

St Stephen's Ealing



Community growing
in the love of Jesus

St Stephen's News
September 2026

New beginnings

by Alison Ingram

Despite not needing a set square for more than 25 years, the start of September always makes me think of new stationery, a new schoolbag and at least one evening spent covering books with leftover wrapping paper. Although those days are long gone for me, there is a sense of new beginnings at this time of year, of facing into a new season with the long, hot days of summer behind us and fresher autumnal days ahead. This autumn feels particularly new to me as I continue to understand the annual rhythm of life at St. Stephen's. Many of you have been generous in sharing your insights and experience of being part of this wonderful community and I am grateful for this. I still have much to learn and will appreciate your ongoing wisdom and support in coming months.

One significant new beginning for us as a church is the opportunity to welcome Hannah formally to the St. Stephen's team! Archdeacon Catherine will join us on Sunday 6th September for a joint service when Hannah will be licenced to St. Stephen's as Associate Minister. We will continue to celebrate together with a picnic in Cleveland Park afterwards too - please do join us if you are able.

Soon, we will have another new beginning with an updated entrance to St. Stephen's. The work on the car park (which has now begun) will help to provide easier access for those already part of our community and for new people who might want to join us. These people could be starting their journey with Jesus or making a new beginning as part of St. Stephen's. They could be new people coming along



to Shining Stars now that their children are ready to be part of the group, or people seeking to be part of TeaTimers. Irrespective of why new pairs of feet are entering our community we will be able to offer a safer and easier St. Stephen's welcome - but still with plenty of warmth and friendliness.

There will be new beginnings for some of our children who will start JAM, move up into a new group in JAM or progress to Youth. Alongside this, some will be starting a new school and those working in education will be welcoming new pupils and colleagues who will be a significant part of their lives over the next year. Let's keep all of this in our prayers in coming weeks, asking that God would be at work as fresh routines and relationships are formed.

These new beginnings can prompt us to feel nervous, excited, cautious, or concerned. Amid the newness, we know that God is with us through all the changes and fresh starts. The truth of his love for us is eternal and, when our anxiety rages, we know he will never leave us nor forsake us. We seek to enter this season with expectation about what God will do in our midst, being open to receiving something new, personally for ourselves, corporately for us as a church, and more widely across the parish. God may not give us advance notice of what he is going to do in this new season, but we can be prepared, not with set squares or wrapping paper, but with prayerful seeking of his will and obedience to his prompting.

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

September 2026

Tuesday 1st	8:00pm	Monthly Prayer Meeting
Sunday 6th	10:00am	Whole Church Service
	12:30pm	Church Picnic
Wednesday 9th	8:00pm	Book Group
Friday 11th	6:30pm	Youth Group
Thursday 17th	8:00pm	Film Group
Friday 25th	6:30pm	Youth Group
Sunday 27th	9:00am	Ealing Half Marathon
	6:00pm	Communion service (No morning services)
Monday 28th	8:00pm	PCC Meeting

October 2026

Tuesday 6th	8:00pm	Monthly Prayer Meeting
Wednesday 14th	8:00pm	Book Group

Save the Date

Saturday 28th November	Christmas Fair
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Notices

Monthly Prayer Meetings

Tuesday 1st September at 8pm. Our monthly meetings 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.

Sunday 6th September

On this day we will have one service at 10:00am and will also be welcoming our Archdeacon Catherine to St Stephen's. During the service she will license Hannah Baylor as Associate Minister to SSE.

Café will follow the service and from 12:30pm we will be having a Church Picnic in Cleveland Park. Bring a blanket, chairs and your picnic and join us at the top of the park. There will be a few games for the kids too! No need to sign up just come along.

Book Club

Is meeting on **Weds 9th September at 8:00pm** to discuss *The Director* by Daniel Kehlmann and *You Are Here* by David Nicholls. All books are listed on the church website. This group is open to all. Speak to Morgen Edwards or just turn up.

Film Group

Meets on **Thursday 17th September 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 Communion Service on **Monday 14th September at 11:30am**. The next hymns of praise service will be in October. If you can join us for either service, it's a good opportunity to meet the residents and support the Church's work at St David's.

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 11th and 25th Sept at the new time of 6:30pm until 8:00pm.

Foodbank

Ealing Foodbank send their thanks to everyone who got involved with the Summer Meals appeal. The amount of donations exceeded expectations and ensures that the foodbank can continue to help people who are struggling this summer.

Ealing Half Marathon (EHM)

We will once again be hosting a water station for the EHM on **Sunday 27th September**. This will mean there will be no morning services. We will have one service at 6:00pm. We have two free entries to run on behalf of St Stephen's. If you are running or would consider running and on behalf of SSE please speak to Jack Cahill about the entry code. EHM are also recruiting for route volunteers. Please [click here to register as a volunteer](#).

Lizzie Rainbow Rogers will be running the EHM again this September to raise money for Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter. This is a brilliant charity that many people at St Stephens are involved with in a volunteering capacity. Lots of Churches in Ealing and a huge amount of volunteers come together for 5 months over the winter period to provide food and shelter for up to 20 of Ealing's homeless. Whilst in the shelter, they are helped into permanent accommodation, work or anything they might need to get them off the streets. ECWNS receives no statutory funding at all and has to fundraise every penny to continue each year. If you can, [please consider sponsoring Lizzie](#) to ensure the shelter can continue this year and into the future.

