



St Stephen
with St Julian

THE PARISH MAGAZINE

of St Stephen with St Julian, St Albans

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APRIL 2024

Price £1.50

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PRAYER NOTES

You might like to pray for

The people of Haiti enduring the complete breakdown of law and order

Innocent civilians caught between warring factions

Individuals and communities on their healing journey

Our Parish, as we approach a time of change

Continue to pray for

Those who are dying, those who have died recently and those who mourn

True freedom of speech and expression where we are able to debate and discuss differing views with compassion and curiosity

Peace – an end to wars and interfaith conflicts

And give thanks for

Spring flowers and blossom in the hedgerows, harbingers of new life and rebirth

JP

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

*Shine as a light in the world
to the glory of God the Father*

None this Month

Weddings

*God is love and those who
live in love live in God
and God lives in them*

None this Month

Funerals

*Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man conceived,
what God has prepared
for those who love Him*

16 February

Audrey Simmonds

CHARLIE WRITES
Alleluia! He has risen!

He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Happy Easter!

Easter is probably our most joyful and joy-filled Christian festival. Our salvation revealed, God's overwhelming love poured out for all humanity and death defeated.

So why is it sometimes so hard to grasp this joy? To experience it for ourselves, let alone live from it as our strength?

Our story of hope, the Easter story, goes through from 'Good' Friday (what appears to be the worst day ever) to Holy Saturday (a day of despair, inaction, of shattered hopes and dreams, of hiding, worry and anxiety) to Easter Sunday the day of joy and all things made new.

I don't know about you, but I can often find myself stuck in the 'Saturday'. But as a follower of Jesus, we are called to be Easter Sunday people and all that brings to our lives. So how do we live like that?

The way we get through the days of confusion and doubt, the Saturdays, is by hanging on to the promises of God. There are about 7000 promises in the bible.

Rick Warren, an American Baptist pastor said, "Never doubt in the dark what God showed you in the light." So, with that in mind, based on promises from God in scripture, what do we know about God in the light? We know that God sees and cares about everything we go through. We know that God grieves when we hurt. The bible tells us God weeps. When he sees inhumanity done by humans to other humans, God grieves. We know God loves each of us unconditionally, he will never stop loving you, you can never make him stop loving you. We know that God is close. We know God loves each and every one of us. We know God can bring good even out of bad, from evil. He can, when we give him the pieces. God specialises in taking crucifixions (it's over) and turning them into resurrections (no it's not!).

We could feel, and maybe you do, very sad at the thought of our lovely Becky and her family moving on to pastures new. It could feel rather like an ending, a bad thing rather than an opportunity for God to move among us, draw us closer to him, to depend on him. It could feel a bit like 'Saturday'.

But Saturday wasn't the end. It was the quiet before the big reveal - Jesus, risen from the tomb, death unable to hold him. Not only was he lifted up on the cross, showing God's glory, his everlasting love for humanity, Jesus is now lifted up from the grave. Risen to everlasting life. Our joy is that we are too. As Paul says in his second letter to Timothy, 'This is a trustworthy saying: If we die with him, we will also live with him.' He also says to the Romans, 'And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him.'

This incredible resurrection isn't just for Jesus, it's for every person who believes in him. It's for us, for you and for me. Romans 10:9 "If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, *you will be saved.*" That's for you and for me.

While I was away on retreat last week, I heard a beautiful song by the group The Porter's Gate called 'New Every Morning'. I found it very helpful to listen to and meditate on the words, letting them sink into my heart and allowing God to bring his resurrection in my life. Maybe you could give it a try too? I recommend it. The lyrics are below and a link to Spotify if that's helpful. Happy Easter! Let's live as Easter Sunday people in our individual lives and also as a Parish!

He is risen.

New Every Morning

You are not what you have done
Or what has been done to you
You are something like the rising sun
Can't you see that you are new

You might have your father's name
Or bear the shame he left behind
But there's new life flowing through your veins
Leave some room to be surprised

Chorus:

You are new every morning
You are new every morning
Each day a resurrection waiting to break through
You could try just for a start
To put the judge back on the shelf

All the loving kindness in your heart
Have a little for yourself

Chorus:

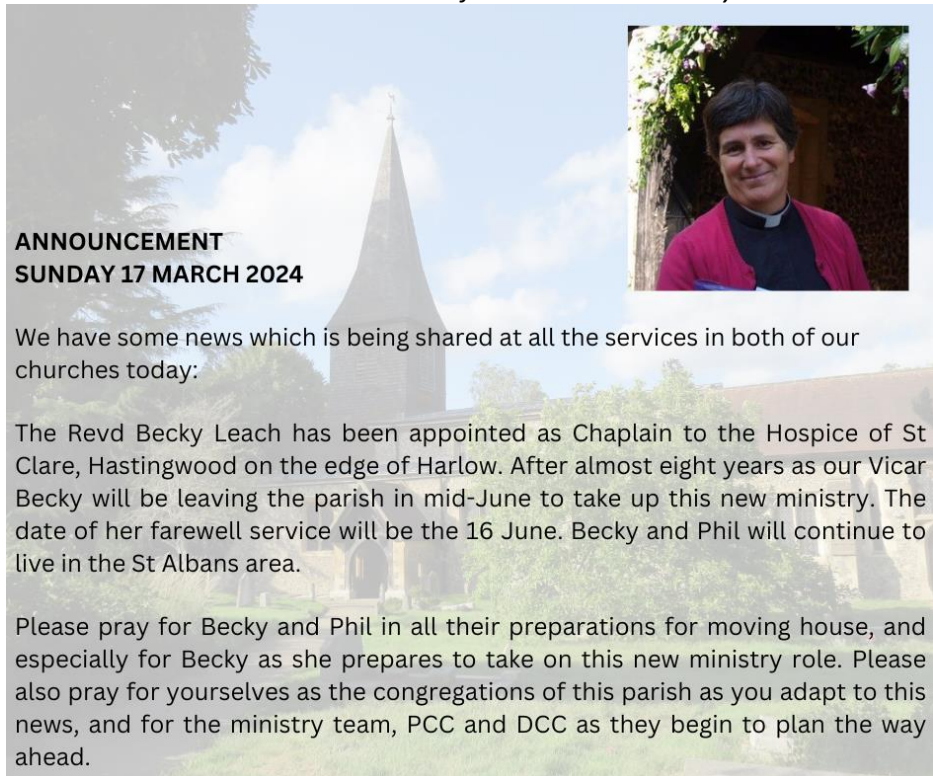
You are new every morning
You are new every morning
Each day a resurrection waiting to break through
You are new

<https://open.spotify.com/track/4OfjaiSzo3s8ST9KRWKQzN?si=1ec5072f4e834ba7>

Charlie Hudson

Dear Reader

Not all of you will be aware that Becky will be leaving the parish in mid-June. It has been a very difficult decision for her to make and she is very sad to be going. However, it is the right thing for her and Phil. The following announcement was made at the end of all services on Sunday 17th March. JP



**ANNOUNCEMENT
SUNDAY 17 MARCH 2024**

We have some news which is being shared at all the services in both of our churches today:

The Revd Becky Leach has been appointed as Chaplain to the Hospice of St Clare, Hastingwood on the edge of Harlow. After almost eight years as our Vicar Becky will be leaving the parish in mid-June to take up this new ministry. The date of her farewell service will be the 16 June. Becky and Phil will continue to live in the St Albans area.

