St Stephen's Ealing

Community growing in the love of Jesus

St Stephen's News

Nov 2026 - Jan 2027

Welcome to this bumper issue of St Stephen's News! As our Communications Manager, Morgen, steps into a new role outside of St Stephen's, we give thanks for all that she has brought as a staff member here, and for all the energy she has put into these St Stephen's News booklets. At time of writing (just two weeks after she handed in her notice), interim arrangements for her roles are being determined. More will be shared about this as soon as possible.

In the meantime, we have an issue covering the three months of November, December and January. And fair to say they're a busy three months! But for all the activity, they are still shaped by something that we rarely associate with busyness: waiting.

November brings the waiting of remembrance. We look back and remember those whose lives were taken in war and conflict. As we do so, we wait for a world that is rid of violence and restored to peace.

December brings the waiting of hopefulness. We prepare to celebrate the Son of God coming into the world that first Christmas, hope for all the earth. As we do so, we wait for his return.

And January brings the waiting of revelation. We mark Epiphany and the various stories where Jesus' glory is revealed in the world. And as we do so, we wait for his glory to be revealed in every nation.

For all the busyness that the next few months bring, there's also a lot of waiting. The question is: how good are we at waiting?

Humans are so good at getting things the wrong way around. We so often think about rest as a time to recover from activity. But what does the Bible say? It suggests that rest is about preparing for activity. From the beginning of Creation, the 24-hour cycle begins with the rest of nighttime, not the activity of the daytime.

And so I wonder: how might our lives look if they were shaped not by busyness but by waiting?

The prophet Isaiah says: 'those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint' (Isaiah 40:31, NRSV).

We might be tempted to separate the waiting from the running, the rest from the activity. But the two actually go hand in hand. We run even as we wait for the Lord.

We were made to wait for the Lord, not for busyness. But as we wait, we find strength – God's strength – to navigate the busyness of the world around us.

What might waiting on God look like for you over the next few months? It might be a few moments of prayer in the middle of the day. It might be choosing to sit quietly on the Tube, rather than scrolling through your phone. Or it might be reminding yourself frequently of those words from Isaiah 40. Whatever it looks like, commit yourself to it. Because there, you will find God's strength.

With every blessing,

David

Monthly Calendar

November 2026

Sunday 1st	2:00pm	Christmas Pudding Making
Tuesday 3rd	8:00pm	Monthly Prayer Meeting
Thursdays 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th	7:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Fridays 6th, 20th	6:30pm	Youth Group
Sunday 8th	1:45pm	St David's Hymns of Praise
Wednesday 11th	8:00pm	Book Group
Saturday 14th	2:00pm	Sleeves Up Saturday
Thursday 19th	8:00pm	Film Group
Monday 23rd	8:00pm	PCC
Saturday 28th	10:30am-2:00pm	Christmas Fair
Sunday 29th	10:00am	Combined Service

December

Tuesday 1st	8:00pm	Monthly Prayer Meeting
Thursdays 3rd & 10th	7:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Fridays 4th & 18th	6:30pm	Youth Group
Thursday 10th	4:30pm	Christmas Tree Dressing
Friday 11th	3:30pm	Seniors Christmas Tea
Sunday 13th	6:00pm	Carol Service
Wednesday 16th	8:00pm	Book Group
Thursday 17th	8:00pm	Film Group
Sunday 20th	3:30pm	Christingle Service
Tuesday 22nd	7:00pm	Blue Christmas
Thursday 24th	4:30pm 11:30pm	Nativity Service Midnight Communion
Friday 25th	10:30am	Christmas Celebration Communion
Sunday 27th	10:00am	Combined Communion service

January

Tuesday 5th	8:00pm	Monthly Prayer Meeting
Saturday 16th	6:00pm	Curry Night
Sunday 31st	10:00am	Combined Confirmation Service.

Notices

Monthly Prayer Meetings

Tuesdays 3rd November, 1st December and 5th January 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.

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 the following **Fridays 6th & 20th Oct, 4th & 18th Dec, January is TBC** at **6:30pm until 8:00pm**.

Book Club

Is meeting on **Weds 11th November at 8:00pm** to discuss *The Correspondent by Virginia Evans*. We are meeting at a members house. If you would like details please speak to Morgen Edwards. They will also be meeting on 16th December book and venue to be decided. If you would like more information please email Morgen morgeneedwards@gmail.com.

