

The Beneficial

Lent to Easter 2026

News from the Benefice of St Mary's + St Stephen's

Seasonal Verse

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." *John 16:33*

Look carefully at the house names on the left as you come down Lansdown Road towards St Stephen's, and you will see one called 'Innisfree'. I had the privilege of conducting the funerals of the couple who lived there, both over a decade ago. I took Yeats' poem as my text. The poet was living in London when he wrote it: it's a deep heart's cry of yearning for the countryside of his native Ireland. The second verse begins, '*For I will have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow ...*' Beautiful evocation of the calm such a place would bring. When we seek peace where we live it's not quite the same. It does not descend from on high, much as we'd like it to. Peace, I believe, emerges from within. If the love of God is that which is buried deepest in us, then this love is the source of peace. It's in our quiet aware-ing, some call it prayer, that our restless minds can be invited to settle, and for our hearts' cries to be heard. We look forward to Easter, a story that for the most part is anything but peaceful. But the resurrection announces the coming of the Son of Peace who was heralded at Christmas, not parachuted into our lives, but emerging from the depths of earth and humanity; from our own hearts. *Revd Philip Hawthorn*

HEADS UP ON WHAT'S HAPPENING

ST STEPHEN'S WORSHIP IN THE ROUND Sunday 15 March; 26 April – 10.45am

This is St Stephen's relaxed non-communion service. Come early for coffee and pastries before the service from 10am, and afterwards for a catch up.

SCRUFFY CHURCH - a fun, family gathering on 4th Sundays, 22 March & 26 April at 4pm St Stephen's

COOL FUN & FAITH - a youth group for secondary school teens, at Stephen's every term time 1st & 3rd Sunday, 7 – 8.30pm: 1 & 15 March; 19 April.

LANSDOWN FRIENDSHIP CLUB – 1st Friday each month: 6 March & 3 April

A welcoming gathering for people with memory difficulties, their accompanying family and friends. Enjoy refreshments and a monthly theme at St Stephen's Church Centre 2 - 3.30pm.

LANSDOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP – 2nd Thursday each month: 12 March & 9 April

Meet friends old and new at this monthly coffee gathering at St Stephen's Church Centre, 10.30am – noon.

ST MARY'S PATRONAL FESTIVAL: Choral Evensong Wednesday 25 March, 6pm. With canapés and refreshments afterwards (with thanks to the Choral Evensong Trust).



ESPECIALLY for Lent and Easter! Mark your diaries NOW!

LENT COURSES: @ St Stephen's foyer (starting week 23 Feb) **Mondays** 2pm; **Tuesday** 7.30pm; **Wednesdays** from 7.30pm in the Rectory. Sign up at St Stephen's, email the Parish office or just come along

AGAPE SUPPER: @ St Stephen's – Maundy Thursday 2 April, 7.15pm. Suggested donation £10. Booking essential via Parish office

MOTHERING SUNDAY@ St Stephen's – a warmly welcoming, informal service of Worship in the Round: 15 March 10.45am



Agape Meal & Vigil

Maundy Thursday
2 April
7.15 pm

Food, Worship
& Reflection
Suggested donation
£10*



St Stephen's Centre, Bath
within St Stephen's Church,
accessed from Lansdown Road, Bath, BA1 5SX

BOOKING ESSENTIAL
E: office@ststephensbath.org.uk
T: 01225 420946

*please donate privately according to what you can afford; all are welcome at God's table.

EVENTS

SATURDAY 14 March 2.30pm at St Mary's A BENEFIT CONCERT: Medieval Chant, performed by The University of Bristol Schola Cantorum. Tea and cakes to follow. £15 tickets from gordon@gordoncookeart.com or 07867 780165.

FRIDAY 27 March 7.15pm at St Stephen's Crypt A WINE TASTING: Sip the Difference, The savvy purchases of a wine connoisseur. £25. Book via the QR code or the Parish Office.


MEDIEVAL CHANT
CONTEMPLATION AND VIRTUOSITY

A Benefit Concert
including Gregorian, Old Hispanic, Beneventan and
Milanese Chants

Sung in a 10th Century Church by

The University of Bristol Schola Cantorum
Directed by Professor Emma Hornby

Followed by Tea & Cakes

Saturday 14th March
2:30 pm

Presented by Friends of Charlcombe Church
At St Mary's Charlcombe

Tickets £15
From gordon@gordoncookeart.com
07867 780 165

A poster for a wine tasting event. It has a blue and pink background. At the top left is the St. Stephen's logo. The text reads: "ST. STEPHEN'S THE BEACON OF LANSDOWN", "FRIDAY 27 MARCH 7.15 PM", "ST STEPHEN'S, BATH CRYPT", "SIP THE DIFFERENCE . . .", "The savvy purchases of a wine connoisseur", "A fun tutored wine tasting on how a little more spent on the bottle, means so much more in the glass!", "An expert guide through 6 vibrant wines and a welcome glass of fizz", "Tickets £25", and a QR code. At the bottom right is an image of two wine glasses. At the bottom left is the text "St Stephen's Parish Office 01225 420946".