Please pray for Becky and Phil in all their preparations for moving house, and especially for Becky as she prepares to take on this new ministry role. Please also pray for yourselves as the congregations of this parish as you adapt to this news, and for the ministry team, PCC and DCC as they begin to plan the way ahead.

REPORTS FROM RECENT EVENTS

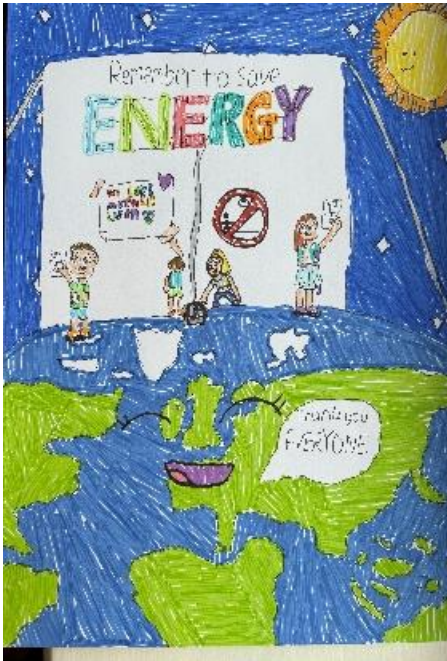
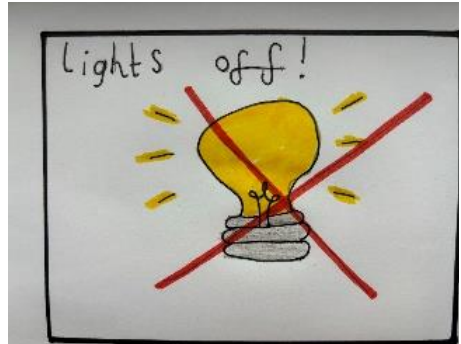
ENERGY-SAVING POSTER COMPETITION

Well done and thank you to all of our entrants. We are delighted to announce the winners of our recent energy-saving poster competition!

Congratulations to Nina (aged 10), Hannah (aged 7 ½) and Emily (aged 7).

The judges were very impressed with their colourful, creative, thoughtful designs. We look forward to seeing these posters and labels being used at church, reminding everyone to save energy and care for God's planet.

Clockwise from top right
Emily – Nina - Hannah



Laura Craggs

CONGRATULATIONS TO VIC AND VERA FOSTER

In early March Vic and Vera Foster won the St Albans Mayor's Pride Award in the volunteers category and we offer them our warmest congratulations and couldn't be more delighted for them. Vic and Vera have helped at the Tuesday Lunch Club at St Stephen's for 17 years - Vic as the driver of the minibus and Vera as his wonderful assistant! We are so pleased they have been recognized in the city for the amazing work they do for the community.



Thank you, Vic and Vera, and well done!

Becky, on behalf of the Parish

TRING MUSEUM OUTING

On Saturday 2nd March an enthusiastic group from our parish drove in convoy to visit the National History Museum in Tring. Some of us were regular visitors to the museum and others (many moons ago) had visited in school uniforms.

This museum never fails to intrigue educate and delight all who cross its threshold. We spent over a couple of hours looking at long ago extinct creatures of all shapes and sizes, an amazing collection of snakes spiders and creatures that make you shudder. Animals that come from parts of the world only Richard Attenborough would have frequented in his lifetime. We even saw under a microscope some fleas dressed up in Mexican outfits!!!

Once we had exhausted our curiosity and had some refreshments at the lovely museum café, we all made our way to have a well-earned late lunch in a great cafe in Tring called Beans and Brunch.

It was an ideal time to visit the museum as the weather was very inclement and also the odd cuppa or two went down a treat.

Thank you to everyone who came on our visit and those who volunteered to drive. We all seemed to go home with a little more knowledge about the incredible creatures that share and have shared our planet.

Anne Bowyer

THE HORSE CHESTNUT TREE

The ecologist inspected the tree on Thursday 21st March. She reported that there were no bats, no complete Jackdaw nests and only two partial nests: no eggs or fledglings. The tree had deteriorated faster than expected which can happen with Horse Chestnuts so it had to come down immediately. A Licence was required from Natural England to take down the two partial nests, this was received very quickly. The Arboriculturists began work first thing on Friday 22nd March.

Rachel Johnston

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

PARISH WALKING GROUP

Dates and places for our next three walks. Note April's walk is on a Friday.

Friday 5 th April	short walk around Heartwood Forest to hopefully see the Bluebells.
Saturday 11 th May	walk around College Lake near Tring
Saturday 1 st June	walk around Leavesden Park

We will meet in St Stephen's Car Park at 1200 with lifts provided. There will be a refreshment break after each of the walks.

Please contact Anne Bowyer if you are interested. (See Parish Directory).

"If nothing changed, there wouldn't be butterflies"

Anon.

ST STEPHEN'S JUMBLE SALE

Saturday 8 June 2-4pm 2024

Jumble Sale with a cake stall and raffle in aid of church funds

You can help by donating

- * new and second-hand items of clothing and household textiles
- * small items of bric-à-brac, jewellery
- * toys and games
- * give a prize for the raffle
- * bring a homemade cake on the day
- * help sorting and selling on the day

NB: We are NOT collecting books, CD's, DVD's or vinyl records.

Please encourage your friends and neighbours to come and have a rummage.

Cheryl Bonnington

cheryl.bonnington@ntlworld.com 01727 757184 or 07769 591682

ST JULIAN'S SUMMER FAIR

15th June 12-3.00pm

Full details will be in the May magazine – stalls, items to donate, help needed.
Watch this space.