Sleeves Up Saturday

Can you join us on **Saturday 2:00-5:00pm on Saturday 14th November** to help 'Autumn' clean the premises before our Christmas Fair? Jobs suitable for all ages. Please speak to Jack Cahill our Premises Manager for more information. Look out for the sign up sheet in the foyer.

Film Group

Will meet on the following dates **Thursday 19th November and 17th December 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 Services on **Mondays 16th November and 14th December at 11:30am**. The next hymns of praise service will be on **Sunday 8th November** for Remembrance. Carols of Praise in December is TBC. 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.

Carols at St Paul's

St Paul's Annual Carol service is on Saturday **28th November 2026 at 5:00pm**. If you would like to attend please email admin@ststephens-ealing.org with your name no later than Monday 16th November 2026.

Generosity in Giving

Please remember to return your pledges from your Giving Pack by 8th November. This will be a huge help in our planning. Please send any queries to giving@ststephens-ealing.org or check our website.

Curry Night

We will be holding the second annual Curry Night on **January 16th at 6:00pm**. This is open to everyone. Last year we had over 15 different types of curry as well as rice and sides. If you would like to get involved please email Morgen Edwards morgeneedwards@gmail.com. Please note the different email address!

Christians Against Poverty

Connect Groups and others will being collecting for Hampers to give to specified clients of Ealing CAP. If you would like to be involved in putting together a hamper please speak to David, Alison or Hannah. The Hampers will be blessed during our services on Sunday 13th December.

Holly and Ivy

Sally Lamond will be decorating the church on **Saturday 12th December**. She is looking for long lengths of Ivy and branches of Holly, preferably with berries. If you are able to harvest either of the above please drop them to church on 10th, 11th or morning of the 12th. If you would like further details please speak to Sally directly.

Notices

Pastporal Care at St Stephen's

We all experience struggles at different points in our lives and, as a church community, we seek to show Jesus's love and compassion to those who are walking through challenging times. Although this is a calling on all our individual lives, the Pastoral Care Team at St. Stephen's has been specially set up to ensure pastoral care is available from the church in an accessible and coordinated way. The team is made up of church members who have a particular heart for people in difficulty and are willing to offer support in a range of ways including listening, encouraging and praying with and for others. Often simply being present in troubled times, offering regular reminders of God being at work, makes a huge difference. People access support from the team for a wide variety of reasons, for example if they are unwell, housebound, bereaved, or feeling lonely. It's important to note that the team is not set up to solve problems but will signpost to other resources where appropriate. If you feel that you would benefit from the work of the Pastoral Care Team please email pastoral@ststephens-ealing.org. If you know of someone who may benefit from the work of the team please encourage them to email us. Any emails sent to this address will only be received by Alison Ingram (as Interim Pastoral Care Team leader) and by David Baylor (as Vicar), and they will be kept confidential within the Pastoral Care Team. If you aren't sure if the work of the team is relevant for your situation or if you have any queries please contact Alison Ingram to discuss.

Advent Bible Study

We are exploring the possibility of running a small group Bible Study for the season of Advent, likely on a weekday evening. If you are interested in being part of the group please contact Alison.

Confirmation Course

We are delighted that Bishop Lusa will be joining us for a Confirmation Service on **31st January at 10:00am**. This is a special celebration of faith that allows people to confirm for themselves the promises made at their baptism and marks full membership of the Church. We will be running Confirmation Preparation Classes for any adults seeking to be confirmed over 7 sessions, all starting at 8pm in church (2nd, 9th, 16th Dec, 13th, 20th, 27th Jan, plus one follow-up session after the service on 9th February). If you're interested in being confirmed, or have any queries, please contact Alison Ingram. If you are a young person (under 18) and you're interested in confirmation, please contact Stephen Turner for info.

An update from Pete Devereux

Sanjay Joshi and I attended a conference in September for Christians serving older people, called Evergreen. This conference was jointly hosted by Pilgrims' Friend Society and Faith in Later Life. One of the Keynote speeches was Exploring Faith and Dementia by Revd Mark Wormell, he also spoke on Dementia: Three ways of Providing Spiritual Care.

I am pleased to say that the way we provide the content and organise the Communion and Hymns of Praise services at St David's Nursing Home align with nearly all of the suggestions they made. This was encouraging to hear.

Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter

This will begin in other churches shortly and we will begin hosting on **Friday 19th February** at St Stephens. Recruitment of volunteers will start in January. In the meantime please pray for the guests, host churches and volunteers.

Notices

Christmas Fliers
From **Sunday 1st December** we will have a number of bundles of fliers for our Christmas services. Please take a bundle and deliver them to our local roads.

Christmas Collections
Over the Christmas period, at the Carol service and all Christmas services we invite you and any guests to think of those less fortunate and take donations for Tearfund and Ealing Churches winter Night Shelter. Online donations can be made here.

Christmas Tree Decorating
We will be decorating our Christmas Tree on **Thursday 10th December** from 4:00pm. It's lots of fun and we would welcome a team of people to help us. If you are able to come along please do let Jack Cahill know via email bookings@ststephens-ealing.org. No need to bring anything other than enthusiasm.

Christmas Tea
Friday 11th December 3:30-5:30pm
We will be holding our annual Christmas Tea for over 70s. If you have not yet received an invitation or not yet replied please contact Jane Maffett via email jane@ststephens-ealing.org.

Christians Against Poverty
Sunday 13th December
At both morning services we will be receiving food hampers put together by various groups in Church. They will be delivered to clients of Ealing CAP. For more information please see overleaf.

Carol Service
Sunday 13th December at 6:00pm
A traditional Carol Service with a choir and supported by a wonder brass section. This service will be livestreamed on our YouTube Channel.

Christingle Service
Sunday 20th December at 3:30pm
A fun and engaging service for all ages to learn about the Christingle.

Blue Christmas
22nd December 2026, 7:00pm in the church. Christmas isn't always the most wonderful time of the year. While the world around seems full of celebration, we may not always be feeling very festive. Our Blue Christmas service is a quiet, reflective time, offering space to be honest about how we are feeling and to encounter the gentle presence of God. Whether you are grieving, struggling, or simply finding this season hard, you are warmly welcome.

Christmas Eve
Nativity Service at 4:30pm
A fun and interractive service for the whole family to journey through the story of the nativity. Feel free to come dressed as a character from the story.

Midnight Communion at 11:30pm
A traditional Communion service to worship together as we welcome in Christmas Day.

Christmas Day
10:30am
A whole church celebration with Communion. Children of all ages are encouraged to bring a present to show the church.

Sunday 27th December
10:00am
There will be one service this Sunday which will be a mix of our traditional and informal services including Communion.

Mission Updates
by Sue Charlton

Christian Solidarity Worldwide

Christian Solidarity Worldwide has been one of our Mission Partners for many years. Our 'tithe' (one 10th of all our giving) is shared between seven charities, one of whom is CSW.

It is hard for us to imagine a situation where here in Britain, it would be illegal for us to worship or attend Church, Temple or Synagogue? But in many countries around the world, this is indeed the case. Many are imprisoned; some have even been killed for their faith. How lucky are we?

CSW stands with everyone facing injustice because or their religion or belief. And in October we heard from our guest speaker Chibuzor Tina Amadi, just how CSW works, supporting those who are oppressed across the Globe and negotiates on their behalf for freedom. She spoke vividly and powerfully, imploring us all to pray regularly for those across the world where people of faith are threatened, displaced and silenced. This may seem too daunting a task – but take a look at the CSW website: www.csw.org.uk and choose an area that resonates with you.

Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter (WNS)

We have worked with up to 20 other churches in Ealing to host 14 homeless people through the winter months, since 2013. This season starts in November 2026 until Easter 2027. We are committed to host Friday nights from mid-February to Easter.

You will remember Elizabeth Rainbow's magnificent run with Ealing Half Marathon in September, where she raised over £1,500 for WNS?

WNS receives referrals from a number of agencies working with homeless people. Clients are not allowed to bring alcohol or to smoke in our churches. The Shelter Worker and other Trustees visit almost every night to follow up the help being offered to clients – the main aim being to help each client out of homelessness. This will be, depending on their situation – assisting them in getting work; applying for accommodation; ensuring they are getting any benefits they may qualify for etc. Those of us who have volunteered over the years have really enjoyed meeting so many interesting people, hearing their stories, loving the help they give us! We have regularly been appreciated for all we can offer e.g. a good supper and breakfast, and a chance to sleep comfortably in a warm, safe place. We shall be recruiting for volunteers for WNS at St. Stephen's after Christmas. Please join us! See www.ecwns.org.uk

Christians Against Poverty

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a charity we have supported for many years. CAP offers free debt counselling services across all 4 UK Nations, helping people to break free from debt and poverty. 'Rooted in faith and fuelled by love' they accept any who are struggling with money by offering Debt Centres, Job Clubs. Life Skills and money coaching.

