



Lookout

Three kinds of church

We look at how the church has offered different kinds of worship over the last 18 months of pandemic restrictions.

Zooming in...

Most of us had a love-hate relationship with Zoom. Those zooming much of the day, workers, teachers, children and parents with all the various link ups came to both value its usefulness, whilst often left drained and strained by perpetually concentrating on a screen.

Over 70 people were regularly linking up into the St Philips Church Zoom service each week and new folk joined in.

On Easter Sunday, 113 zoomed in to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Zoom has proved very adaptable and good for conversation.

Open Airs...

After the long months when we could only meet online, the church had a number of weeks enjoying worship and listening to Gods word in the open air, once this was allowed.

Meeting in the St Philip's School playground has been a good experience in a safe location. Worshipping God with nature around us helped us reflect thoughtfully on His creation.

It is good to remember that Jesus often did open air ministry, and that the early church did not have church buildings for over 300 years. The early Christians had to get used to all sorts of venues. But it's still great to be back!

... and back in the Centre!

After a year and a half of online, small-scale and open air services, the church is delighted to be back in the Church Centre to meet.

Stewart said, 'We are slowly restoring some of the important aspects of church in terms of conversation, friendship, singing in praise of God, hearing Gods Words and doing it. We encourage anyone to make a fresh start with us.'

Come along to our Main Sunday services at 10.30am - every week. There is a new children's group.

For those who want a quieter service, come to the Holy Communion at 8.30am. This takes place the first and third Sunday of each month.



Open air service in summer

What no vicar?

As you will see from the tributes and Stewart's own reflections in this Lookout, Stewart Taylor, the vicar of St Philip's is retiring in September.

The process of finding a new vicar takes some time, with an interregnum between one vicar leaving and another being appointed.

The space can enable the church to adapt to their loss and allows the new person to be less tied by their predecessor. It could take a year before a new incumbent arrives. The Church leadership (PCC) takes responsibility for the search for a new vicar, with the church patrons (CPAS) and the Diocesan Bishop - do pray for them!

Three Ministers will have responsibility for services and pastoral care: Michael Priestley, Sophie Young the curate and Catherine Levins a retired priest.

The two Church Wardens, Jane Batten and Chris Illingworth will have many legal and practical things to oversee. There are many incredible volunteers at St Philip's: they are the church, not the vicar! St Philip's relies on everyone taking their part as members of the Body of Christ.

The church also has wonderful staff: Rosemary Barrett, Operations manager for the Centre, Caroline Muncey with admin, Barry Ginger in the Café, Zoe Cheng with children and young people and Michael Brown with the caretaking. They will all be ensuring that things will be looked after. If you want to get in touch with any of the above please see the contact details on page 7.

Stewart's last Sunday is 26 September and his farewell party is on Saturday 25th. Let Sophie Young know if you intend to come.

We're going to miss you!

Members of St Philip's share memories of, and tributes to Stewart and Sarah Taylor, who are moving on from St Philip's at the end of September.

Although Stewart has been Vicar of St. Philip's for 30 years we feel we have known him longer than that.

Stewart and Barbara grew up in the same parish in York, went to the same Primary School (although not at the same time!) and have had mutual Christian friends, teachers and mentors in that city.

Before Stewart was instituted as vicar he, Sarah and little daughter Emma stayed with us in order to spend time looking at the empty Vicarage and deciding what they needed to do before moving. This gave us an opportunity to get to know each other and our fellowship and friendship has developed and strengthened over the years. A few weeks after becoming vicar Stewart took part in our older daughter's wedding service at St. Philip's.

At his interview Stewart was asked what he felt some of his strengths were. He gave a surprising answer. "One is taking funerals." This answer has been subsequently shown to be true – his relationship with bereaved families and the many funeral services he has taken have proved to be a real blessing to families, friends and neighbours of those who have died. Indeed many who first came into contact with Stewart and St. Philip's, because of the death of a loved one, have had their Christian faith restored or come to faith for the first time and through his ministry have become regular worshipping members of the church.

