

TODAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING Genesis 1 1 – 25

¹ In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,

² the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

³ Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light.

⁴ And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.

⁷ So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so.

⁸ God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so.

¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

¹¹ Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so.

¹² The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good.

¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years,

¹⁵ and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so.

¹⁶ God made the two great lights – the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night – and the stars

¹⁷ God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth,

¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.'

²¹ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²² God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.'

²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so.

²⁵ God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

SECOND READING Romans 1: 18 – 23

¹⁸ God's wrath is being revealed from heaven against all the ungodly behaviour and the injustice of human beings who silence the truth with injustice.

¹⁹ This is because what is known about God should be plain to them because God made it plain to them.

²⁰ Ever since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities—God's eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, because they are understood through the things God has made. So humans are without excuse.

²¹ Although they knew God, they didn't honour God as God or thank him. Instead, their reasoning became pointless, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

²² While they were claiming to be wise, they made fools of themselves.

²³ They exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images that look like mortal humans: birds, animals, and reptiles.

GOSPEL John 1 – 14

A reading from the first letter of John.

1 We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life –

2 this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us –

3 we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

4 We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.

6 If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true;

7 but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,

13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

COLLECT

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; 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

Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

For prayer

As we start the season of Creation, pray for new beginnings – all who are returning to school, leaving home for the first time to begin college / university life or starting new jobs. Hope they may find strength in your guidance, Lord as they begin this next part of their lives.

Remember in your prayers, the people of Nepal / Tibet as they continue to search for family members following the devastating floods.

Those who are acutely sick: Amy Bradbury, 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: Margaret Coles, Pat Elves, Jennifer Harbridge, Harry Henderson, Anna Johns, Vicky Johnston, Carol Muller, Roy Ray, Bob Whitehead, Jim Wild.

Those who have died: George Baumer, David Castle, Maureen Joyce, John Steele.

DURING THE WEEK

MONDAY	9.15am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
	11.30am	Funeral of t/l David Castle at West Herts Crematorium
TUESDAY	9.15am	Morning Prayer at St Stephen's
	8.00pm	PCC Meeting at St Stephen'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
	7.30pm	PCC Meeting with Archdeacon Charles at St Stephen's
THURSDAY	9.15am	Morning Prayer at St Julian's
	10.30am	Community Café open at St Julian's
	1.00pm	Funeral of t/l Maureen Joyce at West Herts Crematorium
FRIDAY	10.30am	Community Shed meets at St Stephen's
SATURDAY	All Day	Bike n' Hike at St Stephen's and St Julian's Churches
	2.30pm	Desert Island Discs at St Julian's



St Stephen
with St Julian

Creationtide – Goodness of Creation

6 September 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: Charlie Hudson
9.30am	Holy Communion at St Julian's President & Preacher: Charlie Hudson
10.00am	Parish Communion at St Stephen's President & Preacher: Sherine Angus Sunday Explorers at St Stephen's Sunday Tots at St Stephen's

Next Sunday – Creationtide – Generosity

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/H0IyUPunLYo?feature=share>

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