Our local branch is run by Mark Dishley. Please pray for him especially as he gets to grips with new computer systems as demands increase. See more at https://capuk.org.

Eco Tips

by Sue Charlton

November

Feed the birds! You may remember last April when Royal Society for the Protection of Birds asked everyone to stop feeding our wild birds with seeds and peanuts from 1st May to the end of October. This was to reduce the disease trichomonosis – a viral disease particularly affecting and killing finches (gold and chaffinches). The disease was known to be spread more easily where birds gathered at bird feeders. Infection is worse in warm summer months. More natural food sources are available for birds in summer, so no harm was expected.

But during winter and spring, when natural food is scarcer, RSPB says we should again be feeding birds till 30 April next year.

However, we need to empty, clean and disinfect feeders, as well as change the position of them each week; and wash water bowls every day. Let's do what we can to help our birds.

December

Plastic – such a valuable commodity for many things – building materials, cables etc. But single-use plastic?

Try to remember the 3 Rs rule:

1. Refuse – do you really need another plastic bag to put your shopping in or water in a single-use plastic bottle?

2. Re-use – often it's simply not possible to avoid the stuff – but keep those plastic bags to re-use next time you shop. And use a plastic re-fillable water bottle. I've had my bottle for years – it's still going strong and is always in my bag for use.

3. Recycle – 'hard' plastic in your Blue Bin and 'soft' plastic to go to your local supermarket to be recycled. What's the difference between hard or soft? Simple: if you can squash the item in your hand, it's soft eg film wrapping salads etc. If you can't, it's hard eg bottle of coke.

New Year, new year's resolution? I'm sure I'm not the only one that gives up/gives in and forgets that promise after a week or so!

January

Trying hard to find a promise to stick to? As a start, have a go at calculating your carbon footprint. I've found the WWF Footprint Calculator really helpful. 'Our world is in crisis – from climate change to pollution in our oceans and devastation of our forests. It's up to us all to fix it'. Take the questionnaire and see the helpful doable ideas to lesson your impact! See www.footprint.wwf.org.uk.

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.

Safeguarding Sunday: Love Protects

On 15th November we will be marking Safeguarding Sunday at St Stephen's. Inspired by 1 Corinthians 13, this year's theme is 'Love Protects'.

What is safeguarding all about?

You could answer that question in various ways.

You could say it's all about the processes we put in place to keep people safe. DBS checks, training courses, making sure we have the right number of adult helpers in a children's group. Things like that.

You could also say it's about preventing abuse. Or that it's about responding well to situations where abuse has occurred, whether they be current or historic situations.

Safeguarding is all of these things, and let's be honest, they're usually things that we don't want to think about. But at the heart of it all there's something positive: love.

'Jesus declared, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbour as yourself."' (Matthew 22:38)

Similarly, one of Jesus' first followers says:

'Let us love one another, for love comes from God... Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.' (1John 4:7-8)

Safeguarding is all about how we love one another well in community. It's about becoming increasingly aware of how our words and actions can affect others, particularly the most vulnerable. It's about helping and supporting those who have been harmed through abuse. It's about using the power that we have to raise others up, not to put them down. Put another way, safeguarding is love in action.

This year, Safeguarding Sunday reminds us that love in action looks like protecting those in our care. As Paul says in 1 Corinthians 13:

'Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.'

The always is crucial. Love isn't an optional extra in the Christian faith. Nor is the call to protect those who cannot protect themselves. Love always protects.

We can make safeguarding about the things that are hard, difficult or less palatable if we want to. But it's so much better to make it about something positive, because as Paul goes on to remind us, when all is said and done, the greatest thing of all is love.

St David's Nursing Home

by Sally Horattides

As many of you will know, our connection with St David's goes back over 100 years. St David's was founded, in what had been a royal residence, after the First World War for disabled servicemen. The young son of a member of the Royal Family was killed in 1914 and she decided to try and help the survivors. It was a Roman Catholic foundation and was staffed by nuns.