DON'T FORGET . . .

Parent & Toddlers St Stephen's Church Centre, Monday (during termtime) 9.30 – 11.15am

Service Rotas and Youth helpers Volunteering is great for well-being! Helpers are always needed at both Benefice churches. It's fun and a lovely way of joining our church families.

Do get in touch to find out how you can get involved. [Office](#)

Music Bell ringers and choir members would be very welcome at St Stephen's. Interested?

Please contact the [Parish Office](#).

St Stephen's Centre A great place to hire for parties, meetings, community gatherings. Book via the [Office](#)

Giving Our need for everyone's financial support is greater than ever. We cannot say how hugely appreciative we are for any kind and generous giving of whatever nature. To find out more, please contact our Treasurers: St Stephen's [Mike King](#) | St Mary [Judith Pepler](#)

Friends of St Mary's Charlcombe welcomes new members to support and cherish Bath's oldest church still in use. Watch St Mary's website for 2026 Friends' events.

Friends of St Mary's Charlcombe welcomes new members to support and cherish Bath's oldest church still in use. Watch St Mary's website for 2026 Friends' events.

Saturday Police Beat with PCSO Ray: 4 April, 10am TBC 10am – Noon in St Stephen's Foyer.

SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE – LENT INTO APRIL

Hangout, a themed activity time for children, operates every Sunday at St Stephen's.

MARCH

Sunday 1st

2nd Sunday of Lent

SM 9 am Eucharist (BYO Coffee)

SS 10.45 am Choral Communion + Hangout

SS 7 – 8.30 pm Cool Fun and Faith Youth Group

Sunday 8th

3rd Sunday of Lent

SM 9 am Eucharist

SS 10.45 am Holy Communion + Hangout

Sunday 15th

4th Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday

SM 9 am Eucharist

SS 10.45 am Worship in the Round + Hangout

Sunday 22nd

5th Sunday of Lent

SM 9 am Eucharist

SS 10.45 am Holy Communion + Hangout

SS 4 pm Scruffy Church family friendly service

Sunday 29th

Palm Sunday

SM No service

SS 1045 am Combined Benefice Service with guest preacher, Rev Jonathan LLOYD

Easter Services: see poster below

EASTER IN THE BENEFICE

We warmly welcome you, your family, friends and neighbours to join us for one of our many services and worship events

Easter Saturday 4 April

St Stephen's 10am - Noon

EASTER FAMILY FUN!

Egg-citement and surprises!



ST STEPHEN'S LANSDOWN & ST MARY'S CHARLCOMBE, BATH

EASTER IN THE BENEFICE

Sunday 29th March Palm Sunday

St Stephen's 10.45 am Combined Benefice Service with guest preacher, Rev Jonathan LLOYD

30th March – 1st April Holy Week: Monday – Wednesday Rectory @ Richmond Place

7.30 pm Compline (Night Prayer) with short reflection

Thursday 2nd April Maundy Thursday

St Stephen's 7.00 pm Agape Supper with vigil (booking required/donations on the night)

Friday 3rd April Good Friday

St Mary's 2 pm Vigil at the Foot of the Cross
St Stephen's 2 pm A Meditation of Words & Music with Fauré Requiem

Saturday 4th April Easter Saturday

St Stephen's 10 am – noon Family Easter Fun
St Mary's 8.00 pm Blessing of the Light

Sunday 5th April Easter Sunday

St Mary's 6.15 am St Mary's Garden Sunrise service
St Mary's 10 am Festival Eucharist
St Stephen's 10 am Family Communion with Easter chicks

Sunday 12th April 2nd Sunday of Easter

St Mary's 9 am Eucharist
St Stephen's 10.45 am Holy Communion + Hangout

St Stephen's Parish Office 01225 420946

PRAYER IN THE BENEFICE

Monday We gather on Zoom for prayer at 8.30 – 9.00am. Please email to receive the code.

Thursday Meditation in the Christian Tradition 6.30 – 7pm-ish St Mary's, Charlcombe. A guiding thought, then 20 minutes of silence. Blankets and cushions provided.

Home Communion If anyone is unable to come to church on a Sunday and would value home communion, please contact the [Parish Office](#).

CONTACT DETAILS

Rector: Revd Philip Hawthorn

Associate Priest: Revd Debbie Pow

To email each by name: Philip/Debbie@ststephensbath.org.uk

For general information, or giving to our churches, please contact our Administrator:

Gabriela Longhurst - Church Office, Lansdown Road, Bath BA1 5SX

T: 01225 420946 e: office@ststephensbath.org.uk

Churchwardens, all contactable via the office:

St Stephen's: Carolyn Cowley, Penny Cracknell, Hester Davies

St Mary's: Gordon Cooke

Treasurers: Mike King (SS) and Judith Pepler (SM)

www.ststephensbath.org.uk

www.stmaryscharlcombe.org.uk