

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: Acts 2: 14a. 36-41

On the Day of Pentecost Peter reassures a crowd in Jerusalem that the disciples are not drunk but filled with the Holy Spirit. He then issues some direct orders.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1: 17-23

We know that we are ransomed by the blood of Christ, and that affects our behaviour towards each other.

Gospel: Luke 24: 13-35

Jesus engages in a classic piece of leg-pulling with two of his disciples.

FIRST READING Acts 2. 14a, 36–41

On the day of Pentecost,

¹⁴ Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd,

³⁶ ‘Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.’

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what should we do?’

³⁸ Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’

³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.’

⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, ‘Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.’

⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added to their number.

SECOND READING 1 Peter 1. 17–23

¹⁷ If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile.

¹⁸ You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold,

¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish.

²⁰ He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake.

²¹ Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

²² Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart.

²³ You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

GOSPEL Luke 24. 13–35

¹³ On that same day, two of the disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem,

¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened.

¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them,

¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

¹⁷ And he said to them, ‘What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?’ They stood still, looking sad.

¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, ‘Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?’

¹⁹ Jesus asked them, ‘What things?’ They replied, ‘The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,

²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders

handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him.

²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place.

²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning,

²³ and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive.

²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see Jesus.’

²⁵ Then he said to them, ‘Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!

²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?’

²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on.

²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, ‘Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.’ So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.

³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Jesus; and he vanished from their sight.

³² They said to each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?’

³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.

³⁴ They were saying, ‘The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!’

³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

COLLECT

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples
with the sight of the risen Lord:
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen
life
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;
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

Living God,
your Son made himself known to his disciples
in the breaking of bread:
open the eyes of our faith,
that we may see him in all his redeeming work;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

For Prayer:

Pray for all who are involved in negotiations for the opening of the Straits of Hormuz. Remember in your prayers all who sail on the vast ships and the added risk to life they are currently experiencing.

Pray that there may be a resolution for the introduction of peace in the areas of the world where there is continued conflict and an uncertainty of the outcome of the aggression shown by the protagonists.

Remember in your prayers all those who volunteer for local charities to enable people to benefit from the help and support to them in whatever way.

Also pray for all who work within our own church community to ensure that both churches continue to give a presence for all who wish to visit us.

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: George Wood.

DURING THE WEEK

MONDAY	9.15am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
	11.00am	Vesta Lodge N/H
TUESDAY	9.15am	Morning Prayer at St Stephen's
WEDNESDAY	9.15am	Morning Prayer at St Stephen's
	10.30am	Tots & Teddies at St Julian's
	2.00pm	FOSS talk in St Stephen'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
FRIDAY	10.30am	Holy Communion at Fonthill House N / H.
	10.30am	Community Shed meets at St Stephen's
SATURDAY		



St Stephen
with St Julian

Third Sunday of Easter

19 April 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: Sherine Angus
Preacher: Hamish Hamilton
- 9.30am Holy Communion at St Julian's
President: Sherine Angus
Preacher: Hamish Hamilton
- 10.00am Parish Communion at St Stephen's
President: Charlie Hudson
Preacher: Michael Elves

Next Sunday – Fourth Sunday of Easter

- 8.00am Holy Communion at St Stephen's
- 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/ztM4P4gYBhk?feature=share>

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