

Contacts at St Stephen's

You may find this list of contacts useful should you and your family wish to join in with any of the ministries within our church:

Altar Serving

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Bulletin

Liz LeGrys 01962 861229 · Jeannette Archdeacon 01962 864556
Karen Murtagh 01962 861209

Children's Liturgy

Mary Alveyn 01962 867290 · Michelle Clarke 01962 867092

Church Flowers

Liz Tipple 01962 861918

Coffee Rota

Mary Tutton 01962 864761

Community Room Bookings

St Peter's School 01962 852820

Cooking Rota Volunteers

Liz Whitfield 01962 882057 · Karen Murtagh 01962 861209

Music

Kate Smith 01962 713156

Readers' Rota

Peter & Margaret McManus 01962 854080

Traidcraft Stall

Claude Smith 01962 713132

Welcome Rota

Liz Tipple 01962 861918

Youth Group Contact

Marion Sharpe 01962 852314 marion.sharpe@btinternet.com

Priests, Secretary and Parish Administrator:

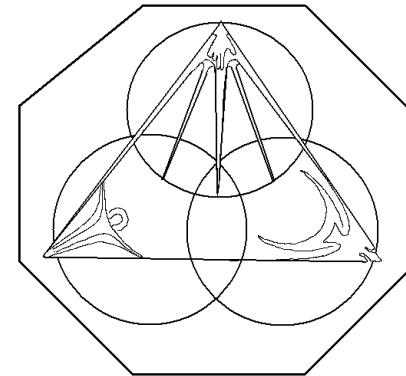
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St Stephen's Church Winchester



40th Anniversary Edition

Bulletin

May 2009

Welcome

Well, it seems a good time was had by all at the 40th Anniversary celebrations of our beautiful church. This issue of the St Stephen's Bulletin is principally devoted to reflections of those celebrations by some members of our worshipping community.

The thanks of our whole congregation go to all those among us who were involved in organising the various events which made the week such a great success.

As always, it was heartening for us to be able to welcome to some of these events our Church of England friends from the churches of St Luke and St Mark, led by their vicar, the Rev Mike Gardner, and his family.

Here's to the next ten years and our Golden Anniversary!

Don't forget the next meeting of the St Stephen's Pastoral Group will be held on **Monday 18 May at 7.30pm** in the Community Room. At this meeting a new chairperson will be elected by the pastoral group for the coming year. Clare Robinson, who has held the post for the past year, will then replace Denis Archdeacon as the St Stephen's worshipping community representative on the Hampshire Downs Pastoral Council.

Please note: **The meeting is open to every regular adult member of our worshipping community.** And remember, if you can't come to the meeting, you can always nominate someone for the job of chairperson – but do ask him/her first!

And finally *congratulations* to Brian Mustoe who has been asked and who has agreed to become the next editor of **CrossKeys**, the Hampshire Downs parish magazine, starting with the summer issue.

Top tip from WinACC

Flying, for leisure or business, can easily become your biggest personal contribution to climate change. Within the UK and the rest of Europe, why not drive or take a train or coach instead? Avoid travelling by air unless it is essential to do so.

.....and finally.

- Congratulations to all “our” children who have received Jesus in Holy Communion for the first time either last Sunday (May 10th) or today (May 17th). We are looking forward to seeing you all in your finery at St Stephen's soon.
- With all the excitement of the birthday celebrations, we have not mentioned J. John's “Just 10” Mission to Winchester which is well under way. The meetings are in the Cathedral every Wednesday. Please pick up a timetable in the porch. We hope to have a piece about it in the next edition. If you have been going to the meetings we would love to hear from you.
- Last week it was the turn of a group mainly from St Stephen's to cook and serve the Friday Cafod Lunch at the Parish Centre. It was very disappointing that only 16 people attended, (including the workers) as the soup was delicious, the bread and cheese generous and the service impeccable! OK, it cost £3 but you could not get a ploughman's for that price in any pub nowadays. If you live near St Stephen's don't forget the number 5 bus does an almost door to door trip.
- I must apologise for an error in the last Bulletin. I said that Doreen Dickenson had helped Josie Brooks with her piece about St Thomas More's. In fact it was really Imelda Henderson. Sorry Doreen, and sorry Imelda.

