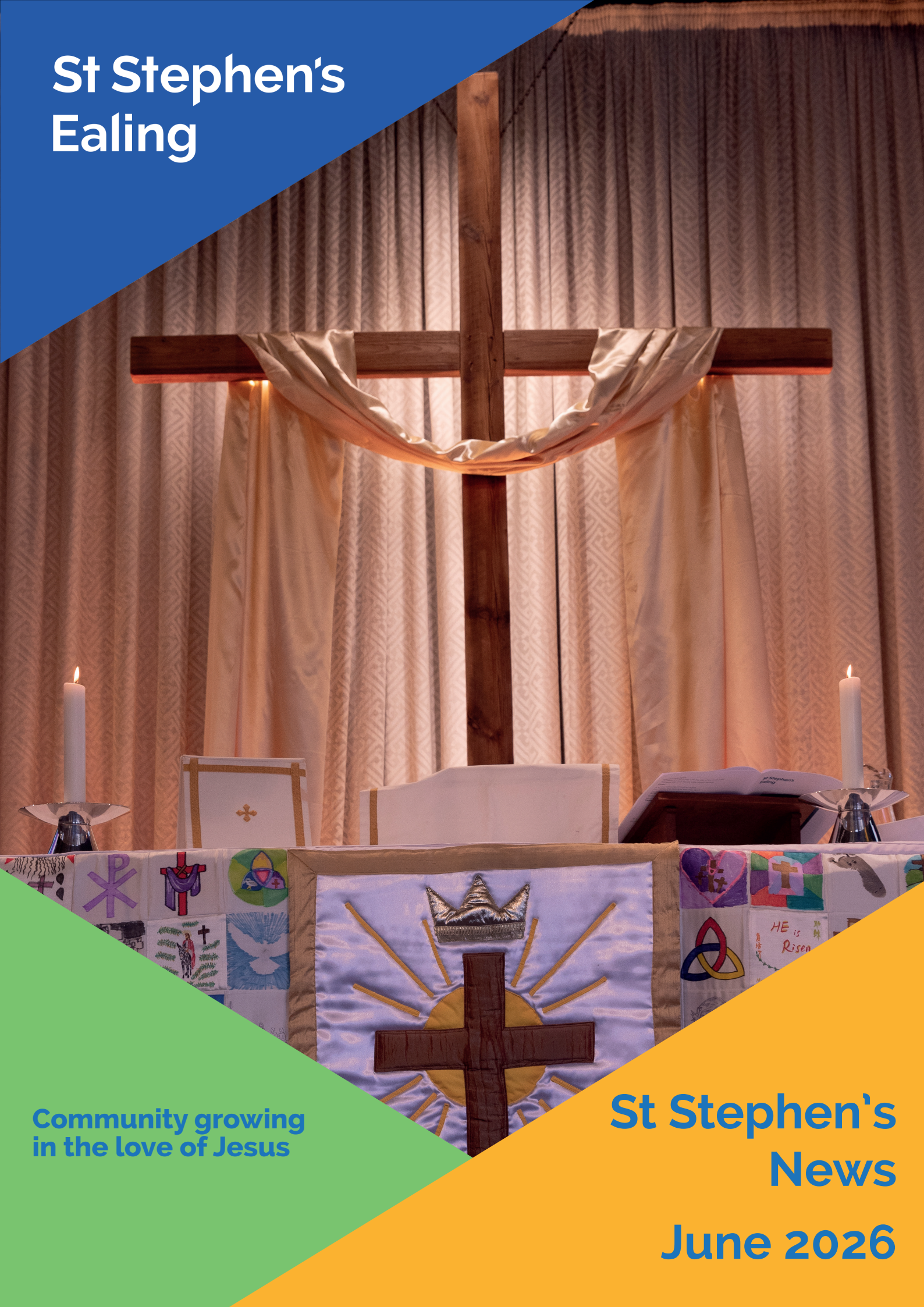


St Stephen's Ealing



Community growing
in the love of Jesus

St Stephen's
News
June 2026

A note from David



As June begins, we step across a threshold from a time of feasts and festivals (e.g. Easter and Pentecost) and into 'ordinary time'. Over the summer and autumn, we're invited to embrace the Christian faith in the everyday, learning how to follow Jesus in all the ups and downs of life (i.e. life in 'ordinary' time).

