

St Stephen's Ealing



**Community growing
in the love of Jesus**

St Stephen's News

October 2026

And God remembered

by Hannah Baylor

Last month, I was on a residential with some of the London Diocese curates I support and train. In one of the sessions, the leader was talking about all the different things that we have to remember, which often come at you from all angles, and was giving advice on how to manage and organise our lives to keep all our various plates spinning. Many of you will know how good my memory is, as I frantically scribble notes on my arms, so I don't forget between a song and the notices! But the biblical idea of remembering or remembrance goes much deeper than simply recalling a fact or not forgetting an appointment.

The main Hebrew word used in scripture for remember is *zākar*. In the Hebrew Bible, *zākar* does not simply mean bringing something to mind. Rather, it means bringing the past into the present in a way that shapes action. Remembering is active and relational and covenantal.

This is especially clear when the Bible speaks of God remembering. When we read that 'God remembered Noah' (Genesis 8:1) as the floodwaters covered the earth, it does not simply imply that God had somehow forgotten him. Instead, it signals that God is acting faithfully towards Noah in accordance with his promises. Similarly, 'God remembered Rachel' (Genesis 30:22) and 'God remembered Hannah' (1 Samuel 1:19) and they both conceive. God remembers his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and delivers Israel from slavery in Egypt (Exodus 2:24). God's remembering is always linked to his faithfulness and his saving power and action.

The people of Israel are repeatedly commanded to remember. In Deuteronomy, God's people are urged to remember their slavery in Egypt, God's provision in the



wilderness, and the covenant he has made with them. This remembrance is not about sentimentality or nostalgia, it's to help shape how they are to live.

'Remember that you were slaves' (Deuteronomy 24:18) – but now you are free, remember the injustice you endured and how liberating justice is.

'Remember the Lord your God' (Deuteronomy 8:18) – he is the Lord, so do not be proud or privilege self-sufficiency.

'Remember his mighty deeds' (Psalm 77:12) – remember all God has done and remain faithful.

In the Bible, forgetting God is never simply a memory problem. It is a spiritual problem. To forget God often means to neglect his ways, abandon his commandments, and lose sight of the story that gives us identity and purpose.

This understanding continues into the New Testament. The Greek words used for remembering carry much of the same richness. Nowhere is this clearer than at the Last Supper, when Jesus takes bread and says, 'Do this in remembrance of me.'

These familiar words mean far more than 'think about me occasionally.' Just as the Passover enabled Israel to participate afresh in the story of God's deliverance, so Holy Communion invites Christians to participate in and be shaped by the saving work of Christ. The Church remembers not because Christ is absent, but because his death and resurrection continue to define who we are.

Yet Christian faith rests on something even deeper than our ability to remember God. In

his reflections on dementia and personhood, theologian John Swinton reminds us that the ultimate good news is not that we can always remember God, but that God never forgets us. Even when memory fades, identities become fragile, or life feels uncertain, we remain held within the faithful memory of God. Our worth does not depend on our ability to recall him, but on his covenant commitment to remember us.

Perhaps this is why remembrance lies at the heart of Christian worship. Every time we read Scripture, celebrate communion, mark

the seasons of the Christian year, or tell the story of God's faithfulness, we are engaging in holy remembrance. But we do so with the confidence that before we remember God, God has already remembered us.

The Bible reminds us that remembering is not looking backwards with nostalgia. It is allowing God's faithfulness in the past to shape our faithfulness in the present. As Christians, we are a remembering people because we belong to a remembering God. We live, as Swinton puts it, in the memory of God, secure in the knowledge that we are known, loved, and never forgotten.

Weekly Services

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

Monthly Calendar

October 2026

Tuesday 6th	8:00pm	Monthly Prayer Meeting
Friday 9th	6:30pm	Youth Group
Wednesday 14th	8:00pm	Book Group
Thursday 15th	8:00pm	Film Group
Friday 23rd	6:30pm	Youth Group
Sunday 25th		Clocks Go Back
Saturday 31st	4:00-6:00pm	Light Party

November 2026

Sunday 1st	2:00-4:00pm	Christmas Pudding Making
Thursday 5th	7:30pm	Christmas Choir Practice

Notices

Harvest Sunday

Sunday 4th October. During both of our services this Sunday we will be taking donations of food ([see list here](#)) or [money for the Ealing Foodbank](#) as part of our Harvest Celebrations. We will also be welcoming the family and friends of Louis Richardson who will be Baptised during our 10:30am All Age Service.

