

St Stephen's Ealing



**Community growing
in the love of Jesus**

**St Stephen's
News
Mar 2026**

A new season



Spring arrives quietly at first. The air softens, the light lingers a little longer in the evening, and the earth begins to wake from its winter rest. Bare branches bud with fragile green, flowers push through cold soil, and birds return with bright, hopeful songs. The change is gradual, yet undeniable. After months of darkness and stillness, the world feels alive again. With each day growing longer, we sense not only a shift in the season, but a gentle invitation to renewal within ourselves.

More daylight has a way of lifting our spirits. Sunlight fills spaces that once seemed dim and heavy. We open windows, breathe in fresh air, and feel energy stirring in our hearts. Just as the earth turns toward the sun, we too can turn toward the Light in our own lives. Spring reminds us that growth is possible even after the coldest winters. No matter how stagnant or discouraged we may have felt, new beginnings are always within reach.

This season invites reflection. Where in our lives have we allowed winter to linger? Perhaps we have grown distant from loved ones, neglected prayer, or become distracted by busyness and worry. Just as gardens require tending, so do our souls. Spring encourages us to gently examine the habits, attitudes, and priorities that shape our days. Are we making space for gratitude? Are we choosing kindness over impatience, faith over fear?

With more daylight comes clarity. In the brightness, we may see areas that need

change. Sometimes the simplest shifts make the greatest difference: setting aside a few quiet minutes each morning to pray, stepping outside to notice the beauty of creation, offering forgiveness where resentment has taken root. When we slow down enough to truly observe the blossoming trees and warming skies, we begin to see signs of God's presence everywhere. The delicate petals of a flower, the steady rhythm of rain, the golden glow of sunset—all whisper of a Creator who brings life from dormancy.

To see God more clearly, we may not need dramatic transformation, but attentive hearts. Spring teaches patience; growth happens beneath the surface before it becomes visible. In the same way, spiritual change often begins quietly. A small act of compassion, a renewed commitment to faith, a willingness to trust—these are seeds planted in hope. Over time, they bloom into deeper awareness and stronger belief.

As the days stretch longer and the world turns green once again, we are reminded that renewal is part of life's rhythm. Spring calls us to step into the light, to embrace fresh starts, and to seek God in both the ordinary and the extraordinary. Just as nature awakens, so too can our spirits. The new season offers not only brighter days, but the promise of seeing more clearly the divine love that surrounds us always.

What small intentional steps can we take to open our hearts and truly make these changes in our lives?

Weekly Services

Monday & Friday	9:00am	Morning Prayer in Meeting Room
Tuesday & Thursday	9:00am	Morning Prayer on Zoom <i>(email admin@ststephens-ealing.org for details)</i>
Wednesday	10:00am	Midweek Communion
Sunday	9:00am	Traditional Holy Communion
	10:30am	Informal Service <i>(with children & youth groups)</i>

Monthly Calendar

March 2026

Tuesday 3rd	8:00pm	Monthly prayer meeting
Wednesday 4th	8:00pm	Alpha
Friday 6th	6:00pm	ECWNS
Sunday 8th	2:00-4:00pm	Vision Team Training
Monday 9th	8:00pm	PCC Meeting
Tuesday 10th	10:30am	Funeral of Ken Taylor
Wednesday 11th	8:00pm	Alpha
Friday 13th	6:00pm	ECWNS
Wednesday 18th	8:00pm	Alpha
Thursday 19th	8:00pm	Film Group
Friday 20th	6:00pm	ECWNS
Wednesday 25th	8:00pm	Alpha
Friday 27th	6:00pm	ECWNS
Saturday 28th	7:00pm	P&P Earth Hour
Sunday 29th Palm Sunday	12:00pm	Worship Team Meeting

Notices

Monthly Prayer Meeting

Tuesday 3rd March at 8pm. Our monthly meeting to pray for the life of St Stephen's, our local community and the wider world. Open to all, we also spend time listening for God's voice and in praise.