Don't be fooled though, because there is nothing ordinary about the God we worship! There is nothing ordinary about a God who became one of us. There is nothing ordinary about a God who is prepared to suffer and experience the full force of death. There is nothing ordinary about a God who is three Persons in perfect unity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And there is nothing ordinary about a God who chooses us – fallen, broken, vulnerable, weak us – to be his hands and feet in the world and reveal his love. There is nothing ordinary about the God we worship.

I think of the weather – bear with me on this! At time of writing, it is miserably wet outside. We've had some unseasonably cold weather. There's a small tree on St Stephen's Road that has been snapped in two by the wind. We've had flash hailstorms, giving the ground in some places the appearance of snow. And now we're gearing up for a heatwave!

Biblically speaking, the weather points to the majesty, the grandeur and the glory of God. It's something we read about in the book of Job, one of the oldest, if not the oldest book of the Bible. Job has

known the ups and downs of life. He had everything, and then he had everything taken away. He journeyed through what one Christian mystic called 'the dark night of the soul', where what he thought he knew of God failed to make sense of his experience. His friends tried to comfort him with the rather curious tactic of pinning the blame on him. And Job, lonely and perplexed, questions God, even holds God to account. In chapter 38, after all kinds of theological to-ing and fro-ing and plenty of grumbling, the Lord God responds out of a storm:

'Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?' (verse 4)

'Have you ever commanded the morning to appear and caused the dawn to rise in the east?' (verse 12)

'Have you explored the springs from which the seas come? Have you explored their depths?' (verse 16)

'Have you visited the storehouses of the snow or seen the storehouses of hail?' (verse 22)

'Who sends rain to satisfy the parched ground and make the tender grass spring up?' (verse 27)

'Can you shout to the clouds and make it rain?' (verse 34)

'Who gives intuition to the heart and instinct to the mind?' (verse 36)

Continues page 5

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

June 2026

Monday 1st	8:00pm	Monthly Prayer Meeting
Tuesday 2nd	7:00pm	PCC Training
Wednesday 10th	8:00pm	Book Group
Friday 12th	6:30pm	Youth Group
Monday 15th	11:00am	Communion at St David's
Thursday 18th	8:00pm	Film Group
Saturday 20th	9:30am-12:00pm	Sleeves Up Saturday
Friday 26th	6:30pm	Youth Group
Sunday 28th	10:00am	Whole Church Communion to be followed by a welcome lunch for Alison.

July 2026

Tuesday 7th	8:00pm	Monthly prayer meeting
-------------	--------	------------------------

Save the Date

2nd August	3:00pm	Pimm's and Hymns
------------	--------	------------------

Notices

Monthly Prayer Meeting

Monday 1st June at 8pm. Please note the different day of the week! 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.

Book Club

Will be meeting on **Wednesday 10th June at 8:00pm** to discuss *A Spy at War* by Charles Beaumont and *The Names* by Florence Knapp. This group is open to all speak to Morgen or just turn up.

Film Group

They will meet on **Thursday 18th June at 8:00pm**. Please speak to Chris Nicholson for more information.

St David's Care Home Services

Our St Stephen's team will be running a Comunion Service on **Monday 15th June 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.

Youth Group

Our Youth Group is open to any young person from year 7-11. Please speak to Stephen Turner for more information. They will be meeting on **Friday 12th and Friday 26th June at 6:30pm**.

Alison Ingram

Our new Curate, Alison will be licensed at Deacon at St Paul's Cathedral on **Saturday 27th June**. We have some tickets available. Please speak to David about tickets if you would like to come along.

On **Sunday 28th June** we will be holding one service at 10:00am after which we will hold a welcome lunch. Further details TBC.