Monthly Prayer Meetings

Tuesday 6th October at 8pm. Our monthly meetings 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.

Youth Group

Our Youth Group is open to any young person from year 7-11. Please speak to Stephen Turner for more information. They will be meeting on Friday 9th and 23rd October **at the new time of 6:30pm** until 8:00pm.

Book Club

Is meeting on **Weds 14th October at 8:00pm** to discuss *Murder at the World's End* by Ross Montgomery. All books are listed on the church website. This group is open to all. Speak to Morgen Edwards or just turn up.

Film Group

Meets on **Thursday 15th October at 8:00pm**. Please speak to Chris Nicholson for more information.

St David's Care Home Services

Our St Stephen's team will be running a Communion Service on **Monday 19th October at 11:30am**. The next hymns of praise service will on **Sunday 11th October at 1:45pm** to start at 2:00pm. If you can join us for either service, it's a good opportunity

to meet the residents and support the Church's work at St David's.

Light Party

We are holding a Light Party on Saturday 31st October 4:00pm-6:00pm for children 3-11 years old. The Light Party is a Christian alternative celebration to Halloween. There will be fun craft activities, games and singing.

Christmas Pudding Making

On **Sunday 1st November from 2:00-4:00pm** we will be making Christmas Puddings to sell at our Christmas Fair. This is a fun activity suitable for all ages. If you would like to take part please just turn up. If you would like more information please speak to Jane Maffett.

Christmas Fair

Our Christmas Fair returns on **Saturday 28th November from 10:30am to 2:00pm**. We will have stalls for Books, 'as-new' gifts, toys, jewellery and household goods. If you would like to contribute [please click here](#) for more information.

Thank you

Lizzie Rainbow Rogers would like to thank everyone for their generous donations as she ran the Ealing Half Marathon in September. She smashed her target and all the monies will be going to Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter.

Ealing Council e-petition

There is an e-petition regarding Ealing Council's plans to put up a 1,200 seat 'pop-up' Theatre in Walpole Park for 3.5 years. To trigger a formal debate 3,671 signatures are needed by Sunday 4th October. [Please click here to have your say.](#)

More notices on page 7.

Generosity in Giving

by David Baylor

'I come to St Stephen's because...'

Back in July, everyone at St Stephen's was invited to fill in the blank. Some people highlighted the sense of community, others the teaching they receive, others the worship services.

Some people shared an image, the same image:

'It's my home.'

Church is indeed a home. We describe the building as 'the house of the Lord', and we speak of ourselves as a church family. And like any home, we have running costs. We pay bills. We pay for maintenance. We pay for the teas and coffees we enjoy together. We also give to charity.

And when I say 'we', I really mean 'we'. We hire our space for income just as we might let a room. We also receive some income from a trust fund, but the lion's share of our income is given by you and me. We fund everything that happens at St Stephen's, all the services, the teaching, the opportunities to be in community. All the things that make it home. We fund it ourselves just like any other home.

That's why each October we invite each person who calls St Stephen's their home to prayerfully consider their regular giving for the coming year.

What are we looking for?

In 2027, we expect our costs to be £305,000. That's 4% higher than this year.

If regular giving remains unchanged, we will come in £30,000 short. In recent years, shortfalls have been covered from reserves (our savings). We now need to reverse that trend.

A 15% increase in regular giving would go a long way towards meeting this goal, and ensuring that we're able to continue the things that we enjoy: the community, the teaching, the worship, and many other things besides.

But we don't just want to hold steady. We want to grow. That's our vision after all: to be community growing in the love of Jesus. What does growing look like? It looks like:

- Celebrating 40 years of being in our current home
- Investing further in our teams and training opportunities
- Resourcing you as followers of Jesus in your workplaces, schools and other places of influence
- Courses for introducing and growing in the Christian faith
- Working towards the Gold Eco Church Award
- Becoming a place that is open more and known for its Christ-like hospitality

Do you want to know the best thing of all? Everyone gets to play. We all get to be involved in making this happen. Whether in finance, or in the offering of yourself, we all get to play. And that means we all get to look back in a year's time and see what God has done.

More details will follow in the coming weeks. In the meantime, please do pray about what you might be able to give to St Stephen's in 2027. And if you have any questions at all about giving, please contact our treasurer Jane Maffett, giving@ststephens-ealing.org.

