





## Welcome to our 10am Service

This morning we will be considering 'What Christmas promises'  
(Revelation 21:1-40).

**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.

Holiday activities for Age 3 – year 5 in the Tyndale Room.

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

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

**OPENING PRAYER** *Chris Hobbs*

**CAROL** Hark the herald angels sing

**CONFESSION**

**SONG** Let me tell you about a baby

**NEWS**

*Children leave for their activities*

**SONGS** From the squalor  
Though the nations rage

**PRAYERS** *Alice Johnston*  
ending with **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**BIBLE READINGS** *Chris Stonehouse*

Isaiah 65:17-25 (page 752)  
Revelation 21:1-4 (page 1249)

**SERMON** *Tom Bryant*  
What Christmas promises

**SONG** Creation sings

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**HYMN** All glory be to Christ  
*Please collect your child from crèche*

**BLESSING**

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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)

## Thought for the Week

## Worth the wait?

Dear Friends,

The waiting for Christmas is over. The presents are unwrapped. Multiple mince pies have been consumed. The turkey sandwiches are finished and the family games have got boring. What is left to look forward to now!?

As I write, my wife Rachel and I are waiting eagerly for the imminent arrival of our first baby. What should I expect? What will it be like? How will my life change? These are all questions going through my mind. It will be a special day when our baby is born. Our lives will be changed.

Yet the baby in the manger. The baby that was born on Christmas Day. *This* baby changed the world forever!

This baby we sing of at Christmas time holds a promise for us long after the Christmas decorations have been taken down. This baby is the one likened in Luke 1:78 to “the rising sun...from heaven.” For this Jesus. God himself comes at Christmas ushering in a radiant new dawn. Offering the hope of eternal life, life with God himself. Life as it was meant to be. For this baby would grow up to die for our sins, beat death and offer us eternal life with God that will never end.

Now there's a hope that lasts far beyond Christmas. A hope worth waiting for.

*Brightness of the Father's glory*

*Spread the splendour of Thy light.*

*Radiant Fountain, Dayspring dawning,*

*Banish now the shades of night!* (part of a hymn by Ambrose of Milan)

With love in Christ,

Ben Wells (Assistant 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.

Starts Weds 15th Jan 2020

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

**Senior Minister (Vicar)** Chris Hobbs

**Associate Minister** Andy Martin

**Assistant Minister** Ben Wells

**Parish Office** St Stephen's Church,  
Serpentine Road, Selly Park,  
Birmingham B29 7HU, 0121 472 8253  
[office@sssw.org.uk](mailto:office@sssw.org.uk)



[www.sssw.org.uk](http://www.sssw.org.uk)



@ssswchurch

## Sunday Services

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

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

## This Week

Sat  
4  
Jan

**Church Family Walk:** Meeting at Cofton Hackett church at 1.30pm. More details to follow.

## Looking Ahead

Returning in the New Year:

Rooted (Students)

Cross Section (Year 10-13)

Explorers (Year 2-5)

Pathfinders (Year 6-9)

Stay and Play

All will resume in January.

Sun  
05  
Jan

**Evening Service resumes.** 6pm at St Wulstans.

7/8  
Jan

**Prayer Gathering.** Tue 9.30-11.15am (crèche provided)

**Prayer Gathering.** Wed 7.30pm for refreshments, 8-9.30pm

Sun  
12  
Jan

**Parent Forum** after the Morning Service.

Tue  
14  
Jan

**Blokes with Books:** Join us at The Country Girl, 8pm, to talk about the book, *United* by Trillia Newbell. All blokes welcome!

14/15  
Jan

### **Fellowship Groups resume:**

Tue 9.30-11.15am at St Stephens

Wed 7.30 – 9pm at various locations.

## 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.

### **Wanted: Chefs for Rooted!**

Could you prepare a meal once a month for our Rooted student group (20 people or so) and wash up after? If you're able to help meet this need, please speak to Ben Wells or see office for contact details.

**Children's Cake sale:** Held on Sunday 8 Dec. Raised £100 to be sent to Open Doors.

**Helpers needed:** From 5<sup>th</sup> January when we shall be combining the 10am and the 4pm services together it has been proposed that refreshments will be served both from the servery and the kitchen therefore more people will be needed. If you are willing to go on rota please see / contact Margaret Twiss directly or see office for contact details.

**Accommodation needed.** 25 y.o. woman moving to Birmingham in mid- late January, starting a new job with Barnardos, seeks accommodation. Ideally a mixed/ female house share or lodging with a family. Please see office for contact details.