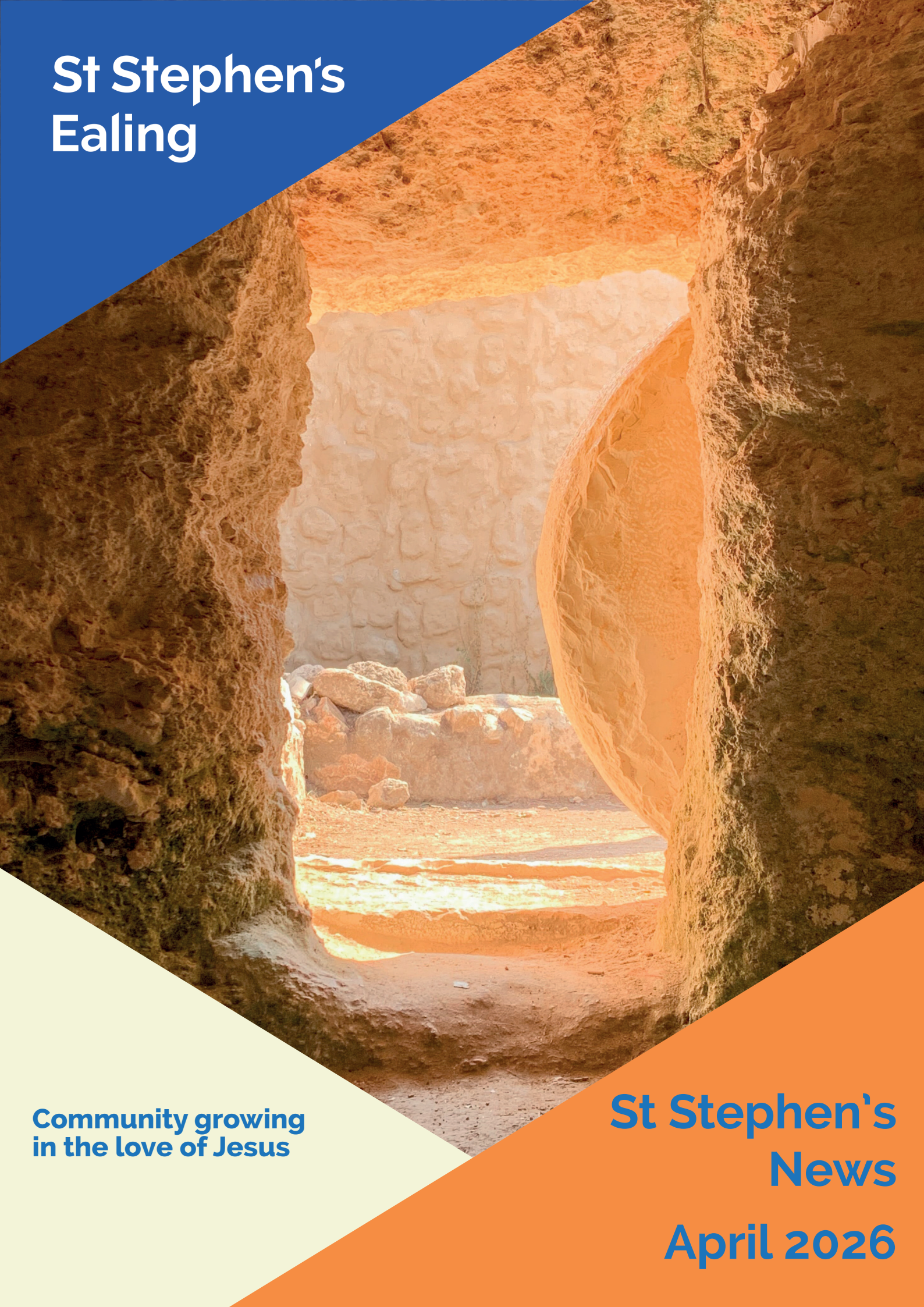


St Stephen's Ealing



**Community growing
in the love of Jesus**

**St Stephen's
News**

April 2026

Easter hope



What are you waiting for?

I wonder what comes to mind as you encounter this question (or even as this question encounters you). Is it a rhetorical question, inviting you to stop delaying and start doing? Or does it bring to the surface something that you long for deeply but haven't yet experienced?