Joanna Field

CHARITABLE PROJECTS & COLLECTIONS

ST JULIAN'S 100 CLUB

The 100 Club is designed to raise much-needed funds for St Julian's church and the chance of monetary prizes for Members. Members pay £2 per month for each number they hold (paying by bank transfer, cheque or cash).

Every month three winners are drawn – 1st prize is £20; 2nd prize is £10; and 3rd prize is £5.

At the moment there are 33 numbers, so each one has a 1 in 11 chance to win something each month - pretty good odds! However, the more Members we have, the more funds we raise for the church so do, please, consider joining the 100 Club.

If you would like to join and take part, please contact Joanna Field on 01727 763205 or joannafield@virginmedia.com.

Andy Sharp

FRIENDS OF ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH

The Friends of St Stephen's need you! Can you or your family build a scarecrow / stuffed body to represent a children's book? We hope to have a trail in place that you can follow via a pre-purchased map during the May half term. You will be able to walk, run, cycle or spot a scarecrow from the car as you drive by. So far, we only have a few scarecrows which will form a short hop, skip and a jump, rather than a longer walk around the area.



We have a list of suggested books -- a mixture of old and new - to choose from and we'd be grateful if you would join in with this venture. There will be a prize for the most popular!

Please email friendsofststephen@gmail.com if you would like more information or to take part.

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland
Black Beauty
Charlotte's Web
Doctor Dolittle
Each Peach Pear Plum
James and the Giant Peach
Peter Pan
Peter Rabbit or any Beatrix Potter
Room on the Broom
Rufus and the Blackberry Monster
Swallows & Amazons
The BFG

The Borrowers
The Cat in the Hat
The Famous Five
The Gruffalo
The Hobbit
The Hungry Caterpillar
The Jolly Postman
The Secret Garden
The Wind in the Willows
Where the Wild Things Are
Where's Wally?
Winnie the Pooh

NOTICE OF AGM

The Annual General Meeting will be on Sunday, 9 June, at 2.30 p.m. in the Hall (immediately before the Bee Talk). The Agenda will be circulated nearer the time, but meanwhile please do to consider whether you'd like to nominate candidates for election to the Committee.

Tim Vellacott



All about Bees and Honey

A Friends' fundraising event

Sunday 9 June 2024

3.00pm - 5.00pm

St Stephen's Church Hall
Watling Street

Tickets: £10.00 non members

£ 7.50 members

Available from friendsofststephen@gmail.com or
office@ststephenandstjulian.org

BALLOONS vs TREES

All the activity around the Chestnut Tree made Peeps think of balloons! He was not sure why so he read back through his diary and, sure enough, he had written about the Horse Chestnut Tree and a Hot Air Balloon. He thought Readers might be interested so here is his (abridged) extract from September 2022.



Extract from the Diary of Peeps, Church Mouse. September 2022

The other day I had a good reason to contact another cousin, Maria Mouse, concerning an event which occurred in Welham Green many years ago. My train of thought started when I was looking from the porch door of St Stephen's Church across the gravestones to the magnificent horse chestnut tree, now sadly showing signs of disease and the recent dry weather. Parish records show the exact date on which the tree was planted, 22nd November 1785 (St Cecilia's Day), and I wondered what was happening in England at that time. (Dr G Oogle is a wonderful resource!)

King George III was on the throne and the population of England was recorded as being 8,016,000. January of 1785 saw the first publication of The Daily Universal Register in London, renamed in 1788 as The Times.

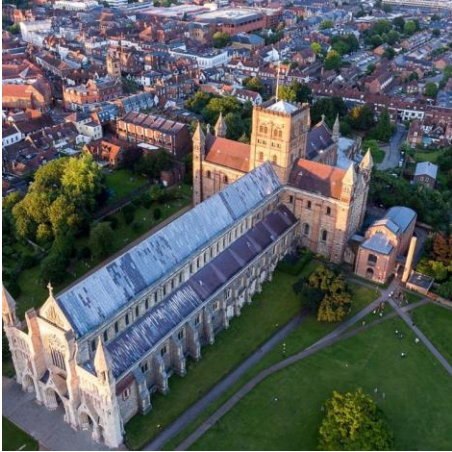
The year 1785 saw the new craze of Balloonomania take hold. A handsome and enterprising Italian gentleman, working in London, called Vincenzo Lunardi, set off from North London in his hot air balloon with a cat, a dog and a pigeon in a cage. The gathered crowds were impatient for him to start so he set off without his male passenger. However, after 13 miles he descended to put out the cat, which was unwell and suffering with the cold.



The site of the landing, in Welham Green, with an inscribed stone and known as 'Balloon Corner', has the nearby road, the residence of Cousin Maria, named after him - Vincenzo Close.

Known as the Daredevil Aeronaut, Lunardi made five tours of Scotland late in 1785, in order to demonstrate his 'Grand Air Balloon'. Fans paid a shilling to see the enormous yellow, green and pink silk balloon suspended in Glasgow Cathedral. The must-have accessory for ladies was the 'Lunardi Bonnet' about 2 foot high and shaped like a balloon. The 'Lunardi skirt' was also shaped like a balloon and was decorated with designs of balloons.

Peeps, Church Mouse



EASTER MONDAY PILGRIMAGE

**to the Cathedral in
St Albans**

**Bank Holiday Monday
1st April**

Join thousands of pilgrims from churches across the Diocese for this special Easter celebration at the Cathedral. This year's theme is "All Things New".

Either walk with our parish group (see details below) or make your way directly to the Cathedral for the service at 3.00pm.

11.45am-12.30pm - Coffee and hot cross buns will be served at St Julian's Church

12.30pm Walkers set off and walk up to St Stephen's

12.50pm - Other walkers may join the group at St Stephen's and walk to the Orchard by the Cathedral.

1.30pm - Picnic lunch in the Abbey Orchard

3.00pm - Service in the Cathedral.

ELECTORAL ROLL 2024

Each year, the Electoral Roll has to be revised prior to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) which, this year, is on SUNDAY 28 APRIL.

This revision will take place between Sunday 10 March 2024 and Sunday 7 April 2024. The last date for the return of these forms is SUNDAY 7 APRIL 2024.

A list of names of those currently on the Roll is available in church. Please check that your name is there. If it isn't but you would like to be on the Roll, please complete an Electoral Roll form and either give it to a member of the clergy or hand it in at the parish office. Only people on the Roll on this date are entitled to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Diane Scott, Electoral Roll Officer

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM) SUNDAY 28 APRIL 11.30AM

The APCM is an important meeting each year within the life of a parish. It gives an opportunity to look back over the past year and to hear reports about aspects of the church's ministry and mission, its care of the finances, buildings and grounds.