Of course there have been many other ministries which Stewart has exercised over the years, but we will leave other people to tell of those. Suffice to say it has been a great privilege to worship and work alongside him and we thank God for Stewart.

Michael & Barbara Priestley

A joy for life

Stewart has the wonderful gift of making people feel like it is them he has been waiting to see all day!

He is always delighted to see whoever it is that crosses his path, and his joy for life and for Jesus are infectious. I have been so grateful to serve alongside him these last couple of years.

Sophie Young



Sarah and Stewart in 2003

Cheerful encouragement

We've known Stewart since we arrived in Cambridge in 1996 and he has always been a great friend and encouragement to us and then to our children. Not forgetting Sarah who was a such a support and friend when our first was born. (And Emma who was our children's very favourite babysitter for many years!)

Stewart was a great visionary and encourager of the church development project leading to the opening of the new centre in 2012. It was a really long hard slog in many ways and it required leadership and dedication over ten years and through some complex challenges. But we now have a fantastic community facility where all are welcome – and one of the rooms is aptly named the Taylor Room in Stewart's honour. In keeping with this humble man it is also the smallest room! Stewart faithfully kept a small prayer group going every Monday morning at 7am throughout the church redevelopment project – for at least 5 years – and this has even continued to this day.

Stewart has always encouraged and supported us to get involved with church life including the music which we've enjoyed greatly, and the committees – well maybe not enjoyed quite so much! The theme of encouragement is always prominent – you will always hear him say 'well done' to anyone who does anything to serve. So really we are all saying back to you Stewart: well done for your faithful service. For the whole 25 years we have known him as our vicar he has managed to be cheerful and radiate joy even when things have been challenging – a testament to his real faith and love for Jesus.

Martin, Bekki, Molly & Grace Clark

See also the tributes in verse on page 8

Warmth and friendliness

I was one of the churchwardens back in 1991 and part of the interview panel when Stewart applied to become our new Vicar.

In those days, the Parish consisted of 2 churches: St. Philips and St. Stephens, but we worshipped separately, just coming together occasionally.

At the interview, which Stewart's wife Sarah also attended, we were immediately struck by Stewart's openness and honesty, by his warmth and friendliness and by his clear statement that he stood "foursquare for Christ".

I remember noting at the Interview that Stewart and I were the same age and height, and both of us had become Christians in our teens.

I have had the privilege of working alongside Stewart for the entire 30 years of his ministry at St Philips and throughout that time Stewart's personal qualities, first observed at that initial interview, have always been readily apparent!

Fairly early on Stewart felt strongly that St. Philip's and St. Stephen's should join together as one

congregation. The merger proved challenging for us all – especially members of St. Stephens, but Stewart's firm but sensitive leadership facilitated the coming together in a blessed and wonderful way.

Stewart has been steadfast and persevering with important ministries within the church including the Alpha course, Phil's People, St Philips school and the Lookout magazine. Stewart has also been on the management team for Romsey Mill throughout his 30 years. Stewart has a particular gifting for conducting funerals and his warmth and humanity has been commented on many times by bereaved families.

The opening of our new Church Centre in 2012 was a 10-year project in the making, beginning with a vision the leadership were given at time of the church centenary in 2002. We had many twists and turns and setbacks along the way, but throughout those challenging years, Stewart gave unswerving leadership, support and enthusiasm for the project, especially at those times when it may have seemed like "a pipe dream" to some.

My wife Judi and I will miss Stewart and Sarah greatly, but it is good to know that they are not moving too far away and we look forward to seeing them in the future as the good friends that we are!

Jim Griffiths

Welcoming all

Ruth and I remember very fondly our significant encounter with first Sarah, then Stewart.

We were preparing to settle in Cambridgeshire. Ruth had been living in Argyle St, opposite St Philips Church, and we popped in irregularly.