Something that I've been learning over recent years is the importance of Holy Saturday, the mid-point of the Easter weekend when nothing really happened, the day when Jesus was in the tomb, the day when all hope seemed lost. It's so easy to jump over it. We say on Good Friday that Jesus has died but we need not fear because Sunday is coming. And that's good and right. We are an Easter people who live in the light of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. But we live in a Holy Saturday world. A world where war is a reality. A world of devastating illnesses. A world where thousands die of starvation every day despite having more than enough food for everyone. It's a world where death takes many forms: physical death; addictions; broken relationships; the erosion of hope.

Holy Saturday invites us to pay attention to these deaths in the world around us, and to bring to the surface our longing for life. In doing so, it invites us to resist any temptation to rush ahead to Easter Day as if to make light of these things. You see, without Holy Saturday, the hope of Easter Day is pretty empty. We need that full 24-hour span when Jesus the only-begotten Son of God was dead and

buried. Without it, the Christian faith is reduced to platitudes and soundbites.

We have something truly world-changing and life-transforming: the hope of life in all its fullness. This isn't escapism from the profound and difficult questions of our world. It is rather an invitation to contend with them knowing that the miracle of resurrection life only means anything in a world overshadowed by death. For that's the hope that we have, not just that there is life, but that life triumphs over death. It's hope not just for us but for all the world as it journeys through a Holy Saturday existence.

So what are you waiting for?

However you are marking this season of Easter (and it is a season of 50 days, not one weekend), may God restore in you the hope of the resurrection that has already and yet continues to bring life to all the world.

With every blessing,

Revd David Baylor

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

April 2026

Wednesday 1st	8:00pm	Compline
Thursday 2nd	7:00pm	Maundy Thursday Meal
Friday 3rd	9:45am 2:00pm	Walk of Witness An Hour at the cross
Saturday 4th	10:00am	Easter Activities Morning
Sunday 5th	6:00am 10:30am	Dawn Celebration All Age Celebration
Wednesday 8th	8:00pm	Book Group
Thursday 16th	10:30am	Film Group (see page 4)
Wednesday 22nd & Thursday 23rd	All Day	CYPF Residential

May

Tuesday 5th	8:00pm	Monthly Prayer Meeting
Thursday 7th	All Day	Polling Station
Sunday 17th May	6:30pm	APCM

Notices

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.

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

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.

Monthly Prayer Meeting

This monthly meeting has been cancelled for the month of April. It will return on Tuesday 5th May.

Book Club

This month we meet in the small hall at church on **8th April at 8:00pm** and will be discussing Other People's Houses by Clare Mackintosh. 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

St David's Care Home Services

Our St Stephen's team will be running an. Eastertide Hymns of Praise will be on **Sunday 12th April at 1:45pm** and a Communion Service on **Monday 20th April at 11:30am**. 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.

Film Club

Film club are having an outing to Kew Gardens in April instead of meeting in the evening to discuss a film. They will be meeting on **16th April** at the cafe inside the Victoria Gate entrance at **10:30am** and spending a few hours enjoying the gardens at their spring peak. Afterwards they usually have a packed lunch or snack in the cafe. Anyone who'd like to join them is welcome. Entry fees apply to Kew Gardens. For further information please speak to Chris Nicholson.

People & Planet

On **Sunday 19th April** all church members are invited to a bring and share lunch from 12.30pm and a screening of a new short film about the People's Environment Briefing. Briefings will be held all over the country to help us understand the current state of our Climate and Nature and what we can do. Our MPs and local Councillors are being invited. Please let Sue Charlton know if you can come.

Christian Aid

By Sue Charlton

The Christian Aid Charity celebrated its 80th year last year, having been formed in 1945 by an ecumenical group of churches across the UK who were concerned about the 6 million people across Europe who had been displaced by World War 2.

Christian Aid has evolved over the years to largely now be working with communities abroad compromised by Climate Change as much as anything. From early years Christian Aid Week was adopted as a major time of fund-raising, and this continues to this day. Always in May, this year it will officially start on Sunday 10th May.

Christian Aid always works with a local charity not as a local charity. They learn from the local community what they want or need, rather than assuming it's known. It maybe an oven for villagers to make bread; or training for farmers struggling to cope with changing weather patterns for example.

