



## Welcome to our 10am Service

This morning we are continuing our new series of studies in Paul's magnificent letter to the Romans with 'What is God up to?' (Romans 1:1-7).

**You are very welcome** - whether you are looking into Christianity for the first time, have been a Christian for years or are looking for a church in Birmingham. Please help yourself to a Welcome Booklet, and if you would like us to contact you about our activities then complete a Welcome Card – both are available in the foyer.

There is **Crèche** for under 3's in the Cranmer Room.

**Sunday club** (age 3 – Year 5) meet upstairs in the Tyndale Room and the Roseveare Room.

**Pathfinders** (Year 6 – Year 9) meet in the Cranmer Room

**Question of the week: What can I do to be friends with God? Romans 3: 21 - 28**



**Refreshments** are served in the Foyer and from the hatch in the Cranmer Room after the service, please stay and join us.



**Toilets** are in the foyer and upstairs; baby-changing facilities in the disabled toilet.

**OPENING PRAYER** *Mark Checketts*

**SONG** See what a morning

**THANKSGIVING FOR DARIUS TRIFAN**

**SONG** All through history

**NEWS**

*Children and young people go to their groups*

**HYMN** Before the throne of God above

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**CONFESSION**

**PRAYERS** *Sarah Allen*

ending with **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**SONG** His mercy is more

**BIBLE READINGS** *Virginie Hannam*

Acts 9:1-19 (page 1102)

Romans 1:1-7 (page 1128)

**SERMON** *Chris Hobbs*

What is God up to?

*Please collect your child from crèche*

**SONG** Yes, finished the Messiah dies

**CLOSING PRAYER**



## Welcome to our 6pm Service

This evening we are considering one of the Big Questions that people ask about Christianity: 'Sex, shots and socials: Why do I need God when life is good?'

**You are very welcome** – whether you are looking into Christianity for the first time, have been a Christian for years or are looking for a church in Birmingham. Please help yourself to a Welcome Booklet, and if you would like us to contact you about our activities then complete a Welcome Card – both are available in the literature rack.



**Refreshments** are served after the service, please stay and join us.



**Toilets** are in the foyer; baby-changing facilities in the disabled toilet.

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### WELCOME

### OPENING DISCUSSION

### BIBLE READING *Laurie Fearon*

John 10:7-13 (Page 1076)

### TALK *Ben Wells*

Sex, shots and socials:

Why do I need God when life is good?

### DISCUSSION

followed by Q&A

END

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What have I learned...

- to praise God for?
- to confess to God?
- to ask God for?

**Missed a sermon recently?** Visit [www.sssw.org.uk](http://www.sssw.org.uk) (under Resources)

# Talk Notes

**Big Questions:**

**Sex, shots and socials:**

**Why do I need God when life is good?**

John 10:7-13

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What I have learned?

To praise God for

To confess to God

To ask God for

**Missed a sermon recently?** Visit [www.sssw.org.uk](http://www.sssw.org.uk) (under Resources)

This term we are thinking about being 'Equipped to Serve' in making disciples of Jesus by prayerfully speaking God's word to ourselves, to one another and to those who don't yet believe. And to help us in this, our Fellowship Groups are following various courses with 'Six Steps to... Reading your Bible... Loving your Church... Talking about Jesus.'

As we do this we need to remember that it is God who does the equipping. Equipping doesn't just happen, nor do we do it to ourselves, and we only do it for one another as God works through us. The letter to the Hebrews ends with this prayer: "May the God of peace ... equip you with everything good for doing his will" (Hebrews 13:20-21, NIV). The idea is that God 'prepares us, makes us ready, and puts us in order'. And for what? What does God equip us for? For doing his will, in other words "what is pleasing to him." And how does God equip us? By telling us what his will is (in the Scriptures), and giving us the desire to do it (by giving us his Holy Spirit).

Now, doing God's will certainly includes reading our Bibles, loving our church and talking about Jesus, so we can pray that he will equip us to do these things. And he is certainly able to do that and more because he has already "brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus" (verse 20).

Yours warmly, in Christ,

Chris Hobbs (Senior Minister)



**CHRISTIANITY|EXPLORED**

WHAT'S THE BEST NEWS  
YOU'VE EVER HEARD?

