

TODAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING Exodus 17.1-7

1 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

2 The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?'

3 But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?'

4 So Moses cried out to the LORD, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.'

5 The LORD said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go.

6 I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

7 He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the LORD, saying, 'Is the LORD among us or not?'

SECOND READING Romans 5.1-11

1 Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

2 through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

3 And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,

4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,

5 and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

7 Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.

8 But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

9 Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.

10 For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.

11 But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

GOSPEL John 4.5-42

5 Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.

6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

7 A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.'

8 (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)

9 The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)

10 Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink," you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.'

11 The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?'

12 Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?'

13 Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,

14 but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.'

15 The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here

to draw water.' 16 Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' 17 The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' 19 The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. 20 Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' 21 Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' 25 The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' 26 Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.' 27 Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' 28 Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 29 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' 30 They left the city and were on their way to him. 31 Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' 32 But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' 33 So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' 34 Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. 35 Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. 36 The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. 37 For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." 38 I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.' 39 Many Samaritans from that city believed in Jesus because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever

done.’ 40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days.

41 And many more believed because of his word. 42 They said to the woman, ‘It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.’

COLLECT

Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; 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

Merciful Father, who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who come to him should never hunger: draw us to the Lord in faith and love, that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom, where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

For Prayer:

We pray for everyone who came to the Lent Course “Radical Welcome” last week and hope that they continue to draw strength from each session.

Remember in your prayers the members of The Saltmine theatre Company as they begin their tour of local primary schools. Pray that the biblical message they enact will be clear to pupils and staff and that everyone will enjoy the events.

Pray for everyone who is affected by the conflict in the Middle East with the explosions and difficulty in maintaining food supplies.

Those who are acutely sick: Claire Colman, Tim Fletcher, Vera Foster, Owen Goodwin, Roger Gray, Margaret Moyce, 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: Margaret Gilbert.

DURING THE WEEK

MONDAY	9.15am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
TUESDAY	9.15am	Morning Prayer at St Stephen’s
	11.00am	Funeral & Burial of t/l Margaret Gilbert at St Stephen’s
	8.00pm	PCC meets
WEDNESDAY	9.15am	Holy Communion at St Stephen’s
	10.30am	Tots & Teddies at St Julian’s
	4.30pm	Organ Practice at St Stephen’s
THURSDAY	9.15am	Morning Prayer at St Julian’s
	10.30am	Community Café open at St Julian’s
	12.15pm	Holy Communion at St Julian’s
FRIDAY	10.30am	Community Shed meets at St Stephen’s
SATURDAY		

Link for Morning Prayer via Zoom link every **Monday**
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84282425768?pwd=QaWzIPT4b5mV7a938AbNNYisZlYt3V.1>
Meeting ID: 842 8242 5768
Passcode: 792910



St Stephen
with St Julian

The Third Sunday of Lent

8 March 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 at St Stephen’s President & Preacher: Sherine Angus
12noon	Burial of Ashes t/l Michael Kemp
3.00pm	Radical Welcome Lent Group meets at St Julian’s Church

Next Sunday – The Fourth Sunday of Lent / Mothering Sunday

8.00am	Holy Communion at St Stephens
9.30am	Holy Communion at St Julian’s
10.00am	Parish Communion at St Stephen’s
3.00pm	Radical Welcome Lent Group meets at St Julian’s Church

Link for 10.00am service at St Stephen’s Church
<https://youtube.com/live/kCfyZ4A8wtA?feature=share>