Mission Update

by Sue Charlton

ARocha UK/Eco Church: one of our Mission Partners

As reported in an earlier Newsletter, ARocha UK is celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the start of Eco Church in 2016. We registered that year, gained a Bronze Award in 2017 and a Silver Award in 2021. The 5 surveys making up the system are: Worship & Teaching; Buildings; Land & Nature; Community & Global Outlook; and Lifestyle. The original surveys were updated two years ago and it is our hope to review our progress and see where we next need to concentrate our efforts in the coming months.

With this in mind, our next People & Planet Meeting is to be held in The Season of Creation, during Ealing Climate Week on Sunday 20th September at Church from 1pm for a bring & share lunch followed by discussion re: the new Eco-Church surveys.

We shall also update everyone on the progress of the National Emergency Briefing, following our showing of the film in April. Very exciting news of progress was shared in July.

All who are interested in our environment work at church or at home will be most welcome. Let Sue know if possible so we can lay out enough chairs etc. Tel: 07908840954 /sacharlton@btinternet.com



Eco Church Update: on Food

The exceptionally hot and dry summer we've had has seen many areas of the UK designated as being in drought conditions and/or with hose-pipe bans.

We have certainly felt the effects here in Ealing. The essential nature of water is emphasised in the fight against wildfires, as we've all seen reported here and across Europe. We simply can't live without it! But how best to use it wisely and not waste it? The average consumption per person is about 142 litres (37 gallons) per day. Daily drinking needs are only about 2 litres. What do we all do with the remaining 140 and how can we reduce what we use?

Washing clothes – reduce the washes - make sure you put full loads in the washing machine. Washing dishes – advice is not to rinse before putting in the dishwasher, and make sure it is a full machine. Washing cars – do so less often and use a bucket and sponge when/if you do. Brushing teeth – turn the tap off when you brush for the advised 2 minutes. Showering – restrict your shower to 4 minutes! Watering in the garden/allotment – choose drought tolerant plants. Watering roots (rather than full plants) thoroughly once a week should be sufficient. Grass will survive even if really brown – watering not necessary. Water saved from washing up etc can be used on plants from street trees to window boxes.

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.

Please pray for those who live to the west of our parish, where some members of our church live.

West Ealing Community Grocery

By Beth Koch

We are delighted to say that the West Ealing Community Grocery, run by The Message Trust and in partnership with the Grove Community Church, has been thriving since we launched 23rd June! We are based on the Gurnell Grove estate in West Ealing and are run by wonderful volunteers who go to local churches in the area (including some wonderful helpers from St. Stephens!).

Community Groceries offer affordable food shops and wrap-around support to members. Membership is just £1 a year and everything in store - fresh fruit and veg, chilled items, frozen items, cupboard staples, household essentials, toiletries and more - are available at a fraction of the cost of the usual weekly shop. Much of the stock is donated which means around a thousand tonnes of food a year that's perfectly safe and tasty to eat is saved from landfill too. This service is available to everyone and the more members we have, whatever their financial background, the more we are able to sustain the business. Therefore, if you're not a member already then please do come by during our opening hours (Tuesday - Friday, 1:00 - 6:00pm) to sign up!

On our launch day in June, there was a lot of excitement and around 80 households signed up and shopped despite temperatures soaring into the high 30s! The team arranged for a local business to make snow cones and had volunteers giving out candyfloss, refreshments and doing facepainting to celebrate. We also want to say a huge thank you to those who baked for us for our launch - the sweet treats went down very well and were a real treat for everyone!

The vision is for this to be so much more than just a shop, open 4 days a week it's also a community hub where people get to be known and the team can offer extra support alongside the shopping. Memberships have now grown to around 200 in the first couple of months of being in operation.



Grocery Manager Beth said...

"Having the West Ealing Community Grocery has already made such a difference to the community and individual members. Since there are no affordable local shops in short walking distance, members can now get groceries on their doorstep. Families are saving up to a third off compared to other stores, which is especially significant since the Gurnell Grove estate is in the top 6% most deprived areas in the UK."

Members have told us...

"This is exactly the sort of thing I need, and more people should know about it. It's hard to get by as a single parent and what you're doing here is so good, so helpful and necessary."

"These savings are so good here! The nearest shop to us is so expensive, whereas here I can actually afford to get what I want. I'm telling all my mates about it."

Grocery volunteer Phil said...

"The grocery is amazing and really connects the community together. It's here for the people in need and beyond. I find volunteering a great opportunity to get to know people more around the local area and I love being able to help."



Please be praying for us, here are some prayer points:

- For more members to sign up
- For more gospel conversations and prayer times with members that lead to salvation
- For more members to come to church on Sundays and other church events
- For a regular fruit and veg delivery to be set in stone soon

If you are interested in finding out more, becoming a member of the grocery and/or a volunteer, then please come by the shop or give us a call on 020 3422 5511 during our opening hours. You can also email the manager, Beth, on beth.koch@message.org.uk



Contact us

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