There are statutory elements that need to be incorporated into an APCM: the approval of the Parish Accounts; a report from the PCC Secretary; reports from the Churchwardens including about the fabric, goods and ordinances of each church; reports from the Safeguarding Officer and Electoral Roll Officer of the Parish; and some elections of people to serve on the PCC, on Deanery Synod, and in certain other roles within the church. It also gives an opportunity to hear from a whole plethora of groups and activities that are part of our shared life together across our two churches. As well as looking back, the APCM also gives an opportunity to look forward to the next year with vision and hope.

The APCM is always preceded by a five minute 'Meeting of Parishioners'. Anyone who lives in the church parish is entitled to attend and vote at this meeting in which we elect Churchwardens, as well as Deputy and Assistant Wardens.

Please come along to these meetings to hear reports, to vote, to ask questions and give suggestions. The meetings will be held in St Stephen's Church Hall on Sunday 28th April between 11.30am and 1.00pm. **Revd Becky Leach**

ST. STEPHEN'S TREASURER'S REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2024

Normal income in February was £15,286 which is £286 more than the planned income of £15,000 per month as shown in the table below. The income included £4,159 from hall rental and £1,133 in fees for funerals and burials. The cumulative income is £1,012 less than that planned for two months.

	Including Legacies & Major Works		Before Legacies & Major Works		Difference
	Income	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure	
Actual for month	15,286	- 16,362	15,286	- 16,362	- 1,076
Planned for month			15,000	- 14,950	+ 50
Year to Date	28,988	- 31,043	28,988	- 31,043	- 2,055
Planned for 2 months			30,000	- 29,900	+ 100

Normal expenditure was £16,362 which is £1,412 more than planned. The cumulative expenditure is £1,143 more than that planned for two months. The expenditure included £920 for the new chasuble and stole and £15.75 in CAF Bank fees which is less than Barclays fees which were typically £50 per month.

Randal french

ST STEPHEN'S HALL BOOKINGS

Some users of St. Stephen's Hall have been confused by the new banking arrangements. There is now a separate account for the church hall and all payments for hire of St. Stephen's Hall should be made to this new account:

Account Name	St. Stephens PCC, St Albans, Church Hall
Sort Code	40 52 40
Account Number	00036579

NB This only applies to St. Stephen's; details for St. Julian's are unchanged.

DONATIONS TO YOUR CHURCH

About 60% of our income comes from voluntary giving; we do not get any financial support from the Church of England. Although the parish is running at a small surplus, costs are rising so donations are always welcome. There are many ways to give:

Regular Giving

- Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). Centrally run Church of England scheme, this is our preferred method. To register follow this link:
<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/home/> search for St Stephen or St Julian
- Standing Order. Account details are:
St. Stephen's PCC, St Stephen's Church
Sort Code 40-52-40 Account no. 00036577*
St Julian's Church Sort Code 60-18-11 Account no. 42175089

One-off Donations

- Bank Transfer. Details as above for standing orders
- Cheque. Please make payable to 'St. Stephens PCC, St Stephen's Church' or 'St. Julian's Church' and give to one of the Treasurers or Churchwardens or send to the Parish Office (see Parish Directory)
- Online (we pay a small commission (1-2%)). Links and QR codes are:

<p>St. Stephens https://givealittle.co/campaigns/fb509c55-b9f9-48fa-bcff-1db1fb5c7718</p> 	<p>St. Julians https://givealittle.co/campaigns/523d2fdc-9642-41ea-976d-2344a0ba2604</p> 
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If you are able, please make a declaration to apply Gift Aid to your donation as we then receive an additional 25%. This is part of the PGS registration process. For other methods, please ask Hamish Hamilton for a declaration form.

***NB Change to Bank Account details. Please update your Standing Order**
Randal ffrench



A “one-off” event Saturday 20th April – 7.00pm

THE RAZUMOVSKY QUARTET


was formed in 2020 by four close friends: Ellie Fagg, Tom Norris, Dorothea Vogel and Orlando Jopling. Busy performing schedules meant that they had hardly ever had a chance to explore music together - until the pandemic gave them the opportunity. Every cloud has a silver lining! Having performed many concerts online to hundreds of people around the world, the quartet have come back together to perform live!



Locally born violinist, leader and chamber musician, Ellie Fagg, is bringing this exciting venture to St Albans to raise money for the beautiful 10th century St Stephen’s church. Ellie’s playing has been described as ‘with a sense of enchantment’ by the Strad magazine and she has an eclectic career leading and directing orchestras such as the London Chamber Orchestra, working in various chamber ensembles and playing in the London Symphony Orchestra. Here she met principal LSO member, Tom Norris, whom she married in St Stephen’s Church. Tom is an old friend of Orlando Jopling, a highly talented conductor

and cellist who combines playing top chamber music and conducting extraordinary projects around the world. All three have collaborated many times with the wonderful viola player from the Allegri Quartet, Dorothea Vogel who, with decades of quartet experience, was the perfect fit for the quartet.

Only 80 tickets are available for this one-off experience. Arrive from 6.30pm for a drink, enjoy the extraordinary music of Benjamin Britten and then Ravel's ever popular string quartet (often in the top 10 of the most listened to classical works) and stay on afterwards to chat with the quartet. There is no seating plan, but no-one will be far from the quartet, who will play in the centre of the church hall with the audience surrounding them.

	Ticket Information	
	• Full Price	£25.00
	• Under 18s	Free
Discount on tickets for Members of the Friends of St Stephen's There is a "pay what you can" option directly with the Church		

They are available from:

The Parish Office: office@ststephenandstjulian.org
<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/razumovskyquartet/1132363> or
 following the QR code above or www.razumovskyquartet.com

We are very grateful for your generosity which will help raise much-needed funds for the conservation of the church building.

Ellie Fagg, The Razumovsky Quartet

GENERAL SYNOD – LAND & NATURE MOTION

It was very good to hear that the Land and Nature motion was passed by General Synod on 17th February with a huge amount of support. Those present commented on the very positive spirit in the debate and a sense of unity of purpose. The Church of England press release, which includes the full text of the motion, can be accessed via the link below:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media/press-releases/general-synod-backs-action-tackle-biodiversity-crisis>

There has also been a very positive reception to the news in the national press and from conservation organisations. Speaking after the event at a meeting of the DEO Land & Biodiversity working group, Andy Lester from A Rocha UK said, 'we are profoundly encouraged by the sense of unity behind this... there has been a great step forward compared to two-three years ago. The speed of movement in the last year is very encouraging.' One particular area that had been predicted to be contentious was the balance between land management for nature versus agriculture. Peter Bretherton from English Nature said that he was 'particularly pleased that for Synod at least, biodiversity and nature were not seen in competition with food production'.

