

# The Beneficial

Summer 2026

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

I wonder when you last paused to drink in the full beauty of a dramatic sunset? It's not often that we're in the right place or have time to stop, yet they're breathtaking. We tend to view them as an exquisite marking to the day's end and all that has gone before. Yet in Hebrew thought, sundown marks the beginning of the day and all that is to come after a period of rest.

This summer we find ourselves in a similar transition as our Rector of 16 years, Philip, retires. We celebrate and give thanks for all he has been and the richness and beauty he has brought to our churches and our lives. But we also look forward to a new day and new horizons, as yet unseen, and the adventure that lies ahead.

When the resurrected Jesus was about to leave his followers and friends for the last time, he promised to be with them always. It's a puzzling comment. Yet it's the experience of countless millions through the ages that in times of leaving, of change, of uncertainty, we are not abandoned but held and led on as new days dawn and new vistas unfold before us.

**Rev Debbie Pow, Associate Priest**

### WHAT'S HAPPENING @ St Stephen's

**WORSHIP IN THE ROUND:** St Stephen's relaxed 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday non-communion service @ 10.45 am: 28 June; 26 July; 23 August

**SCRUFFY CHURCH:** a fun, family gathering on 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays @ 4 pm: 28 June; 27 September

**COOL FUN & FAITH:** a youth group for 2<sup>nd</sup> school teens every term time 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays, 7 - 8.30 pm: 7 & 21 June; 5 July; 20 September.

**LANSDOWN FRIENDSHIP CLUB:** a welcoming gathering for people with memory difficulties, their accompanying family and friends with refreshments and a monthly theme at St Stephen's Crypt 2 - 3.30 pm, 1<sup>st</sup> Friday each month: 5 June, 3 July, 7 August

**LANSDOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP:** a monthly coffee gathering for friends old and new – 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday each month @ St Stephen's Crypt 10.30 am - noon: 11 June, 9 July, 13 August

### BENEFICE EVENTS

**FRIDAY 5 JUNE 7 pm @ St Stephen's:** From Watford to Lansdown in Five Careers, a hilarious retrospective with Rev Philip Hawthorn. A talk with wine: £15

**SATURDAY 6 JUNE – SUNDAY 14 JUNE:** 2 – 4 pm @ St Stephen's **BRANCH OUT:** a celebration of community. A decorative twig fest with daily events and pop-up café

**SUNDAY 7 JUNE 10.45 am @ St Stephen's:** Choral Communion with a Beacon of Lansdown Q&A update session over post-service coffee

**ST. STEPHEN'S**  
THE BEACON OF LANSDOWN

**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!**

**FROM WATFORD ... TO LANSDOWN**

**IN FIVE CAREERS**

**Recollections & Revelations**  
by Revd Philip Hawthorn

A talk with a glass of wine at  
St Stephen's Crypt £15

Friday 5 June @ 7pm

(Warning: contains clips of Children's TV)

Parish Office 01225 420946

**BRANCH OUT**  
 A CELEBRATION OF ST STEPHEN'S & ST MARY'S  
 IN THE COMMUNITY

Inspired by nature      Made by community  
 Curated by the Beacon of Lansdown



- community displays
- decorative twig fest
- craft workshops
- pop up cafe
- Lansdown Open Gardens event

Sat 6 - Sun 14 June 2 - 4 pm daily  
**St Stephen's Church**

**ST. STEPHEN'S**      ststephensbath.org.uk  
 THE BEACON OF LANSDOWN

**SATURDAY 13 JUNE 12.30 for  
 1 pm @ St Mary's: Annual  
 BBQ. £15 (children £5)**

**SUNDAY 21 JUNE 10.45 am @  
 St Stephen's: Farewell  
 Benefice service to Rev Philip  
 Hawthorn followed by a Bring  
 & Share Lunch**

**BRANCH OUT**  
 A CELEBRATION OF ST STEPHEN'S & ST MARY'S  
 IN THE COMMUNITY

Sat 6 - Sun 14 June  
 2 - 4 pm daily @ St Stephen's Church

**WHAT'S ON**

**DAILY**  
 Pop Up Cafe  
 Family Eco & Beating the Bounds  
 Treasure Trails  
 Pebble painting  
 Prayer & Peace Tree hangings

**Ring Out:** Bell ringing taster  
 Sat 6/13 June

**Pop up Workshops**  
 Flower Collage:  
 Wed 10 June  
 Mini fern pots:  
 Fri 12 June

**Guided Church Tours:**  
 Sat/Sun/Tues/Thurs  
 6/7/9/11/13/14 June



**ST. STEPHEN'S**  
 THE BEACON OF LANSDOWN  
 ststephensbath.org.uk

## 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**  
 THE BEACON OF LANSDOWN

**BE PART OF OUR FUTURE**

An update on the Beacon of Lansdown project

Come and join an open Q&A session at  
 St Stephen's over coffee following the  
 1045 am Choral Communion Service  
 Sunday 7 June



**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.

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

**Friends of Charlcombe Church**  
**Annual Barbecue**



**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June**  
**12.30 for 1 pm**

Tickets £15 (children £5)  
 includes first drink

**BYO plate, cutlery, bowl, glass**

tickets: office@ststephensbath.org.uk  
 01225 420946

St Mary's Church, Charlcombe Lane, Bath BA1 8DR

# ***BENEFICE SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE – JUNE INTO AUGUST***

Please check respective website calendars for up-to-date service details

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

## **JUNE**

**Sunday 7**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**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 14**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**SM 9 am Eucharist**

**SS 10.45 am Holy Communion + Hangout**

**Sunday 21**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**SM 9 am Eucharist**

**SS 10.45 am Choral Communion + Hangout**

**Sunday 28**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**SM 9 am Eucharist**

**SS 10.45 am Worship in the Round + Hangout**

**SS 4 pm Scruffy Church family friendly service**

## **JULY**

**Sunday 5**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**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 12**

**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**SM 9 am Eucharist**

**SS 10.45 am Holy Communion + Hangout**

**Sunday 19**

**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**SM 9 am Eucharist**

**SS 10.45 am Choral Communion + Hangout**

**Sunday 26**

**8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**SM 9 am Eucharist**

**SS 10.45 am Worship in the Round + Hangout**

## **AUGUST**

**Sunday 2**

**9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**SM 9 am Eucharist (BYO Coffee)**

**SS 10.45 am Holy Communion + Hangout**

- Sunday 9**                    **10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**  
SM    9 am Eucharist  
SS    10.45 am Holy Communion + Hangout
- Sunday 16**                    **11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**  
SM    9 am Eucharist (BYO Coffee)  
SS    10.45 am Holy Communion + Hangout
- Thursday 20**                    SS    8.15 pm RSCM Bath Summer School Compline
- Sunday 23**                    **12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**  
SM    9 am Eucharist  
SS    10.45 am Worship in the Round + Hangout
- Sunday 30**                    **13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**  
SM & SS 10.45 am Combined Benefice Service

## **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 (until 21 June)

Associate Priest: Revd Debbie Pow

Associated Priest: Rev Dr Katy Garner

To email each by name: [philip/debbie/katy@ststephensbath.org.uk](mailto:philip/debbie/katy@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](mailto: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](http://www.ststephensbath.org.uk)

[www.stmaryscharlcombe.org.uk](http://www.stmaryscharlcombe.org.uk)