Alpha

Alpha is going really well and we have a number of people taking part. As with anything we rely on God so please do pray for those taking part and for David and Lily as course leaders.

St David's Care Home Services

Our St Stephen's team will be running a St David's Day Hymns of Praise on **Sunday 1st March at 1:45pm** and a Comunion Service on **Monday 23rd March at 11:00am**. If you can join us, it's a good opportunity to meet the residents and support the Church's work at St David's. For more details, contact Sally Horattides or Pete Devereux, details on the back page.

Easter

Palm Sunday - 29th March (clocks change)

We will have our usual services on Palm Sunday. Our 10:30am service will begin in our car park as we raise our voices in praise and worship to welcome Jesus as he arrives in Jerusalem. The beginning of Holy Week.

Monday 30th March - Wednesday 1st April

Join us for Night Prayer at 8:00pm, also known as Compline. A contemplative service designed to bring peace and reflection.

Maundy Thursday - Thursday 2nd April

Starting at 7pm we will join together to recreate the Last Supper over a simple meal and shared Communion. Look out for a sign up sheet later this month.

Good Friday - Friday 3rd April

At 9:45am we will meet at St Stephen's and walk down through Ealing joining other Christians on a Walk of Witness. The walk will

TeaTimers

On Friday 6th March 12:30-2:00pm is having a Fish and Chip lunch. Please note the different time. If you'd like to attend please speak to Ann Toley - the cost is £8 per person.

Friday 13th March 2:30-4:00pm welcomes a local choir called Morning Chorus. TeaTimers is for the over 60s and all are welcome.

Book Club

This month we meet in the small hall at church on **11th March at 8:00pm** and will be discussing Eddie Winston is Looking for Love by Marianne Cronin. The group is open to all. No need to book, just turn up or speak to Morgen Edwards for more information. Our April read will be Other People's Houses by Clare Mackintosh

Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter

Began last month. Please continue to pray for the guests and the team. If you would like to volunteer please speak to Sue Charlton.

finish in the garden of Christ the Saviour for a short service followed by refreshments at Haven Green Baptist Church. All welcome.

At 2:00pm we will have an **Hour at the Cross**; a led time of reflection. There will be no children's groups at this service.

Saturday 4th April

A morning of activities exploring the Easter story for children aged 0-11 years. Please book online to let us know you are coming.

Easter Day - Sunday 5th April

At 6:00am we will hold a traditional Dawn Celebration service to celebrate the resurrection of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. This service will be followed by a light breakfast.

Then at 10:30am we will hold an informal service for all with Communion to celebrate Easter Day.

Ken Taylor

By Jane Maffett

Ken joined St Stephen's in 2009 with his wife Christine. They had met through the Christian Union at Glasgow University, where he did his medical training, and their deep faith was a thread throughout their lives.

In 1983 he became Professor of Cardiac Surgery at the Hammersmith Hospital, pioneering work in cardiopulmonary bypass, and travelling internationally on his subject.

Living on the Argyle Road for many years they raised two children, Iain and Kirstin. They were long standing worshippers at Haven Green Baptist Church, then All Soul's Langham Place (where Ken was a close friend of John Stott). After his retirement in 2007 they moved to St Stephen's and immediately became very involved. Together they led a Lent study course in their home.

After Christine's death in 2010, Ken continued to participate in church life in many ways: preaching, playing the organ (in his socks), churchwarden from 2011 to 2015, until his health deteriorated.

He moved into St David's home in 2016, seeing a St Stephen's presence regularly through Communion and Hymns of Praise -

with Liz Cooper visiting and supporting him frequently till he died.

Ken was a founder member of the Tuesday Connect group. Some have strong memories of his medical explanation of the Crucifixion, others of his lilting Scottish insights.

Always generous with his time he supported the youth, willingly helping with an older group (F cubed), opening his house (and model railway!) to their meetings - and was a leader at a FROGs residential. He showed a surprising talent for acting, both as a Judge considering the evidence for the resurrection at Easter, and more light-heartedly in a couple of Pantomimes, notably as The Mad Hatter in 'Alice', and a Sultan in 'Aladdin'. And though Scottish, he developed a passion for the England rugby team!