Rachel Johnston, Diocesan Environment Officer

ST JULIAN'S WINDOWS

For some time we've been concerned about certain windows at St Julian's – in particular, the leaded lights, which are really showing their age (and are expensive to maintain). A recent Quinquennial Inspection recommended replacement of those in the Church.

The advice from the Diocesan Advisory Committee was that we should replace these ideally with double-glazed plain glass, to match those in the new vestibule and kitchen extension. After applying for a certificate of planning we were told that full planning consent would be needed; the Pandemic intervened and held things up, but we're now nearly there! The plan is to replace those in the hall - the nave of the Church - in the fortnight after Easter, and those in the Church proper in the two to three weeks after that. So with luck, by the time you read this, work will have started.

Having had three successively high monthly gas bills, as Treasurer I am looking forward to some savings – although how much it's difficult to say. The Church

will also be lighter inside because of the plain glass, which may save us a little electricity. Saving carbon is very definitely a motivation.

The cost? About £42,000

There is a parish fund for dealing with Quinquennial Inspection related work: this will pay for the work on the Church windows – around 50% of the total. St Julian’s has enough to pay the other half, especially since we are gratefully expecting a £5,000 grant from the Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust. We’ve had two generous donations and are promised one more – but more would be much appreciated.

I’m currently forecasting a £12,000 loss for the year, after meeting the net cost to us of the windows. At the end of 2023, we had about £31,000 in hand. That will leave us with £19,000 at the end of 2024. But £16,000 of that is our reserves – six months expenditure which we hold under Charity Commission Regulations. We could break into that, but particularly having lived through the pandemic we would be reluctant to do so. In 2025 we’ll have another Quinquennial Inspection: the last one cost £1,100 and the cost won’t have gone down. So on current forecasts we will have very little free cash going forward into 2025.

We have an impressive fund-raising programme planned (which I hope you’ll be able to read about elsewhere in the magazine) and support, of course. But fund-raising netted us £2,200 last year: I’m hoping for more but even doubling it will still leave us with very little spare.

I’m watching income and expenditure closely. I’m especially watching gas bills (although they are quite low in summer, so we won’t see much benefit from the new windows until the end of the year). I’ll be watching fund-raising income, as well as donations. But even a 70-year-old building needs continuous care, maintenance and repairs: £2,000 won’t be enough. So any donations towards our new windows would be very gratefully received.

Andy Sharp, Treasurer & Joanna Field, Deputy Churchwarden

100 CLUB WINNERS

Prize numbers are announced in the magazine each month: winning numbers in March were as follows:

1 st Prize - £20	2 nd Prize - £7	Third Prize - £3
30	23	29

SYMBOLS OF ANIMALS IN CHURCHES

Back in 2019 I wrote of some saints and their connection with animals – St Hugh and his Swan, St. Cuthbert and an Otter etc – this time it's just about two animals.

The Fox – Apparently the fox featured extensively in medieval legend. One of the earliest things that Caxton printed, in 1481, was a translation he had made from the original Flemish of “The History of Reynard the Fox”. According to legend the fox was the one that was always up to mischief and tricks, upsetting the other animals and not complying with rules set down by “the king”. He particularly annoyed the wolf family who made such a fuss the king decreed that the wolf and the fox should fight it out in front of him and all the other animals. The fox's friends and relations, aware of the wolf's superior size and strength, assisted the fox to prepare for the fight. His cousin the otter found him a fat duck to eat “without sauce or bread” to make him fat. His aunt, Rukenawe the she-ape, shaved off all the hair from his body and oiled him so that the wolf could not get hold of him. She also advised him to drink a lot to make good urine, but to hold it until he came to the fight when he should pee liberally on his tail and use that to smite the wolf in the face, thereby blinding him.

The Unicorn – Our acquaintance with the unicorn now-a-days is as an heraldic beast, the name being the Latin for one horn. Heraldry however is a relatively modern art whereas stories of one-horned creatures with mystical powers go back to the dawn of history.

The Greeks had evidently heard accounts of such beasts and gave them the name “Rhinoceros” (one horn in Greek) and classified them under natural history rather than mythology. In the second century a unicorn was described as having the body of a horse (giving it strength), the legs of a deer (giving it speed), the tail of a lion (giving it power) and the beard of a goat (giving it wisdom).

Stories abounded that the horn could be an antidote to poison and could also be used as an aphrodisiac (both Asia). When Marco Polo returned from the Orient his description of a unicorn closely resembled what we today know as a rhinoceros. From Africa came an account most likely based on the oryx. It has two short straight horns, which from a side view look like one. From the

North, vague descriptions of the Narwhal gave the idea that the unicorn was amphibious.

One of the most fanciful myths told that there was only one way to trap a unicorn, this was to sit a virgin in a quiet place where she was to sing sweetly until the unicorn came by and rested its head in her lap. From this developed the ideas of the unicorn representing purity and ruling in harmony; in contrast to the lion which ruled by power.

The mystical and aphrodisiac properties of unicorn horns made them very expensive. In 1510 Pope Julius II commissioned Michelangelo to paint the Sistine Chapel, he also bought a Narwhal horn, mounted on a silver base, for which he paid 5 times as much as Michelangelo's fee.

From the 15th century the unicorn featured frequently in art and from about the same time its use in heraldry increased. A collared unicorn with a broken chain became a symbol of freedom and its association with virginity implied purity. Somehow the unicorn became the emblem of Scotland while the lion was that of England. The first use of the lion and the unicorn as supporters for the royal coat of arms was in 1603 when James I introduced this symbol as the union of the two countries with himself ruling with both strength and harmony.

Neville Scott
with thanks to Anthony Oliver, Abbey Guide

NOW YOU SEE ME, NOW YOU DON'T?

There is a worrying trend in churches reported in the Press, relating to the pulpit. The pulpit is being ignored, with sermons preached from the front of the nave, apparently in the name of 'equality'. However, this could mean that not everyone can see the vicar and, in some cases where deafness is a problem, lip reading is out of the question. An interesting thought.

As a member of the choir seated behind the vicar preaching wherever they are, I do not have a view, but how about you? The waters are clouded by that Covid hangover whereby we broadcast our services online. This means that the lectern in the nave gives the online viewer a clearer/nearer view of the sermon perhaps. I have noted that when the filming is at St Julian's the clergy at St Stephen's do use the pulpit.

