

Today

This term in Sunday Club we are looking at the Big Bible Story: The King, the snake and the promise. **Today** we will see that God is Maker and he is King. God made the world and rules over it. He created a happy place for his people to live as his friends.

This Week

Wed 21 Toolbox continues! Meet at church for 7.45pm for refreshments and time together before breaking into seminar groups for the evening. Finish by 9.30pm.

Looking Ahead

Wed 28 Sept Toolbox concludes, 7.45pm start with refreshments.

Mon 19 Sept Women's book club. Reading 'Joni & Ken: An Untold Love Story' over the summer. Speak to (Mrs) Chris Stonehouse or Elizabeth Barry for more info.

Sat 1 Oct 'A Day Together' for couples, run by Agape UK, held in Christian Life Centre in B29 6HW. 10.00am-4.00pm. A great day! Contact Melanie Smith,

Sat 1 Oct New-ish to church? Please come to the **Welcome Meal**, 7.30pm, and find out what St Stephen's is all about. Further details from Chris and Helen Hobbs or the Parish Office.

Wed 5 Oct Vision Evening. 7pm at Church for dinner, 8-9.30pm for the Vision Meeting. If you'd like to come for the meal please sign up at the back of church.

Fri 7 Oct The Bolivians are coming! Find out more from poster and fliers in church. Open invitation to meet Maurice and Gill Sinclair's Bolivian guests, Bishop Raphael Samuel and Pastor Franklin Cuenca - 8.00pm at

Sat 15 Oct Autumn Church Family Walk, starting at 2pm. It is a 3 mile flat walk starting at Baddesley Clinton (National Trust property near Solihull), further information will be available in the Information Table in the coming weeks.

Sat 22 Oct Midlands Women's Convention, Solihull, starting at 10.00am. Let Helen Hobbs know if you'd like to go so that we can do a group booking.

Sat 5 Nov Midlands Men's Convention, Nottingham, starting at 10.00am. Let Rob Davies know if you'd like to go so that we can do a group booking.

News and Requests

Equip. Our in-house one-year training course designed 'to equip the saints for the work of ministry'. Flyers are on the Information Table. Speak to Chris Hobbs if you are interested.

Fellowship Groups are being reshuffled, we'd love to know what type of group works for you, please fill out the questionnaire and return it to us **TODAY**.

Vicar: Chris Hobbs **Assistant Minister:** Andy Martin

Parish Office St Stephen's Church, Serpentine Road, Selly Park, Birmingham B29 7HU

0121 472 8253 office@sssw.org.uk www.sssw.org.uk

ST STEPHENS AND ST WULSTANS SELLY PARK



taking Jesus seriously, taking the Bible seriously

Welcome

18th September 2016

If you are new, you are especially welcome. Please help yourself to a Welcome booklet and, if you have time, introduce yourself and ask any questions you may have.

10.00am Morning Service with Holy Communion

'Persecution' (Acts 5:12-42) – Andy Martin

Children and young people will go to their activities part way through the service:

Creche and **Club114** leave through the Foyer to go to their rooms. **Scramblers, Climbers** and **Explorers** leave through the Hudson Taylor Room at the front of church.

Coffee, tea and biscuits are served after the service in the foyer.

6.00pm Evening Service

'The offence of grace' (2 Kings 5:9-19a) – Chris Hobbs

Coffee, tea and cakes are served after the service in the foyer.

Toilets are adjacent to the foyer and upstairs; baby-changing facilities are in the disabled toilets.

Obey God, don't fight him. (29, 39)

1. God is powerful (12-26)

2. God is gracious (27-32)

3. God is unstoppable (33-42)

OPENING PRAYER *led by Chris Hobbs*

SONG He wraps himself in light

CONFESSIOIN and ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

SONG I'm following the King

NEWS

after which children and young people go to their activities

SONG Speak O Lord

BIBLE READINGS Acts 5:12-42 (page 1097), 1 Peter 4:12-19 (page 1220)
(This is the word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God**)

SERMON Persecution

NICENE CREED

PRAYERS

HYMN I hear the Saviour say
Please collect your child from crèche

COMMUNION *see insert*

HYMN I will sing the wondrous story

CLOSING PRAYER

1. God's ways can be offensive:

- too humbling (v11)
- too plain (v11)
- too particular (v12)
- too easy (v13)

2. God's work is unmistakable:

- a new confession (v15)
- a new generosity (v15)
- a new commitment (v17)
- a new sensitivity (v18)

Missed a sermon recently? Please visit www.sssw.org.uk to hear or download an audio version.

OPENING PRAYER *led by Helen Buckley*

SONGS O God beyond all praising
When I am weak, you are strong

CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Heavenly Father, you have loved us with an everlasting love, but we have gone our own way and broken your laws. We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them. For the sake of your Son who died for us forgive us, cleanse us, and change us. By your Holy Spirit enable us to live for you and to please you more and more, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OPEN PRAYERS ending with THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

SONGS When my hope and strength is gone
Through all life's sorrows and despairs

THE APOSTLES' CREED

NEWS

SONG There is a hope

BIBLE READINGS 2 Kings 5:9:19a (page 373), Luke 5:12-16 (page 1032)
(This is the word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God**)

SERMON The offence of grace

INSIGHTS AND QUESTIONS

SONG Guide me O thou great Redeemer

CLOSING PRAYER

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.