### **CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED**

is for anyone who'd like to investigate Christianity, or just brush up on the basics. We will be looking at Mark's Gospel and exploring who Jesus is, why he came, and what it means to follow Him.

**IT'S NOT TOO LATE!**  
Continues Wednesdays  
8-9.30pm  
at St Stephen's Church,  
Serpentine Road, B29 7HU

Contact the Parish Office  
to find out more;  
0121 472 8253,  
[office@sssw.org.uk](mailto:office@sssw.org.uk)

**Senior Minister (Vicar)** Chris Hobbs

**Associate Minister** Andy Martin

**Assistant Minister** Ben Wells

**Parish Office** St Stephen's Church,  
Serpentine Road, Selly Park,  
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[www.sssw.org.uk](http://www.sssw.org.uk)



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## Sunday Services

**10am at St Stephen's**, family friendly with activities for children and young people (crèche-Year 9)

**6pm at St Wulstan's**, relaxed and informal.

## Today

**Cross Section** (Year 10-13) meet from 4.30-5.55pm at St Wulstan's.

## This Week

**Tue  
28**

**Rooted** for students. 7-9pm at St Wulstan's B29 7DU.

**Wed  
29**

### Christianity Explored:

8-9.30pm at St Stephen's Church, Serpentine Road, B29 7HU

**Thu  
30**

**Cross Section Bible Study** (Year 10-13) meet at St Stephen's from 4.30pm  
**Explorers** (Year 2-5) from 6-7pm  
**Pathfinders** (Year 6-9) from 6-7.30pm

**Fri  
31**

**Stay and Play** 10-11.30am, baby and toddler group.

**Sat  
1  
Feb**

**Putting Parenting to Bed:** Monyhull Church, 9.30-12.30pm, book by Jan 24<sup>th</sup>, £5 per family. Please email: [parenting@monyhullchurch.org](mailto:parenting@monyhullchurch.org)

## Looking Ahead

**4 / 5  
Feb**

**Prayer Gatherings.** Tue 9.30-11.15am (crèche provided) & Wed 7.30pm for refreshments, 8-9.30pm. We will be praying for our evangelism, John & Ruth McNeill and UobCU Events Week.

**Sat  
8  
Feb**

**Dad's Stay & Play.** 10-11.30am.

**Tue  
11  
Feb**

**'Just for Starters' begins**, 8-9pm (refreshments from 7.45pm). Seven foundational Bible studies. For full details see flyer in foyer.

**Thu  
20  
Feb**

**BDEF meeting**, 7.30-9.00pm (refreshments from 7pm) At St Boniface, Quinton, B32 2QD. '*A church for the rich... is it true? Does it matter?*' Speaker The Rt Revd Philip North, Bishop of Burnley.

**Sat  
21  
Mar**

**Marriage Day: 'A Day Together'** - a seminar for couples to invest in their relationship. St Stephen's, 9.30-4.45pm. Early Bird rate £30 per couple, from 6<sup>th</sup> March £35 per couple. Refreshments and sandwich lunch provided. For more information: 0121 472 8253/[office@sssw.org.uk](mailto:office@sssw.org.uk) or visit website [www.adaytogether.org](http://www.adaytogether.org)

## News and Requests

### Wanted: Ministry Trainee, Sep 2020-Aug 2021.

Spend a year serving the church and learning gospel ministry. A great way to see if gospel ministry is right for you long-term. Details from Chris Hobbs / Parish Office.

**Could you join the refreshments team?** Now the refreshments are served from the servery and in the Cranmer Room, a few more people are needed on the team! Contact Margaret Twiss if you think you can help

**Prayer Guide update.** If you started coming along to St Stephen's since February 2019 and want to be included in the new edition of the Prayer Guide, please contact the Parish Office by Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

**Can you help make Jesus 'Known' in early February?** From 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> February, the Christian Union at UoB have a week of events ('Known'), giving students the life-changing opportunity to hear the gospel. Currently, they have a significant financial shortfall, needing to raise around £15,000 to put the week on. To partner with the CU in giving towards this, please follow the link: [tinyurl.com/knownbrum](http://tinyurl.com/knownbrum)