Keith Merridan

EDITORIAL

I would like to thank Alison Pether for stepping into the breach and helping to finalise the Magazine last month. I'd had a temporary blip and couldn't look at a screen for any length of time so the final formatting and proofreading fell, very last minute, to Alison's lot. Thank you.

Since I last wrote, so much has happened and I am trying to catch up. I missed the Flower Guild's annual lunch and have not been able to go to bell ringing since mid-February (that's why the bells have sounded so much better this last month). There has been hedge planting, spring cleaning and a new cherry tree in my absence. Thank you to all the contributors who have continued to send me articles and points of interest for inclusion, I couldn't do it without you.

Spring has definitely sprung! Snowdrops have given way to Daffodils; shrubs are laden with blossom and the grass definitely needs mowing. The Crab Apple tree is bursting into leaf and tiny buds are visible so the flowers will soon be out. Sadly, the same is not true for the Horse Chestnut Tree in St Stephen's churchyard. People from across the local area are saddened by the loss of such a landmark. The stump remains and will soon become home to a new community of wildlife.

The Magazine is again full of projects and fundraising initiatives – new windows at St Julian's, a "one-off" concert, a Scarecrow Trail, jumble sales, fairs and walks plus a talk about Bees and Honey. It also includes the announcement that Becky will be leaving us to direct her energy and enthusiasm to a new Ministry. We will each have our own thoughts and memories of how Becky has touched our lives and deepened our faith. It was Becky who encouraged me to take over editing the Magazine so, if nothing else, you have her to thank (or blame?) for that.

Whilst there is uncertainty ahead, we have much to be grateful for. Becky has enriched the life of our parish and created strong links with the wider community. She will leave us, however, we will be stronger for having known her and walked beside her on our journey.

Julia Pyburn

Now, let's see what Peeps has been up to

DIARY OF PEEPS, CHURCH MOUSE

Extract from March 2024's Diary

On a warmish day at the end of February, a group of people from the CND group in St Albans, together with members of St Julian's and St Stephen's, gathered in the NE of the churchyard to celebrate the planting of a young cherry tree and to remember those who were killed or injured in the bombing of Hiroshima at the end of World War II. The first cherry tree died as it became overshadowed by bigger trees and the second tree, planted ten years ago, was badly infected by honey fungus and was removed. Vicar Becky led prayers after the official planting ceremony and then everyone enjoyed refreshments in the hall.

One Sunday afternoon I hitched a lift to the care home, Vesta Lodge, where Maggie led the monthly service for the residents on the theme of springtime. We sang five hymns in total, interspersed with prayers, readings and a talk illustrated by beautiful birdsong. We were invited to identify different birds by their songs, before Maggie pulled the actual toy bird out of a bag where they were hidden. The robin, sparrow, blackbird, and bluetit were fairly easy to recognise, although the wood pigeon sounded more like a mobile phone! It was a lovely afternoon and the residents were presented with a bunch of daffodils each to take back to enjoy in their rooms.

One Wednesday afternoon organist Tim entertained many visitors, explaining, with slides shown on a screen, how the church organ works and illustrating the many different sounds with well-chosen pieces of music. There were examples of organ pipes on display made of different materials and we heard about how humidity and temperature can affect the tuning. Did you know that our church organ has 61 notes on the manual keyboards and 32 notes on the pedal board? My favourite pieces were the 'Prelude and Fugue in C minor' by J.S.Bach and 'In a Monastery Garden' by A.E.Ketelbey.

I had another occasion to hitch a lift – this time with the Walking Group to visit the Natural History Museum at Tring, which was the private museum of Lionel Walter, 2nd Baron Rothschild. It houses one of the finest collections of stuffed mammals, birds, reptiles and insects in the United Kingdom and although it was extremely interesting it was slightly unnerving for a small mouse. The polar bears in the first glass case were enormous, as were the elephants, rhinos and snakes. The colours of the butterflies were amazing, and in case you wondered

– yes there was a stuffed mouse, hopefully not one of my ancestors. I avoided the section on taxidermy! It was interesting to note that, in order to preserve the skin and fur, the exhibits have to be regularly inspected and, if necessary, put into the freezer to kill off any infestations.

Recently, we welcomed Archdeacon Charles to the Sunday morning service, to celebrate and bless the completion of the Porch Project. John Robins, a past and well-loved member of the church, left a legacy to provide glass doors in order to improve the porch entrance (and keep the heat in) and enable those with mobility difficulties to access the church more easily. Both the inner and outer doors of the porch add to the beautiful architecture – saying welcome, come in, see what we have to offer. The automated doors in the link corridor are also a great improvement. This is one of the prayers used by the Archdeacon as the doors were being blessed:

Ever living God, accept us now, as we dedicate these new doors through which we enter, to praise your name, to ask your forgiveness, to know your healing power, to hear your word, and to be nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son. Be present always to guide, to illuminate and to bless your people as we gather in this place. Equip us, as we exit across these thresholds, to go out, confident to share in the work of your mission in the world which you love. Amen.

After the service, during which Archdeacon blessed a new red stole and chasuble, everyone enjoyed refreshments in the hall, which of course included cake. I shall never be a thin mouse!

Peeps, Church Mouse



ENGLISH AS SHE IS SPOKE

There are blocks of flats near the former gaol on Victoria Street. On one of them is a sign to a “Multi-storey Visitor Car Park”. I don't think I've seen any multi-storey visitors recently, but maybe a car park designated specially for them will encourage them?

Andy Sharp

REGULAR PARISH CLUBS AND GROUPS

Some of these groups operate in Term Time only.

Mondays

Home Group – 2.00 – 4.00pm Fortnightly at Vicarage Close

A chance to gather to share our faith and deepen our fellowship with one another as we learn from scripture and pray together. For more information, contact Geoff Lackey (see Parish Directory).

Tuesdays

Parish Lunch Club – 12.30–2pm in St Stephen’s Church Hall

For people living in the parish who are aged from their mid-70s upwards. Lunch Club volunteers cook and serve a two-course meal for a very small charge. This lovely social setting allows members to catch up with friends and make new ones. Lifts to and from are available. Like to know more? Contact Harriet Sherlock (see Parish Directory).

Wednesdays

Coffee Morning – 10.00-11.00am in St Stephen’s Church

An informal time for a chat and light refreshments. Stay for as long as you like, no need to book.