One Sunday we had agreed a rental property in Cottenham and were betwixt and between Scotland and settling close to our new jobs in Cambridge. We had discounted living in Cambridge but God and the Taylor's knew differently

The children were 8 and 10. We were due to drive back that afternoon. Sarah in her usual sunny way said Dougy Dug Dug was appearing at St Philips school. It was his catchy gospel ditties we played in the car on our trips from Scotland. Oh and Jill Pauline the headmistress would be there you can introduce the children. I spoke to Stewart and told him our Cottenham plans and similarly he said well you never know there may be a property close by that you could rent. The benevolent Taylor pinzer movement had gone into action. That afternoon we went to the school but on the way we passed a property for rent in Vinery Way. Met Jill, enjoyed the concert, and found ourselves cemented in the family of St Philips. Later we moved to Chesterton but commuted back to St Philips.

Not only did Stewart and Sarah welcome us, they welcomed our new puppy.

Their dog Benji was a chip off both the not so old blocks, a beautiful black lab both inside and out. Alfie, our scrap of a miniature schnauzer, was introduced to

him on the vicarage lounge carpet and to see them both playing was a joy. Typical of the Stewart and Sarah's open house; a welcome received by all.

Many's the time Stewart has encouraged my calling to be there for others and his light touch enabled flexibility in our outreach. I have witnessed the contrast in welcome to those on the margins, between St Philips and other churches and I so remember Claud when we first walked into the Lounge and there he was with his constant companion his supermarket trolley.

May their combined light shine brightly wherever their next calling takes them.

David Brown

Stewart & Alpha

I have had the privilege of sharing with Stewart leading in most of the Alpha courses that we have done at St Philip's Church. For the Holy Spirit day we have shared with other churches at their premises or ours, which has been a blessing.

Most of our meetings have started with food provided by a church member or more lately by Barry from the Café, but sometimes Stewart has covered by providing or heating up a meal for us.

We have also shared in many services and most weeks at Prayer Breakfast on a Saturday morning at 8am (8.15 on zoom lately)

Stewart has been a great blessing to us and for us and so we pray this will continue wherever the Lord guides him in the future.

Roy Bradfield

Good news for homelessness

Sophie Young, curate of St Philips Church, has been appointed as the new Diocesan Homelessness Officer.

She was commissioned on 12th July by the Archdeacon of Cambridge, Alex Hughes and is currently taking this role alongside her current role at St Philips. This will become the major part of her work from April next year when her part time curacy is completed.

Sophie has a real heart for the poor and downtrodden and has expressed this in many ways with her care for those who have found life difficult. St Philips will support her as she takes on these new challenges.

The Cambridge Churches Homelessness Project has been a wonderful way of providing bed and meals during the cold nights of winter for a number of years in Cambridge. St Philips has been one of the many churches involved and have hosted for one of the nights over the winter months. With Covid this way of helping has been on hold and the Council has had to provide accommodation. Over 300 volunteers from the churches have been involved in this provision.

Sophie takes over from Jon Canessa, who has moved homewards to the North East. Jon was a former Romsey



Sophie's ordination by Bishop Dagmar last summer, when limited numbers were allowed

Mill Worker who trained for the ordained ministry at Ridley Hall and then became curate at St Pauls before taking on his role with the Churches Homelessness Project. Sophie will be following in his footsteps.

Worth the long haul

Former member of St Philips, Ruth Chamberlain, was ordained on 3rd July in Ely Cathedral. She is now serving her curacy in the parish of Histon and Impington.

Ruth has been on a long journey to reach this moment and was deeply moved as she made her vows and the Bishop laid on hands. Ruth and her husband Andy have had a link with St Philips for many years since they came to set up a Vineyard church in Cambridge. As a family they came to St Philips with their two children whilst getting their new church off the ground. Ben and Naomi, who went to St Philips School, are both now grown up and independent while very supportive.

Ruth was a St Philips school governor for some years and a key leader of the Thirst Church group that met at the school. Her day job was as a biology teacher.

Ruth's journey to thinking about ordination came as they left Vineyard and started to attend another Anglican church before returning to St Philips.

She was eventually accepted at a Bishops Advisory Panel and began the three-year Eastern Ministry



Ruth and Stewart at Ely in July

Training Course. 'There were times I wondered whether it would ever happen', she says. Her trust in Jesus and perseverance have paid off! We pray for her in this new chapter of her life.