Thanks to brilliant Karen, we don't have typing errors in our Bulletin. Not all church magazines are as lucky. Here are three of the best ...

- The pastor would appreciate it if the parish ladies would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.
- Potluck supper on Sunday at 5pm followed by prayer and medication.
- Remember in prayer those of our community who are sick. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say “Hell” to someone who doesn't care much about you.

The School's Celebration Mass Wednesday 22nd April 2009 9.30

A joyful celebration for 40 years of St Stephen's Church took place on Wednesday 22nd April .

Many regular members of the Sunday congregation joined with the children and staff of St Peter's School to celebrate Mass on this special day. The celebrant was Canon Paul. The school brass band played a lively rendition of "It's Me O Lord" as the congregation took their places.

The church was packed and as usual was a welcoming, beautiful place for worship. The altar linen, flowers and decorations—including the Cross symbolising the Risen Christ behind the altar in the alcove—all reflected the love and care of those who prepare the church for Mass.

Adults and children who attend St Stephen's 9.15 Mass on Sundays played important roles in this celebration. James Nahajski and Netty Redding were the altar servers and Nicky Whiles introduced the Mass.

Matthew and Felicity Bray read the Psalm and Sam Egerton-Kemp, the Bidding Prayers. Anne Benson and Christel Mc Cartney, who for many years have contributed so much to the smooth running of all Masses, liturgies and celebrations, took up the offertory gifts.

The Gospel reading recounted the stoning and martyrdom of St Stephen. Canon Paul began his homily by telling us that this building is not as important as the people who come into it. We, the people, are the Church. We need to be like St Stephen. We must be full of love for God and others, forgive and tell people about Jesus. Canon Paul pointed out the triangle in the ceiling showing the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He said we are full of the Holy Spirit and need to be brave and courageous like St Stephen, the first friend of Jesus to die a martyr. Canon Paul reminded us that throughout the 40 years people had been coming to Sunday Mass, bringing with them their sadness, joys, hopes and worries. This building is a place where people come together to celebrate God's love, and then go out to show this in their daily lives.

There was singing throughout Mass and Instrumental music for reflection after Communion.

At the end of Mass Christel and Anne were presented with a cheque from the school for £300 for St Stephen's. A special thanks to them was included in the Mass leaflet, as they always make school children and staff feel part of the community at St Stephen's. Coffee and biscuits were served by children from the school in the Community Room.

Deirdre Renwick

SAINTS OF THE MONTH

Blessed Damien of Molokai

Feast Day 10 May

When Joseph de Veuster was born in Tremelo, Belgium, in 1840, few people in Europe had any first-hand knowledge of leprosy. Because of him, by the time he died people all over the world knew about this disease and how human compassion could soften its ravages.

He had to leave school when he was 13 to work on the family farm. Six years later Joseph entered the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, taking the name of a fourth-century physician and martyr. When his brother, a priest in the same congregation, fell ill and was unable to go to the Hawaiian Islands as assigned, Damien volunteered in his place. In May 1864, two months after arriving in his new mission, Damien was ordained priest in Honolulu and sent to the island of Hawaii.

In 1873, he went to the Hawaiian government leper colony on the island of Molokai where he soon volunteered to remain permanently. He became the lepers' most effective advocate in obtaining government help. A few years later he succeeded in getting the Franciscan Sisters of Syracuse to help with his colony in Kalaupapa.

In 1889 Damien contracted leprosy and died of its complications. As he had asked, he was buried in Kalaupapa and although the Belgian government had his body moved to Belgium in 1936, some of his relics were returned to Hawaii after his beatification in 1995.