Tot & Teddies – from 10.30am at St Julian’s

Suitable for babies to 4-year-olds. We sing songs, listen to a bible story, play with toys or enjoy a craft activity. Refreshments afterwards. “Summer Tots” continue to meet on Wednesday mornings during the school summer holiday. Older children are welcome to come along with their younger siblings. Want to know more? Contact Becky (see Parish Directory).

Thursdays

Community Café – 10.30-12pm at St Julian’s

Tea, coffee, cakes (usually home-made) and friends to meet and make. Just bring yourself, no need to book.

Fridays

Community Shed – from 10.30 in St Stephen’s Hall

For people living on their own, a space for arts, crafts, board games, conversation and cake. Interested? Contact Kate Merlino (See Parish Directory).

PARISH DIARY

APRIL			
Mon	1	Easter Monday Pilgrimage (see page 14)	
Fri	5	12.00pm	Parish Walking Group – Bluebells at Heartwood Forest (see Page 9)
Mon	15	11.00am	Vesta Lodge Communion Service
Sat	20	7.00pm	Razumovsky Quartet Concert at SS
Sun	21	3.00-5.00pm	Greenwood URC Service & gathering at St Stephen's (Lady Chapel/Kentish Room)
Fri	26	10.30am	Fonthill House Communion Service
Sun	28	11.30pm	APCM at St Stephen's (see Page 15)
		2.30pm	Songs of Praise at Vesta Lodge
MAY			
Thurs	9	7.30pm	Ascension Day Service at St Stephen's
Sat	11	12.00pm	Parish Walking Group – College Lake, near Tring (see Page 9)
Sunday 12th – Saturday 18th – Christian Aid Week			
Sun	12	6.30pm	Christian Aid Service hosted by St Stephen's preceded by refreshments in the Hall from 5.30pm
Sat	18	10.00am – 12noon	Christian Aid Coffee Morning and Plant Sale at St Julian's
Sun	19	10.00am	PENTECOST Whit Sunday special All Age Service at St Stephen's
		3.00-5.00pm	Greenwood URC Service & gathering at St Stephen's (Lady Chapel/Kentish Room)
Mon	20	11.00am	Vesta Lodge Communion Service
Sun	26	2.30pm	Vesta Lodge Songs of Praise
Half Term Fundraising Fun – Friends of St Stephen's Scarecrow Trail Fri 24th – Fri 31st May. Prize for the most popular!			
Fri	31	10.30am	Fonthill House Communion Service
JUNE			
Sat	1	12.00	Parish Walking Group – Leavesden Lake (see Page 9)
Sat	8	2.00-4.00pm	Jumble Sale at St Stephen's (see Page 10)

Sun	9	2.30pm	Friends of St Stephen's AGM (see Page 12)
		3.00-5.00pm	Friends of St Stephen's "All About Bees & Honey" fundraising event (see Page 12)
Sat	15	12-3.00pm	Summer Fair at St Julian's
Sun	16	10.00am	Joint Parish Service at St Stephen's followed by a farewell lunch party in the hall to say goodbye to Becky.
Sun	16	3.00-5.00pm	Greenwood URC Service & gathering at St Stephen's (Lady Chapel/Kentish Room)
Mon	17	11.00am	Vesta Lodge Communion Service
Wed	19	8.00pm	Pudding Club
Sat	22	ALL DAY	Alban Pilgrimage
Fri	28	10.30am	Fonthill House Communion Service
Sun	30	2.30pm	Vesta Lodge Songs of Praise

PARISH MEETINGS DIARY

APRIL

Tuesday	16	8.00pm	Standing Committee
Sunday	21	11.00am	St Julian's AGM
Sunday	28	11.30am	APCM at St Stephen's
Tuesday	30	8.00pm	DCC Meeting

MAY

Tuesday	14	8.00pm	PCC Meeting
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JUNE

Weds	5	7.30pm	Deanery Synod at St Mark's, Colney Heath
Tues	18	8.00pm	Standing Committee

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

Wednesdays	10.30am	Tots & Teddies	St Julian's Church
1 st Sunday	10.00am	Sunday Explorers	St Stephen's Hall
3 rd Saturday	5-6.30pm	Saturday@5	St Stephen's Hall
Last Sunday	10.00am	All-Age Service	St Stephen's Church

NB Activities may change during School Holidays. Check the Weekly Notices for details.

Other Committees and Groups meet on an ad hoc basis through the year. If you want to find out more about a particular activity or club, please contact the Organiser for more details (see Parish Directory).

READINGS THIS MONTH

7 th April - The 2 nd Sunday of Easter
Acts 4: 32-35 1 John 1: 1-2.2 John 20: 19-31
14 th April - The 3 rd Sunday of Easter
Acts 3; 12-19. 1 John 3: 1-7 Luke 24: 36b-48
21 st April - The 4 th Sunday of Easter
Acts 4: 5-12 1 John 3: 16-24 John 10: 11-18
28 th April - The 5 th Sunday of Easter
Acts 8: 26-40 1 John 4: 7-21 John 15: 1-8

ORDINARY SERVICES

Sunday	8.00am	St Stephen's	Book of Common Prayer
	9.30am	St Julian's	Holy Communion*
	10.00am	St Stephen's	Holy Communion*
	6.30pm	St Stephen's	Evening Prayer – Book of Common Prayer
	Week 1		
	Week 2	St Julian's	Evening Prayer – Common Worship
	Week 3	St Stephen's	Contemporary Worship
	Week 4	St Julian's	Sacred Space
	Week 5	St Stephen's	Prayers for Healing and Wholeness
Tuesday	9.15am	St Stephen's	Morning Prayer
Weds	9.15am	St Stephen's	Holy Communion
Thursday	9.15am	St Julian's	Morning Prayer
	12.15pm	first Thursday of the Month	
		St Julian's	said Holy Communion
Friday	9.15am	Zoom	Morning Prayer

*** Either the 9.30am or 10.00am services are live streamed each week and available to see on YouTube**



St Stephen
with St Julian

COURT CIRCULAR

April 2024

Buggingham Palace

King Bumble has returned and taken up residence at the Palace. Queen Bee is busy in the nursery ensuring that all her brood are warm and dry.

Lord and Lady Bird were woken early from hibernation by unseasonably warm weather. They were seen purposefully pacing along the outer wall of the Palace before being caught by the cold snap and returning to their slumber.

Sir Earwig Go advertised for Cleaners. There were several applicants with competing skills and appetites. This conflict was resolved with a Rota – Anthony, Anita and Adam Ant to clean the interior; Turdus and Merula Blackbird to tidy the exterior.

