

## **TODAY'S READINGS**

### **FIRST READING Proverbs 3.13–18**

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

13 Happy are those who find wisdom, and those who get understanding,  
14 for her income is better than silver, and her revenue better than gold.  
15 She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her.  
16 Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honour.  
17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.  
18 She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called happy.

### **SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 4.1–6**

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

1 Since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart.  
2 We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.  
3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.  
4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.  
5 For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake.

6 For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

### **GOSPEL Matthew 9: 9 - 13**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

9 As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.  
10 And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples.  
11 When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?'  
12 But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.  
13 Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'

### **COLLECT**

O Almighty God,  
whose blessed Son called Matthew the tax collector to be an apostle and evangelist:  
give us grace to forsake the selfish pursuit of gain  
and the possessive love of riches  
that we may follow in the way of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Almighty God,  
who on the day of Pentecost  
sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles  
with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame,  
filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel:  
by the power of the same Spirit  
strengthen us to witness to your truth  
and to draw everyone to the fire of your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### **For Prayer:**

Remember in your prayers Sherine, Sam, Toby and Connie following the Institution service and a new beginning in the parish. Settling into the new routine of school and work. We pray that they feel welcome in the parish and as they meet more people locally.

Pray for our clergy, reader, reader in training, retired clergy, churchwardens and deputy churchwarden, parish administrator and the volunteers who have supported the life of the parish during the Vacancy. Also that this continues as we all begin a new period of Ministry.

Pray for the people of Gaza City as there seems to be no respite from the advancing Israelis in their tanks forcing the residents to flee.

Remember in your prayers, all the volunteers who have worked tirelessly to remove ancient artefacts reflecting many different civilisations who have inhabited the land.

Pray for the children who have been brought from Gaza to the UK for medical treatment.

As the war in Ukraine continues, pray for all those who are defending their country in the hope that they can maintain their freedom.

As we continue the season of Creationtide, pray for all who work to provide food for our tables, energy by which to heat and power our homes and in the countryside to ensure we are able to support the Earth to provide a balanced environment.

Remember in your prayers 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.

Pray for all those who are experiencing financial hardship and finding it difficult to juggle their money.

**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:** Alice Gumble, Nancy Smith.

## NOTICES

These are on a separate sheet.

## DURING THE WEEK

### MONDAY

TUESDAY 9.15am 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  
10.30am Holy Communion at Fonthill House N / H

SATURDAY 7.30pm Desert Island Discs with Charlie Hudson at St Julian's Church

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

<https://youtube.com/live/iVha4p3yhwk?feature=share>



St Stephen  
with St Julian

## Matthew / Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

21 September 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: Sherine Angus  
9.30am Service of the Word at St Julian's

10.00am Parish Communion at St Stephen's  
President & Preacher: Sherine Angus  
Deacon: Michael Elves

## Next Sunday – Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion at St Stephens  
9.30am Holy Communion at St Julian's  
10.00am Café Church at St Stephen's  
12noon Burial of Ashes t/l Pauline Jordan