Not the retiring type!

Some say, 'You're not the retiring type'. I can't say I have looked forward to retirement, besides losing the job and the home that comes with it. I lose my church family and this community.

St Philips and Romsey Town have been so much part of my life for 30 years; it feels strange that it won't be any longer. Sarah too will feel the loss, and maybe there are a few who may miss us.

As a vicar it is a real privilege to have shared significant moments with so many individuals and families. I have gained so much myself in kindness and friendship as I have come alongside others. The Lord has been good to me and my family over many years. I am so thankful for the many people who have shared their lives with us.

So what are you going to be doing?

We will continue the process of sorting and getting rid of stuff. My very full study will be a priority! We will enjoy planning and moving into our new home. We will have some weeks to do this before we move away; and are fortunate to have a lovely place not too far away in Milton. I am sure I will be in demand for grandchildren duty especially as number three has just arrived ... and if my health continues I will enjoy an extra game of tennis. I am sure God has other things up his sleeve for me!

What will you miss?

I will really miss being part of church life here which is such a major aspect of my life. I will miss the worship and fellowship of the wonderful people of St Philips. I won't miss all the committee meetings; however I may still miss some of the responsibilities of working through issues. Without those many meetings we would not have achieved what we have accomplished here. Meeting together has been vital in including others in the decision making process, using their skills and energy to move things forward. We have encouraged people to be participants and welcoming in our church services to enable these times to be real experiences with our Lord. We have organised so many great events to celebrate and enjoy significant moments.

I will miss people: those I meet on the street, at the bus stop, in the park, walking the dog and in the Church Centre. I will miss going into St Philips School, the children and taking collective worship. I can't say I will miss Governors' meetings, despite it being such a vital role. I have seen children grow up and become parents themselves. One school parent remembered me doing assemblies when she was there, and wondered whether I still went in and still played the guitar. We all get older!

I'll miss sharing the Bible and prayer times with staff, church friends and with Neil at Romsey Mill, and all



A younger Stewart and Sarah in the old church lounge in 1992

the eating and drinking that goes with it. I thank God for the hospitality of our homes and the Cornerstone Café where we enjoy company and good meals.

I am already feeling the pain of loss, like bereavement, but know the Lord will go with us and will open new doors, not that this will lessen the heart ache.

Do you have any regrets?

I am sorry that I have not always been clear enough in my witness to Jesus, so that some may have missed out on the message of wholeness of life in Jesus. I have often been sad that several have missed out on wonderful experiences, because they were not present for services and events, and we can't go back to these times.

What has gladdened your heart?

Seeing people come to Christ, and being involved in their journey of faith. I have loved the annual Alpha Course and sharing in the stories, questions and discussions. I thoroughly recommend it! It thrills me to see people caught up in worship of Jesus and actively participating in meaningful activities. Over the years we have been involved in so many wonderful things; Phil's Place (20 years ago in the school), Phil's People, Lunch Clubs, Tots Time, Weekends away, Quiet Days, Homelessness, and being key players in the Romsey Summer Fairs and then the Mill Road Winter Fair. I have seen so many of Gods people here practically serving the Lord; some have followed my footsteps into 'vicaring' and now serve in other places. It was great to see the new Church Centre in its development and becoming a place for people to meet, find friends and find God.

As many know, I like to see the lighter side of life, not to take myself or life too solemnly, but to enjoy life as Jesus want us to. I enjoy this with people of all ages and backgrounds. Thank you for being part of my life here.

Blessings from Stewart

From China with love

Eric Chen shares his story

I was born in China and grew up surrounded by the propaganda of the communist party. Until I graduated from university south China, I never believed there's a God. However, now when I look back, I found God had always been there, helping me and guiding me in his special way.

In my senior years of university, I got my first part time job tutoring English for a child at her home, her parents and grandparents were Christians. After graduation, I started work for the British American Tobacco China company. In 2000, they sent me to New Zealand for a one year training program. In my first month there, a Christian invited me to his church. I met Sally, who became my wife 3 years later. Sally has two Christian friends, Leighton and Sophia. They came to visit us trying to explain what Christianity is all about. Being an atheist, I argued with them for a long time and I got so angry and drove them out of my home. Yes, I was rude. But they didn't give up and still helped me and Sally like that quarrel never happened. They're still today our best friends.