Yew Tree Manor

Dame Arachnid Web received notice of the Horse Chestnut Tree removal. A 'Displaced Invertebrates' shelter was set up beforehand to ease the transition. Friends and neighbours rallied round to provide basic necessities. Some lower storey residents hope to return to their homes. Others are already looking for suitable sites to construct new shelters.

Compost Court and Hill Hall

The completed Hedgerow now provides a safe thoroughfare for neighbours to visit and transact business. Famer Nettle said "It were disruptive, I don't deny, but all is pleased with how it's turned out".

Christopher Robin had a singing match with Rudy Redbreast and they have settled where their boundaries lie. Whilst the Hedgerow will take a while to establish itself, both youngsters hope it will meet with the approval of their new brides.

PARISH DIRECTORY

The Vicarage and Parish Office

14 Watling Street, St Albans Hertfordshire. AL1 2PX

Ministry Team

Vicar

Revd Becky Leach vicar@ststephenandstjulian.org 01727 862598

Associate Priest

Revd Patrick Moriarty father.patrick@icloud.com 07790 836956

Assistant Curate in Training

Revd Charlie Hudson curate@ststephenandstjulian.org 07940 161242

Reader

Michael Elves Michael.elves@btinternet.com 01727 872750

Lay Leaders of Worship

Mike & Mike-Gibbs@outlook.com 01727 854860

Netta Gibbs nettag@tiscali.co.uk

Maggie Dodd mrsmaggiedodd@gmail.com 01727 874347

Children & Families Leader

Laura Craggs childrenandfamiliesleader@gmail.com 07980 282062

Mission Enabler - Environment

Rachel Johnston rajohnston2@googlemail.com 07947 989770

Pastoral Enabler

Mary Willatt jwillatt@icloud.com 01707 653441

Discipleship Enablers

Randal ffrench & randal.ffrench@outlook.com 01727 863297

Netta Gibbs 01727 854860

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Neil Johnston njohnston2@gmail.com 01727 842822

Deputy Churchwarden

Jude Ward judithannward68@gmail.com 07467 197111

Joanna Field joannafield@virginmedia.com 01727 763205

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Randal ffrench randal.ffrench@outlook.com 01727 863297

Assistant Treasurer (Giving)

Hamish Hamilton hamish.hamilton2@gmail.com 07931 561963

St Julian's Treasurer

Andy Sharp	andrewsharp2014@gmail.com	01727 832982
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PCC Secretary

Mary Willatt	jwillatt@icloud.com	01707 653441
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DCC Secretary

Joanna Field	joannafield@virginmedia.com	01727 763205
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Hall Hire**St Stephen**

Bob & Pam Roome	hallbookingsststephen@gmail.com	01727 863425
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St Julian

Anthony Coles	hallbookingsstjulian@gmail.com	07749 677638
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Clubs & Community**Lunch Club**

Harriet Sherlock	harriet.sherlock.t21@btinternet.com	07779 787469
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Coffee Morning

Mary Willatt	jwillatt@icloud.com	01707 653441
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Community Café

Joanna Field	joannafield@virginmedia.com	01727 763205
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Community Shed

Mary Willatt	jwillatt@icloud.com	01707 653441
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Kate Merlino	ststephenscommunityhub@gmail.com	07769 322580
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Bellringers at St Stephen's

Alison Macfarlane	alison.macfarlane@lineone.net	01727 852111
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Flower Guild at St Stephen's

Angela Hanley	hanley355@btinternet.com	07483 845198
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Choir at St Stephen's

Bob Roome		01727 863425
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Churchyard Gardening Group at St Stephen's

Mike Gibbs	Mike-Gibbs@outlook.com	01727 854860
------------	--	--------------

Rachel Johnston	rajohnston2@googlemail.com	07947 989770
-----------------	--	--------------

Children & Young People's Groups**Sunday Explorers**

Laura Craggs	childrenandfamiliesleader@gmail.com	07980 282062
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Tots & Teddies

Becky Leach	vicar@ststephenandstjulian.org	01727 862598
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Saturday @ 5

Maggie Dodd	mrsmaggiedodd@gmail.com	01727 874347
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Faith & Fellowship**Home Group**

Revd Geoff Lackey	glackey@virginmedia.com	01727 863219
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Men's Breakfast

Randal ffrench	randal.ffrench@outlook.com	01727 863297
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Parish Walking Group

Anne Bowyer	annebowyer@hotmail.co.uk	07779 018165
-------------	--	--------------

Pudding Club

Laura Craggs	childrenandfamiliesleader@gmail.com	07980 282062
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Friends of St Stephen's**Hon. Chair**

Tim Vellacott	tim@radicalmoon.co.uk	
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Hon. Secretary

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www.ststephenandstjulian.org

X (formerly Twitter)

[@StStephenJulian](https://twitter.com/StStephenJulian)

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/ststephenandstjulian>

Instagram

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YouTube Channel

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqc4_ZbloGXWz4cEfPdhAhg

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Magazine Distribution

Alison Pether	office@ststephenandstjulian.org
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Magazine Information

The copy deadline is the 15th of the previous month. Early submission of articles is always welcome. Articles are preferred via email if possible.

To subscribe, pick up a form at either church or email the Editor magazine@ststephenandstjulian.org

REGULAR HALL USERS

St Julian's – hallbookingsstjulian@gmail.com

- Seated Chair Exercise
- Tai Chi
- Children's Dance
- Guides
- Pilates
- Yoga
- Salaam Ladies
- Sopwell Choir
- Trefoil Guild
- Rainbows
- Brownies
- Zumba

St Stephen's – hallbookingsststephen@gmail.com

- Early Dance
- RCSD Scottish Dancing
- Sets & Reps for new mums with babies
- Bridge
- Bums & Tums
- AA
- Fitness to Music
- Brownies
- Guides
- Pilates
- Pixie Studio – dance and drama for primary children
- Accordion & Fiddle
- Verulam Writers
- WI
- French for Fun
- Folk Dance
- Herts Textile Art & Sewing

Full details of dates and times are available in both Churches. If you want to find out more, please contact the relevant Hall Bookings person.

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- Branch: Treeves Ho., 52 Shenley Rd, Borehamwood WD6 1DS (020 8953 1444)

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St Julian's

Every Thursday

10:30 – noon

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Contact Anthony Coles
anthonycoles22@btopenworld.com
Competitive rates!

CHURCH HALL HIRE

St Stephen's

Bob & Pam Roome

01727 863425

hallbookingsststephen@gmail.com

St Julian's

Anthony Coles

07749 677638

hallbookingsstjulian@gmail.com