

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading Isaiah 49:1-7

The work of God's servant is ignited by God's vision, which is not simply to restore Israel but to bring all nations into God's light.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul calls the Corinthian Christians to holiness and reminds them it is only achievable through the grace of God in Christ.

Gospel John 1:29-42

John the Baptist sees the newly baptised Jesus fulfilling Isaiah's servant vision as, by calling his first disciples, Jesus begins to draw Israel back to God.

FIRST READING Isaiah 49.1–7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

¹ Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The LORD called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

² He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away.

³ And he said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.'

⁴ But I said, 'I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the LORD, and my reward with my God.'

⁵ And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honoured in the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength.

⁶ The LORD says, 'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'

⁷ Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, 'Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.'

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1.1–9

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

¹ From Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus,

⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind –

⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you –

⁷ so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁹ God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL John 1.29–42

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

²⁹ John the Baptist saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!'

³⁰ This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me."

³¹ I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.'

³² And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.'

³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit."

³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.'

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,

³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!'

³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.

³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?'

³⁹ He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon.

⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed).

⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter)

COLLECT

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of
your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives

make known your heavenly glory;
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

God of glory,
you nourish us with your Word
who is the bread of life:
fill us with your Holy Spirit
that through us the light of your glory
may shine in all the world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

For Prayer:

Remember in your prayers, all those who are living in areas of war and extended conflict. Pray that a solution may be found through extensive negotiations and a want to find the common ground to allow people to return to some normality and routine.

Pray for all who are experiencing trouble in their lives through ill health, financial worry or just finding it difficult to cope with what is ahead of them.

Remember in your prayers, all who have been recently bereaved, pray that they find strength from family and friends. In particular, those named on our prayer list.

Remember in your prayers all who help to ensure that church life runs as smoothly as possible, particularly our clergy, retired clergy and everyone with a specific role and the many who work tirelessly behind the scenes.

Take some time for a moment of personal prayer.

Those who are acutely sick: Claire Colman, Tim Fletcher, Vera Foster, Owen Goodwin, Roger Gray, Jan Price, Joan Thornton, Carole Sharp, John Sharp, Lindsey Westcott, 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, Bob Whitehead, Jim Wild.

Those who have died: Nic Hayes, Jean Hutton, Mary Law, Roy Pitkin, Pam Smith.

DURING THE WEEK

MONDAY	9.15am 11.00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom Holy Communion at Vesta Lodge
TUESDAY	9.15am 2.00pm	Morning Prayer at St Stephen's Funeral and Burial of t/l Jean Hutton at St Stephen's
WEDNESDAY	9.15am 10.30am 4.30pm	Holy Communion at St Stephen's Tots & Teddies at St Julian's Organ Practice at St Stephen's
THURSDAY	9.15am 10.30am	Morning Prayer at St Julian's Community Café open at St Julian's
FRIDAY	10.30am	Community Shed meets at St Stephen's
SATURDAY		



St Stephen
with St Julian

The Second Sunday after Epiphany

18 January 2026

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	Holy Communion at St Julian's President & Preacher: Geoff Lackey
10.00am	Parish Communion with at St Stephen's President: Sherine Angus Preacher: Michael Elves

Next Sunday – The Third Sunday after Epiphany

8.00am	Holy Communion at St Stephens
9.30am	Holy Communion at St Julian's
10.00am	Café Church at St Stephen's
2.30pm	Songs of Praise at Vesta Lodge

Link for 10.00am service at St Stephen's Church
<https://youtube.com/live/9bcguMPIvzA?feature=share>

Link for Morning Prayer via Zoom link every **Monday**
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84282425768?pwd=QaWZlPT4b5mV7a938AbNNYisZlYt3V.1>

Meeting ID: 842 8242 5768

Passcode: 792910