

Intercessions – 6th September 2026- Dedication of St Stephen's

Loving God, we thank you today as we celebrate the anniversary of the dedication of this church, first dedicated to your glory in 1979. For all who planned, built, furnished, funded, and prayed for this place, we give you thanks. We remember with gratitude those who worshipped here before us, whose faith, vision, and hard work have left us a wonderful inheritance. As we look back over the years, we thank you for every baptism, wedding, confirmation, funeral, prayer meeting, coffee morning, harvest supper, and quiet moment of prayer that these walls have witnessed. Heavenly Father, may it continue to be a place where people encounter your love, discover faith, find comfort in sorrow, and celebrate with joy. May these doors always stand open to all, whether they come seeking God, friendship, support, or simply shelter from the British weather. And while we are grateful for bricks, mortar, and a roof that mostly keeps the rain out, remind us that your Church is made first and foremost of people. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, as we celebrate the dedication of this building, help us to renew our own dedication to you. Make us a church known not only for the building we have cared for since 1979 but for the faith we live out today. Let our worship be sincere, our welcome warm, our service joyful, and our witness courageous. May future generations inherit not just a well-maintained church, but a living faith. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Loving Father, we bring before you the troubles of our world. When the news leaves us feeling helpless, remind us that no situation is beyond your care. We pray for those living with uncertainty, for refugees seeking safety, for aid workers offering practical help, and for all who strive to build understanding between people and nations. May your light shine in the darkest places and your hope be found where it is needed most. Guide the leaders of nations to seek justice and reconciliation. Help all people to recognise one another as neighbours and fellow children of God. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Loving Father, we pray for our families and friends. We thank you for those who encourage us, support us, and share life's journey with us. Strengthen family relationships, heal divisions, comfort those who are lonely, and help us never to take one another for granted. Bless our homes with patience, kindness, forgiveness, and laughter, especially on those days when patience seems in short supply. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray especially for children and young people as they return to school and college. Give them confidence as they begin new classes, new schools, and new challenges. Bless teachers, teaching assistants, support staff, and all who work in education. Grant eager minds, lasting friendships, and enough energy for parents who suddenly find themselves searching for missing shoes, forgotten homework, and PE kits before breakfast. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all in our community who are unwell, anxious, grieving, or facing difficulties. May they know your presence beside them and the support of those who care for them. We remember before you anyone known personally to us who needs your healing and strength..... Give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, as we celebrate this anniversary of the dedication of this church, we remember with gratitude those who have gone before us in faith. We pray for those who have died recently and for those whose years' minds we recall at this time..... We thank you for all who have worshipped here since 1979 and in the old church of St Stephen, for their service, witness, and prayers which continue to shape the life of this church today. May they rest in your eternal peace, and may we, following their example, continue to serve you with faith, hope, and love. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, as we celebrate this anniversary, we thank you for your faithfulness through every year since 1979. As this church was dedicated to your service then, so today we dedicate ourselves anew. Fill us with your Holy Spirit so that we may love you more deeply, serve one another more faithfully, and share the good news of Christ more boldly. May this church continue to stand as a sign of your presence in this community for many years to come.

Merciful Father, **Accept these prayers for the sake of your son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

Annette Bradley