

TODAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING Deuteronomy 26. 1–11

Moses spoke to the people, saying:

- 1 When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it,
- 2 you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name.
- 3 You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.'
- 4 When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God,
- 5 you shall make this response before the LORD your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous.
- 6 When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us,
- 7 we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression.
- 8 The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders;
- 9 and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey.
- 10 So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.' You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God.
- 11 Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

SECOND READING Philippians 4. 4–9

- 4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.
- 5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.
- 6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
- 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
- 8 Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.
- 9 Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

GOSPEL John 6. 25–35

- 25 When they found Jesus on the other side of the sea, the crowd said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?'
- 26 Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.
- 27 Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.'
- 28 Then they said to Jesus, 'What must we do to perform the works of God?'
- 29 Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.'
- 30 So they said to him, 'What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?'
- 31 Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat."

- 32 Then Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.
- 33 For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.'
- 34 They said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.'
- 35 Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

COLLECT

Eternal God,
you crown the year with your goodness
and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season:
grant that we may use them to your glory,
for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being;
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 the harvest,
with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation
and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom:
by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us
and make us generous and wise stewards
of the good things we enjoy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For Prayer:

As we celebrate Harvest Festival in our churches, pray for all who are involved in the production of our food from seed to plate. Remember the long hours worked to ensure the harvest is safely gathered in.

Pray for Dame Sarah Mullally following the announcement that she is the next Archbishop of Canterbury. Remember all areas of the Anglican Communion as she prepares for this role and that she will be welcomed by them

Pray for all who are involved with the first phase of the Israel and Hamas negotiations and the ceasefire in Gaza. We hope they sign the documents and respect the initial framework and work towards a full solution. Pray that the families who have been displaced to refugee camps may soon be able to return to their homes.

Pray for the people of Ukraine as there seems to be limited progress in achieving a halt to hostilities between Russia and Ukraine.

Remember in your prayers anyone known to us who is struggling with health or financial worries. Pray that they may find solace in the community of the church and amongst family and friends.

Pray for our clergy, reader, reader in training, retired clergy, churchwardens and deputy churchwarden, parish administrator and the volunteers who continue to support the life of the parish.

Include a moment of silent prayer for yourself to remember those who play an important part in your life or you interact with, those you love and have loved.

Those who are acutely sick: Claire Colman, Tim Fletcher, Vera Foster, Owen Goodwin, Roger Gray, Mary Green, Allan Medforth Jan Price, Joan Thornton, 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.

Those who have died: Jill McMahon, Nancy Smith, Sandra Wild.

DURING THE WEEK

MONDAY

TUESDAY 9.15am Morning Prayer at St Stephen's
8.00pm Standing Committee meets

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

Link for 10.00am Parish Communion at St Stephen's
<https://youtube.com/live/DWqy6oiBUkQ?feature=share>

Link for Morning Prayer via Zoom link every Friday
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84282425768?pwd=QaWzIPT4b5mV7a938AbNNYisZIYt3V.1>

Meeting ID: 842 8242 5768

Passcode: 792910



St Stephen
with St Julian

Harvest Festival

12 October 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 Harvest Holy Communion at St Julian's
President & Preacher: Sherine Angus
10.00am Parish Communion at St Stephen's
President: Sherine Angus
Preacher: Michael Elves
4.00pm Kentish Room Home Group meets
4.00pm Harvest Festival Service followed by Bring and Share Tea at St Julian's

Next Sunday – Eighteenth 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