Ealing Abbey was very involved and still is, but St Stephen's has always supported the Protestant residents. From the beginning, in addition to the Vicar taking a monthly communion service in the Chapel on site, a group went to 'sing round the wards'. These days the residents are mainly Protestant, and sometimes of different faiths or none. About 20 years ago, the first women who had been in the services in the second World War were taken in as residents, and in recent years the Home has dropped the military requirement, and accepts mainly local residents whose condition makes it difficult to live at home. They all have their own rooms either in the four main units or in the rehabilitation block. The services still continue monthly but are now held in the Activities' Lounge.

In 2024, the charitable trust that owned the Home sold it to Gold Care Homes, an established company that runs residential homes. There followed a time of great change with the home being smartened up, and many staff left. New residents are usually not mobile and are in wheelchairs or room-bound now. Two years on, things have settled down: the care is generally good, and the activities have reached a high level serviced by a good team of workers with an excellent leader in Agata.

The Abbey and St Stephens are still engaged in meeting the spiritual needs of the residents – and of their families too. As well as the Sunday Hymns of Praise, which Peter Devereux organises and is well supported by members of our congregation, the Vicar comes in once a month to give the residents communion in the Activities' Lounge. There are a lot of people there – Protestants, Catholics and people of no faith. They receive communion if it's their practice, but can have a blessing if not. It is very moving to see what this means to them.`

After many years in the role of link worker between St David's and St Stephens, Sally Horattides will be finishing in this role in January. Over the years she has got to know the residents and staff, and has found it uplifting to be alongside these people and to hear their stories. Sally will still be visiting and supporting the team.

The residents really appreciate the interest our team gives, and they – with the staff – are delighted to meet more people from our Church. So, if you are thinking of coming along to join the team, you can be sure of a good welcome.

Christmas Fair

Saturday 28th November
10:30am-2:00pm

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 (including ever popular Christas pudds, Holly's soaps and diffusers), meet Father Christmas (free gift for ages 0–7), story-telling, enjoy refreshments, and just enjoy it! Free entry

and pay with cash or card.

Why we do it:

To celebrate together, support our community, and raise funds for Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter

Quote from previous attendees:

"It was buzzing" - "good quality and affordable" - "always head for the Christmas puddings" - "yummy burgers" - "loved Father Christmas and his reindeer!"

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

Other Christmas dates for your diary

Sunday 13th Dec - 6:00pm - Carol Service

Sunday 20th Dec - Christingle Service

Tuesday 22nd - Blue Christmas

Christmas Eve - Nativity Service

Midnight Communion - 11:30pm

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

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:

Briarbank Road	Charles Road
Rosemount Road	Highview Road
Rosebery Gardens	Castlebar
Court	
Castlebar Mews	Castlebar Road
Castlebar Park	Drayton Bridge
Estate	
Drayton Bridge Road	Sawyers Lawn

An upate from CYPF

by Stephen Turner

We recently continued our Children, Young People and Families course with another two-day residential in Oxford. It was a fruitful time spent with several other church groups, exploring the theme of mission.

One aspect that particularly resonated with me, and which I think has real relevance for St Stephen's, was the idea of frontlines. Our frontlines are the places where we come into contact with people who may not yet have a personal relationship with God. In the context of the course this was with a particular focus on children, young people and families.

We were encouraged to consider two questions: **Where are St Stephen's frontlines, and where are our own frontlines?**

For me, this raised an important question: Where are we engaging with our local community, both as a gathered church and as a scattered church?

That's a challenging thought, isn't it? It reminds us that, while we gather together at St Stephen's, we are still the Church when we leave the building. We are the Church wherever we go, in our homes, our workplaces, our schools and our everyday interactions with those around us.

This highlights the importance of mission and reminds us that we all have a part to play, both corporately as a church and individually in our daily lives. After all, Jesus gave us the Great Commission in Matthew 28, calling us to go and make disciples of all nations.

So, to finish, I'd like to leave you with a challenge to reflect on: **Where are your frontlines, and how might God be calling you to share His love with the people you meet there?**

The deadline for notices for the next issue of St Stephen's News will be **12th January 2027**.

Contact us

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Email: admin@ststephens-ealing.org

Website: www.ststephens-ealing.org

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)*

Contact Details

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