

St Stephen's Ealing



Community growing
in the love of Jesus

St Stephen's
News
May 2026

A note from Hannah



I'm sure I'm not the only one feeling a sense of anticipation and hopefulness as we head into May. The days are getting longer and longer, the sun is (mostly!) shining brighter and brighter, and the blueberries Josiah and I planted in October might, just might be on their way to bearing fruit. There is growth and renewal in the world around us. And this season in the Church's life also invites us to spiritual growth and renewal.

In just a couple of weeks, we'll be celebrating the fraternal feasts of the Ascension and Pentecost, two occasions where the work of God communicates not just something of his power and glory, but also of his immense love for his world and for us human beings as the crown of his creation. David will tell you that I can literally talk for hours about the Ascension and its importance for our lives, but when we gather to celebrate it on May 14th (8pm in the church), I promise to be pithy!

We are a loved and cherished part of God's creation, and scripture tells us that in Christ, we are a 'new creation,' 'the old has gone, the new has come.' 2 Corinthians 5:17. What a beautiful promise to us, that we are ever more transformed into the likeness of Christ and that as we are transformed, so the power of God within us transforms the world around us. So I invite you to reflect on what renewal and growth is happening in your spiritual life and in the life of St Stephen's and if you would like to, please do share the stories of where you are seeing God at work.

There is a lot on this month, not just Ascension and Pentecost, but also the APCM (6.30pm on 17th) and Christian Aid Week (10th-17th). There is also a lot on in our wider lives; there are young people in our congregation with exams and coursework deadlines; there is half-term and bank holidays with the planning and travel they entail; and there are all the things known to us which we are carrying, some of which are light burdens, others which are considerably heavier. Whatever this month holds, know that God holds you. God holds you and journeys with you through the growth and renewal, through the pruning, through the feeling buried by dark earth moments. And you are his new creation, fearfully and wonderfully made and so completely and perfectly loved.

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

May 2026

Tuesday 5th	8:00pm	Monthly prayer meeting
Thursday 7th	All Day	Polling station
Sunday 10th	10:00-10:30am 3pm	Christian Aid Sale (Cakes and Plants) CORO Choir
Monday 11th	8:00pm	PCC Meeting
Thursday 14th	8:00pm	Ascension Service
Saturday 16th	2:00pm	Women's Afternoon Tea <i>(with speaker)</i>
Sunday 17th	10:00-10:30am 6:30pm	Christian Aid Sale (Books and Games) APCM
Thursday 21st	8:00pm	Film Group

June 2026

Tuesday 2nd	8:00pm	Monthly prayer meeting
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Save the Date

Sunday 28th June	9:00am & 10:30am	We welcome our new Curate, Alison
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Notices

Monthly Prayer Meeting

Tuesday 5th May 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.

Polling Station

St Stephen's main hall will turn into our local Polling Station on Thursday 7th May.

Christian Aid Week

Saturday 9th - Freedom Walk from St Martin's-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square to St Paul's. (Speak to Sue Charlton for more details)

Sunday 10th - We will host a guest speaker from Christian Aid as well as hold a sale of Cakes and Plants during Cafe time between services.

At 3:00pm there will be a concert by CORO Choir, led by former St Stephen's member Helen Vickery, with tea to follow.

Sunday 17th - Sale of Books and Games during Cafe time between services.

Through the week: could you post 'no delivery' envelopes through the doors of homes in your street? Your neighbours could either donate online or return the envelopes to your home.

Sponsored Walk: Sue Charlton will be walking the streets of Ealing to do 70k in May. Scan the QR code for more info.



PCC and APC Meetings

Please pray for the PCC (the church trustees) as they meet on **Monday 11th May** before the Annual Meeting on **Sunday 17th May at 6:30pm.**

St David's Care Home Services

Our St Stephen's team will be running a Communion Service on **Monday 18th May 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. There will be no hymns of praise services until Sunday 5th July.