St Philip Neri

Feast Day 26 May

Philip Neri was born in Florence in 1515, at a time of a corrupt Rome and an uninterested clergy. He abandoned the chance to become a businessman, moved to Rome and devoted his life to God. After some years of study, he gave up any thought of ordination and spent the next 13 years as a layman engaged in prayer and the apostolate – an unusual vocation at that time.

As the Council of Trent was reforming the Church on a doctrinal level, Philip gathered around himself a group of lay people won over by his audacious spirituality and famous sense of humour. Initially they met as a prayer and discussion group, and also served poor people in Rome. Persuaded by his confessor to be ordained priest, he soon became an outstanding confessor.

Some of his followers became priests and lived together in community. This was the beginning of the Oratory, the religious institute he founded. A feature of their life was a daily afternoon service of informal talks, with vernacular hymns and prayers. Although it was for a time accused of being an assembly of heretics, the Oratory was finally approved. Cardinal Newman later founded the first English-speaking Oratory.

Philip's advice was sought by many of the prominent figures of his day and he was one of the influential figures of the Counter-Reformation. He died in 1595.

St Stephen's Community Cooking Rota

Some members of the St Stephen's community have decided that it would be nice to be able to offer a cooking rota on a temporary basis for parishioners in need. This would be a service whereby a meal for an individual, or for a whole family, would be delivered in person on a daily basis to help out in times of need, usually for a couple of weeks or so.

Please let us know if you would be willing to be part of this cooking rota, which would involve cooking and delivering a meal for another person/family once a month maximum. We hope to build up a team of around 30 volunteers.

Alternatively, if you know any individuals or families in need of a little extra help for a couple of weeks or so, please also refer them to us.

Please contact:

Liz Whitfield on 01962 882057 or liz.whitfield@yahoo.co.uk or
Karen Murtagh on 01962 861209 or murtagh_fam@yahoo.co.uk

Thank you.

This month's prayer from Peter and Margaret McManus

A prayer from Taize

Risen Christ, like Mary Magdalen before the tomb on Easter morning, we express to God our longings, our unresolved questions and sometimes our distress. And you, the Risen One, come towards us humbly and you call us by our name. To each one you say, "Go to those who share your faith and tell them that I am risen. Pass on my love by your life." And as we communicate the mystery of your resurrection, we understand it more and more; it can transform our life.

A Church for Stanmore

One day in 1965 Canon Mullarkey asked me to go to Oliver's Battery with him to look at a field. I had been with him to survey several possible sites for future schools and chapels which he had considered buying. He was a firm believer in expanding our resources. But this was no ordinary field. It was a former stud farm where a Grand National winner had been bred. There were Irish weeds growing happily in the grass, brought with fodder for the horses. I was very impressed and gave Canon my support. So he went ahead, bought the site and set about planning a new church for Stanmore and Oliver's Battery and a badly needed annexe for the overcrowded and cramped St Peter's School, Gordon Road. This was urgently needed because we had run out of building space and most of the Juniors were camped in the former St Bartholomew's School in Hyde. When the Juniors did, eventually, move up to the Annexe we found the stables which I had persuaded the architect to leave intact, made wonderful stores. There were still horses running in the field at that time. On the first morning one of the girls tried to feed one and was bitten. When I duly reported the incident to the Education Office, I was asked if we were running a school or a ranch.

Canon Mullarkey was always in the forefront of liturgical developments. This was the time of the Second Vatican Council. He wanted a different building from the traditional churches. The altar was to be as nearly central as possible with the congregation assembled around it. He found an architect who shared his views and so the present beautiful church was conceived and built. It was solemnly opened by Bishop Worlock in 1969 and dedicated to St Stephen. The Altar Servers Guild of St Stephen was close to Canon Mullarkey's heart. Soon Mary Fairburn's iconic Stations were added and Normal Pierce's Madonna. When parishioners from the wider parish began to go to the new church the Canon was not too pleased. I was once asked what I was doing there, when my church was St Peter's. He wanted this to be a separate entity, serving the surrounding district. He intended housing a resident priest in the house, now gone, in the corner of the site.