An engaging, cheerful, kind, modest man, whose gentle deep faith was infectious - and 'just such a lovely guy!'



A Week in the Life of a Mission Partner

By Ellie Maffett



There are many mysterious things in life, things that I don't know but someone somewhere probably does. Where do fish go in storms? How does a teenager manage to start a multinational tech company? What does the inside of a fridge look like when the door is shut?

Perhaps on that list for you, if you stopped to think about it, is 'what does a missionary actually do?' I think it's the same with vicars. We see them on a Sunday, but then what do they get up to when the church door is shut? Well, I'll let David answer that one, but I can open the door a bit to what my life is like at the moment.

I'm Ellie, a 'mission partner' of St Stephen's, which means you're supporting me in prayer, finances and encouragement to be living and serving the church in Athens, Greece. I grew up at St Stephen's, and met some of you in February when I was visiting London, and it is such a privilege to be partnering with you all in the gospel in this new way. But what do I actually do? What does life look like? I think the image I had of missionaries was basically that they were super-holy people, telling people about Jesus all the time. Well, maybe some of them are, but I don't know any

of them! So perhaps having a glimpse into a week in my life would help lift the mystery!

Monday morning for me often starts with cleaning. A strange way to start the week! But I have an hour spare, and in an apartment with no carpets in a dusty city, where we often have the big balcony windows open, dust builds up very quickly. I then have a Greek 'book club' lesson, where we're reading 'abridged for people learning Greek' versions of some Greek classics, learning more language but also Greek culture as we read. Every Monday evening I help lead an online discipleship group, seeking to grow and equip disciples and, God willing, disciple-makers. Nearly 2 hours from 8.30pm on Zoom in Greek is particularly exhausting, so I take a longer lunch on Monday to try to conserve energy, and spend the afternoon preparing the passage – we're in Mark's gospel and Esther at the moment and having a great time!

Tuesday is my at-home day. The morning is set aside for long-term prep, at the moment in Exodus as I write some material in Exodus 25-40 for Sunday School (thankfully in English!) and prep the same passages for a Bible study. The afternoon often looks like a 1-2-1 with a Greek girl from our church who's in Germany at the moment. She grew up in an 'evangelical church' context where she was made to think that you can only take Communion when you've had a good week with the Lord, and it's wonderful seeing her realise that she already has everything she needs in Christ as we read Colossians together! I'm very grateful for her patience with my Greek!

On Wednesdays I have more time for prep, at the moment for a Bible-teaching conference we have in late March. This is a highlight of my year (and something I was coming to help with before I moved here) as we seek to understand and teach the Bible as the biblical authors intended rather than how we want to. It's always better news than we thought it was when we went with our own agendas! Wednesday evening we have 'church', which varies from a talk to a seminar to a group Bible study for the 15 or so who come.

Thursday morning I have prayer with the two employees of the fellowship of churches our church is a part of (we don't have vicars or staff, just an ops manager and a children and families worker across 11 churches). We all find that time a real support. I then head to our church's little 'community centre' called 'The Bridge' for a women's coffee morning. This is mainly Greek practice for me, and lots of culture learning, and great to support this new initiative to open doors to those from the community who'd like to come. I'm exhausted after! So Thursday afternoon is admin time. And about once a month on Thursday evening I have a meeting about safeguarding in a Christian organisation that is still reeling from an abuse of power. I pray I can play a little part in helping them put in some safeguarding policies and procedures.

Friday morning I head into town (I live near my church in the suburbs, 45-60 mins from the centre) to meet a couple of women in their late 20s for Bible study (mostly in English). We have a good catch up, helping one another see things that have come up in life from a biblical perspective, from a 10th floor café with a view of the Acropolis, then we dig into the next section of Exodus (we're up to the bits about the tabernacle and priests – there's so much of the gospel in there when you take the time to look!). I then head to a 1-2-1 Greek lesson with my awesome tutor Hará. In the evening I often meet with three other women to pray for and with each other.