We are putting together a hamper for Alison if you would like to contribute to this please bring any items in by Sunday 7th June.

Ealing Food Bank

St. Stephen's has long supported Ealing Food Bank (EFB), especially at Harvest Festival.

As the cost-of-living increases, donations have decreased, but they are hoping to help families who find themselves in a difficult situation over the summer holidays, unsure of where the food for their next meal will come from. By donating long-life foods to the Summer Meals Appeal, you can provide people in crisis with much needed food and access to free, life changing professional advice on debts, housing and benefits.

There are 'Summer Meals Appeal' bags at church, each with a printed list of goods needed. Could you grab a bag, fill it with the goods asked for, and return to church by 5th July so we can deliver the donations to Ealing Food Bank before the summer holidays? Please make a difference to a family this summer! Any queries, please speak to Sue Charlton 07908840954. Thank you.

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:

Sherborne Gardens	Wimborne Gardens
Limewood Close	St Stephen's Road
Albany Road	Arlington Road
Waldeck Road	

Continued from page 2

'Who provides food for the ravens when their young cry out to God and wander about in hunger?' (verse 41)

There are so many things that we take for granted, so many ordinary aspects of life, and in all of them God's glory is revealed. The question is: do we notice?

The prophet Elijah faced a similar encounter with God. He'd simply had enough of life and went into hiding. But the Lord God draws him out. Elijah hears a powerful, mountain-splitting wind. He feels an earthquake. He sees a fire. All of these natural events were traditionally signs of God's presence. But God wasn't in any of them. Instead, God encountered Elijah in a gentle whisper, a voice that could so easily be missed had Elijah not been listening for it.

Ordinary Time is about learning to listen for that still small voice of our extraordinary God. It's about learning to pay attention to him when we don't have the highs of Christian feasts and celebrations to encourage us along. It's about learning to worship God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – in all of life. And so, as we step into this Summer, that's what we'll be exploring more together: how we can worship God for all that he's worth in all the ordinariness of life.

Let's listen for that still small voice together this Summer. And if you feel that God is saying something to you that may be for the wider church, please don't hesitate to email me: david@ststephens-ealing.org.

With every blessing,



David

Christian Aid Week May 2026

Wow! What a week we had! Starting on Saturday 9th May, 10 of us joined 200 others for the Freedom Walk starting at St. Martins-in-the-Field for a circuitous route to St. Paul's Cathedral. A lovely day with fascinating churches and other places to see along the way.

On Sunday 10th May, our guest speaker from Christian Aid, Brian Martin, spoke with great interest and insight at both our services. That afternoon Helen Vickery's wonderful choir CORO performed a lovely concert, which we followed with a very good tea party for those who attended.

Through the week many of us delivered envelopes in streets close to where we live, inviting donations. And during Café times on both 10th and 17th May, we held sales of Cakes, Plants, Books and Jigsaws/ Table Top Games.

In addition, Sue Charlton has been walking a sponsored 70K in May for Christian Aid.

The money has now been counted and banked and estimated gift aid offered. It's calculated we raised £2,512.13. Christian Aid will send this and other money from Christian Aid Week around the UK, direct to Beacon of Hope in Nairobi, Kenya to help people like Fridah, who has been supported with soil, seeds and tools to grow food for her family.

Very many thanks to all who donated, sponsored walks, came to the concert or provided goods for sale and bought goods. We couldn't do without your help!

An interview with Alison Ingram



Tell us a little bit about yourself

I grew up in rural Northern Ireland in an area where going to church was just what people did – church was the place for worship but also the hub for socialising and community events. Arriving in Nottingham for university, the contrast was enormous – church didn't feature at all! I slid into my twenties, still with a faith, but living a lifestyle that was quite some distance from reflecting this... After finishing my law degree I went on to complete my training as a solicitor before leaving the commercial world and moving into the charity sector. While studying and training I worked as a doctor's receptionist and waitressed at different points and my learning from those roles has proven far more useful in ministry than any legal knowledge I gained!

