

## **TODAY'S READINGS**

### ***First Reading: Proverbs 25: 6-7***

*The Proverbs advise against pushing too eagerly forward to gain the favour and attention of the powerful. They warn that it is better to be raised up in the presence of a king, than pushed away from the seat of power.*

### ***Second Reading: Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15-16***

*The writer to the Hebrews rounds off his letter with snippets of advice for the early Christians. Above all, they must praise God, do good, and share with others.*

### ***Gospel: Luke 14: 1, 7-14***

*Jesus uses two stories about tables and table manners to teach about the kingdom of God: how it will upset the established order, and create a new one where the poor and disadvantaged are given pride of place.*

### **FIRST READING Proverbs 25. 6-7**

6 Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great;  
7 for it is better to be told, 'Come up here,' than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

### **SECOND READING Hebrews 13. 1-8, 15-16**

1 Let mutual love continue.  
2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.  
3 Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being

tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.

4 Let marriage be held in honour by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers.

5 Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, 'I will never leave you or forsake you.'

6 So we can say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?'

7 Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.

8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.

15 Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name.

16 Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

### **GOSPEL Luke 14. 1, 7-14**

1 On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

7 When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable.

8 'When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host;

9 and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, "Give this person your place," and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place.

10 But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he

may say to you, "Friend, move up higher"; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you.

11 For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.'

12 He said also to the one who had invited him, 'When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid.

13 But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.

14 And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.'

### **COLLECT**

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Lord of all mercy,  
we your faithful people have celebrated that one true sacrifice  
which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace:  
by our communion  
keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel  
and preserve us from all sin;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **For Prayer:**

Pray for all those involved with the continued negotiations of peace and reconciliation, particularly after the meetings between the President of the USA, Ukraine and Russia in the hope that a resolution to the continued war in Ukraine can be agreed.

Pray for all who have been displaced by the Israel – Gaza war as the conflict continues without, it seems, any respite from repeated bombardment and the reduction of once loved homes and businesses reduced to rubble.

Remember in your prayers, all those who work in relief organisations who endeavour to bring food and medicines to all those displaced by war.

Pray for the areas affected by the wildfires in Mediterranean countries and also the heathland fires a little closer to home.

Pray for all those known to us who are unwell either with a recently diagnosed illness which may mean that they have to adjust to a new way of living and those who are unwell.

As the summer holiday period comes to an end, pray for all those who are returning to school or beginning a new stage of their educational life. Remember in your prayers, the young people who choose not to attend a university or further education but begin the next part of their lives in a different way whether it be by beginning an apprenticeship or job.

Pray for our clergy, reader, reader in training, retired clergy, churchwardens and deputy churchwarden, parish administrator and the volunteers who work very hard to ensure that the work of the parish continues.

Also remember in your prayers the wider clergy who work in the Diocese and those specifically who are involved with the Institution service.

**Those who are acutely sick:** Claire Colman, Tim Fletcher, Vera Foster, Owen Goodwin, Roger Gray, Mary Green, Jill McMahon, Allan Medforth Jan Price, Carole Sharp, John Sharp, Debbie Whitehead, Jill Williams.

**Those with chronic or long-term illness:** Jackie Briggs, Margaret Coles, Dorothy Duncanson, Pat Elves, Harry Henderson, Anna Johns, Vicky Johnston, Carol Muller, Roy Ray, Julia Sherlock, Pam Smith, Bob Whitehead, Jim Wild, Sandra Wild.

**Those who have died:** Janet Green, Nancy Smith.

## **NOTICES**

There are paper copies of the notices for 24 and 31 August available in both churches and in the email sent on Friday 22 August. ***Take note, though that the notices which say “Today” are for Sunday 24 August!***

## **DURING THE WEEK**

### **MONDAY**

**TUESDAY**      9.15am    ***No Morning Prayer*** at St Stephen's

**WEDNESDAY**    9.15am    Holy Communion at St Stephen's  
10.30am    Tots & Teddies at St Julian's

**THURSDAY**      9.15am    Morning Prayer at St Julian's  
10.30am    Community Café at St Julian's

**FRIDAY**          9.15am    Morning Prayer via Zoom

**SATURDAY**      2.00pm    Wedding of Jordan Kons & Ellie de Roy at St Stephen's



St Stephen  
with St Julian

## **The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity**

31 August 2025

Welcome to St Stephen's and St Julian's. Whoever you are, wherever you've come from, you are welcome! If this is your first visit, please do introduce yourselves to the clergy and stay for coffee after the service to meet others.

## **SERVICES TODAY**

8.00am    Holy Communion at St Stephens  
President & Preacher: Geoff Lackey  
9.30am    Holy Communion at St Julian's  
President & Preacher: Lizzie Hood  
10.00am    All Age Communion at St Stephen's  
President & Preacher: Geoff Lackey

## **Next Sunday – Twelfth Sunday after Trinity**

8.00am    Holy Communion at St Stephens  
9.30am    Holy Communion at St Julian's  
10.00am    Parish Communion at St Stephen's

We welcome Lizzie Hood to our  
Holy Communion service at St Julian's

YouTube link for 10.00am All Age Communion at St Stephen's church

<https://youtube.com/live/Y0vrEw6y3dg?feature=share>