

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading Zechariah 9:9-12

Zechariah's prophecy anticipates the coming of Christ, whose humble, all-encompassing rule will bring peace to warring nations and freedom and restoration to God's oppressed people.

Second Reading Romans 7:15-25a

Paul laments that his desire to obey God's laws is continually sabotaged by forces within that drive sinful behaviour. Only God's power through Christ can bring release.

Gospel Matthew 11:16-19. 25-end

Jesus notes how this generation resists those whom God has sent. He invites those who are humble and needy to receive from him as he reveals God's kingdom.

FIRST READING Zechariah 9. 9–12

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle-bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

SECOND READING Romans 7. 15–25a

¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.

¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good.

¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it.

¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do.

²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand.

²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self,

²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

GOSPEL Matthew 11. 16–19, 25–30

At that time Jesus said,

¹⁶ ‘To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,

¹⁷ “We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.”

¹⁸ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, “He has a demon”;

¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, “Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!” Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.

²⁵ I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants;

²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful
people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour 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

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you,
that the course of this world may be so peaceably
ordered
by your governance,
that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly
quietness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For Prayer:

Continue to pray for the people of Venezuela following the earthquakes in Caracas, as there is still hope of finding survivors amongst the rubble while the recovery process is ongoing.

Remember in your prayers the people of Kyiv following the latest attack by the Russians in which people died and many were injured. We hope that the lengthy negotiations may reach a conclusion soon and enable all those affected by the war to return to a “normal” way of life.

As the temperature rises again, remember in your prayer, all those who continue to work in roles which are not able to alter their working day or procedures. Also those who find the heat challenging, remember to keep an eye on your neighbours.

As the UK begins another period of political instability, pray for all who are involved in the democratic process and hope that we finally have a period where any changes to procedures have time to be implemented and adapted to.

Pray for all those known to us who are experiencing poor health and receiving care whether it be in hospital, a hospice or at home.

Pray that we can give a warm welcome to anyone who visits our church community and that they feel safe and comfortable here.

Those who are acutely sick: George Baumer, Claire Colman, Tim Fletcher, Vera Foster, Owen Goodwin, Roger Gray, Ricardo Hoyte, Jan Price, Joan Thornton, Carole Sharp, John Sharp, Peter Viccars, Lindsey Westcott, Debbie Whitehead, Jill Williams.

Those with chronic or long-term illness: Jackie Briggs, Margaret Coles, Pat Elves, Jennifer Harbridge,

Harry Henderson, Anna Johns, Vicky Johnston, Carol Muller, Roy Ray, Julia Sherlock, Bob Whitehead, Jim Wild.

Those who have died: Dorothy Duncanson, Stephanie Morris, Alan Walker.

DURING THE WEEK

MONDAY	9.15am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
TUESDAY	9.15am	Morning Prayer at St Stephen's
	8.00pm	DCC Meeting at St Julian's
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
	5.45pm	Visiting Ringers at St Stephen's
SATURDAY	9.00am – 3.00pm	Mother's Union meeting at St Stephen's – in the church and the hall.

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

Meeting ID: 842 8242 5768 Passcode: 792910



St Stephen
with St Julian

Fifth Sunday after Trinity

5 July 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: Charlie Hudson
10.00am	Parish Communion at St Stephen's President: Charlie Hudson Preacher: Michael Elves Sunday Explorers at St Stephen's Sunday Tots at St Stephen's
12noon	Cottonmill Gathering at the - Cottonmill Community & Cycling centre
4.00pm	

Next Sunday –Sixth Sunday after Trinity

8.00am	Holy Communion at St Stephen's
9.30am	Holy Communion at St Julian's
10.00am	Parish Communion at St Stephen's

Link for 10.00am Parish Communion service at St Stephen's Church

<https://youtube.com/live/A-e3AOet3jM?feature=share>