Following the end of a relationship I felt a nudge from God to do the Alpha course,

which was the start of a new chapter for me. I completed the course and knew I needed to recentre myself on God. I got stuck into church life, serving on pretty much every team going, moving into a flat share with others from my church and rediscovering the beauty of a local community serving God. After a stint as Church Warden, including an interregnum, I heard God again, this time with backing vocals from people in my church, that I should explore ordination. It took time to get my head around this but eventually I ended up at St. Mellitus. I've loved that I've been able to continue working in my role at Age UK while studying and also learning a huge amount in my placement church in Hanwell.

Tell us a bit more about your role at Age UK (which you've just finished). What kind of things were you working on?

I worked at Age UK for 14 years and am passionate about the need to reframe how we, as a society, view ageing. While at Age UK I often reflected on the roles of Anna and Simeon when Jesus was presented in the Temple (Luke 2), each bringing the depth of their experience and faith to recognise the Messiah.

The wide range of roles I held at Age UK covered a host of areas including support for local information and advice teams across the country, development of a new quality standard for the delivery of support to older people, renegotiation of the central legal agreement that binds together the 120 organisations in the Age UK network and, most recently, the Act Now, Age Better campaign, which encourages all of us to take steps now to support our later lives. You can see some inspiring people doing just this in the Team Age Better film here. I'm grateful for my time at Age UK and trust that God will use this experience in future – nothing is wasted in the Kingdom.

What have been some of the best parts of your training?

It took some time to get back into the swing of studying after a two-decade gap, but I've loved my time at St. Mellitus, particularly the combination of formal lectures and learning about the richness of the church from students of different traditions. The Sacramental Theology module resonated with me especially. Digging into the theological basis for significant acts like baptism and Holy Communion gave me a new appreciation for the sacraments and a deeper knowledge of the important role these play in our faith. Alongside this I loved being part of the community at St. Mary's in Hanwell. I gained so much from seeing God at work in a church that is entirely different from those I have been part of in the past. I'm very grateful for what God taught me in that season and look forward to all I will learn at St. Stephen's.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I love running and am looking forward to finding my new local Park Run! I took up pilates during lockdown and, having done a desk-based role for many years, have found it invaluable in keeping me moving. Despite having lived in London for nearly two decades I still delight in having access to so much theatre and live music and take advantage of this at every opportunity. Likewise, abundant transport links make it easy to get out of the city and one of my favourite things to do is gather together a group of friends for a long walk in the country with a lunchtime pit stop at a good pub.

What are you looking forward to as you prepare to join us at St Stephen's?

I can't wait to get to know the people of St. Stephen's, to see how God is at work and to join in with that. Everyone I've crossed

paths with has been incredibly welcoming and supportive, which is appreciated. Up to this point I've always been working full-time alongside serving in church and I'm very much looking forward to focusing solely on church. I'm also excited to be available in the daytime during the week and to be involved in ministries happening at these times. Previously I've not been able to do this due to work commitments, so this will be something new for me. Overall, I'm looking forward to serving the community and learning as much as I can from all of you.

How can we pray for you?

I would value prayer for finishing college well. I have some extra responsibilities for the final residential weekend in June so prayers that this is a good ending and celebration for all final year students would be appreciated. I would be thankful for prayers that my move to West Ealing goes smoothly and I settle swiftly in my new home. Finally, that I would have a good beginning at St. Stephen's and God would be making the way before me.

Finally, three quick fire questions:

Favourite story? This is difficult, I love reading! I might choose East of Eden by John Steinbeck or A Room with a View by E. M. Forster

Favourite food? It's so hot today my mind is turning towards Nicoise salad but I enjoy pretty much any food (aside from bananas!)

Biggest life hero/heroine? It's tempting to choose a Biblical character, or someone who has been influential in my life, but I'll go for two other, contrasting options – St. Hild of Whitby and Dolly Parton. Both women of faith living out the path that God called them to in challenging circumstances.

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
Karen de Sa Nicole Stokoe	Safeguarding Officers	safeguarding@ststephens-ealing.org
Jane Maffett	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