Meanwhile the first stage of the new school was being erected. This was also known officially as St Stephen's, a cause of some confusion later on. But that's another story. Bishop Emery was adamant that the name of St Peter's should be kept and that the church should not be used for anything secular. Bit by bit the former stud farm has been whittled down for housing developments. When the Badger Farm Estate bought the new road, cutting Oliver's Battery Road in half, the land for the roundabout was sold to the Authority by the Diocese. I tried to keep as much land as possible for the school, but as ever financial considerations won the day. But what is left is a gem, a beautiful church in lovely surroundings with a superb school now physically attached to it. St Peter's and St Stephen's complementing each other in perfect harmony, twin jewels of the Parish of Hampshire Downs.

Peter Bogan

St Stephen's Anniversary Vespers

Denis Archdeacon

St Stephen's closed its 40th anniversary celebrations with Sung Vespers in the church on Sunday evening, May 3.

Over seventy people attended the event, at which Canon Paul presided, and we Stephenites were delighted to be joined at the service by our invited guests from our sister Anglican parish of St Luke's and St Mark's. Their contingent was led by the Rev Mike Gardner, the Vicar, with his wife and son. We also had visitors from elsewhere in our parish, Peter Bogan, former Headmaster of the parish school, and his wife Margaret prominent among them.

Our church looked first class; it really is a worship space to be proud of. Sunday was a sunny evening and light streamed through the windows into the sanctuary which was decorated with beautiful floral displays by Liz Tipple and her team of flower arrangers.

We had the benefit of the McElroy family and Arthur Hickson as our musicians. They supported Kate Smith, and together we sang hymns, psalms and the Vespers canticle. Incense was burned in the sanctuary at the start of the service - a rare event at St Stephen's - and again while we sang the Magnificat.

Early in the service the whole congregation went in procession and blessed themselves from the new font as a sign of our common baptism, Anglican and Catholic. The font, with its accompanying altar and president's chair, have come to us with the closing of St Thomas More's in Stoney Lane and they enhance the look of the church greatly. They must also be a poignant reminder of days past to those of our congregation who used to attend St Thomas More's.

In his address, Canon Paul welcomed our visitors and congratulated the Stephenites on their fidelity in witnessing to the faith in Oliver's Battery for 40 years. He also thanked us for our creative (!) liturgies and remarked in passing on our tendency not always to do precisely what the parish priest expected. He challenged us to continue our witness, in common where possible

St Stephen's Ceilidh

After a very moving and uplifting School Mass on Wednesday 22nd April to celebrate the official opening of St Stephen's on that day in 1969, the parishioners were given a chance to let their hair down.

Two days after the Mass 90 or so people converged on St Peter's school hall on a sunny evening looking forward to a carefully planned Ceilidh. The hall had been beautifully decorated by Nicky and Pip with bunting, flowers and candles, and Paul and Jon (together with some onlookers) fitted colourful fairy lights. Two huge silver balloons were suspended from the rafters - a 4 and a 0, to remind us of the 40th anniversary, hovered over our heads.

We were greeted by the Bursledon Village Band treating us to traditional country-dance music. Soon we were invited on the dance floor and after a few instructions the dancing started. It did not take long for everyone to get involved: boys danced with girls, girls danced with girls, the beauty of a Ceilidh is that anything goes! It was great fun to learn the routines and execute the dances. There were a lot of happy faces! Nigel and his band made sure that most people had a go.

All evening Jon and Paul led their very efficient bar staff and provided a wide variety of drinks. During an interval Liz Tipple and her hard-working team produced a delicious ploughman's supper. It was great to see our young people so willing to help in the serving of the food and the clearing of tables - and all of that with a smile on their faces! Then it was on to the raffle. Imelda, Doreen and Gill had been selling tickets all evening. Clare oversaw the draw and many exciting prizes were won.

