM is a yearly meeting each Church of England church must hold for lay members on the Electoral Roll and clergy. At St Stephen's, we hold ours in May. This year our meeting will be on **Sunday 17th May 2026 at 6:00pm**.

The APCM is a key governance meeting where reports on finances, church matters and safeguarding are presented. It is to ensure accountability and community involvement in the life of the parish.

What is a Parochial Church Council? (PCC)

The PCC is the main governing body for a Church of England parish, acting as a charity responsible for the church's finances, buildings, and mission, working alongside the parish clergy to manage church affairs, promote the church's work, and make decisions on local matters like services and welfare. Members include the parish priest, churchwardens, and elected representatives from the congregation's Electoral Roll, with a legal duty to act as charity trustees.

What is a church Electoral Roll?

An electoral roll (ER) is a parish's official register of its voting members, similar to a civic electoral roll. This allows those who are members to vote on church matters, attend the APCM and stand for the Parochial Parish Council (PCC).

Do I qualify to join the PCC?

There are a few criteria needed to join the PCC, they are:

- Must be 16 or over (or turning 16 in the next 12 months). Applicants will only be added once they've reached 16.
- Must be a baptised member of the Church of England or a church in communion

with the Church of England.

- Live in the parish **or** have been habitually attending services in this parish for a minimum of six months.

Do I have to join the Electoral Roll?

No, you absolutely do not have to join, but if you consider St Stephen's to be your current spiritual home or already consider yourself a member of St Stephen's then we greatly encourage you to join. You cannot stand for PCC or vote at the APCM if you are not on the Electoral Roll. Also there are no costs involved in becoming a member.

What positions are available on the PCC?

We have two Churchwarden positions available. If you are considering this role please speak directly to our Vicar, David Baylor who can provide a role description.

At the APCM there will be three positions available for election to the PCC and three for the Deanery Synod.

Deanery Synod is a representative governing body for a group of CofE parishes (a deanery) that connects local church life with the wider diocese.

How many meetings would I have to attend?

The PCC meet bi-monthly and have a very short meeting together after the APCM. This means there will be a minimum of seven meetings per year. There are occasionally additional extraordinary meetings but the PCC try to avoid these.

When and how are meetings held?

The PCC meetings are held on Mondays from 8:0-10:00pm and dates are given out annually in advance where possible. The PCC meet in the small hall attached to the church. Whilst it is preferable to meet face to face the PCC has, this year, started hybrid meetings with those unable to attend in person joining us online via Teams.

How do I join the Electoral Roll?

It's as simple as completing a form which you can find in our foyer opposite the church office. Alternatively speak to our Electoral Roll Officer, Morgen Edwards and she can do it all online for you.

Morning Prayer

By Susan Dixon

We pray alone, by ourselves, a quiet time with Our Lord; we pray together at big Sunday Services or in small groups as at Lent courses, but what about praying in small groups using liturgy? What is a liturgy? It's just a service which has a shape, like our Sunday Communion Service, with parts always the same, parts which change with the church's seasons, one or two Bible readings and usually time for each person to voice their own prayers.

For the last 25-30 years Morning Prayer, just such a liturgical service, has been said at St Stephens. For most of that time it was said in church at 8am, providing a daily prayerful start to the day on behalf of the congregation, and for the congregation, by those who were available to be there.

For some time Covid put a stop to our meeting to say Morning Prayer together, until we began to use Zoom, two mornings a week with Enid and I taking it in turns to lead the service. Things changed again and now we have a "hybrid" system. Murray Langton and our vicar David take turns leading Morning Prayer on Mondays and Fridays in church, and David and I share leading on Zoom on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The other change is that all 4 Morning Prayer services now begin at 9am.

Why not come and see whether this kind of service might add to your repertoire of ways of praying? The service lasts a little under half an hour, you have the choice of two ways of joining in. Please speak to Morgen Edwards in the office, David, Murray or myself.



And why have I enjoyed making Morning Prayer part of my week for nigh on 20 years? Well, I grew up with liturgy, I believe that I learnt all the set parts of the Communion Service by singing them before I could read - the services at my home church were all sung. I have attended services that did not have a set pattern, mainly at Methodist and Baptist churches and have found them rewarding, useful and enlightening, but for me personally a liturgical service helps me to focus add to worship. So joining with others to say Morning Prayer is a "good fit" for me and makes a pattern for my week. I liked being at church for 8 before Covid and now, somewhat older, I enjoy joining others on Zoom at 9:00am!



Eco Note

- Recycle your ink cartridges in the Recycle4Charity box opposite the Vestry door. Our chosen charity is Christian Aid. Last month £18 was raised this way by us.
- Recycle any jars (1lb size or Bonne Maman) for use in bottling marmalade and other preserves sold at the Christmas Fair. Leave next to Recycle4Charity box for collection
- Take part in Climate Stewards Carbon Fast as we enter the season of Lent - giving new ways to cut your carbon footprint and invite you to focus on God, considering the whole of his Creation. go to: climatestewards.org/resources/carbon-fast/
- For more practical ways to enjoy and nurture nature sign up to Wild Christian - A Rocha

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:

Cleveland Road
North Avenue
Courtfield Gardens
Manor Road

Kent Avenue
Argyle Road
Drayton Green
Sutherland Road

Contact us

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Jane Maffett	Treasurer	finance@ststephens-ealing.org
Chris and Helen Irwin-Childs	Giving Coordinators	giving@ststephens-ealing.org
Sally Horattides	St David's Communion	sallyhorattides@btopenworld.com
Pete Devereux	St David's Hymns of Praise	jandpdevereux@hotmail.co.uk