Menopause, Midlife Faith and Me Talk and Tea with author Jayne Manfredi

Anglican deacon, author and broadcaster Jayne Manfredi, will be speaking at St Stephen's Church Ealing on **Saturday 16th May 2026 2:00-4:00pm.** She tackles the topics of midlife and theology in a witty and deeply personal way, destigmatising women's experiences and using biblical reflection to face the menopause head on. Tea/coffee and cake will be served. Please sign up below. Voluntary contribution £3, Pay it forward £6 (donate a ticket). Cash or card on the door. So we know numbers [please sign up here.](#)

Book Club

We are not meeting in May. Join us again on Wednesday **10th June at 8:00pm.**

A request to families with young children

Celia Manwaring has good friends in Northern Italy. Their daughter, with 2 young children (girl age 6 years & boy 3.5 years) would like to link up with a British family to enable the children to make new friends, experience a new culture and learn some English. She'd ideally like to rent a spare room in a family house for 10 days in July or August. If it works well, it could be a reciprocal exchange, giving the opportunity to visit a small town in Northern Italy. If you would like to host this family or would like more information please speak to Celia directly or email her celia.manwaring@gmail.com.

Adelle Sullivan

We were sorry to hear of the death last week of Adelle, a long-standing member of St Stephen's, regular until she and her husband had to move nearer family. We send our love and prayers to her husband Alex, daughter Nadeen, grand-daughter Akiema and the family.

Update from the CYPF team

In April our CYPF team returned to Oxford for our second, of four, over-night residentials. Along with the leaders from Lead Academy, who are running the course, and groups from five other churches we settled in for the residential which takes place over two days and is packed full of a mix of team exercises and lecture style teaching.

This residential focused on Leadership and there were four sessions:

1: Where are you now?

We looked back at our 'Execute Plan' which is the plan we'd made at the end of the last residential with actions and ideas we wanted to take forward over the following six months to 1 year. We also heard from other churches, reflecting on the things that went well (or not so well) for them over the previous six months and learning from their experiences.

2: What is needed for CYP to Flourish?

Reflecting on our work with children and young people, we considered what good leadership looks like, remembering that the Vicar can't and doesn't have to do it all! We focused on leadership that is rooted in God and shaped by the relationships we keep, and the spiritual rhythms we adopt (both personal

and shared). We were asked to consider 'What is it you need to take hold of or let go of so that your leadership brings space for renewal?'

3: Developing Leaders

This looked at how to spot good leaders and mentor them. One model that stuck out for us was called The Apprentice Model. We considered how Jesus' own approach to leading and teaching his disciples took on this dynamic of being a mentor to an apprentice.

As well as Developing Leaders we looked at 'Working Effectively as a Team', reflecting on Bruce Tuckman's, Forming, Storming, Norming, Performing, Adjourning lifecycle for teams. We also explored Patrick Lencioni's bestselling book, 'The Five Dysfunctions of Team' and how we can nurture teams that work well together.

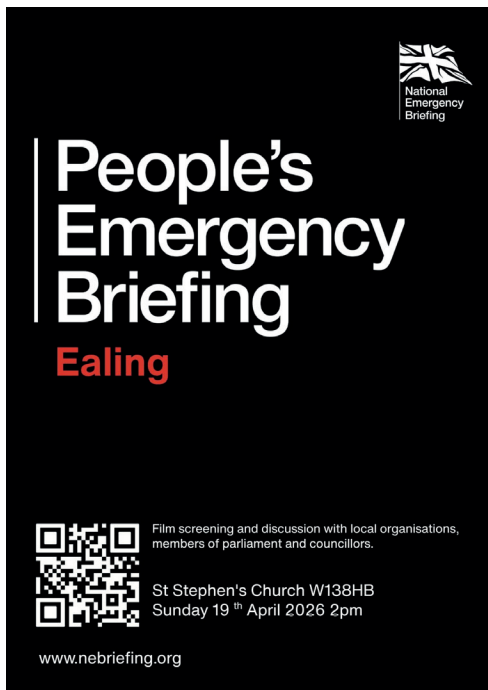
4: Vision & Strategy

Here we once again looked at what we thought our next steps should be. At our first residential we'd come up with some long-term goals so this time we considered ideas that we could get moving or implement in a fairly short time frame.