Sally and I were planning our wedding. Even though we didn't believe in God, we thought it would be nice and romantic to speak our vows in a church. An Anglican church in Auckland allowed us to marry there. We said our vows ending with "may God help me". Afterwards Leighton and Sophia invited us to their church, where a few months later we were baptised. One year later, we had our first daughter Yvonne, two years later, our second daughter Jada. We went to church regularly. Everything seems so perfect, just like a fairy tale ending...happily ever after.

But life is not a fairy tale. In 2009, we decided to move to Shanghai to pursue better career opportunities and be closer to our parents. I got so busy that I could easily find many excuses not to go to church regularly. My career went so well, which made me feel that I was invincible. I started to pursue man's pleasure instead of God's ways. To Yvonne and Jada, I thought the best way to love them was to earn more money and put them in the best schools, and then push them to work hard and achieve all kinds of awards. After living in Shanghai for 7 years, we moved to Singapore. Both Sally and I were still busy, spending 40% of the time on business trips around the world. We only went to church once during the 3 years we lived in Singapore. Occasionally, when things were not fully in my control, I prayed. And Lord is always faithful. Things always worked out for me. But that only fed my ego.

Last year, due to Sally's work, we moved to Cambridge. In early September, on a beautiful sunny day, Yvonne and I were trying to find a place on Mill Road to have lunch. The outdoor seating of all the other restaurants were full. And then, we found Cornerstone Cafe. Only after I sat down, I realised that it's a church. A



few days later, the most traumatic event so far in my life happened to me. I didn't know what to do but only had this urge to go to church. So I went to St Philips Church and knelt down in front of God and prayed, with tears falling all over. I suddenly realised that for so many years, I'd never truly believed. At that moment, I think the Holy Spirit touched me. I saw the whole world differently. From that moment on, I was determined to seek God's way.

I have been part of St Philips family for almost a year now. I think it is really a blessing that God led my family to Cambridge and to St Philips Church. We found belonging here. Yvonne and Jada attend Edge and got mentored by Storm and Zoe. They are now volunteering in Cornerstone Cafe. Yvonne and Jada are like any other teenagers; exploring, learning and trying to figure out who they are. I used to get so angry at them, they could do things that we think against us. Sally prayed for me and I felt Holy Spirit came to me again because after that moment, there was no anger any more. The only thing that was left in my heart was love.

I think in the last 20 years, God patiently taught me what love is. In my atheist days, I'd always mock the idea of "turn the other cheek" or "love your enemy". What nonsense is that? Now I understand love is the only way to resolve conflicts. Anger and hatred will push conflicts to wars. I thank Lord for the love he gave to my family. The peace and joy we feel now is something we've never experienced before. Hallelujah, Praise the Lord!



St Philip's Church Centre
a heart for the community

**185 Mill Road
Cambridge
CB1 3AN**

Office

01223 414775

The Church Centre Office is usually open
9.00 am — 1.00 pm Monday to Friday
Hire and use of the Centre, weddings, baptisms,
events, what's on, services, information.

Centre Manager:

centre@stphilipchurch.org.uk

Administrator: Caroline Muncey

office@stphilipchurch.org.uk

Cornerstone Cafe

Monday to Friday 9.00am – 3.00pm

Closed Bank Holidays

Vicar: Rev. Stewart Taylor

vicar@stphilipchurch.org.uk

Curate: Sophie Young

sophie@stphilipchurch.org.uk

Associate Vicar:

Rev. Catherine Ilevins

Children's Co-ordinator: Zoe Cheng

children@stphilipchurch.org.uk

Sunday Services

All welcome to come and try these out

Weekly at 10.30am

All Age Worship

with groups for children & youth

First and Third Sunday of month

8.30am Holy Communion - A quiet half hour.

A formal liturgical service with a relaxed feel.