Saturday is my day off, and the two main staples are a swim in the sea (a 40-min drive away but a delight) and a trip to the 'laiki', where the farmers come into the city and take over a street to sell their produce. Sometimes my team has volleyball training in the evening, but often other fun things crop up: a trip to the theatre or climbing wall, a birthday party, or I just crash in front of a film.

Sunday is church. Our evangelical church has its service at 11am which finishes any time between 12.30pm and 1:00pm. People hang around church for up to an hour after, and then head home / out for lunch, often with families. If I've had the energy to invite people round for lunch, they tend to leave around 5/6pm. If not, I often head out to lunch with the 'younger people' who don't have families to go to for lunch. All that Greek and people-time totally takes it out of me, so by the evening it's time to crash!

Of course, that's a 'normal' week. Sometimes it's fun, sometimes it's hard, depending on all kinds of factors, as with all our weeks. And I guess I'm not the only one for whom 'normal' weeks very rarely happen – things get cancelled, conferences / camps etc happen, torrential downpours alter everyone's plans, and in the hot Greek summer everything changes. But I hope it gives you a flavour!



My story

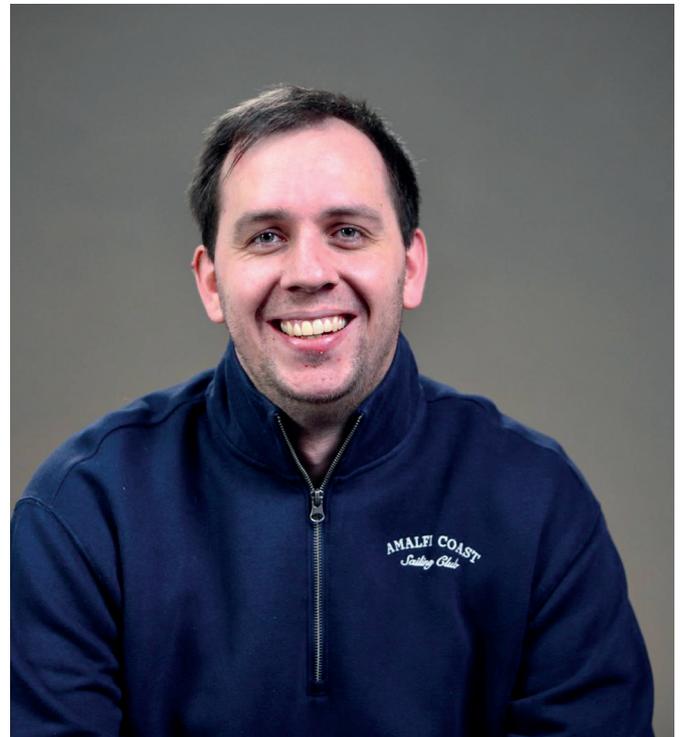
By Jack Cahill

Faith in God has always surrounded me in my life. And whilst I didn't always have my own faith, I always admired and could see the transformational nature of what faith can do from the people around me.

My faith journey really started with my Mum, Carol, praying for me whilst I was in the womb. She prayed over me day and night, and had the strongest faith in God than anyone I have ever met. I grew up in St Albans, attending a Catholic primary school, and a Church of England secondary school. I had a real mix of traditions, attending Catholic mass with my father, a CofE service at St Albans cathedral with my school, or an Evangelical service with my mother.

Although I wasn't always happy that I would have to attend church, (as football was much more interesting), I always believed there was a God, and my faith in Him ranged in my formative years. From high points like giving my life to God when I was 8 at New Wine, to questioning where he was when my parents split up that same year. From sitting in church smiling as my two siblings and Mum were on stage, working for the Vineyard Church we attended, to very much begrudgingly attending church on Easter and Christmas day when I had no interest.