Soon we were back on the dance floor. At 11.00 o'clock the dancing stopped although most people would have loved to carry on but rules are rules!!! Exhausted and happy all went home (except the gang who had to get the hall ready for Sunday morning's breakfast!) A big thank-you to all of those who were involved in what proved to be a very successful evening.

A special thank-you to Cath, Head of St Peter's, for letting us use this lovely venue for our celebration.

Christel and Michael McCartney

THE SPECIAL SUNDAY MASS

St Stephen's Church, Oliver's Battery was almost full to capacity on the third Sunday of Easter, April 26, as Bishop Crispian Hollis concelebrated mass to mark its 40th anniversary.

As well as many of the regular congregation, there were also worshippers from other parts of the parish of Hampshire Downs, and visiting guests including the Anglican vicar of nearby St Mark's and St Luke's the Rev Mike Gardner.

The entrance hymn was On the Journey to Emmaus, organist Kate Smith, and after the greeting by Canon Paul Townsend, Bishop Crispian sprinkled the congregation who sang O Living Water.

Karen Murtagh read the first reading, Tasha Dean sang the psalm, and David Slinn the second reading before the Gospel by the Rev Gardner.

In the Bishop's homily, he emphasised the importance of the community that was St Stephen's and how everyone embraced much of the work which might be done by a priest if there was one present full time.

He welcomed back the children from their liturgy and they explained that they were carrying paper flames, or candles, to represent the memory of people who have worshipped at St Stephen's over the past 40 years.

The bidding prayers were read by Nicky Whiles, and the communion song was Come and Eat this Bread.

Before the final hymn, We Walk by Faith, Clare Robinson, read greetings messages from former priests including Monsignor Nick France, and Fathers Andrew Chandler, Kevin Delaney, Chris Rutledge, David O'Sullivan as well as Bishop Peter Doyle of Northampton, who regretted his absence, due to a prior Confirmation engagement at Eton College! The Rev Gardner presented the St Stephen's community with a card signed by members of his own worshipping community.

There was also a short symbolic dance, entitled "Christus Resurrexit, We meet Christ, We walk with Christ", performed by four teenagers, Elizabeth Hickson, Abigail Robinson, Mary Tutton and Sophie Egerton-Kemp, choreographed by Julia Bray.

Brian Mustoe and Clare Robinson

40th Anniversary Celebration Breakfast

Reflections by Peter Murnaghan

After the Sunday Mass, a steady stream of massgoers trooped out to the school hall, past a photographic record of events over the last 40 years. Their goal? To partake in the celebration breakfast.

A queue quickly formed to savour the bagels with a choice of delicious cream cheese with salmon, or a variety of jams. Mike Slinn and his helpers were dispensing 120 of their renowned St Stephens bacon butties, before they ran out. Marion Buckett claimed that she had served 6 million coffees, which was felt to be a slight exaggeration. But the queue evaporated as everyone tucked into their morning feast, below the silver balloons proclaiming a massive '40', still flying from the rafters from Friday night's Celidh.

It was good to compare aching muscles with fellow dancers and to share thoughts with the children and grown ups. Bishop Crispian circulated and Rev Mike Gardner joined in the fun. We learned that he has a reputation for putting on a good funeral, such was the variety of topics of conversation. (He hopes to have this erected on his own tombstone, at some time in the future!)

Before long, the numbers started to diminish, as folks left to go home and the dedicated washing-up team swung into action. And, as it was all cleared away, it was possible to reflect on the tremendous community spirit that exists in and around St Stephens.

Showing Off!

During the festivities surrounding our birthday, an exhibition has been mounted in the school/church link corridor and latterly in church.

The exhibition was in two parts, the first highlighting the story of St Stephen and the world wide devotion to the martyr through the centuries. It was staged by Anne Benson and Peter McManus and included sketches for a painting-that-never-was by Mary Fairburn who created our Stations of the Cross.

The second part was a collage of photos of people and events important in the first forty years of our church. The photos came from the school and parish archives or were lent by individual parishioners. This part of the exhibition was set up by Wendy and Arthur Hickson and Liz Le Gry.