Electoral Roll

Every year we hold an Annual General Meeting in May. This is when Churchwardens and PCC members are elected. In order to stand for either of these positions, church members need to have been on a list called the Electoral Roll (ER) for a minimum of six months. The ER is a list of people who consider St Stephen's to be their spiritual home and there are a few requirements to be able to be included:

- A person must be 16 or over and be Baptised.
- A member of the Church of England or a church in communion with the Church of England.
- Have habitually attended services for the last six months or.
- Be a member in good standing of a church which is not the Church of England but subscribes to the Holy Trinity.

There is no fee to be a member of the Electoral Roll. It is just you making a statement that St Stephen's is your 'home' church.

If you would like to possibly stand for a position as Churchwarden or on the PCC from May and you are not already on the ER please consider signing up this October to be eligible come election time. If you have any questions please speak to our vicar David or our Electoral Roll Officer, Morgen Edwards.

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.

Please pray for those who live in Gurnell Grove, where some members of our church live.

LAMB Hospital

(Lutheran Aid to Medicine in Bangladesh)

We have long supported the work of LAMB at St. Stephen's, since Louise Day, a young member of church then, travelled to stay with the Hospital as a medical student.

LAMB Hospital provides 150 beds, as well as outpatient facilities. Their mission is 'to serve God through serving the poor and under privileged', especially women and children. They are recognised for their high quality services and are increasingly called upon to assist in research programs. We are sent monthly reports of journeys of healing and hope, and how education changes lives, especially where schooling is not a given and girls are often 'married off' at 13 or 14 years old.

LAMB is one of our Core Mission Partners, receiving a portion of our tithe. Louise, now a doctor, is travelling to LAMB this month. Our Curate, Alison's friend, Catey, is also going out to LAMB next month, and we are sending with her a small gift and card to LAMB on our behalf. We look forward to updates on their return.

Eco Church at St. Stephen's.

We were awarded a Silver Award with Eco Church in 2021, but the system has since been updated. On Sunday 20th September, the People & Planet group met to discuss the new versions of the surveys for: Worship & Teaching; Land & Nature; Buildings & Energy; Community & Global Engagement; and finally, Lifestyle. We agreed that we would 'Go for Gold' and set up a small group of relatively knowledgeable people to look into the demands for each category. Please contact Sue Charlton (07908840954) if you would like to know more or to help us gather all this information needed.

Connect Groups

Monday

People and Planet

This group has a particular interest in, and concern for, the environment. They meet fortnightly 8-9:30pm online to discuss different topics.

Tuesday

Tuesday Group

A group desiring to root themselves in God's word and prayers. They meet fortnightly 8-9:30pm in the church.

Wednesday

Daytimers

This group meets weekly throughout the year 11am-12:30pm in the small hall at church. Join them for Bible study and fellowship.

Thursday

Film Group

Meeting once a month this group joins together at church to discuss a pre-watched film and what a Biblical and Christian response might be. Meetings are on the third Thursday of each month and the group spends some time praying together too.

Friday

Chinese Group (Mandarin speakers)

This connect group meets weekly on Fridays at 7:30pm for dinner at 8pm before worship, Bible Study, prayer support and encouragement.

Saturday

Parents of Little Ones (POLO)

Meeting on the first Saturday of each month for tea, chat, a dip into the Bible and prayer alongside their pre-school aged children.

If you'd like to join any of the above Connect Groups please email the office admin@ststephens-ealing.org.

Notices

Trustee for St Luke's Hall Trust

St Stephen's PCC is responsible for appointing the Trustees of this charity, of which the Vicar is Chair. There is one vacancy at the moment, possibly more, and applications are invited before the end of October – you need to be on our electoral roll and a regular attender. This charity is a legacy from a church plant in the early 1900s, and is set up to support the parish of St Stephen (we currently receive annual grants and financial support for our car park work). For more info speak to David or Acting PCC Secretary Jane Maffett, for more info and an application form.

School Street Survey

The School Street has been in place for over 6 months. Ealing Council would like to know what has changed and the impact it has had on the community. [Click here](#) for their online survey to give them your views on the scheme. It will close at midnight on 25th October 2026.

Confirmation Course

We are delighted that Bishop Lusa will be joining us for a Confirmation Service on 31st January. This is a special celebration of faith that allows people to confirm for themselves the promises made at their baptism and marks full membership of the Church. We will be running Confirmation Preparation Classes for any adults seeking to be confirmed over 7 sessions, all starting at 8pm in church (2nd, 9th, 16th Dec, 13th, 20th, 27th Jan, plus one follow-up session after the service on 9th February). If you're interested in being confirmed, or have any queries, please contact Alison Ingram. If you are a young person (under 18) and you're interested in confirmation, please contact Stephen Turner for info.

Contact us

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