My faith and trust in God really started to change when I moved to London in 2019. I moved to Clapham with some of my best friends and had six months of "living the London life". I was out most weekends having fun, venturing round the big city. Deep down though, I felt lonely and empty, I couldn't shake the question of "what is the purpose of my life?". I wanted to dedicate my life to God's plan for me because God had helped me before, but didn't want to stop living for myself. Then, COVID lockdowns started, and I



was on furlough with lots of time to think.

My relationship with God, and my life, truly transformed from there. I would watch sermons online every day, listen to worship music, read parts of the Bible and "The Purpose Driven Life" again, and just committed my life to God. It was the best decision I've made. During that time, I started attending my local church, I volunteered at the food bank and eventually worked for a Christian charity. God really guided my steps into a peace in myself that I had never felt before.

My faith from there has only really grown, despite going through some of the hardest moments of my life. I lost my mum after a short battle with Leukaemia and it was heartbreaking, she was irreplaceable, and the strongest pillar of faith that I often relied on. God mourned with me in those moments, and brought out new blessings.

I met my beautiful wife, Lily, my bonds with my family grew and I married into another great one, I work for St Stephen's, and so many more blessings. Faith is truly transformational.

Our Church Garden

By Jonathan Jones

There are many ways of expressing our faith as Christians and the St Stephen's gardening team chooses to live their faith by developing and maintaining our eco garden and place of peace. The team has existed in different forms for many decades but in Covid it was decided to take a new, bold approach and develop the land at the rear to provide an eco-garden and a place for the congregation and visitors to sit in a fragrant and beautiful natural environment on the benches provided in peaceful contemplation. The garden can also be used for outdoor meetings for all parts of the church as weather allows.

The current team consists of Jonathan Jones, Linda Rivans, Chris Nicholson, Sally and Brian Lamond, Nicki Cassidy, Sue Charlton, Jack Cahill and much welcomed new arrival Christine Maynard after the sad departure of our dear friend Enid Barron last year. This is a team packed with experience and gardening talent and from a starting point a few years ago the space in the rear and back of the church has been transformed from a wasteland into a living breathing garden designed to be friendly to people and wildlife such as birds, bees and other insects alike.

We are a Silver Award Eco Church. The Garden played a part in this achievement. Eco Church has updated the Land Survey over the last year and there are new ideas and expectations to consider. We have already erected bird boxes and bug hotels, bird feeders and baths, to encourage wildlife to thrive in our small patch. We avoid using synthetic fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides, to keep the soil healthy. We hope soon to build a Loggery for stag beetles to lay eggs. An insect rarely seen now, these magnificent creatures have a bit of a strong-hold in West London. We may be posting some information about what to look out for in our garden too, and some ideas on prayer for our Natural World.

We have just been asked by the organisers to participate in the Cultivating Ealing (formerly Ealing in Bloom) competition which we take as recognition of the efforts that the Church in Ealing is making to improve our environment and our care for nature.

Last year we noticed more and more people enjoying the garden from both within and outside the church and as the weather improves we encourage all members of the church, older and young to enjoy the garden and all that it has to offer



The Marylebone Project

By Sue Charlton

For almost a century the Church Army has led and managed The Marylebone Project (TMP) London's only refuge solely for women. Whether trafficked, fleeing domestic abuse, homeless, dispirited or sick they have found Christian compassion, understanding, therapy and treatment in the old building close to Marylebone Station. Despite months of negotiations with others to try to keep TMP going the painful decision has been taken to close TMP from 30th September this year. The cost of repairs to the building are prohibitive, and the site will go onto the open market.

St Stephen's has supported TMP for 17 years, so it is with great sadness that we take this news in.

TMP has traditionally provided training-for-work opportunities, language classes and other services to prepare them for independent living. About 50 women per year have been settled into their own homes.

There are still 93 women currently in residence at TMP. All attention is now on helping to get them ready to be independent and to find accommodation elsewhere.



