

This Week

Pudding party

Wed 26th Aug, 7.45pm for dessert and coffee at the Twiss's house.

25 – 28 Aug

'**Wild Wild West**' **Holiday Bible Club** is upon us! You can still sign up, it's not too late. It's also possible for friends to just drop in on the day, please do come!

Looking Ahead

Sun 30 Aug

Holiday Bible Club Service at 10am at St Wulstan's.

Wed 9 Sep

Vision Evening 7.00-9.30pm at St Wulstan's. For the whole church family. 7.00pm meal (7.30pm dessert and coffee), 8.00pm vision and prayer. meal £4 adults/£2 under 18s (dessert and coffee only £2/£1). Please sign up on the information table.

News and Requests

The office is closed until Tues 25th Aug.

Building for the Future The organ console goes back in this week. The re-cant has begun.

Please would **all Sunday Club leaders and helpers** look in their pigeon holes to collect next term's material.

Summer Socials We still have the 2nd Sep available. It can be almost anything you like! Please contact Gina in the Parish Office.

equip. Our new in-house one-year training course designed 'to equip the saints for the work of ministry'. For anyone wanting to teach the Bible better in whatever setting. Starts Wed 16 Sept. Flyers on the Information Table.

If you'd like to send your thoughts to **Steve McCabe on the 'Assisted Dying Bill'**, you can send the form to: Steve McCabe MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA or by writing to him at Stephen.mccabe.mp@parliament.uk or calling his office on 0121 4433878.

Cleaner required We are looking for someone to clean the new St Stephen's site from early September, 6 hours/week at £7.85/hour. Please speak to Chris Hobbs if you are interested.

Christian male, 27, looking for house share, moving to B'ham (from St Ebbe's in Oxford) in Sep to do post-doc.

Senior Minister (Vicar) Chris Hobbs **Assistant Minister** Andy Martin
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ST STEPHENS AND ST WULSTANS SELLY PARK



taking Jesus seriously, taking the Bible seriously

Welcome

23rd August 2015

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

'Know your God: The Lord is near' (Psalm 38) – Andy Martin

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

0-3s Crèche is in the back room, please collect your child during the last song.

3-11s Will be staying in church. There is no holiday cover today.

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

Coffee, tea and biscuits are served after the service.

6.00pm Evening Service

'Songs of Praise: David's song' (2 Samuel 22:1-51) – Mark Checketts

Coffee, tea and cakes are served after the service.

I want to know what love is

Do you remember the song *I want to know what love is*? It was released back in 1984 by Foreigner. The singer seems confident that his beloved can show him what love is, and that *love is real*. We humans prize love, we long for it and look for it. The constant outpouring of love songs in the charts shows that it's a major preoccupation. Television is full of programmes making a spectacle of love and the list of dating websites is endless. The world is on a quest for the perfect relationship. The problem is that we will never find perfect love among ourselves, we are broken and flawed. If we search for the perfect human relationship we will always be disappointed.

However, it is not surprising that we long for love this way given that we were made by a God who is love (1 John 4:8). Which means that if we want to know what love is and experience perfect love we must look to him. God is always love. He doesn't choose to be love one day and something else the next. He doesn't wake up thinking "What shall I be today?" He is perfect, flawless love for ever. Father, Son and Holy Spirit love each other eternally, beautifully, completely. Which means that everything he does is perfectly loving, something we see most brilliantly at the cross where the Lord Jesus dies in our place. Once we have found the source of all love in Him, only then will we be able to enjoy love in our human relationships.

Andy Martin, Assistant Minister

OPENING PRAYER

SONGS See what a morning
I stand amazed in the presence

CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

COLLECT for 12th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

SONG Everybody praise!

NEWS

after which children will stay in the service or use the crèche.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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.

SONG My Lord, what love is this?

BIBLE READINGS Psalm 38 (page 565); Luke 23:32-49 (page 1060)
(This is the word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God**)

SERMON The Lord is near

SONG Come thou fount of every blessing
Please collect your child from crèche during this song

CLOSING PRAYER

May the love of the Lord Jesus draw us to himself, the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen us in his service, the joy of the Lord Jesus fill our hearts; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. Amen.

COLLECTION Gifts may be placed in the Gifts box at the back

OPENING PRAYER

SONGS O worship the King
You're the Lion of Judah

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.

BIBLE READING 2 Samuel 22:1-51 (page 328)
(This is the word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God**)

SERMON Songs of Praise: David's song

INSIGHTS AND QUESTIONS

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

SONGS I once was lost in darkest night
We're not alone
Faithful One

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.

NEWS

HYMN Rock of Ages

BLESSING

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