This year the focus is tackling the 'cruel grip of urban poverty' highlighting the struggles of families in Nairobi, Kenya. Working with Christian Aid's partner Beacon of Hope in Nairobi, Fridah (the mother in the picture here) has been given tools, seeds and training to grow fresh vegetables in a small city space. She's now able to feed her family and sell some veg to earn income. Such little things to us here in Ealing, but means the world to her and others like her in Nairobi.

What can each of us here do to help? As usual many little things can together make a BIG difference!

- Join us to walk 5 miles around the City on Saturday 9th May, with Richard Smart a Blue Badge Guide who has created a fascinating Walk from St. Martin's-in-the Fields to St. Paul's

Cathedral for Evensong – and please sponsor us!

- Come to Church on Sunday 10th and be inspired to donate when you hear our guest speaker from Christian Aid.

- And join us for a wonderful concert from Helen Vickery's Choir 'Coro' that afternoon at 3pm, followed by tea and home-made cakes.

- Support our Sales of cakes and plants on Sunday 10th and books and table top games on Sunday 17th – by either donating goods or buying some – or both!

- And please sponsor me as I walk 70K in May for Christian Aid! My gift aid page will be circulated on the Church Facebook page.

Contact Sue Charlton for details of any or all of these events.

sacharlton@btinternet.com or mobile: 07908840954



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

You may remember from our [February issue](#) of St Stephen's News that we highlighted our APCM is approaching in May. For full details please read the article.

This means that the Electoral Roll is due to be revised. This will happen between Sunday 5th April and Sunday 19th April. If you are not already a member of our Electoral Roll and would like to join there are a number of ways you can do this:

- Fill out a form on our website
- Complete a paper form which can be found in the foyer opposite the church office
- Log in as a member on our website and fill in the Electoral Roll form (this is different to the first option)

Can I join the PCC? If so, what positions are available?

Provided that you have been on the Electoral Roll for at least 6 months, you can stand for our Parochial Church Council (PCC)! This year we have 6 vacancies for the following roles:

- 3 PCC representatives
- 3 Deanery Synod representatives, who serve on the PCC and also represent St Stephen's in the Ealing Deanery (a bit of church lingo: a deanery is a local group of Church of England parishes, connecting local churches with wider concerns)

Connected with the PCC, we are also looking for 4 churchwardens. Vacant since last year's APCM, churchwardens are key leaders who work closely with David as vicar to ensure the smooth and effective running of St Stephen's as both people and place. They are ex-officio members of the PCC whose core task is to oversee our life together at St Stephen's. If you sense God might be calling you into this role specifically, please have a chat with David and he can provide you with a role description.

How do I apply for any of these roles?

Details will come out nearer to the APCM itself. However, we're highlighting the APCM and PCC vacancies now so that you can pray and think about these vital parts of our life together. You can expect to hear more about the process after Easter!

If you have any questions about the above please speak to our Electoral Roll Officer, Morgen Edwards.



Eco Note

Top Tips for a lighter 'Food-print'

UK Households waste 4.5 million tonnes of edible food per year. If disposed of incorrectly in landfill, this causes significant greenhouse gases, warming the atmosphere.

Avoid waste, save money and spare the environment: Plan Meals; store food correctly (use your freezer); use left-overs; check dates of food and

understand 'use by' and 'best before'.

Reduce your food waste to peelings, fish or meat bones, coffee grounds and egg shells and you can't go wrong!

We all have access to green Food Waste bins in Ealing. All we put out each week goes to make compost which the council uses in our parks and gardens!

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:

Cavendish Avenue Grafton Close
Chelsea Gardens Hathaway Gardens
The area to the south of our parish where some of our parishioners live.

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

Contact us

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Email: admin@ststephens-ealing.org

Website: www.ststephens-ealing.org



Contact Details

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Morgen Edwards	Communications Manager & Children's Worker	admin@ststephens-ealing.org
Stephen Turner	Worship and Youth Pastor	stephen@ststephens-ealing.org
Karen De sa Nicole Stokoe	Safeguarding Officers	safeguarding@ststephens-ealing.org
Jane Maffett	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