

Sunday 8th September 2019

Welcome to St Stephen's Church.

If you would like to know more about what goes on at St Stephen's, speak to one of the welcome team, pick up a leaflet from the back of the church or go to our website www.ststephensnorwich.org

Today's Services

10.00am: Holy Communion

11.30am: Contemporary Worship

Today's Hymns: 207, 94, 1158, 857

Collect

God of constant mercy,
who sent your Son to save us:
remind us of your goodness,
increase your grace within us,
that our thankfulness may grow,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The reading is taken from Revelations 19 v 5-9

⁵Then a voice came from the throne, saying:

‘Praise our God,
all you his servants,
you who fear him,
both great and small!’

⁶Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:

‘Hallelujah!
For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

⁷Let us rejoice and be glad
and give him glory!

For the wedding of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready.

⁸Fine linen, bright and clean,
was given her to wear.’

(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.)

⁹Then the angel said to me, ‘Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’ And he added, ‘These are the true words of God.’

The second reading is taken from the Gospel of Luke 14 v15-24

14 ¹⁵When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, ‘Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.’

¹⁶ Jesus replied: ‘A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. ¹⁷At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, “Come, for everything is now ready.”

¹⁸ ‘But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, “I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.”

¹⁹ ‘Another said, “I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.”

²⁰ ‘Still another said, “I have just got married, so I can’t come.”

²¹ ‘The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, “Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.”

²² ““Sir,” the servant said, “what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.”

²³ ‘Then the master told his servant, “Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. ²⁴I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.”’

Scripture taken from the Holy Bible, NIV UK Version.

Next Sunday – 15th September

10am Prayer with Healing

11.30am Contemporary Worship with Communion

Joint services; For several years people have asked if we can have joint 10.00 & 11.30 services. This didn't work until last Christmas when we had a wonderful joint carol service. So, we are planning three services at 11.00 in the coming year followed by a shared lunch - 6 October Harvest, 5 January - Epiphany and 7 June - Trinity. For each Alison and Megan will join forces and we will include drama in the service.

Writing a book! You may have heard that I am writing a book about what we have learnt at St Stephen's in the last 10 years. It is only possible because Alex is helping me, and he is also writing a book from a more theological standpoint. My first draft is completed with 9 chapters and 45,000 words!!!! Now is the difficult bit, getting it ready to send to a publisher. Please forgive me if I sometimes seem distracted...it's because I am! This stage should be over by the end of the autumn. Madeline

Actors needed. The Covenant Players who led a drama workshop at St Stephen's many years ago are coming back on 15th September. They will be running a workshop on **Saturday 14th between 2-4pm at the Chapel.** Can you tell Madeline if you are interested in attending. Just as we had drama at a joint Christmas service last year, it would be good to have a joint service with drama at harvest on Sunday 6th October. Thank you.

CAP Money Course at St Stephen's starting Tuesday 17th September

The CAP Money Course is a money management course, teaching budgeting skills and a simple, cash-based system that really works. This course will help anyone to get more in control of their finances, so they can budget, save and prevent debt. The course runs over three Tuesday evening sessions in St Stephen's on 17th and 24th September and 1st October, starting at 7.30pm. All welcome; speak to Paul Light or Chris Killen for more information.

Open Faith starts 16th September. Alex is running another Open Faith course, this time on the doctrine of the Trinity. There are flyers at the back of the Church building. If you would like to attend, please speak to him.

Prayer Network – Margaret Gilbert will be away from 13th -24th September and therefore any prayer needs need to be sent to lisafifield@icloud.com so that they can go out on the prayer network. If you would like to join the prayer network, then please see Margaret for more details.

Calling all Small Groups and Prayer Triplets – Ian Fifield is collating all these groups and has sent out a questionnaire to the groups that we know about. If your group has not been contacted then see Ian today and he can give you a copy of the questionnaire. All responses need to be back by **Sunday 15th September.**

Diary Sheet for September	
Monday 9 th @ 2.30pm	Create starts back at the Chapel
Wednesday 11 th @ 5pm	Ticket to Ride at the Chapel
Friday 13 th	Prayer Network requests to be sent to lisafifield@icloud.com
Saturday 14 th @ 10am-4pm	Sponsored Bike Ride – Norfolk Churches Trust
Saturday 14 th @ 2pm	Drama workshop with Covenant Players at the Chapel. All welcome,
Saturday 14 th @ 12pm	Healing Rooms in the Meeting Room at St Stephen's
Sunday 15 th @ 10am	Covenant Players Prayer with Healing
Sunday 15 th @ 11.30am	Contemporary Worship with Communion
Sunday 15 th 1-4pm	Chapel open for Heritage Open Day
Sunday 15 th	Small Group and Prayer Triplet questionnaires to be returned to Ian Fifield
Monday 16 th @ 7.30pm	Open Faith starts – see Alex Irving or pick up a leaflet from the back of the church
Tuesday 17 th @ 7.30pm	CAP Money Course starts
Wednesday 18 th @ 5.30pm	Film Club in the Chapel
Thursday 19 th @ 9am	Standing Committee at The Crescent
Friday 20 th @ 10am	Craft club meets in the meeting room. See Anne Murphy for further details
Saturday 21 st @ 7.30pm	Norwich Music Group concert. Tickets from St George's Music Shop.
Sunday 22 nd @ 10am	Holy Communion
Sunday 22 nd @ 11.30am	Contemporary Worship
Sunday 22 nd 1-4pm	The Chapel open for Heritage Open Day
Monday 23 rd @ 2.30pm	Create in the Chapel
Tuesday 24 th @ 7.30pm	CAP Money Course Part 2
Wednesday 25 th @ 6pm	PCC supper followed by meeting
Sunday 29 th @ 10am	Morning Worship
Sunday 29 th @ 11.30am	Contemporary Worship
Monday 30 th @ 7.30pm	Open Faith at St Stephen's