In lengthy phone calls with Ally Wenham of Church Army, she has said how important the Chocolate Easter Eggs that we send to the ladies are! They matter to residents (and staff) as they show our love and prayer support for them. Rehabilitation is as much a matter of knowing how valued we are, as having enough money to get by on. Can we together treat every lady still resident at TMP, with a Chocolate Egg this Easter? Donate £5.50 per egg at church or [use this link](#).

Please read the [attached document](#) for details, pictures and stories of TMP's plans and how we can all help in this final chapter. Thanks, Sue Charlton.

Church and Parish Prayer

[Please click here for our monthly prayer diary for all who consider St Stephen's Ealing to be their spiritual home.](#)

These are the roads in our Parish we are praying for this month. Please pray for all those who live there and for people to know our Saviour, Jesus:

Edgehill Road	Lakeside
The Knoll	Albert Road
Queens Gardens	Queens Walk
Buckingham Close	

Ealing Foodbank

Please [visit their website](#) for the latest list of food items they need. If you would like to make a large practical donation, please take it directly to the Foodbank at:

St Mellitus Church Hall,
1 Church Road,
Hanwell W7 3BB

Donations are accepted at the following times:
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 9:30-11:00am
Wednesday: 9:30am to 3:30pm

Eco Note

Recycling in Ealing

As another national debate grows over what we can/can't recycle, those of us living in Ealing need to be familiar with what our Borough offers.

In our Blue Bin (Recycling) put: cardboard and thin card, paper, envelopes, junk mail, newspapers and magazines. Plastic bottles, pots and tubs. Metal tins and cans, aerosol cans and clean foil, glass bottles and jars, food and drink cartons. Ensure all are clean, and crushed where possible.

Textiles (old tee-shirts, socks, shoes etc) and batteries will be taken on regular re-cycling days if put in bags and placed on top of your blue bin. Keep textiles and batteries in separate bags

Plastic film (bags, crisp packets etc) can be recycled at many supermarkets eg Waitrose and Co-Op.

If unsure go to www.ealing.gov.uk and select Rubbish and Recycling.

It is with sadness that we report the death of Kathy Norris. She was just 8 months short of her 100th birthday! Many will remember her as a regular attendee of the 10.30 service (sitting with Flo). Even though it was often a bus journey, she was there. In fact she was a regular on the 297 bus - frequently going to Ealing Broadway for coffee and coming to events at church. When Flo had to give up driving and would have used a taxi, Kathy would have none of that so taught her all about bus journeys!

For many years Kathy was always at TeaTimers and her quiet presence was much appreciated. The Friday before Mothering Sunday saw her with other members of TeaTimers preparing the flowers for the Sunday service.

Sadly a couple of years ago, after a short spell in hospital, she was unable to return to her home where she lived alone and became a resident in a care home in Bushey, near to her niece who lived in Watford. It was a lovely place and after a few months Kathy began to join in many of the activities. Those of us who visited her there always found it an uplifting

experience. She was a lovely lady and I don't think I ever heard a word of complaint from her.

David will be taking her funeral at Breakspear on Friday March 6th at 3.00.



Contact us

St Stephen's Church
St Stephen's Road
Ealing
London W13 8HD

Phone: 020 8991 0164

Email: admin@ststephens-ealing.org

Website: www.ststephens-ealing.org



Contact Details

David Baylor	Vicar	david@ststephens-ealing.org
Jack Cahill	Premises Manager	bookings@ststephens-ealing.org
Morgen Edwards	Communications Manager & Children's Worker	admin@ststephens-ealing.org
Stephen Turner	Worship and Youth Pastor	stephen@ststephens-ealing.org
Jane Maffett	Safeguarding Officers	safeguarding@ststephens-ealing.org
	Treasurer	finance@ststephens-ealing.org
	Giving Coordinators	giving@ststephens-ealing.org
Sally Horattides	St David's Communion	sallyhorattides@btopenworld.com
Pete Devereux	St David's Hymns of Praise	jandpdevereux@hotmail.co.uk