The Edge - Youth Group

Forthnightly on Sundays at 5.30-7.00pm

Are you on your own?

There are two friendly and inclusive groups you might enjoy at the Church Centre.

Phil's People

'Phil's People' is now on the second Monday of the month at 5.45/6pm – 7.30pm.

Phil's People is "an Evening Meal Out" where you can meet others, who may otherwise be on their own, enjoy conversation and the fun, with a devotional Spirit spot in the middle of the dinner. Suggested contribution is £6.00. More details from Catherine Ilevins.

Friday Friends

Friday Friends takes place on Fridays at 10.30am in the Church Lounge/Cafe

A weekly opportunity to meet using the café facilities, enjoy some activity and finish with a prayer spot. Stella O'Keefe and Rosemary Chambers will welcome you. Just turn up and introduce yourself.

Cornerstone Café

An excellent Community facility on Mill Road.
Have some time out of your house – we all need to get out!

Great Meals
Wonderful Coffee
Brilliant Chef
Fantastic Volunteers

Open Monday to
Friday, 9am—3pm

Harvest Thanksgiving

October 3rd
at 10.30am
in the Church Centre

Goodbye Storm!

The Edge group had a special evening to say a sad farewell to Storm Hargreaves.

Storm came to St Philips last year as an intern and quickly became part of the church and the youth Edge group. Her mentoring was appreciated. A new gap year student will be attached this next year; a generous gift allows the church to afford this.



Storm and Zoe

Youth Groups

Zoe Cheng writes: As we all know, this has been a difficult year for so many, including our younger friends. Here at St Philip's Church, we did our best to stay in touch, to stay active, and to keep people engaged.

During lockdowns, what has St Philip's Church been doing to support the children and youth of our community?

We sent out children's resources via email and restarted in-person children's groups when we began worshipping together in person in St Philip's School playground. Under 18s of the church community also received an encouragement card and gift from the church at Christmas and Easter.

Edge (Youth Group for Years 7-13) continued on Zoom, with lots of online fun. Where needed, Storm (the intern) and Zoe met with young people for a take away coffee and walk. When the lockdown regulations began to lift, Edge continued in the church garden. Keeping everyone covid safe has been a priority. It has been exciting to meet together again in person!

How can children and teenagers get involved?

We have children's activities during the 10:30 Sunday morning church service. This is aimed at Year 2-6. If your children are in this age category, please do come and join us!



Edge is also happening every other Sunday during the school term times. All Year 7-13s are welcome. We usually meet in the church garden which is located along Thoday Street. For more information on groups at the church please email Zoe (children@stphilipschurch.org.uk).

How can I help?

Zoe is always looking for volunteers to help me with the children's groups on a Sunday morning. Please do get in contact; Zoe would love to speak with anyone interested in being on the team! She says she can promise fun and community within the volunteer team whilst you help out!

Variations on Lines by Wallace Stevens (for the Reverend Stewart Taylor)

It makes so little difference
At so much more than seventy.
What one has done will largely have to do,
And where on has not done
The power was always wanting.

It makes so little difference
At so much more than seventy.
Where is there to go that one has not Already been before?
Anywhere else
Has been brought to one by virtual reality.

It makes so little difference
At so much more than seventy.
The best one can hope for is complacency,
Not in the pejorative sense, but meaning
The knowledge that one's sins are all forgiven.

It makes so little difference
At so much more than seventy.
The only adventures left are of the Spirit,
And in using one's belief in God
To uphold the sovereignty of good.

Stan Downing

An Ode to S.T

So full of innovation,
Always with an explanation,
Such a friendly approach,
He gets the most
Out of his congregation.

A purveyor of hope,
Believing so profound
Lord Jesus is around.
Spreading his strength,
The Word to be heard.

In times of stress
S.T. is the best
He'll go that extra mile,
To make you smile.

St Philips is so much better now
We're told S.T.'s brought it in from the cold
All ages and sorts now more bold
Coming to listen and join the fold.

We'll miss you, S.T.
As you become a retiree,
But you and yours will know
Our love with you will go
Right to the end - Amen.

Edward Jenkins