Eco and Community Updates

People & Planet Gathering



About 16 of us enjoyed a bring and shared lunch before many more joined us to see the National Emergency Briefing - a short film describing the Climate Crisis by scientists internationally recognised for their skills and knowledge in the various areas which will be compromised.

In short talks, with graphs, figures and alarming film clips we heard the speed and gravity now in areas of our daily lives; our weather, farming and food security, health, economy, biodiversity etc. It was presented by Chris Packham, with other celebrities such as Deborah Meaden of Dragons Den.

Sixty four of us from St Stephen's, other churches and from environmental groups working in Ealing e.g. Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, Ealing Wildlife, Christian Climate Action/Laudati Si, and more watched the film before we discussed our reactions to it.

While we were all fairly familiar with the issues we were all profoundly shocked at the frequency and severity of it all and the implications for the future.

But there is hope! Hope that with pressure on our Politicians things can and should change. There IS stuff we can do e.g. eat less meat, don't waste food, adapt to the use of renewables, drive and fly less etc.

We've set up a WhatsApp group for those wanting to join us, and will soon be making plans to write to and meet with MPs. Ours was one of the first such Screenings. Over 2,000 more are planned across the UK during Spring and Summer. See www.nebriefing.org or call Sue Charlton on 07908 840 954 for more information.

Ealing Foodbank

Please [visit their website](http://www.ealingfoodbank.org) 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

A recent letter from Food Bank reports that we now regularly give food to feed 650-700 people per week at the Centres we hold in our Borough. We also offer free face-to-face debt advice, training opportunities, benefits and housing advice and many take up these opportunities to help themselves out of poverty. Sadly as numbers increase, donations have severely decreased in recent years.

Food Bank is struggling to provide what's needed. Please support Food Bank if you

possibly can. A weekly donation of long-life or tinned food is always appreciated. Bring to church and pop in the green box opposite the Office/Vestry, or donate online to Ealing Food Bank. We are mounting a special campaign next month as the school holidays approach and families will struggle even more with kids at home.

Eco Church

Celebrate 10 years since A Rocha UK started it! We registered in February 2016. The five surveys have since been revised, and we hope to do more to edge towards a Gold Award! In the meantime, watchout for news of ways we can celebrate all that Eco Church has done in making us more aware of what we have and how to be more sustainable.

Annual Church Meeting

This takes place on Sunday 17th May at 6:30pm.

The APCM has several functions and requirements, including reports on finance, the state of our church property and safeguarding. More broadly though, it is a time of giving thanks for what God has been doing among us over the last year, and looking forward to where he might be leading us. It is also the occasion on which we appoint people to key roles who will shape our life together at St Stephen's over the coming year(s) by serving on the Parochial Church Council (more on that in a moment).

The meeting is open to anyone who calls St Stephen's home, but in order to vote or stand for any of the roles available, you need to be on the Electoral Roll.

Nominations for the PCC (3), Deanery Synod (3) and Churchwarden (4) positions are now open.

Vacant since last year's APCM, churchwardens are key leaders who work closely with David as vicar to ensure the smooth and effective running of St Stephen's as both people and place. They are *ex-officio* members of the PCC whose core task is to oversee our life together at St Stephen's. If you sense God might be calling you into this role specifically, please have a chat with David and he can provide you with a role description.

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:

Kingsley Avenue	Rutland Avenue
Lynton Avenue	Gordon Road
Langham Gardens	Carlton Road
Oak Tree Close	Pinewood Grove

Contact us

St Stephen's Church
St Stephen's Road
Ealing
London W13 8HD

Phone: 020 8991 0164

Email: admin@ststephens-ealing.org

Website: www.ststephens-ealing.org



Contact Details

David Baylor	Vicar	david@ststephens-ealing.org
Jack Cahill	Premises Manager	bookings@ststephens-ealing.org
Morgen Edwards	Communications Manager & Children's Worker	admin@ststephens-ealing.org
Stephen Turner	Worship and Youth Pastor	stephen@ststephens-ealing.org
Jane Maffett	Safeguarding Officers	safeguarding@ststephens-ealing.org
	Treasurer	finance@ststephens-ealing.org
	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